

Policy Advisor (Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities).

12-month contract

Purpose

The purpose of this role is to act as the policy focal point between Sightsavers and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the implementation of the Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities at country level.

Background

At the 74th World Health Assembly in May 2021, member states adopted Resolution WHA74.8 which sets out a range of commitments to disability inclusion in health and requested the WHO to develop a global report on the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities.

In 2022, the WHO launched that report entitled the *Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities* (the *report*). The overall aim of the report is to make health equity for persons with disabilities a global health priority.

WHO are currently in the process of developing a Guide for Action (GfA) in consultation with member states, health sector partners, NGOs and organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) that will enable Ministries of Health to implement the recommendations of the report; the GfA will support the integration of disability-inclusive policies, plans and programmes across all levels and service areas in the health sector.

The GfA will guide Ministries through an agreed process at national level (stakeholder meetings, situation assessment, action planning, implementation, and monitoring processes) and where feasible and relevant it is hoped that Sightsavers COs will engage in those processes. The intention is to create Ministry-led disability action plans at the national level which would then be integrated into national health strategic plans and wider health sector planning processes where relevant.

Sightsavers

The global report is closely aligned to Sightsavers global thematic strategies, and the organisation is committed to working to support national level implementation and global level adoption.

Since its publication, Sightsavers had been working to promote the report and its recommendations in partnership with WHO. We are currently working in Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, and Cote d'Ivoire with respective Ministries, WHO, OPDs and partners to advance implementation, and this is expected to expand.

About the role

As highlighted above, the purpose of this role is to act as the focal point between Sightsavers and the World Health Organization (WHO) in policy engagement to promote and support the implementation of the Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities in selected countries where Sightsavers works. The role will act as a resource for Sightsavers and WHO to facilitate and coordinate their joint engagement with Ministries of Health and other key stakeholders in implementation processes, according to a shared workplan.

Sightsavers Country Offices have delegated responsibility for work in their country, the post-holder will be expected to facilitate, or when requested provide, the technical support (policy analysis,

stakeholder management, and coordination) needed by Sightsavers Country Offices and other Sightsavers stakeholders in promoting and supporting implementation of the report (through the GfA or other national level influencing opportunities).

The post holder will be line managed by the Policy Adviser, Health (Dr Sarah Collinson) and work closely with colleagues across the Policy and Global Advocacy directorate (PGA)

Principal Accountabilities

As directed by the Policy Adviser, Health and as it applies to the WHO's Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities (*Global Report*) and Guide for Action (GfA):

1. Promote and support roll-out of the GfA process and the implementation of the recommendations of the global report at national level.
 - a) Provide information, guidance and support on the Global Report and the GfA process (awareness-raising and capacity-building) to Sightsavers Country Offices and to CSO partners, including to organisations of persons with disabilities.
 - b) Provide policy analysis and advice to Sightsavers Country Offices and other partners as relevant (WHO regional teams, OPD, health sector partners, civil society) to help identify priorities and entry points for engaging with Ministries of Health and other government and/or national stakeholders on the GfA process and promoting actions to implement the recommendations of the global report.
 - c) Provide guidance and support to Sightsavers Country Offices (stakeholder management and coordination) to enable engagement in relevant policy processes, activity and policy opportunities relating to the implementation of the Global Report and GfA process at country level.
 - d) In close communication with WHO, identify and plan new opportunities for national level engagement.
 - e) Map and maintain oversight of that activity.
2. Working in partnership with the WHO, to develop and maintain effective strategic relationships with key external stakeholders.
 - a) Develop and build strategic partnerships and alliances with key actors at the national and regional level, to promote issues of health equity (OPDs, health sector partners, collaborating IDDC member organisations, relevant bilateral and multilateral agencies).
 - b) Ensure continuity of information sharing across Sightsavers and act as a point of contact for WHO Disability team and WHO regional and country offices.
 - c) Coordinate communication and activity between WHO stakeholders and Sightsavers (PGA, Global Technical Lead (GTL) Inclusive Health, Sightsavers Country Offices).
 - d) Advise and update Sightsavers internal stakeholders on policy issues and activity as relevant including but not restricted to GTLs, Media and Communications.
3. In partnership between WHO and Sightsavers, support the development of health policy that is inclusive of people with disabilities and influence relevant policies and processes.
 - a) Promote the integration of health equity into national long-term strategic health plans and support and take forward advocacy on implementation of national health strategic plans.
 - b) In partnership with the Policy Adviser, Health, and other members of the policy team where relevant, support the development of Sightsavers' policy analysis on health equity.

- c) Support the integration of health equity and recommendations of the Global Report into Sightsavers long term advocacy plans as appropriate.
- d) Working with WHO (Geneva and relevant regional and country offices), identify influencing opportunities as they arise at national and global level and leverage those opportunities where feasible.

Jobholder Entry Requirements

The essential knowledge, skills and behaviours required:

Knowledge (Education and Related Experience):

- Experience of working in the international development sector, including experience of health and disability policy work and/or health system strengthening at national and international levels
- Understanding of development issues / knowledge of current issues and best practice in development and global health, particularly public health, and inclusion
- Professional experience in disability, inclusion, public health or inclusion or a relevant topic.
- Experience of advocacy / influencing work, representation to external bodies and forging effective policy networks

Skills (Special Training or Competence):

- Ability to represent the organisation at a high level of engagement to external bodies
- Strong analytical skills and ability to think strategically
- Strong intellectual skills for dealing with complex ideas and concepts
- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal
- Strong presentational and public speaking skills
- Relationship building skills with internal and external stakeholders
- Fluency in English

Desirable:

- Fluency in French (spoken and written)

Core Behaviours:

- Communicating & Influencing
- Decision Making
- Planning & Organising
- Change & Improvement
- Team Working
- Delivery & Implementation
- Persuasive
- Ability to network and inspire others

Key Relationships:

Internal

- Director PS2

- Director of Policy and Global Advocacy
- Head of Policy
- Policy and Global Advocacy Team
- Regional and Country Directors
- Chief Global Technical Lead and relevant GTLs

External

- WHO
- Relevant policy networks
- CSO partners, including organisations of persons with disabilities
- Sector peers
- Government decision makers

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