



UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND JPO Request Form



Training and Learning Plan

- ✓ Participation in a one-week JPO Induction Programme in New York;
- ✓ Guidance and advice in relation to training opportunities within the field of expertise;
- ✓ Use of yearly JPO training funds for internal/external training opportunities;
- ✓ Participation in the Mentoring, Coaching, and Career Counselling and Career transition programmes;
- ✓ Encourage field mission and/or stretch assignment during and after the 2nd year

In addition, the JPO will benefit from the following specific learning opportunities in the receiving office:

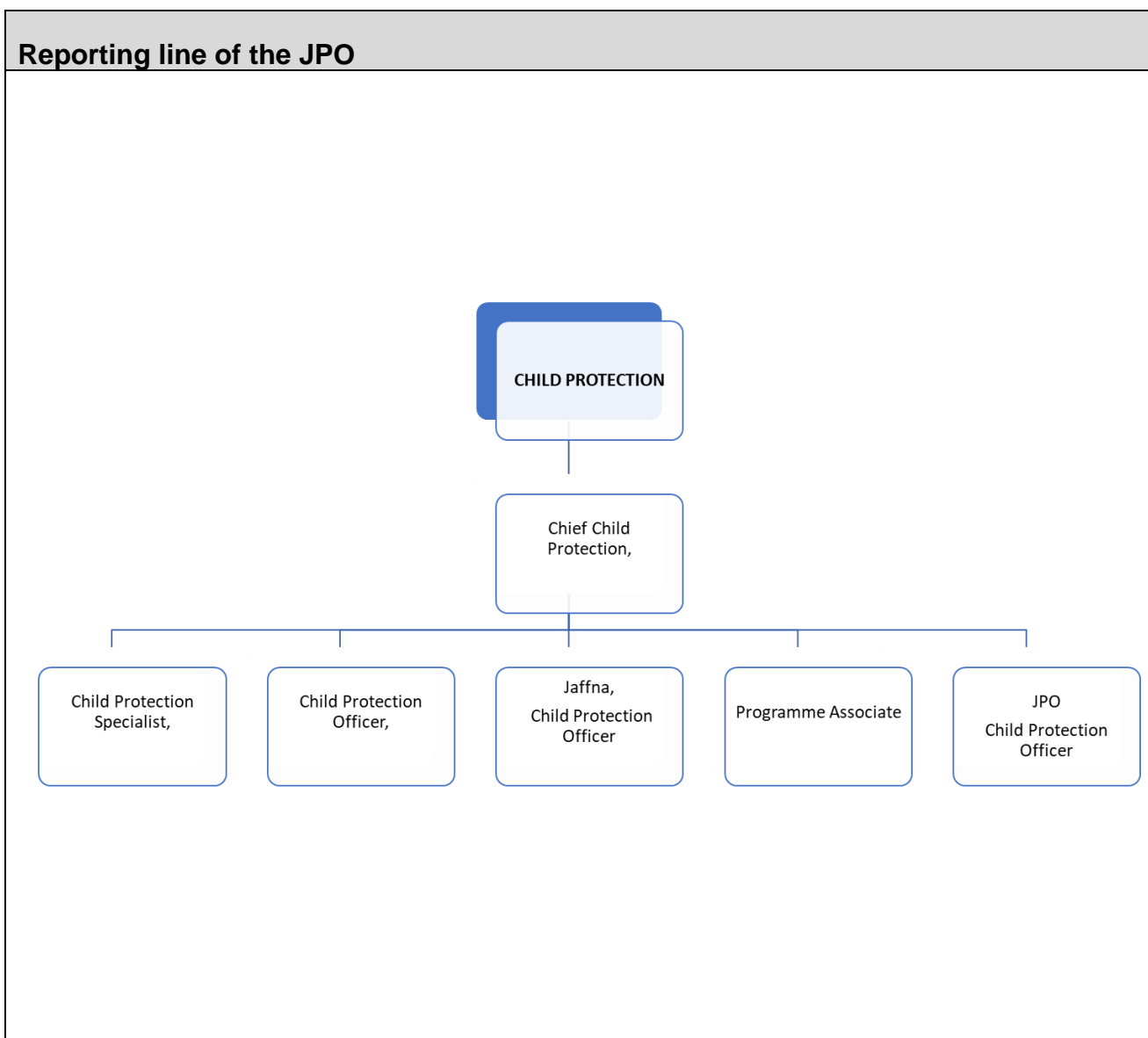
- ✓ Working with UNICEF in Sri Lanka offers an exposure to a fully-fledged child protection programme, with multiple focus areas, strong focus on human rights, and exposure to both development and humanitarian contexts of programming. While retention of the candidate with UNICEF Sri Lanka is

not guaranteed and depends on various factors, the dynamic job experience will be a strong asset for further applications for the incumbent of the post.

- ✓ The supervisor of the post – Chief of Child Protection – has 13 years of supervisory experience, including supervision of JPOs and other entry level professional staff in various cultural contexts.

