

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EMERGENCY (SURGE) MISSIONS

Title:	WASH Cluster Coordinator / WASH Specialist P3
Reports to:	WASH Cluster Coordinator
Duration:	3-month deployment – <i>potential extension up to 6 months (in total)</i>
Location:	Renk in Upper Nile State – South Sudan

BACKGROUND

The armed clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted on April 15, 2023, in Khartoum City, Sudan. 444,695 individuals / 102,039 HH (December 18) have been registered crossing into South Sudan from Sudan. 52 per cent of the total are children with 1,600 – 2,500 individuals arriving daily.

UNICEF is currently supporting WASH, Nutrition, Health, Child protection (case management and MHPSS), Education (minimal) + SBC activities in the 14 counties affected (with the Renk entry point, currently receiving the highest number of returnees + refugees). AWD cases are high, with one reported case of Cholera in Renk, but a Cholera outbreak not declared (yet). Efforts are underway to scale up interventions; improve service “flow” and provide transitional shelter.

Currently there is a backlog of arrivals in Renk +55,000 refugees + returnees; but refugees cannot be moved to camps due to poor road conditions. Approx. 1,000 people are transported onwards by boat per day. Over the past month the number of Sudanese seeking asylum has increased.

Projection and challenges:

- Large-scale displacement over the coming weeks is expected from locations in East and South Darfur, White Nile, Blue Nile, and South and West Kordofan.
- Aid agencies in Juba estimate that a further 400,000 ethnic South Sudanese and 80,000 Sudanese refugees are expected to be displaced into South Sudan in 2024. Eventual numbers will be dependent on the evolution of the conflict in those states.
- Humanitarian actors are stretched to capacity – there is already not enough food, clean water, sanitation facilities, shelter, healthcare, or protection services in transit centers, existing IDP sites, refugee settlements and host communities into which vulnerable people are arriving.
- The National WASH Coordination Platform will utilize its exiting team to support additional emerging displacement areas and increased AWD hotspots with high risk of cholera but is under capacitated in structure to meet all of the current increasing challenges.

PURPOSE

A WASH (Cluster) Coordinator is required to support a coherent, strategic, coordinated, effective and efficient system of partnerships to maximize reach, with limited resources; ensuring that those in need are well served, at standard, by WASH partners. On behalf of UNICEF as the lead agency for the IASC Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster, and in collaboration with the State Authorities, provide leadership and facilitate the processes that will ensure a well-coordinated, coherent, strategic, and effective WASH response in South Sudan. In support of the national government, act as interface between humanitarian WASH partners and duty bearers to ensure WASH related needs of the affected population are properly covered.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

1. Inclusion of key humanitarian partners:

Coordination

- Provide a platform that ensures service delivery is driven by the Refugee and Returnee Response Plan and strategic priorities.
- Developing mechanisms to eliminate duplication of service delivery.
- Ensure the inclusion of key WASH humanitarian partners in a way that respects their mandates and programme priorities, as well as national and local authorities, other governmental actors, civil society and other actors working and related to the WASH sectoral response.
- Promote WASH emergency response actions while at the same time considering WASH within early recovery planning as well as prevention and risk reduction concerns.
- Ensure appropriate coordination mechanisms between all WASH humanitarian partners are in place, including effective links, communication and information management, as well as technical working groups and/or sub-national coordination platforms as appropriate.
- Cluster/sector meetings organized with minutes and action points and frequency and structure of meetings is in-line with needs for coordination.
- Secure commitments from WASH humanitarian partners in responding to needs and filling gaps, ensuring an appropriate distribution of responsibilities within the WASH Cluster, with clearly defined focal points for specific issues where necessary.
- Ensure effective links with other Cluster/sector groups.
- Ensure that WASH coordination mechanisms are adapted over time to reflect the capacities of local actors and the engagement of development partners.
- Ensure information on all current and potential WASH partners, their capacities and areas of work (including Who, What, Where and When) are properly collected, analyzed and feedback to partners
- Participate in the national cluster meetings with inputs/feedback from the sub-national cluster.
- Represent the interests of the WASH Cluster/sector in discussions with the local humanitarian coordination and inter-sector coordination groups.

Needs assessment, analysis and strategy development

- Ensure effective and coherent WASH assessment, analysis and feedback involving all relevant partners, including the identification of gaps and conceptualize how sectoral needs can be met through collective delivery, involving all relevant partners and ensuring complementarity of their actions.
- Identify and find solutions for (emerging) gaps, obstacles, duplication and cross-cutting issues. Formulate priorities on the basis of analysis.
- Facilitate WASH cluster/sector and its members/partners:
 - develop/update agreed WASH responses strategies and prioritized action plans and ensure these are adequately reflected in the overall country strategies and appeals.
 - are aware of relevant policies, guidelines, technical standards and relevant commitments that the Government/concerned authorities have undertaken under international human rights law; and that sectoral response is in line with them.
 - Standard WASH indicators have been agreed by cluster/sector partners and have been integrated into various multi-sector data collection initiatives (DTM, CCCM tracking, SMART Surveys)
 - Ensure a cluster/sector mechanism or protocol in place to collect assessment data from partners.
 - Ensure Cluster/sector partners are regularly submitting activities data (4Ws)
- Facilitate integration of agreed priority cross-cutting issues in WASH assessments, analysis, planning, monitoring and response as well as the utilization of participatory and community-based approaches in WASH in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the WASH response.

