Position Title: Representative, P-5, Nouakchott, Mauritania

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 for the job:

The Representative serves as the accredited representative of the UNICEF Executive Director in the Country and reports to the Regional Director for general direction. The Representative is responsible for establishing dialogue with the government to develop the framework of cooperation in the country and for working closely and collaboratively with the government and national institutions, UN, stakeholders and other partners, to develop the UNICEF Country Program of Cooperation in support of UNICEF’s and national and international development efforts to advance children’s rights to survival, development and wellbeing as established under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, international treaties/framework and UN intergovernmental bodies.

As Head of a small size Country Office, the Representative is responsible for managing and supervising the CO programs/projects and operations, providing leadership and vision to the UNICEF country programme team in managing and leveraging resources for the achievement of results and fulfilment of the rights of children. The Representative leads and manages the various program sectors and operational service teams ensuring delivery of quality results in accordance with the UNICEF Strategic Plans, standards of performance and accountability framework, ethics and integrity.

Key function, accountabilities and related duties/tasks:

- Developing and planning the Country Program
- Leading and managing the CO
- Monitoring and quality control of the Country Program
- Representation and external relations at global/national level
- Building alliance, resource mobilization and UN System coordination
- Leading innovation, knowledge management and capacity building
- Safety and security of staff, programs and organizational assets

Minimum Requirements:

- An Advanced University Degree in social sciences, international relations, government and public relations, public or social policy, sociology, social or community development or other related fields, is required.

- A minimum of 10 years professional development experience that combines managerial and technical leadership in development cooperation at the international level, some of which served in developing countries is required. Relevant professional experience in any UN system agency or organization is an asset.

- Oral and written proficiency in English and French is required. Knowledge of Arabic is an asset.
Country Typology:

- Mauritania is a Lower Middle Income country, with a population of 4.167 million and a GDP per capita of USD 1,282.8 in 2014.

- Nouakchott, Mauritania is a Family duty station.

- Nouakchott, Mauritania is a "D" Duty Station. (Source: International Civil Service Commission, effective 01/Jan/2016)

- **Brief country context:** Located between the Maghreb and the Sahel, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania plays a key role for the maintenance of peace and security in the region. The vast territory, mostly desert and scarcely populated, host a population composed of different ethnic groups. Mauritania depends heavily on drought-prone agriculture. Despite the significant presence of natural resources (fishing, oil, iron, gold, etc.), 42 % of the population is still living under the poverty line, with pockets of inequality. It strategic position pre disposes the country of vulnerabilities of the region Security has been a concern particularly linked to the activity in the sub-region of Al Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and other armed groups.

- **Size of the country office:** 20 Million USD budget per year and 66 staff members (excluding TAs and SSAs) with 2 zone offices.

- **Focus of country programme, targets, challenges:** UNICEF with other UN agencies have been working closely with the Government and have provided continuous support to activities aimed at advancing child survival in the country. Since the beginning of 2012, UNICEF has been responding to dual crises in Mauritania, refugees fleeing conflict in Mali and high rates of malnutrition. More than 42,000 refugees (as of today) from Mali have arrived in a remote and food insecure region of the country. 60% of the refugees are children. The impact of the Sahel Nutrition crisis continues to be felt with the expected caseload for Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in 2013 being 122,719 children under 5 years, including 23,901 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). UNICEF’s aim is now to scale up health, education, protection, WASH in an integrated manner and other programmes in favour of women and children.

- **Additional information applicants should know:** Working experience in managing offices in a very complex environment with limited delivery capacity is required.

Person Profile:

- Previous experience as a Representative, with a strong policy and advocacy record with the host government, member states, and the UN system.

- Capacity to manage/strategize and build capacity of UNICEF staff, with sound professional knowledge of UNICEF issues/priorities and excellent team building skills.

- Very strong understanding of program development, emergency and particularly security issues.

- Willingness to focus on significant program delivery while ensuring the safety and security of national and international staff.

- Strong background and knowledge of risk assessment for security and operational risks, as well as emergency preparedness and response.

- Capacity to ensure visibility for children, with focus on gender issues, with excellent communication/representation skills.

- Capacity to work in a team and in close relationship with the UNCT and the evolving Integrated UN Mission.

- Good understanding of the private sector and how to partner with in a complex environment.
Competencies of Successful Candidate:

Core Values

- Commitment
- Diversity and inclusion
- Integrity
- Result focused

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.