

World Health Organisation (WHO)

MHPSS Technical Group (TG) Co-coordinator– Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Terms of Reference

I. POSITION INFORMATION	
Position title	MHPSS Technical Group Co-coordinator
Position grade	P3
Duty station	Goma, DRC
Reports directly to	WHO Representative, in close coordination with IOM
Estimated start date & timeframe	ASAP for 3 months
II. ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT AND SCOPE	
<p>Since March 2022, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is responding to an acute humanitarian emergency related to an upsurge of violence related to armed and intercommunal conflicts in North Kivu, Ituri, Tshopo and Maindombe provinces. In March, April and May 2023, the occurrence of floods and landslides in Tshopo, Kasai and South Kivu contributed to an additional increase of internal displaced populations (IDPs) and health needs. Consequently, from March 2022 to June 2023, the total number of internal displaced populations (IDPs) in the country increased from 2.9 to 6.3 million. This humanitarian emergency is currently associated with cholera and measles in North Kivu and South Kivu, with measles and monkey pox in Tshopo, Kasai and Maindombe provinces, with measles and bubonic Plague in Ituri province, and with circulating vaccine derived poliomyelitis in Tshopo and South Kivu Provinces.</p> <p>For almost three-decades now, repeated cycles of violence, have directly and indirectly impacted on the physical and mental health of the population. DRC have not coped with these decades of humanitarian emergency and is not equipped to address the needs of the vulnerable population, including his capacity to respond mental and psychosocial needs of IDPs and people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters, and outbreaks.</p> <p>It is estimated that the prevalence of mental health problems is more than doubled in humanitarian settings. This condition is related to several contributing factors in emergency settings such as psycho-trauma, loss of properties, family members and friends, gender-based violence including rapes, etc. The lack of technical capacity and medical supplies in health facilities have so far limited or made impossible the provision of mental health and psychosocial support interventions to the victims of psycho-trauma or mental disorders.</p> <p>The UN partners presence in some of those six provinces is minimal, with WHO being the main UN agency with operational relationships with the Ministry of health. IOM is present in Ituri Province with a suboffice in Bunia its capital city.</p>	
<p>To ensure a coordinated response, the national Health Cluster under the leadership pf WHO has established a Working group to develop strategy and evidence-based interventions and response plan to support the Ministry of Health in addressing the MHPSS needs of the population.</p> <p>This MHPSS working group has decided to establish multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms in four of the six affected provinces (North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tshopo) to Provide timely and sustainable technical support on MHPSS to the Ministry of Health and partners.</p> <p>Those provinces would need good coordination capacity so that partners that are being mobilized at different levels to assist the displaced and affected populations, would be coordinated amongst, aligned with the IASC MHPSS guidelines and coherent in using the MHPSS resources.</p>	
<p>To ensure responsibility, accountability, and productivity of all MHPSS actors, it is proposed that the MHPSS focal points coordinates with partners from Goma, Bukavu, Bunia and Kisangani.</p> <p>To facilitate this, the establishment of MHPSS Technical Groups (TGs) are proposed for each one of the four affected provinces, to convene provincial authorities and member</p>	

agencies working respectively in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tshopo, summarize basic principles of good programming for MHPSS and build consensus among different actors in the field, providing a coherent framework to organizations implementing MHPSS activities in their different sectors. The MHPSS TGs will use the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies and other MHPSS related documents developed by WHO and UNICEF as key policy documents for programming and interventions addressing all levels of the MHPSS needs.

It is proposed that this TG will be co-chaired by WHO and IOM. The Terms of Reference for this TG outlining membership, objectives, structure, functions, and role of the co-coordinator need to be fully defined.

Given the inter-agency (WHO and IOM function, TG Co-coordinator would be hosted by WHO with a clear understanding that the role exists in an inter-agency, intersectoral capacity, with the TG Co-led by WHO and IOM.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. Establish the MHPSS Technical Groups in each one of the four provinces as fora for sharing of information and activities of national and international entities providing MHPSS.
2. Coordinate the MHPSS TGs, support the activities of the MHPSS actors, provincial authorities of respectively North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tshopo.
3. Represent the MHPSS Technical Group in the Coordination Steering Groups meetings.
4. Contribute to the design of and deliver capacity building actions such as training of trainers, specialized training and awareness raising initiatives (orientation seminars, mini-trainings, briefings, project reviews) for MHPSS Technical Group members and for the Provincial and local health authorities.
5. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the hosting agency.

IV. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

EDUCATION

- Master's degree in Psychiatry, Psychology, Social Work, Counselling, or a related field from an accredited academic institution with three to five years of relevant professional experience; or
- University degree in the above fields with four years of relevant professional experience.

EXPERIENCE

- Experience in MHPSS responses in humanitarian contexts.
- Experience working in conflict/humanitarian contexts.
- In depth theoretical and practical knowledge of and the IASC Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings guidelines and associated products (e.g., IASC Assessment toolkit, the 4Ws mapping tool, M&E framework, and the Health, Protection and CCCM booklets);
- Strong networking capacities for constructive relationships with all humanitarian actors (e.g., OCHA, ICRC, Cluster Leads, UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs and CBOS), Donors and relevant Government Line Ministries.
- Experience in working in large scale complex humanitarian emergencies (previous working experience in Ukraine or any of the target sites is an advantage);
- Familiarity with the humanitarian architecture (cluster system), humanitarian appeals, humanitarian response plans and common humanitarian funds.
- Ability to work independently, under pressure and to accept advice from MHPSS coordination group Board members and chair.

V. LANGUAGES

Required
French

Advantageous

For this position, fluency in French is required (oral and written).

VI. COMPETENCIES

The incumbent is expected to demonstrate the following values and competencies:

Values

- Inclusion and respect for diversity respects and promotes individual and cultural differences; encourages diversity and inclusion wherever possible, respect of the local culture and diversity.
- Integrity and transparency: maintain high ethical standards and acts in a manner consistent with organizational principles/rules and standards of conduct.
- Professionalism: demonstrates ability to work in a composed, competent, and committed manner and exercises careful judgment in meeting day-to-day challenges.

Core Competencies – behavioral indicators

- Teamwork: develops and promotes effective collaboration within and across units to achieve shared goals and optimize results.
- Delivering results produces and delivers quality results in a service-oriented and timely manner; is action oriented and committed to achieving agreed outcomes.
- Managing and sharing knowledge continuously seeks to learn, share knowledge, and innovate.
- Accountability: takes ownership for achieving the Organization's priorities and assumes responsibility for own action and delegated work.
- Communication: encourages and contributes to clear and open communication; explains complex matters in an informative, inspiring, and motivational way.

Managerial Competencies – behavioral indicators

- Leadership: provides a clear sense of direction, leads by example, and demonstrates the ability to carry out the organization's vision; assists others to realize and develop their potential.
- Empowering others and building trust creates an atmosphere of trust and an enabling environment where staff can contribute their best and develop their potential.
- Strategic thinking and vision: work strategically to realize the Organization's goals and communicates a clear strategic direction.