

ADVERTISEMENT

Recruitment for a New Post of Research Assistant on Temporary basis for the Research Studies conducted by the Research Unit, Family Health Bureau: Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care Needs (EmONC) Assessment and Implementation Research on Multiple Micronutrient Supplement (MMS)

Duties and responsibilities for the recruited Pre-intern Medical Graduate

- Facilitating consultative meetings, sensitization programmes and training workshops relevant to researches at FHB, hospitals and field as necessary.
- Support with preparing necessary documents, reports and proposals.
- Travelling to peripheral districts with relevant research teams, when necessary to help the supervisory visits.
- Data collection of research studies by using data collection tools/instruments and coordinating focus group discussions.
- Facilitating the data collection process by coordinating with the regional staff members and Institutional heads.
- Co-ordinating the data collection groups with the central team.
- Follow up with the field if needed (by phone).
- Support with data entering, analysis and report writing and final submissions.
- Any other duties assigned by the Head of the Research Unit.

Desired qualifications and experience for the post

- Pre-intern Medical Graduate with M.B.B.S. qualification, who is getting the internship in 2026.
- Hard working and motivated individual.
- Ability to work with Microsoft Office applications (word, excel...etc.).
- Previous experience in scientific research, proposal writing, obtaining ethical clearance, data collection, data entry and analysis will be preferred.
- Good command of English and Sinhala and/or Tamil languages.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and within a team.

Duration

- For a period of six (6) months (October 2025 – March 2026)

Nature of work:

- **Full time/ part time:** Full time
- **Place of work:** Research Unit, Family Health Bureau, Colombo-10 - (But as per the requirement may need to travel districts with the relevant research team)
- **Usual working hours per day:** Eight (8) hours - 8.15 am to 4.15 pm on 5 weekdays (But as per the requirement during weekends and beyond the usual working hours may have to work)

Monthly remuneration: LKR. 86,180.00

(Basic salary – LKR 68,380.00 + Cost of living allowance -17,800.00)

Candidates are requested to email an updated CV including copies of relevant documents, and contact details to research.fhb.un@gmail.com before **24.09.2025**.

Terms of reference (TOR) for a New Post of Research Assistant on Temporary basis for the Research Studies conducted by the Research Unit, Family Health Bureau: Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care Needs (EmONC) Assessment and Implementation Research on Multiple Micronutrient Supplement (MMS)

Background and Justification

The Research unit, Family Health Bureau is responsible for policy formulation, advocacy, strategic direction, technical expertise, develop technical and managerial guidelines and protocols, capacity building, surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, implementation, direct, guide and coordinate with periphery (provincial, district and MOH levels), logistics, establishing partnerships networks within the government and outside to monitor and evaluate national programmes delivered in RMNCAYH & N care in Sri Lanka. Under it' s scope conduction of functional/implementation researches, national surveys and disseminate research findings, make recommendations and facilitate appropriate advocacy and awareness programmes on RMNCAYH&N will be a main function.

The Comprehensive EmONC Needs Assessment which was done in 2011 provided valuable information for development of many programmes. (Family Health Bureau, 2012). The National Strategic Plans of Maternal and Newborn Health (2014-2017) and (2018- 2025) and many other strategic plans in the country benefited from the assessment. As a result of the identification of gaps in service provision, many policy decisions were taken and implemented over the years. After the initial EmONC needs assessment, 14 years have already passed. The country went through a global pandemic, economic downturn and many policy changes in health. The impact of the economic downturn was multifaceted on the health system. The health worker migration and reduction of the number of deliveries in the country has affected different aspects of the care. Therefore, the government of Sri Lanka has decided to conduct the EmONC survey 2025 as a preliminary step to draw future recommendations for the revision of present Maternal and Newborn Health Strategic Plan to further reduce the Maternal and Newborn Mortality rate and improve the quality of Maternal and Newborn health care services, which has been successfully initiated and currently in progress.

