

Job description

Job title	Health Systems and Financing Specialist
Department	Technical
Reporting to	Senior member of Technical Department
Responsible for	Manage members of the Technical Department as required
Liaison with	Other UK Departments and overseas programmes
Hours	Full time, 35 hours per week
Type of contract	Initial 1 year fixed-term contract
Location	Kenya, Nigeria or UK

Our Organisation

Since 1992, Options consultancy Services Ltd (Options) has worked in more than 60 countries to tackle some of the world's most pressing health challenges. With longstanding connections to the places we work and a focus on strong relationships, our approach is long-term but adaptive. This means we are flexible enough to respond quickly while also supporting the development of locally rooted solutions. We believe this is vital to ensuring a lasting positive impact. Gender equality and social change is at the forefront of our work. As part of MSI Reproductive Choices, all our profits go back into supporting MSI's own mission of children by choice, not chance.

From governments to grassroots groups, we work with a wide range of organisations to improve health outcomes. With 30 years' experience in global health, we work with our partners to explore existing evidence, combine expertise, scale up ideas and co-create solutions that accelerate change. This includes collaborating on programme and policy design and also extends to managing initiatives, building powerful coalitions and galvanising social movements. Our impact is felt across whole communities, with a particular focus on women, girls and those who have been marginalised.

Main purpose of job

The role of **Health Systems and Financing Specialist** is to provide technical support on health financing and systems strengthening across Options' portfolio of programmes in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The post-holder will be able to appreciate the complexities of and dynamic interactions within health systems including the political context in which they function. Through a combination of backstopping support to programme teams and direct technical delivery, they will support the design, implementation and monitoring of health financing approaches to support achievement of universal health coverage. This may include, for example:

- Technical support and advocacy for domestic resource mobilisation for health in the context of transition. This could include tracking of national and sub-national budgets, support to prioritisation and the development of country-specific evidence briefs to be used to advocate for increased investment in health.
- Technical support to strengthen public financial management (PFM) processes within the health sector to align with the country's health financing objectives. This could include support to identify and address blockages in the PFM system to ensure allocation and expenditure of budgets in line with stated priorities.
- Technical assistance to governments as they design and implement health financing reforms, with a particular focus on resilience and primary health care centred universal health coverage. This could include the design and application of diagnostic tools and convening of key stakeholders to build consensus on strategies to address local priorities.

The post-holder will have experience and technical expertise in some or all of the following areas: health financing policy or strategy development, budgeting and planning, health budget advocacy, domestic resource mobilisation; political economy analysis, sustainability and transition; public financial management, costing and efficiency analysis; results based financing; social and financial risk protection; contracting; design and/or operationalisation of insurance schemes; impact modelling or health economics.

They will contribute actively to the growth and development of the organisation and to the delivery of its strategy by contributing to generation of new business opportunities.

This post can be based in any of the following countries: UK, Kenya or Nigeria. Overseas travel may be required, as agreed with the line manager. Applicants must be eligible to live and work in one of these countries and be fluent in spoken and written English. Ability to work in French is desirable.

Note: All levels of position in the organisation assume some degree of responsibility for safeguarding. Your accountabilities will align with the level and scope of the position and appropriate training will be provided

Main duties

Technical Assistance to Programmes

- As part of the Technical Department, provide backstopping and strategic support on health systems and financing across a selection of Options programmes through the provision of technical advice, analysis and quality assurance of technical resources.
- Undertake technical assistance assignments in health systems strengthening and health financing as well as other areas of specialist expertise such as public financial management and health economics as relevant. This will be through on-going inputs to long term programmes and one-off assignments.
- Contribute to the development of project results frameworks, theories of change and support their use and adaptation for effective programme delivery.
- Provide technical support and skills development to country stakeholders including programme staff, government officials and civil society organisations.
- Engage with national governments and other stakeholders to solicit feedback and redress areas of concern
- Liaise with donors and other external development partners to ensure programmes meet objectives and expectations
- Advise on areas of potential risk and support the development of mitigation strategies

Proposal Development, communication and dissemination

- Lead the technical design and development of proposals, especially relating to health systems strengthening and health financing
- Provide oversight and inputs into technical components of proposals being developed by other members of the Technical Department

Prospecting for new business

- Identify and develop new programme opportunities, building on technical and geographic knowledge
- Build and maintain networks of donors, partners and influencers and use these to promote Options' work and to attract new business
- Utilise opportunities to represent Options effectively and help position Options' as a thought leader in health systems and financing

Organisational learning

- Provide strategic support to Options' London team, overseas teams and consultants as required in relation to health systems and financing
- Enable technical exchange and learning between programme staff by convening virtual or in-person events and proactively sharing learning resources and tools and connecting individuals from across the organisation.
- Contribute to the documentation of results and the publication and dissemination of research and learning

Management

- Manage project consultants, Technical Advisors, Technical Officers or interns as required

Training

- Increase and maintain your own area of expertise through continuous self-development.
- Participate in any relevant external training and capacity building undertaken by Options.

Note: this job description reflects the present requirements of the post. As duties and responsibilities change and develop the job description will be reviewed and be subject to amendment in consultation with the job holder.

Signed by:	Date:
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Person specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
An MSc or relevant qualification or related comparable experience in public health, health financing, public financial management, health economics or in a relevant field.	Essential	
Experience		
Experience of working in Africa and/or Asia in a relevant capacity and with governments; international agencies and local NGOs	Essential	Desirable
Experience delivering technical work on health financing in similar organisations	Essential	
Experience applying tools and providing technical assistance in public financial management, impact modelling and/or health economics		
Experience providing backstopping support to individuals and teams in remote settings through in-person and virtual engagement	Essential	
Experience of developing strong relationships with government officials within health and finance authorities	Essential	
Experience in providing technical assistance in at least two of the following areas: health financing policy or strategy development, budgeting and planning, health budget advocacy, political economy analysis, sustainability and transition; public financial management, costing and efficiency analysis; results based financing; social and financial risk protection; contracting; design and/or operationalisation of health insurance schemes; impact modelling and health economics.	Essential	
Experience of working alongside national stakeholders and institutions to build skills and competencies e.g. in analysis and modelling	Essential	
Experience of dialogue with government and donor clients to successfully negotiate solutions	Essential	
Experience of supporting technical bids	Essential	
Established networks which will contribute to Options business development		
Portfolio of publications		Desirable
Skills and attributes		
Technical specialism in Health Systems Strengthening with a focus on Health Financing	Essential	

<p>Knowledge about Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH)/communicable diseases in developing countries</p> <p>Ability to analyse, interpret and present data (eg government budgets) so that it is easily understood by non-experts</p> <p>Excellent skills in communication, written and verbal</p> <p>Proven ability to network and manage relationships with clients, consultants and technical resource persons</p> <p>Self-starter as well as good team-worker</p> <p>Ability to actively contribute to strategy and business development in their area of expertise and beyond.</p> <p>Demonstrated ability to contribute to technical delivery of programmes.</p> <p>Demonstrated interpersonal skills that enables effective team building and problem solving.</p> <p>Demonstrated ability to contribute to technical writing of bids.</p> <p>Excellent written and spoken French</p>	<p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p>	<p>Desirable</p> <p>Desirable</p>
<p>Other Requirements</p>		
<p>Pro-choice</p> <p>Commitment to Equal Opportunities</p> <p>A commitment to the programme's and Options' principles of Safeguarding, Do No Harm, and to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights</p>	<p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p> <p>Essential</p>	