

**Junior Professional Officer
Assignment and Candidate Profile Form**

PART I: INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT

Title

Technical Officer (Special Projects for access to medicines and health products).

Duty Station

Geneva, Switzerland

Programme/Department

Office of the Assistant Director General Division for Access to Medicines and Health Products, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland.

Objectives of the WHO Division for Access to Medicines and Health Products:

The Access to Medicines and Health Products Division (MHP) leads and coordinates WHO's work to improve access to effective and affordable quality-assured medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and other health products, including for the prevention and response to COVID-19 and other epidemics/pandemics.

MHP works closely with other divisions in WHO HQ, such as the Science Division, the communicable and non-communicable diseases and emergency divisions, and with WHO Regional and Country Offices. WHO also collaborates with partners from the public, private and civil society.

MHP has three key workstreams:

- 1) prequalification of medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and other health products; and for strengthening regulatory authorities, pharmacovigilance systems and local production in countries
- 2) development of norms and policies for access to medicines and health products which includes work on evidence-based selection and use of medicines and health products, procurement and supply management and pricing and affordability
- 3) management of special projects, including the engagement with Member States and strategic partners on equitable access to health products, innovation and intellectual property; WHO's role vis-à-vis the international drug control conventions, and coordination with WHO governing bodies and Regional and Country Offices, to ensure that access to quality-assured health products is at the centre of the international public health agenda.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted MHP's critical public health role, as illustrated by its contribution to scale up of research for, development and manufacturing of COVID-19 novel technologies, and to accelerating and harmonizing regulation of urgently needed products.

Assignment Summary:

Within the Assistant Director General's Office of MHP, and under the supervision of the Head of Special Projects, the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) will contribute to the development and implementation of MHP's special projects such as the engagement with Member States and strategic partners on equitable access to health products, innovation and intellectual property, WHO's role vis-à-vis the international drug control conventions, and coordination with WHO governing bodies and Regional and Country Offices.

The JPO will support collaboration across teams in MHP, across other Divisions at WHO Headquarters, as well as with Regional and Country Offices, and with partners involved in equitable access to medicines and health products including other UN and international agencies, private and public sector institutions, and civil society organizations.

Duties, Responsibilities and Expected Output:

The JPO will undertake the following tasks:

- Support MHP's engagement with Member States and international partners for policy development and advocacy for equitable access to medicines and other health products; assist in the preparation of WHO Governing Bodies meetings, collaborative projects and global events with Member States and other strategic international partners, representatives of public and private sector and civil society.
- Contribute to MHP's work on innovation, intellectual property and access to medicines and other health technologies, such as the Global Strategy on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (GSPA-PHI), the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool and capacity-building activities in countries in regulations related to innovation, Intellectual Property, transfer of technology and access.
- Support strategic coordination with WHO Regional and Country offices on equitable access to medicines and health products, including for the prevention and response to COVID-19 and other pandemics. Collaborate with the WHO Academy for strengthening capacity of countries experts on equitable access to quality medicines and health products.
- Draft reports, briefing and advocacy material on MHP special projects; organize advocacy events and webinars, and maintain MHP's special projects web page.
- Carry out other tasks as requested by supervisors,

Key Expected Outputs:

By the end of the assignment it will be expected that the JPO has:

- contributed to enhanced engagement and collaboration with Member States and partners such as international organizations, public and private sector institutions and civil society
- actively supported MHP's strategic work on equitable access to medicines and health products, in particular work on innovation, intellectual property, transfer of technology and access to medicines and health technologies
- has contributed to the development of high-quality tools, policy documents, reports and briefings for promoting, raising awareness and strengthening capacity for implementation of WHO standards and policies.

- has contributed to the provision of specialized for technical assistance to countries to improve access to medicines and health products including for the prevention and response to pandemics such as COVID-19.

Supervisors:

First-level Supervisor: Dr Gilles Forte, Head of Special Projects, Access to Medicines and Health Products Division.

Contact:

Dr Gilles Forte, Head Special Projects, Access to medicines and Health Products Division
(forteg@who.int) Tel.: + 41 22 791 36 17

PART II: CANDIDATE PROFILE

Qualifications and Experience:

Education:

Minimum: Advanced university degree in medicine, pharmacy, public health, international relations or other relevant fields.

Desirable: Certification in project management.

Work experience:

Minimum: At least two years of relevant professional experience in pharmacy, public health, international relations or other similar fields.

Desirable: Professional experience in an international or civil society organization, including at country level, would be an asset.

Skills required for the assignment:

Excellent planning and organizational skills and the ability to multi-task and work under pressure. Diplomacy, courtesy and ability to operate in a multi-cultural environment and to promote team-work.

Strong analytical capacity, excellent communication and writing skills.

Minimum: Excellent knowledge of spoken and written English

Desirable: Knowledge of other UN official languages would be an asset

Proficient in Microsoft Office: Word, Excel and presentation software

Advanced IT proficiency in data management and visualisation tools.

WHO competencies required for the assignment:

- Communication
- Producing results
- Promoting collaboration and partnerships
- Respecting and promoting individual and cultural difference
- Teamwork

Learning objectives of the JPO during this assignment

Upon completion of the assignment, the JPO will be able to:

Achieving the learning objectives

	Learning Objective	Training Components <i>(Indicate training / learning activities, based on which objective can be achieved)</i>	When? <i>(Indicate when the activity will take place)</i>
1	Gaining experience from working in the United Nations System. Understanding the workings of the international development community at global, regional and country levels.	On-the-job training, including interactions with senior WHO colleagues from the Access to Medicines and Health Products Division and other divisions in WHO HQ; with colleagues from WHO Regional and Country offices and with partners from other international agencies, the public and private sector and civil society organizations working in the access to medicines and health products field. Scheduled training opportunities, where relevant.	Throughout the assignment
2	Developing experience in building collaboration with international and regional partners and for the provision of specialized technical assistance to countries.	On-the-job training, including close interactions with WHO Regional and Country Offices and interactions with experts and decision makers in countries and with partners from the United Nations agencies, the public, private sector and civil society organizations working in access to medicines and health products. Scheduled training opportunities, where relevant.	Throughout the assignment
3	Gaining knowledge and expertise in technical and strategic topics related to access to medicines and health products including innovation, transfer of technology and intellectual property.	On-the-job training through working with experts from the MHP Division, other WHO HQ Divisions as well as from Member States, other international agencies, the public, private and civil society sectors. Scheduled training opportunities, where relevant.	Throughout the assignment



The progress towards achieving the objectives will be evaluated annually by the JPO together with the first and second level supervisors. Achievement will be against WHO's Performance Management and Development System (PMDS).

Signature: _____

First level supervisor

Signature: _____

Second level supervisor

Date: _____