The Government of Sri Lanka introduced Multiple Micronutrient Supplement (MMS) for non-anemic pregnant women from the August 2023 in six districts with the highest incidence of low birth weight (Nuwaraeliya, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, Kegalle, Ratnapura and Badulla). Multiple Micronutrient Supplement was initiated with a stock of MMS for pregnant women received as a donation to the government. The MMS was received in a bottle of 180 tablets and the guidance was to issue to non-anemic pregnant

mothers at the beginning of the second trimester and duly noted in both H 512A and H512B to maintain routine records of micronutrient supplementation for pregnant women. They are not issued iron folate or vitamin C for the rest of the pregnancy. The introduction of MMS was accompanied by country-wide efforts to strengthen quality of antenatal care through rollout of the basic Maternal Care Manual.

1

From 2024 April MMS is provided to non-anemic pregnant mother in all the districts in the country. After implementation of MMS Island-wide, now more than a year has passed. Therefore, in order to describe the health sector and client related factors of implementation of MMS and its contribution to achievement of nutrient adequacy among pregnant women in Sri Lanka, implementation research has been initiated and currently in progress.

Draft of the activities to be carried out for each survey

The EmONC assessment will follow the standard methodology prescribed by the Averting Maternal Death and Disability (AMDD) of University of Columbia, USA (Averting Maternal Death and Disability Program (AMDD), 2024) which has been adapted to the local setting. The data collection will be done by teams of six and one central team will coordinate the data collection. A team will comprise a field supervisor, team leader and of four enumerators who will be pre-intern medical graduates. There will be three field supervisors who will be responsible for two groups each and a central team comprising of a coordinator and four research assistants. Data collection will be done in all the base and above hospitals, a sub sample of the divisional hospitals and a sub sample of private hospitals which have delivery facilities. Data collection of the EmONC survey will be initiated by mid of September-2025. In order to facilitate the smooth functioning of the data collection, heads of the institutions, regional staff members and Consultant Community Physicians and various other stakeholders will be included and the sensitization meetings, training programmes and other awareness sessions will be conducted at the FHB and regional setups.

A mixed method of study design will be used for the implementation research on MMS for non-anemic pregnant women. This will be a Nationally representative study and includes MOH areas which represent urban, rural and estate sectors from a randomly selected district per province and non-anemic pregnant mothers registered with the relevant Public Health Midwife (PHM) will be recruited. Data collection would be carried out in 2 phases.

2

Phase 1 methods were used to generate community coverage and adherence to MMS among the pregnant mothers in the second and third trimesters. For this an interviewer

2

administered questionnaire would be used. A 24-hour dietary recall method would be used to collect data to assess the contribution of MMN to achievement of nutrient adequacy among pregnant women in Sri Lanka. Phase 2 methods were designed to explore the socio-cultural context of health and nutrition behaviors in this context, with an emphasis on elucidating the multi-level factors (including both supportive and barriers) influencing the driving behaviors of pregnant women. Those data collection method included focus group discussions, among pregnant women and health care providers across urban, rural and estate sectors in Sri Lanka and market observation (observation of supply chain of MMS). To describe the integration of MMS supplementation into the routine RHMIS, Key Informant Interviews would be used among healthcare workers. To describe the supply chain of MMS to the recipient both qualitative and quantitative methods would be used including focus group discussions, key informant Interviews and an interviewer administered questionnaire among non-anemic pregnant mothers and healthcare providers. Textual data from Focus Group Discussions and Key Informative Interviews will be analyzed thematically to identify broad themes relevant to the guiding research questions. Numerical data from community samples following an Interviewer administered questionnaire will be analyzed using the descriptive statistics. A recommended daily allowance (RDA) for nutrient adequacy will be assessed among pregnant mothers using a software.

For these activities, additional human resources are required for data collection, facilitating in-depth interviews, conducting focus group discussions, performing data entry and analysis, co-ordination with the regional staff members and health institutions assisting supervisory visits and final preparations of the outcomes of both the researches. A pre-intern medical graduate is needed to the Research Unit, Family Health Bureau to handle the following duties and responsibilities for a period of six months.

