

Position Title: Representative, D-1, Niamey, Niger

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, stakeholders and 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 well-being as established under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, international treaties/framework and UN intergovernmental bodies.

As Head of a medium size Country Office, the Representative is responsible for leading and guiding managers of programs/projects and operations supporting the CO programs, 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 oversees 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 12 years professional development experience that combines intellectual and managerial 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 another official UN language or a local language is an asset.

Country Typology:

- Niger is a Low Income country, with a population of 20.2 million and a GDP per capita of USD 413 in 2016 (mid-year).
- Niamey, Niger is a Family duty station.
- Niamey, Niger is a "C" Duty Station. (Source: International Civil Service Commission, effective 01/Jan/2016)
- Brief country context:
 - Niger is a landlocked country of 20.2 million people, most of them living in rural areas (79%). The population is young, with 49.6% of Nigeriens being under 15. Nearly half of the population is poor, despite reductions in the poverty rate over the past decade. The country sees its development constrained by several factors: climatic conditions that hinder rural development, vulnerability due to the absence of economic diversification, high population growth, low levels of literacy and education, and the size and landlocked nature of the country, which obstruct the provision of essential goods and services to the population. Niger remains highly vulnerable to emergencies especially to drought, floods and epidemics. Since February 2015, Niger also has to cope with insecurity and displacement in the Southeast of the country.
 - Indicators are particularly alarming for women and children. Only 14% of women (compared to 42% of men), can read and write, and educational indicators are low.
 - Despite a significant decrease over the past few years, the child mortality rate remains high, and little progress was recorded on the maternal mortality rate over the past 20 years. Malnutrition is a key challenge: as of July 2014, 45% of children under the age of five suffered from chronic malnutrition, and 15% of them from acute malnutrition.
- Size of the country office:
 - UNICEF in Niger has one main office in Niamey and 3 ZOs, in Agadez, Maradi and Diffa; 157 staff members in total 129 FTs + permanent staff and 28 TAs.
 - The CP 5 year budget stands at 198.9 million USD (39.7 million annually /OR 20.9). The total allotment for 2016 is USD 75 million (20,5 ORE; 29,5 ORR; 24,5 RR and 0,5 BMA)
- Focus of country program, targets, challenges:
 - UNICEF, under its 2014-18 program of cooperation has been working jointly with other UN agencies and partners to support the Government; and has provided effective support to advancing child survival, nutrition, education, child protection, C4D and social policies.
 - What particularly stands out during the first years of the CP, is the significant support that UNICEF provided to the government in tackling three issues which are somehow emblematic for Niger: the high level of stunting, the high number of child marriages and the high numbers of OoSC; using a multi sector approach. In addition, UNICEF worked jointly with other UN agencies to test and scale up an integrated municipality based approach to strengthen the resilience of households, communities and systems.

Person Profile:

- Previous experience as a Representative in a large country office, with a strong policy and advocacy record with the host government, member states, and the UN system.
- Very strong management, leadership, and people skills. Capacity to innovate, strategize and build capacity of UNICEF staff, with excellent team building skills.

- Very strong understanding of program development; all-round knowledge of UNICEF themes and priorities; experience in emergency programs and in 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.
- Capacity to ensure visibility for children and advocate their rights, with a focus on equity and gender issues, with excellent communication/representation skills.
- Capacity to work in a team and in close relationship with the UNCT and other humanitarian and development partners.

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.