Information and living condition of Duty station: [For Filed Office locations only]	
General Information	<p>Sri Lanka currently offers a stable and safe living environment. However, the cost of living is relatively high due to increased food and accommodation costs. Colombo, the commercial capital of the country, is located on the west coast of the island in the Western Province, adjacent to the administrative capital, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte. The climate in Colombo is fairly temperate throughout the year, with high humidity. The average temperature from March to April is around 32 degrees Celsius (88 degrees Fahrenheit). The only significant weather change occurs during the monsoon seasons from May to August and October to January, when heavy rainfall is common.</p> <p>The JPO will be based at the UNICEF Sri Lanka Country Office in Colombo 7. The office is in a central area, in a pleasant compound with two residential buildings. Both buildings underwent extensive renovation in 2015 to make the working environment bright and modern. Office spaces are shared. The UNICEF Country Office will be moved to the UN Compound located in Colombo 7 during Q2 of 2025.</p> <p>Most international staff have cars, but cheap and reliable taxi services are available. Public transport is not well developed in Colombo. Importing a second-hand vehicle costs around US\$25,000 – 35,000. UNICEF supports staff in obtaining licenses and insurance, but UN/Diplomatic plates are not afforded to staff in Sri Lanka.</p>
Security	<p>Following the end of the civil war in 2009, Sri Lanka has had a peaceful living environment, and the UNDSS has brought all security levels to 'moderate' (level) island-wide. The city of Colombo is safe, and crime is relatively limited in the city and suburbs. Both UNDSS and UNICEF ensure that housing is secure and meets UN safety and security standards. In general, female harassment in public spaces persists, particularly in public transport services. UNDSS and UNICEF provide initial security briefings for new recruits and keep staff informed of security developments via SMS, email, apps and meetings.</p>
Housing	<p>Very good and safe housing is available in Colombo to cater to any type of requirement from services condominiums to individuals renting out premises. Rates range from US\$ 650-3000 per month depending on the type/size of housing.</p> <p>The UNICEF Administrative Section will guide and provide support in finding safe and suitable housing.</p>
Schools & Childcare	<p>Both expatriates and Sri Lankan students attend international schools in Colombo: Overseas School of Colombo, British School in Colombo, Colombo International School, Elizabeth Moir School, and Ecole Francaise Internationale de Colombo. Even though the current UNICEF does not have Creche facilities, Day Care centers can be found in and around Colombo and closer to the office. Please contact HR or Admin units for more information. Japanese-speaking children can attend a small Japanese school in Colombo. The Embassy of the Russian Federation operates a school for Russian-speaking students. Hindi classes are available for Indian students at the Indian High Commission. Additionally, the respective embassies arrange classes in Swedish, French, and Dutch.</p>

Work for spouses & partners	Qualified spouses are welcome to apply for vacant posts and consultancies. They will be considered according to the UNICEF spouse employment guidelines and granted a residence visa as an accompanying spouse
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You may use the GJP or use the Specific JD for the below sections



UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND SPECIFIC JOB PROFILE

I. Post Information

Job Title: Child Protection Officer, JPO
Supervisor Title/ Level: Chief of Child Protection, P4
Organizational Unit: Child Protection
Post Location: Colombo, Sri Lanka

Job Level: P2
Job Profile No.:
Job Classification Level:

II. Strategic Office Context and purpose for the job

Strategic office context:

UNICEF has been supporting the rights and wellbeing of children in Sri Lanka since the early 1950's, having developed strong presence and partnerships.

Child protection has been one of the priorities for UNICEF in Sri Lanka. The child protection programme is thematically rich, focusing on addressing violence against children in various settings, promoting appropriate alternative care for children, enhancing justice systems, focusing on mental health and psychosocial support, emergency preparedness and inclusion of children with disabilities in the programme. UNICEF's work on legislative and policy reforms provides enabling environment for delivering on these child protection objectives.

For decades, UNICEF has been working with the Sri Lankan government, civil society actors, academia and other stakeholders to strengthen the child protection system in the country.

UNICEF is a major partner for the Government of Sri Lanka in advancing child protection reforms, and the upstream engagement to shape laws, policies and programs will remain UNICEF's key priority in the coming years.

UNICEF works with local and international civil society partners and other non-governmental stakeholders to resource, invigorate and coordinate child protection services across the country with the ambition of creating a strong, capable and coordinated response to end all forms of violence against children.

UNICEF also partners with civil society and local communities to change attitudes and norms surrounding violence against children and other harmful traditional practices in communities and schools.

UNICEF in Sri Lanka has delivered for children during the times of crises and peace. The team has a strong history of working in Sri Lanka during conflict, various emergencies – including natural disasters and COVID-19 - and economic crises. Currently, as Sri Lanka is recovering from the most recent economic crises and with the new government in place, UNICEF increasingly prioritizes its upstream work and ambition to accelerate

meaningful change of children: especially focusing on those who are victims of violence, and those who are growing up without parental care.

Purpose for the job:

UNICEF Sri Lanka aims to bring additional capacity to the team to advance key programme priorities which will see an acceleration in the next 3 years. UNICEF seeks dynamic and innovative solutions for vulnerable children in Sri Lanka. The child protection team will benefit from a colleague with solid thematic knowledge, innovative approaches, skills in coordination and data synthesis. The position will complement the thematic and contextual expertise of the child protection team that is based in Colombo and 3 field locations. While the post will be based in Colombo, regular travel to various provinces of the country can be expected.

