

Job Title: Health Economist
Sector: Health, Nutrition & Population
Department / Division: GHN02 (HNP GP EAP)
Grade: GF
Appointment Type: 3-year term appointment.
Language Preferences: English [Essential];
Location: Washington, DC
Appointment: International Hire

Background / General description:

Established in 1944, the World Bank Group (WBG) is one of the largest sources of funding and knowledge for development solutions. It is governed by 188 member countries and delivers services out of 120 offices with nearly 15,000 staff globally.

The vision of the WBG is the eradication of extreme poverty by reducing the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day to 3 percent by 2030, and the promotion of shared prosperity by fostering income growth of the bottom 40 percent in each country. To achieve that vision, in 2013 the WBG Board of Governors approved a strategy for the organization. The strategy leverages the combined strength of the WBG institutions and their ability to partner with the public and private sectors to deliver customized development solutions backed by finance, world class knowledge and convening services. It has three components: (1) maximizing development impact by engaging country clients in identifying and tackling the most difficult development challenges; (2) promoting scaled-up partnerships that are strategically aligned with the goals; and (3) crowding in public and private resources, expertise and ideas.

HEALTH, NUTRITION AND POPULATION GLOBAL PRACTICE context

The central contribution of the HNP Global Practice to the World Bank's twin goals is to enable the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), in which all people are effectively covered by essential health services, and nobody suffers undue financial hardship as a result of illnesses. In the quest for UHC, the HNP Global Practice is building on progress made in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, an array of analytical and advisory services, strategic partnerships with partner institutions and other financing agencies, and an active lending portfolio. The HNP Global Practice includes staff members in Washington, DC and many country offices.

The HNP Global Practice is led by a Senior Director, who has overall responsibility for the GP. The Senior Director is assisted by the Director, who serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the Practice. The HNP Global Practice Leadership Team, which leads and manages the HNP GP, consists of the Senior Director, the Director, eight HNP Practice Managers and six Global Leads (for Financing; Healthy Societies; Nutrition; Population and Development; Decision and Delivery Science; and Service Delivery). The HNP Global Practice works with and across multiple sectors, in recognition of the fact that HNP outcomes often depend on actions that lie outside the HNP sector. Accordingly,

a capacity to work across GP boundaries, forge coalitions and influence multi-practice solutions is essential for achieving the major objectives of improving HNP outcomes.

East Asia and the Pacific Context:

EAP is a highly diverse region, with countries of all income levels and wide differences in resource endowments, human capital, and institutional capacity. EAP has a strong lending pipeline as well as a large and growing portfolio of Programmatic Advisory Services and Analytical activities. Knowledge is critical to the Bank's value proposition to client countries in the EAP region in both lending and advisory services.

While very dynamic, the EAP region faces both epidemiologic and demographic transition with longer-term challenges, most notably the rise of non-communicable diseases and rapid population aging, with implications for labor productivity and fiscal sustainability of social spending including health.

In view of these challenges, the EAP region's strategy is based on two pillars: (i) competitiveness and shared prosperity; and (ii) environmental, social, and fiscal sustainability. These, together with the goals of the HNP Global Practice pertaining to financial protection, effective coverage of essential health services and health public policies, constitute the framework for WBG engagement in the broader health, nutrition and population sector. As such some of the outstanding challenges include:

- *in higher middle income countries:* (i) rapid ageing of the population and consequent multi-morbidity (NCDs); (ii) the unfinished agenda with healthcare financing, purchasing and payment reforms; (iii) second generational service delivery reforms for better integration and coordination of care across all levels of healthcare.

- *in lower middle income countries:* (i) universal and effective health coverage; (ii) equitable access to care and financial protection; (iii) the unfinished MDG agenda, (Goals 4, 5 and 6) and the consequent double burden of illness with the advent of NCDs and injuries as a result of demographic and epidemiologic transition.

Note: If the selected candidate is a current Bank Group staff member with a Regular or Open-Ended appointment, s/he will retain his/her Regular or Open-Ended appointment. All others will be offered a three year term appointment.

Duties and Accountabilities:

The Health Economist will have the following main responsibilities:

- Carries out responsibilities for a variety of economic tasks (e.g. economic analyses, design of economic work programs, participation in economic policy research, discussions with country officials).

- Employs appropriate methodologies for handling simple and complex procurement tasks and/or issues
- Participates in developing and implementing economic strategy and assists in country specific economic policy work (e.g. collects/analyzes data; prepare chapters of country economic or sector reports, loan or research papers).
- Participates in missions in area of economic specialization, provides economic inputs and guidance to counterparts, assesses economic policy issues, prepares terms of reference for assigned economic work.

The Health Economist will report to the HNP Practice Manager for East Asia and the Pacific Region based in Bangkok.

Selection Criteria:

- Advance university degree in Economics or Health Economics. PhD or equivalent is strongly preferred, with a minimum of 5 years of relevant experience.
- Superior client orientation, interpersonal and diplomatic skills, ability to support dialogue with high level government officials.
- Track record of influencing policies, brokering informed consensus, and managing complex bargains among institutions or stakeholders with divergent interests.
- Track record of research and/or operational work on health system/public health issues. A record of peer reviewed publications is an advantage.
- Demonstrated ability to lead and function within and across teams in operational and analytical work.
- Prior experience in lower middle-income countries and/or EAP Region, whether in the Bank or elsewhere, is highly advantageous but not essential.
- Relevant experience with developing and implementing health operations.
- Prior experience in an international development institution (public, NGO or private) is preferred.
- A track record of teamwork and ability to produce high-quality results and outputs under pressure with minimal supervision.
- Strong writing, communication and presentation skills in English.
- Strong interpersonal and diplomatic skills.

- Ability to inspire, coach and mentor less experienced colleagues.

In addition to the above, the successful candidate is expected to demonstrate the following WBG competencies:

- Knowledge and Experience in Development Arena - Translates technical and cross-country knowledge into practical applications and contributions to country and sector strategies; interacts with clients at the policy level.
- Policy Dialogue Skills - Anticipates needs and requests in the field and conducts independent policy discussions with representatives of the government and non-government partners.
- Integrative Skills - Understands relevant cross-sectoral areas how they are interrelated; able to undertake cross-sectoral work in lending and non-lending operations.
- Health, Nutrition and Population Knowledge and Experience - Possesses strong expertise in: Health systems, public health, nutrition and/or population. Has experience assisting clients, in partnership with other stakeholders, in developing flexible and creative approaches to HNP reform and implementation
- Client Orientation - Maintains client relationships in the face of conflicting demands or directions and provides evidence-based advice and solutions based on sound diagnosis and knowledge.
- Drive for Results - Identifies the needed resources to accomplish results involving multiple stakeholders and finds solutions to obstacles affecting key deliverables.
- Teamwork (Collaboration) and Inclusion - Shows leadership in ensuring the team stays organized and focused, and actively seeks and considers diverse ideas and approaches.
- Knowledge, Learning and Communication - Leads in the sharing of best practice, trends, knowledge and lessons learned across units and with clients and partners, articulating ideas verbally and in writing in a clear and compelling way across audiences of varied levels.
- Business Judgment and Analytical Decision Making - Gathers inputs, assesses risk, considers impact and articulates benefits of decisions for internal and external stakeholders over the long term.

The World Bank Group is committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, nationality, culture and educational background. Individuals with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.