

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

### **PART I: INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT**

**Title:** Technical Officer, Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, Unit on Risk Assessment and Management

**Duty Station:** WHO Headquarters, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

**Programme/Department:** Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, Unit on Risk Assessment and Management

#### **Objective of the WHO Programme/Department:**

The Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS), provides leadership in global efforts to lower the burden of diseases from food and animals. FOS' mission is to lower the burden of foodborne disease, thereby strengthening the health security and ensuring sustainable development of Member States. The Strategic Plan for Food Safety 2013-2022 can be found on the website: <http://www.who.int/entity/foodsafety/publications/strategic-plan/en/index.html>

In carrying out its activities, FOS focuses on three strategic directions:

1. Science-based decision-making
2. Cross-sectoral collaboration
3. Leadership and technical assistance

To achieve its goals, WHO works closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ([FAO](#)), the World Organisation for Animal Health ([OIE](#)) and other international organizations to address food safety issues, as integral part of nutrition and food security, along the entire food production chain from production to consumption. One key area of work is the scientific advice program under Strategic Direction 1. Sound scientific risk assessments are the basis for informed policy development, and for prioritizing and implementing risk management measures to reduce and prevent foodborne diseases, including prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases. WHO, together with FAO, has been the international source of scientific advice on matters related to chemical and microbiological hazards in food. The risk assessments developed through independent international expert groups form the basis for national and international food safety standards, most importantly they form the scientific basis for Codex Standards. The update and international harmonization of risk assessment methodology is an important element in this work.

#### **Assignment Summary:**

The JPO will work in the Unit Risk Assessment and Management (RAM) within the department of Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS), under the direct supervision of the Coordinator. The JPO will work in the scientific advice program and assist in the organization and conduct of independent international expert meetings to assess the health risks of chemical and microbiological contamination in food, as well as new technologies. The resulting risk assessments serve as basis for national and international food safety standards. The work includes interaction with international experts, participating institutions, Member Governments, presentation of the outcome of scientific expert meeting at international fora, including contribution to international standard setting work through the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies. The work also includes coordination with relevant work areas within WHO, such as implementation of the Global Action Plan on Anti-Microbial Resistance, as it relates to the Codex Standard setting work.

#### **Duties, Responsibilities and Output expectations:**

Under the overall supervision of the Coordinator FOS/RAM, the JPO shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. as part of the scientific/technical secretariat, assist in the organization and management of expert meetings  
50%
2. to interact with Codex Alimentarius Secretariat in international food standard setting process, in particular preparation of discussion papers on specific food safety related topics  
20%
3. to contribute to the overall work on scientific advice, such as updating databases, preparation of advocacy and training material, targeted capacity building activities in countries and sub-regions, all in close collaboration with regional food safety advisers,  
20%
4. to contribute to the overall work of the Department as assigned by the Coordinator  
10%

During the period of assignment, the JPO would have contributed to the following key outputs:

1. successful implementation of scientific advice activities to address priority requests from Member States (PB16/17: Output 5.4.2, deliverable H3)
2. monitoring of implementation of FOS strategic plan and WHO program budget
3. strengthened cross-sectoral collaboration in food safety (FAO and OIE) and within the organization (with regions) (PB16/17: Output 5.4.1, deliverable H1)

Supervisor: Dr Angelika Tritscher, Coordinator RAM, Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, WHO/OHE  
e-mail: [tritschera@who.int](mailto:tritschera@who.int); Tel: +41 22 791 3569

## **PART II: CANDIDATE PROFILE**

### **Qualifications and Experience:**

#### **Education:**

Minimum:

Master's degree or equivalent in a life-science or public health-related discipline, preferably in toxicology, microbiology, food safety, and/or public health

Desirable:

Qualification or post-graduate training in food risk assessment

#### **Work experience:**

Minimum:

At least 2 years' experience in food safety and/or relevant area ( preferably in risk assessment, development of standards)..

Desirable:

Experience in food safety assessment and food safety regulation

Experience in international standard setting

#### **Skills required for the assignment:**

Minimum:

Proficiency in spoken and written English,

Proficient in the use of word processing and other IT tools

Excellent communication skills

Desirable:

Database management and data analysis skills

Other UN language, in particular French or Spanish

**WHO competencies required for the assignment:** [http://www.who.int/employment/WHO\\_competencies\\_EN.pdf](http://www.who.int/employment/WHO_competencies_EN.pdf)

The candidate is expected to demonstrate and be guided by WHO competencies; specifically:

1. Producing results
2. Fostering integration and teamwork
3. Communicating in a credible and effective way
4. Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences

**Learning objectives of the JPO during this assignment**

Upon completion of the assignment, the JPO will have / be able to ...

**Achieving the learning objectives**

	<b>Learning Objective</b>	<b>Training Components</b>	<b>When?</b>
1.	Understand functioning and role of specialised agencies of the UN Organization in the context of food (WHO, FAO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the job training</li> <li>The JPO will be supported in his/her professional growth and development throughout the program through his/her active participation in the program and through mentoring and coaching</li> </ul>	Throughout the duration of assignment
2.	Understand the mandate, functioning and scope of WHO at the three levels	Taking active part in Governing bodies activities (including World Health Assembly); active interaction with regional food safety advisors and at country level through capacity building projects.	Throughout the duration of assignment, linked to specific projects
3.	Improve technical and project management skills (ability to plan, implement, manage and evaluate projects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the job training supported by on-line training courses available in WHO</li> </ul>	Throughout the duration of assignment
3.	Build collaborative and rewarding professional relationships and networks, on intramural and extramural level	Through activities listed above, in particular organization of and participation in international expert meetings and in Codex meetings, as well as through mentorship by first level supervisor and other WHO mentor as appropriate	On going activity

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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
WR/ Regional Director  
Programme Manager/Director

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_