Child Protection Officer, JPO will be directly reporting to the Chief of Child Protection. The Child Protection Officer will be focusing on the following areas:

1. **Contribute to the design and implementation of new child protection solutions in Sri Lanka.**
2. **Support knowledge management and utilisation for child protection.**
3. **Support effective coordination and advocacy in child protection.**

The Child Protection Officer will receive progressively advanced tasks in line with increasing capacity and familiarity with the country context. The supervisor and Child Protection Officer will agree on learning and career objectives of the candidate to ensure progressive learning experience. The emphasis will be made on supporting ownership of selected deliverables and products to promote a meaningful professional growth experience.

III. Key functions, accountabilities and related duties/tasks:

The Child Protection Officer, JPO, will be responsible for the following tasks:

1. **Contribute to the design and implementation of new child protection solutions in Sri Lanka.**

Child Protection Officer will be tasked to support the development of three solutions: (a) diversion mechanism for children in conflict with the law, (b) family-based care options for children in need of care and protection and (c) modernization of Sri Lanka's Child Protection Hotline (1929 Call Centre Helpline). These programme areas will be coordinated closely with the respective Government counterparts in Sri Lanka, and will be conceptualized under the guidance of a UNICEF team comprised of international and national colleagues. The tasks will entail conducting research of international and local best practices, consolidation of data and evidence to shape priorities and models, co-designing service models, monitoring the pilots, coordination and convening as necessary. Working with governmental and non-governmental partners will be required, and the tasks may include specific programme and partnership management roles, including addressing child safeguarding and PSEA considerations. The tasks will also focus on integrating mental health and psychosocial support approaches into the design and implementation of new solutions.

2. **Support knowledge management and utilisation for child protection.**

The Programme Officer will be assigned the data focal point role in the team. The tasks will entail working with all team members and across sectors to ensure regular monitoring, overview and synthesis of existing child protection information stemming from recently published UNICEF and external studies and papers and synthesizing existing administrative/routine data available from the government. The Child Protection Officer will be expected to regularly translate data and evidence into programme priorities, issue briefs, advocacy papers, resource mobilization proposals and other products as required. The Child Protection Officer will lead on the identification and documentation of good practices and models related to priority

child protection areas in Sri Lanka. Tasks will also include systematizing existing UNICEF Child Protection knowledge products, communications assets, innovative programme models, and other resources.

3. **Support effective coordination and advocacy in child protection.**

Child protection officer will support the Chief of Child Protection with coordinating UN and non-governmental partners, under the umbrella of existing mechanism related to child protection, general protection and human rights, PSEA, GBV and gender. The tasks will include preparation of thematic input for the working group meetings, support/lead drafting of joint advocacy or technical papers for/with the coordination platforms, and support with other coordination functions and thematic inputs. Child Protection Officer will also contribute to identification of advocacy priorities for UNICEF's interagency or bilateral advocacy and substantive input into related advocacy documents.

IV. Impact of Results

The efficiency and efficacy of support provided by the Child Protection Officer to programme preparation, planning and implementation, contributes to the achievement of sustainable results to create a protective environment for children against harm and all forms of violence, and ensures their survival, development and well-being in society. Success in child protection programmes and projects in turn contributes to maintaining and enhancing the credibility and ability of UNICEF to provide programme services for mothers and children that promotes greater social equality in the country.

V. Competencies and level of proficiency required

Core Values attributes

- Care
- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Accountability
- Sustainability

Core competencies skills

- Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (1)
- Works Collaboratively with others (1)
- Builds and Maintains Partnerships (1)
- Innovates and Embraces Change (1)
- Thinks and Acts Strategically (1)
- Drives to achieve impactful results (1)
- Manages ambiguity and complexity (1)

Functional Competencies

- Persuading and influencing (1)
- Applying technical expertise (1)
- Learning and researching (2)
- Planning and organizing (2)

VI. Recruitment Qualifications

Education:	<p>A university degree in one of the following fields is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Psychology, social work, international studies, development studies, human rights, public policy and other related fields.
Experience:	<p><i>A minimum of two years of professional experience in one or more of the following areas is required:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Designing, implementing and/or monitoring of programmes related to children, preferably child protection</i>- <i>Data analysis and synthesis – both qualitative and quantitative</i>- <i>Preparation of technical and advocacy documents, situation analyses – preferably on subjects related to child/human rights.</i>- <i>Coordination and convening of mixed groups of stakeholders</i>- <i>Prior experience in developing country contexts will be an asset</i>- <i>First-hand experience of working in programmes/services designed for children, families, displaced persons and other vulnerable population groups would be a strong asset</i>- <i>Demonstrable knowledge of mental health and psychosocial aspects of programming for children will be a strong asset</i>- <i>Relevant experience in a UN system agency or organization is considered as an asset.</i>
Language Requirements:	<p><i>Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language or local language of the duty station is considered as an asset.</i></p>