Position Title: Representative, P-5, Chisinau, Moldova

If you are a committed, creative professional and are passionate about making a lasting difference for children, the world’s leading children’s rights organization would like to hear from you.

For 70 years, UNICEF has been working on the ground in 190 countries and territories to promote children’s survival, protection and development. The world’s largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments.

Purpose of the post:

Under general supervision of the Regional Director, responsible for the engagement of UNICEF with the government of Moldova, independent institutions, civil society and private sector. Responsible for the formulation and implementation of UNICEF advocacy and overall conception, formulation, monitoring and management of the UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation approved by the Executive Board.

- Represents the Executive Director in all aspects of UNICEF’s co-operation with the Government of Moldova in a middle size country office.
- Directs the formulation and management of the UNICEF Country Programme of Co-operation.
- Responsible for developing UNICEF positions in relation to key national reforms affecting children. Also for advocating and promoting these positions with the government and other partners for the improved protection, development and participation of vulnerable children and women in national policy and programmes.
- Seeks and strengthens partnership with government, private sector, independent institutions, academia, civil society and diplomatic corps in promoting UNICEF positions.
- Ensures that the equity and the gender equality perspective is mainstreamed in all aspects of substantive work across the country programme.
- Collaborates with heads of offices of other UN agencies and the RC as part of the UNCT to strengthen coherence among positions of UN agencies related to key national policy challenges. Where needed or advantageous, seeks to strengthen coherence among UN agencies in operational aspects.
- Leads and coordinates high level engagement with key donors and allies from the public and private sectors, to promote, advocate, mobilize and influence cooperation with UNICEF to ensure the attainment of UNICEF’s goals and objectives.
- Responsible for all aspects of office management of the UNICEF country office. Where relevant, provides guidance on the development of common services arrangements and implements UNICEF’s Efficiency & Effectiveness initiatives, ensuring that these effectively and economically support UNICEF advocacy and programme assistance.
- (Where needed) Provides policy support, guidance and advocacy as required in emergency situations and other humanitarian programme implementation. Collaborates as part of the UNCT in this regard, including in leading and managing cluster coordination for Nutrition, WASH, Child Protection and Education (co-lead).

Minimum Requirements:

- Advanced university degree in Social Sciences, International Relations, Public Administration, Public Policy, Social Policy, Social Development, Community Development, or other relevant disciplines.
- Ten years of relevant professional work experience. Experience in programme/ projects management and building strategic alliances and partnerships/resource mobilization. International and Developing country work experience and field work experience.
• Oral and written proficiency in English is required. Knowledge of Russian language would be an asset. Ability and willingness to learn Romanian and use it in official and unofficial contexts will enhance effectiveness in this post.

Country Typology:

• Classified as Lower Middle Income country.
• Significant gaps in terms of harmonization of legislation and standards with the CRC.
• Important programme focus is to strengthen social protection for greater equity for rural children, Roma children and children with disabilities.
• UNICEF office counts 23 staff.
• Note: a small English language international school, suitable for primary and middle school aged children is available. Good Romanian and Russian medium schools are also available.

Person Profile:

• Experience in policy dialogue and managing technical assistance, coupled with strong programming skills to model quality inclusive services for children.
• Politically savvy to position UNICEF among multiple stakeholders in a politically complex and sensitive environment.
• Excellent partnership building with civil society and strong public communication skills to manage reputational risk.
• Knowledge of EU institutions and mechanisms an asset.
• Good knowledge of the UNCT team mechanisms.
• Strong managerial and team leadership skills.
• Good strategic vision, innovative thinking and analytical judgement.

Competencies of Successful Candidate:

Core Values

• Commitment
• Diversity and inclusion
• Integrity

SSR competencies

• Delivering results
• Managing complexity and change
• Impact and partnership
• Innovation and risk taking
• Leading, engaging and nurturing
• Self-awareness

Applications will be considered only if accompanied by an updated Cover Letter and CV, as well as the two most recent PERs (for internals) / Evaluations (for externals). Regret letters will only be sent to shortlisted candidates.

UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages qualified female and male candidates from all national, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of our organization.