

**URBAN BASIC SERVICES SECTION, URBAN PRACTICES BRANCH, GLOBAL SOLUTIONS DIVISION**  
**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER (JPO)**

**Position:** Junior Professional Officer (Sustainable Urban Mobility Specialist)

**Section:** Urban Basic Services Section

**Location:** UN-Habitat Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya

**BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION**

*The Challenge*

Rapid motorization and insufficient investments in urban transport planning, traffic management and infrastructure in cities in developing countries are cause increasing road accidents and injury, health risks, and air pollution. Further negative implications are low economic productivity in all economic sectors, affecting particularly poor urban residents. Better Urban mobility is key to realizing the great potential of urbanisation as the driver of economic prosperity and social development in fast growing cities.

In developing countries, deficits in urban transport systems have both social, environmental and economic implications. On the one hand, lack of access to basic services by the world's poor represents an enormous barrier to development, especially on terms of accessing housing and employment options. The lack of efficient transportation systems is also a limiting factor for businesses and public operators to expand and provide services efficiently. In developed countries, in turn, the key task in the next decades will be to implement effective models and technologies to substantially reduce energy consumption and emissions of the transport sector. All over the world, pro-poor action in the urban transport field will also have to be a key element of sustainable strategies for adapting to and mitigating Climate Change.

*UN-Habitat Response*

The overall approach of UN-Habitat towards sustainable urbanisation emphasizes, urban planning, urban legislation and urban economy. The main purpose of Urban Mobility is to improve *accessibility* and UN-Habitat stresses the need for managing the “demand” for mobility rather than the “supply”.

To address the problems of increasing motorization, air pollution and deteriorating public transport and conditions for appropriate usage of non-motorized transport (bicycling and walking) experienced by most developing country cities, UN-HABITAT activities in urban transport and mobility focus on action priorities as indicted below:

- Promoting urban development strategies that better integrate, land use planning, environmental quality and transport to minimize trip distances and reduce negative development impacts;
- Promote public transport integrated with safe non-motorized transport – cycling and walking
- Increase the efficiency of existing transport operations through improved planning and management of all modes of transport and new technologies;

- ❑ Improve *accessibility* to goods, service, amenities and opportunities in an inclusive manner focusing on the needs of the poor and vulnerable groups, including women

## **DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

1. Research, document and evaluate existing innovative approaches and experiences at global level in regard to models for expanding non-motorized and public transport options, particularly for the urban poor.
2. Assist in the implementation of UN-Habitat supported initiatives and projects including preparing plans for undertaking travel demand surveys and participating in such surveys.
3. Initiate documentation and dissemination of case studies on best-practice models and effective national policy frameworks to address the environmental, social and economic dimensions of urban transport and the implications for poverty alleviation and sustainable urban development.
4. Undertake literature and internet searches on relevant urban mobility related topics and prepare briefings and presentations
5. Assist in providing technical advice on the development and implementation of enhanced non-motorized and public transport options and traffic demand management in UN-Habitat partners countries to national and local governments.
6. Assist in the development of new partnerships and dialogue between communities, community-based organisations, local governments, private or public transport operators, international development partners or other partners in UN-Habitat partner countries.
7. Assist in Resource Mobilization efforts by identifying opportunities and preparing proposals for donors including Business Sector organizations.
8. Support the broader work of the Urban Basic Services Section by contributing to the integrated approach to urban basic services and through reporting on outcomes and outputs.

## **TRAVEL**

Overall: Occasional Travel to key conferences and in relation to on-going projects may be required.

## **TRAINING AND LEARNING ELEMENTS**

The incumbent will be encouraged and supported to engage in technical or general training and learning activities both at the UN campus in Nairobi, at external conferences and training event and through electronic courses.

The Human Resources Management Service of the United Nations Office at Nairobi offers a wide range of cross-cultural training workshops or language classes.

## **QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCIES REQUIRED**

### **Education**

Advanced University degree (Masters or Equivalent) in Transportation Planning or Engineering, Urban Geography, Urban or Regional Planning or related fields such as Public or Business Administration with knowledge on sustainable urban transportation and mobility issues and implication of new models or a first degree with the relevant combination of professional and academic qualifications.

### **Work Experience**

At least two (2) years of relevant experience in public, private or community organisations with a focus on practical implementation of urban transportation programmes and initiatives in non-motorized transport and public transit initiatives

### **Languages**

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the post advertised, excellent fluency in oral and written English is essential. Knowledge of French and/or Spanish or other United Nations official languages an asset.

### **Other Skills**

Understanding of diverse institutional cultures and the specific needs and conditions of low-income residents, slum-dwellers, NGOs and Municipalities involved in addressing the urban mobility needs of the poor.

### **Competencies**

**Professionalism:** In-depth understanding of strategic direction and ability to transform it into results-oriented work programme. Ability to identify key strategic issues, opportunities and risks.

**Communication:** Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed, Excellent drafting ability and communications skills, both oral and written; proven ability to communicate complex concepts orally; ability to prepare written reports that are clear, concise and meaningful.

**Planning and Organizing:** Develops clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; Identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as required; allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; uses time efficiently.

**Teamwork:** Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; places team agenda before personal agenda; supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position; shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings.

### **SUPERVISION**

Under the overall Supervision of the Head of the Urban Basic Services Section, the JPO will work under the direct supervision of the Programme Officer, Urban Mobility, Urban Basic Services Section of UN-Habitat.

