



## Partnerships Specialist

<b>Job title:</b>	<b>Partnerships Specialist</b>
<b>Level:</b>	<b>NOD</b>
<b>Position Number:</b>	-
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Cotonou, Benin</b>
<b>Full/Part time:</b>	<b>Full-Time</b>
<b>Fixed term/Temporary:</b>	<b>Fixed Term</b>
<b>Rotational/Non-Rotational:</b>	<b>Non-Rotational</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>1 year (renewable, subject to good performance)</b>

### The Position:

The Partnership Specialist plays a pivotal position in the Country Office as a central provider and coordinator of policy and technical services to expand strategic partnerships for impact with the national counterparts and international stakeholders.

The post is strategically positioned to provide the first line of response and support to expand partnerships for impact to accelerate progress towards the 3 transformative results of UNFPA, within the broader context of support to national efforts for robust and efficient policies, programmes, systems and instruments to achieve the SDGs. The post also occupies a central role in fostering synergies and strategic integration with other UN entities, financial and technical partners and other UNFPA country offices across the globe.

The Partnership Specialist will ensure the full synergy of programme interventions with the normative frameworks of the Government of Benin and the interventions of other technical and financial partners. In this context, s/he will ensure the implementation of appropriate strategic and operational coordination mechanisms for a synergy of interventions and results, with a human rights and gender based approach. S/he will also nurture the development of strategic partnerships to support national efforts to explore innovative ways to scale up results, including with enhanced use of social and/or digital innovations, and enable the sector to go from funding to financing.

The Partnership Specialist will report directly to the Country Representative.

### How you can make a difference:

UNFPA is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UNFPA's new strategic plan (2018-2021), focuses on three transformative results: to end preventable maternal deaths; end unmet need for family planning; and end gender-based violence and harmful practices.

In a world where fundamental human rights are at risk, we need principled and ethical staff, who embody these international norms and standards, and who will defend them courageously and with full conviction.



UNFPA is seeking candidates that transform, inspire and deliver high impact and sustained results; we need staff who are transparent, exceptional in how they manage the resources entrusted to them and who commit to deliver excellence in programme results.

### **Job Purpose:**

You will play a vital role in ensuring that the country office is able to identify, develop and nurture strategic partnerships for impact and to accelerate progress towards the 3 transformative results of UNFPA. You will ensure that the wealth and quality of programmes, based on sound evidence, taking into account state-of-the-art research and innovative practices, is well documented, shared and promoted with national and international stakeholders to leverage synergies and domestic and international resources. You will therefore need to build close relationships with programme teams (at country level, but also at regional and global level) as well as with stakeholders and networks to identify best practices, including through south-to-south cooperation modalities and funding to financing strategies.

### **You would be responsible for:**

#### **A. Partnerships for advocacy and policy dialogue**

- Scan the national and sub-national political, economic and social environment (across humanitarian and development contexts) and identify new developments and implications of relevance for UNFPA advocacy and programming and share analyses with the country office team as well as implementing partners to guide policy and programming processes
- Leverage internal analysis, data and good practices to nurture dialogue for the development, implementation and monitoring of national strategic plans and policies in the areas of reproductive health, gender and rights, youth, demographic dividend, population dynamics and climate change.
- Strengthen alliances with youth networks, social movements and women's groups, development and financial institutions, academia and south-south cooperation, working together for impact
- Foster UNFPA's new 'Promote and Protect' strategy to improve communications and reach of partnerships, which are new for UNFPA, but very valuable for impact
- Actively contribute to the operationalization of UN Reform by providing regular strategic analysis of the national environment to inform and nurture joint advocacy, policy dialogue and strategic interventions with UN sister agencies
- Provide analytical support for new generation CCA/UNSDCFs and for IASC through population data and development of national investment cases and for the joint UN thematic of climate change and environment and resilience and preparedness programming, youth/women peace and security dimensions.

- Enhance the office engagement and leadership in Humanitarian Response Plans and humanitarian programme cycle at country level

## **B. Partnerships for technical assistance and national capacity building**

- Act as primary Country Office liaison with HQ divisions and departments involved in technical assistance and knowledge management;
- Develop and continuously update the assessment of technical assistance needs of Implementing Partners, and identify networks and platforms for sourcing such technical assistance;
- Develop a system for continuously assessing and improving the quality of technical assistance provided to partners;
- Establish collaborative arrangements with potential partners and strengthen operational partnerships with academic institutions, think tanks, the private sector, UN agencies and other sources of technical assistance, including south-south collaboration;
- Lead the development of a Knowledge Management Strategy for the Country Office;
- Develop a system allowing programme staff to remain abreast of the latest research and technical developments in sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and the empowerment of young people;
- Coordinate and contribute to production of peer reviewed in-depth thematic analysis papers, study reports, white papers, technical and policy briefs, and communication materials in support of evidence-based decision making and policy development;
- Initiate periodic conversations within the Country Office to assess the continued relevance of initiatives related to technical assistance, research and innovation;
- Identify venues and modalities to share good practices with government institutions, civil society, the private sector and the wider knowledge economy, including through south-south modalities;
- Represent UNFPA in fora and events related to partnerships, technical assistance, research, good practices and knowledge management