Duties and responsibilities for the recruited Pre-intern Medical Graduate

- Facilitating consultative meetings, sensitization programmes and training workshops relevant to researches at FHB, hospitals and field as necessary.
- Support with preparing necessary documents, reports and proposals.
- Travelling to peripheral districts with relevant research teams, when necessary to help the supervisory visits.
- Data collection of research studies by using data collection tools/instruments and coordinating focus group discussions.
- Facilitating the data collection process by coordinating with the regional staff members and Institutional heads.
- Co-ordinating the data collection groups with the central team.
- Follow up with the field if needed (by phone).
- Support with data entering, analysis and report writing and final submissions.
- Any other duties assigned by the Head of the Research Unit.

Desired qualifications and experience for the post

- Pre-intern Medical Graduate with M.B.B.S. qualification.

- Hard working and motivated individual.
- Ability to work with Microsoft Office applications (word, excel...etc.).
- Previous experience in scientific research, proposal writing, obtaining ethical clearance, data collection, data entry and analysis will be preferred.
- Good command of English and Sinhala and/or Tamil languages.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and within a team.

Duration

- For a period of six (6) months (October 2025 – March 2026)

Nature of work:

- **Full time/ part time:** Full time
- **Place of work:** Research Unit, Family Health Bureau, Colombo-10 - (But as per the requirement may need to travel districts with the relevant research team)
- **Usual working hours per day:** Eight (8) hours - 8.15 am to 4.15 pm on 5 weekdays (But as per the requirement during weekends and beyond the usual working hours may have to work)

Monthly remuneration: LKR. 86,180.00

(Basic salary – LKR 68,380.00 + Cost of living allowance -17,800.00)

NB:

- The selection of pre-intern Medical Graduates will be conducted via interviews, with final decisions made by the Family Health Bureau, Ministry of Health.
- The pre-intern medical graduate is eligible only for the benefits specified by the Ministry of Health or the funding agency, with no additional privileges or claims.
- The Director (Maternal and Child Health) reserves the right to adjust or amend the scope of work as needed.

Attested and countersigned

Name: Dr Chandima Sirithunga
 Designation: Director (Maternal and Child Health)
 Family Health Bureau

Date: 10/9/2022

Activity Manager

Name: Dr. K.C.M.Perera
 Coordinating Consultant
 Designation: CCP/Research Unit
 Family Health Bureau

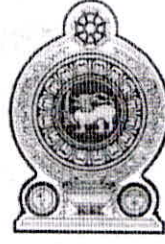
Date:

දුරකථන) 0112669192 , 0112675011
தொலைபேசி) 0112694033, 0112675280
Telephone) 0112675449

ෆැක්ස්) 0112693866
பெக்ஸ்) 0112693869
Fax) 0112692913

විද්‍යුත් තැපෑල) postmaster@health.gov.lk
மின்னஞ்சல் முகவரி)
e-mail)

වෙබ් අඩවිය) www.health.gov.lk
இணையத்தளம்)
website)



සුවසිරිපාය
சுவசிரிபாய
SUWASIRIPAYA

මගේ අංකය)
எனது இல)
My No.) HPD/UNICEF/42/2025/FHB

ඔබේ අංකය)
உமது இல)
Your No.)

දිනය)
திகதி)
Date) 08.09.2025

සෞඛ්‍ය හා ජනමාධ්‍ය අමාත්‍යාංශය

சுகாதார மற்றும் வெகுஜன ஊடக அமைச்சு

Ministry of Health & Mass Media

Director (Maternal & Child Health),
Family Health Bureau.

Obtained the service of a Pre – Intern Medical Officer for the Research Unit, Family Health Bureau.

Reference is made to your letter No. FHB/MCU/Research/MMS/2025 dated 01/08/2025 on the above subject.

Secretary, Health and Mass Media has given approval to carry out the above activity as requested by you. Subjected to follow the Government recruitment procedures for recruit Pre-Intern Medical Graduate for six month according to given TOR.

Total cost of the estimated budget is Rs.517,080.00 (86,180.00 x 6).Five hundred seventeen thousand and eighty only.

Funds identified under UNICEF Annual Work Plan 2025.

After carrying out the above activity, please submit your Project Progress Report (PPR) with statement of expenditure of the activity to UNICEF with copy to DDG (Planning).

Dr. Anil Samaranayake
Director/International Health

Sgd. Dr. Anil Jasinghe
Secretary, Health & Mass Media

Cc: UNICEF