

**UNHCR**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Terms of Reference

MHPSS Expert – P3 – Farchana, Chad

MISSION LOCATION

Farchana, Ouaddaï Province, Chad

DURATION

3 months

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Since the beginning of the conflict in Sudan on 15 April 2023, Chad has received an influx of an estimated 190,000 Sudanese refugees and Chadian returnees from Darfur at border entry points in eastern Chad (data from UNHCR June 23rd). Most of the registered refugees belong to the Massalit ethnic group, originating from the Darfur states in Sudan. Most of them reside in the Eastern provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi Fira and hosted in Chadian villages in the border region, with 26,223 people having been relocated to extensions of seven existing camps and two new camps in eastern Chad. UNHCR is working close with the Chadian government, in particular the Commission Nationale d'Accueil de Réinsertion des Réfugiés (CNARR) to coordinate and lead the humanitarian response. The humanitarian needs are great and include risks for nutrition (recorded moderate-severe malnutrition is 17.4%, data 22 June) and disease outbreaks such as measles and cholera. Among those who have been registered, nearly a quarter have special needs. This group includes women at risk, single parents, older people, separated children, people with disabilities or chronic medical conditions. Among them are survivors of rape and torture.

The health and nutrition partners involved in the emergency in the east are International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the local NGO ADES (who both have a longstanding presence and have integrated MHPSS in their primary care services and UNICEF, MSF France, MSF Holland, PUI (Première Urgence Int), ALIMA/ALERTE Santé, and UNFPA. For protection there are various partners including HIAS (with a long presence in Eastern Chad including in psychosocial support).

MHPSS is regarded as a priority in the response, but the current partner capacity is too low. The health sector working group recorded that per 21 June, 569 people had received mental health care and 1800 people received psychosocial support. Providers for MHPSS include: ICR (with an international MHPSS officer in N'Djamena) and ADES (health), HIAS (protection) COOPI, CARE International, Première Urgence Internationale - PUI and the Chadian Red Cross (expecting an international delegate for MHPSS early July).

While MHPSS is seen as a priority area there is a noted lack of capacity among the current partners and a lack of coordination within the sectoral responses for health and protection.

In recent years the Chadian Government has set up an MHPSS Technical Working Group (TWG) on national level because of a DSS deployment in 2021 hosted by UNHCR. The TWG is chaired by the National Ministry of Health and IOM.

AIM OF THE MISSION

There are urgent immediate needs around MHPSS that should be addressed. The overall aim is to integrate MHPSS within the local humanitarian response.

MISSION OBJECTIVES

- Perform a rapid assessment of needs and resources for mental health and psychosocial support in the emergency operation. Assessment needs to be done in close collaboration with humanitarian actors in health, protection and other sectors and linking with other assessments where possible.

- Strengthen cross-sectoral technical coordination around MHPSS involving with technical staff from various sectors including existing national actors. Strong functional links with the coordination structures for health and protection are essential. Accountability and responsibility for resource allocation remains within existing sectors. Essential is to link the MHPSS coordination in the emergency with the national MHPSS group in N'Djamena.
- Organize basic MHPSS capacity building activities for a range of actors in health, protection, and other sectors. This can include workshops in psychological first aids and basic psychosocial skills.
- Based on sectoral needs and available capacity of the deployee: provide training and technical supervision for MHPSS interventions, for example in scalable psychological interventions such as Problem Management Plus or integration of mental health in general health care.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of the Senior Public Health Officer of N'Djamena, the MHPSS expert will:

- Perform the assessment of needs and resources
- Set up a system for MHPSS coordination
- Provide technical support in capacity building around MHPSS
- Provide technical input for the refugee response plans and Sit Rep

PROFILE

Experience

- Experience in MHPSS responses in humanitarian contexts
- Experience working in conflict/humanitarian contexts
- Experience in working in large scale complex humanitarian emergencies (previous working experience in Chad or Sudan is an advantage).

Essential requirements

- Mental health professional (Master's degree in psychiatry or clinical psychology with six years of experience)
- In depth theoretical and practical knowledge of and the IASC Guidelines for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings and associated products (e.g., IASC Assessment toolkit, the 4Ws mapping tool, M&E framework, and the Health, Protection and CCCM booklets)
- Familiarity with Refugee Operations and the Refugee Coordination Model, humanitarian appeals, humanitarian response plans and common humanitarian funds
- Firsthand experience in training and implementation of MHPSS tools such as Psychological First Aid (PFA), mhGAP and Problem Management Plus.
- Good understanding of health and protection responses.
- For this position, fluency in French is required. Arabic is desirable.

Personal Characteristics

- Ability to work in physically and emotionally challenging context to adapt to rapidly changing situations.
- Strong networking capacities for building constructive relationships with all humanitarian actors and national counterparts.
- Willingness to serve in a capacity building role, fostering the capacities of actors on the ground.
- Ability to work independently and in collaboration with the Public Health and Protection teams.