2. Participatory and community-based approaches:

- Ensure utilization of participatory and community-based approaches in WASH related assessments, analysis, planning, monitoring and response.

Accountability to Affected Population

Ensuring that women, men, girls and boys of all ages and diversity backgrounds, affected by a crisis have equitable and meaningful access to:

- Appropriate, relevant and timely information
- Two-way communications channels that facilitate feedback and complaints and provide redress for complaints.
- Means to participate in decisions that affect them, including fair and transparent systems of representation; and active involvement in the design, monitoring and evaluation of the goals and objectives of programmes.

5. Attention to priority cross-cutting issues:

- Ensure integration of agreed priority cross-cutting issues in WASH assessments, analysis, planning, monitoring and response (e.g., age, diversity, environment, gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights).

7. Emergency preparedness:

- Ensure adequate WASH related contingency planning and preparedness for potential significant changes in the nature of the emergency and for high risk or recurring disasters, for example Cholera.
- Ensure that core pipeline is adequately replenished, gaps managed.

8. Planning and strategy development:

Ensure predictable WASH action within;

- Sectoral plans, objectives and indicators that directly support realization of the overall response's strategic objectives.
- Apply and adhere to common standards and guidelines.
- Clarify funding requirements, help to set priorities, and agreeing cluster contributions to the HC's overall humanitarian funding proposals.
- Ensure WASH standards and guidelines for humanitarian response have been developed and agreed by partners and are based on national standards where applicable (or global otherwise) with consideration made for the local context
- Draw lessons learned from past WASH activities and revising strategies and action plans accordingly.
- Developing an exit, or transition, strategy for the WASH interventions and key Cluster/sector partners.

9. Application of standards:

- Ensure that WASH cluster/sector participants are aware of relevant policy guidelines, technical standards and relevant commitments that the Government/concerned authorities have undertaken under international human rights law.
- Ensure that WASH responses are in line with existing policy guidance, technical standards, and relevant Government human rights legal obligations.
- Ensure critical WASH issues are identified and brought to the attention of the relevant stakeholders
- Undertake advocacy initiatives when required to communicate these WASH issues to key stakeholders (HCT, Donors, CLA, Government etc.)

10. Monitoring and reporting:

- Ensure adequate monitoring mechanisms are in place to review impact of WASH interventions and progress against implementation plans. This specifically needs to include an analytical interpretation of best available information in order to benchmark progress of the emergency response over time. That is - monitoring indicators (quantity, quality, coverage, continuity and cost. Target population data including desegregation by sex, age etc...) of service delivery which are derived from working towards meeting previously defined standards.
- Measure progress against the cluster strategy and agreed results and recommend corrective action where necessary.
- Ensure mechanisms are in place to monitor the quality of WASH services delivered to the affected population against established standards (relevance, quantity, quality, continuity of WASH services)

- Ensure adequate WASH impact reporting and effective information sharing (with OCHA support) to demonstrate the closing of gaps.

11. Advocacy and resource mobilization:

- Identify core WASH advocacy concerns, including resource requirements, and contribute key messages to broader advocacy initiatives of the HC, UNICEF and other actors.
- Advocate for donors to fund WASH actors to carry out priority WASH activities in the sector concerned, while at the same time encouraging WASH actors to mobilize resources for their activities through their usual channels.

12. Training and capacity building:

- Support and capacity build the new area WASH sub coordinator in Global WASH Cluster standards and approaches.
- Identify capacity gaps and needs of the WASH cluster/sector partners, including government and development capacity development action plan and initiative.
- Promote and support training of WASH humanitarian personnel and capacity building of humanitarian partners, based on the mapping and understanding of available capacity.
- Support efforts to strengthen the WASH capacity of the national/local authorities and civil society.

13. Transition planning

- Lead on the design of appropriate transition strategies for the cluster to ensure continuity between the humanitarian response, recovery and development phases and disaster risk reduction initiatives. Ideally this will involve working closely with national counterparts and development actors to ensure a resumption of national ownership of cluster activities. It will also involve consideration of how coordination mechanisms and cluster membership should change as the humanitarian emergency subsides.

14. Advocate for provision of assistance or services as a last resort:

Where critical gaps in addressing WASH priorities are identified the WASH Cluster Coordinator will:

- Lobby for implementing humanitarian partners (including UNICEF) to address the gaps.
- With advice/support from the HC and support from other humanitarian partners will advocate, as appropriate, on the adequate provision of resources and safe access.
- If persistent gaps remain then with the full support of the UNICEF Country Representative will specifically request that the UNICEF take action to fill the critical gaps through direct implementation action, where funds and access allow.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

- Advanced university degree or equivalent experience in Environmental Public Health, Civil Engineering, Programme Communication, Mechanical Engineering, Geology, Hydrogeology, or Sanitation Engineering, or another related field.
- Experience working with government agencies, local authorities, international organizations, NGOs and communities in the field of water, sanitation and participatory approaches in health and hygiene promotion.
- Experience in WASH cluster coordination
- A minimum of 5 years' experience with either the UN and/or NGO
- Fluency in English (verbal and written). Good written and spoken skills in the language of the humanitarian operation and knowledge of another UN language (Arabic) an added asset.