## **C. Partnerships for excellency and efficiency of programme/ service delivery including the humanitarian and development nexus**

- Work with programmatic pillars team leaders to identify and source the best available data, evidence and practices to underpin the development or scaling up of strategic partnerships
- Support national and regional-level structures to effectively utilize SRHR data for decision making, policy and program formulation, monitoring and evaluation in support of integrated national development and humanitarian response.
- Provide technical leadership to the country and decentralized office on resilience issues, including advancing UNFPA's technical leadership in the area of innovation with affected communities across humanitarian and development contexts;
- Strengthen organization capacity to position and ensure the continuity of SRH services in the context of the COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts, jointly with partners  
Identify centers of excellence in South-South and Triangular Cooperation

- Act as primary focal point and plays a pivotal role to develop humanitarian and social cohesion/resilience partnerships to strengthen UNFPA's operational and logistic capacity and to expand its reach to the first and last miles of populations in humanitarian emergency or to support the next humanitarian/development and resilience
- Lead robust evidence-based advocacy to highlight challenges and opportunities at national level and in the field to strengthen access to empowerment, resilience SRHR and GBV information and services for women and young people across humanitarian and development contexts;
- Strengthen partnership with other UN agencies, national authorities, and implementing partners at national and field levels for the planning, implementation and monitoring of UNFPA integrated SRHR/GBV programming for women and young people;
- Identify and package, together with communications and partnership staff, research results, good practices and other knowledge products from Benin to be shared with a wide range of audiences;

#### **D. Partnerships for Resource Mobilization (Funding and Financing)**

- Coordinate the development, monitoring and updating of the resource mobilization and strategic partnerships plan
- Liaise with potential sources of funding for initiatives related to innovation, research, and technical assistance, including south-to-south cooperation.
- Contribute to the design and development of new proposals for funding and financing to ensure synergy and coordination of the approaches
- Act as primary focal point for the office for the dialogue with national authorities regarding the costing, budgeting and financing of the 3 transformative results
- Provide continuous technical assistance to the country office team in the efforts to make ongoing partnerships more effective, innovative, dynamic and sustainable for the advancement of SRHR and gender equality policy formulation and program development at the national level.

#### **Qualifications and Experience**

##### **Education:**

Advanced university degree in public health, social sciences, demography, statistics or any other related fields.

##### **Knowledge and Experience:**

- At least 7 years of senior experience and increasing responsibilities in managing or supporting health and/or social development programmes, preferably reproductive health or population & development;
- Demonstrable experience in sourcing state-of the art knowledge, overseeing operational research, and packaging knowledge products for technical audiences;



- Demonstrable experience in sourcing and mobilizing top-notch technical assistance, including through south-south cooperation;
- Demonstrable experience in leading/managing innovation in programming;
- Familiarity with UN development programmes and working procedures, especially UNFPA policies and programming procedures, although not required, is an asset.

**Languages:**

Fluency in French and a working knowledge of English are required. A willingness to quickly reach proficiency for either of the languages would be acceptable.

**Required Competencies**

<p><b>Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exemplifying integrity,</li> <li>• Demonstrating commitment to UNFPA and the UN system,</li> <li>• Embracing cultural diversity,</li> <li>• Embracing change</li> </ul>	<p><b>Functional Competencies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business acumen</li> <li>• Implementing management systems</li> <li>• Innovation and marketing of new approaches</li> <li>• Client orientation</li> <li>• Organizational awareness</li> </ul>
<p><b>Core Competencies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving results,</li> <li>• Being accountable,</li> <li>• Developing and applying professional expertise/business acumen,</li> <li>• Thinking analytically and strategically,</li> <li>• Working in teams/managing ourselves and our relationships,</li> <li>• Communicating for impact</li> </ul>	<p><b>Managerial Competencies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing strategic focus,</li> <li>• Engaging in internal/external partners and stakeholders,</li> <li>• Leading, developing and empowering people, creating a culture of performance,</li> <li>• Making decisions and exercising judgment</li> </ul>

**Compensation and Benefits**

This position offers an attractive remuneration package, including a competitive net salary plus cost of living adjustment, rental subsidy, education grant, home leave, health insurance and other benefits as applicable.

**Disclaimer**

UNFPA does not charge any application, processing, training, interviewing, testing or other fee in connection with the application or recruitment process. Fraudulent notices, letters or offers may be submitted to the UNFPA fraud hotline <http://www.unfpa.org/help/hotline.cfm>