

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EMERGENCY (SURGE) MISSIONS

Title: WASH Specialist
Reports to: Deputy Representative
Duration: Three-month deployment with a possibility to extend to six months
Location: _____

BACKGROUND

In the Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) is the explicit commitment that *appropriate and experienced staff and personnel with relevant deployment training are provided and rapidly deployed, that focus on action in the first eight critical weeks of humanitarian response and provide guidance for action beyond that, moving towards defined benchmarks.*

On **15-Feb-24**, there was **an official declaration of cholera in Comoros** which affects **870,038** people (whole population of Comoros). As of February 11, 2024, there have been 33 confirmed cases of cholera, with an additional 2 probable cases resulting in fatalities. This escalating trend underscores the urgent need for swift action to contain the outbreak.

The cholera outbreak has exposed significant systemic vulnerabilities in the delivery of and accessibility of water, sanitation services and hygiene practices. With many communities still at risk, UNICEF has swiftly responded to the outbreak by prioritizing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives and implementing risk communication and community engagement strategies.

PURPOSE

Under the direction of the Deputy Representative, and in close coordination with other members and technical specialists of the Health, Nutrition and WASH section and other sections as appropriate, responsible for / support the development, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UNICEF's emergency response in activities and results related to safeguarding and improving public health of the affected population by promoting safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices addressing behavioural aspects and ensuring they have access to appropriate means to practice them effectively; ensuring overall efficiency, effectiveness and delivery of results in accordance with UNICEF's Core Commitment for Children in Emergencies (CCCs) and national and international humanitarian standards.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

- Under the framework of the national coordination platform, in conjunction with other WASH stakeholders and on behalf of UNICEF, support the overall analysis of sectoral needs and priorities to ensure key hygiene practices and sectors of population with whom to engage are identified and appropriate communications strategies and standards to promote safe hygiene practices are developed, in accordance with national and international humanitarian standards. This response is particularly vital in addressing the Cholera outbreak.
- Support the implementation of the national Cholera Response Plan through the development of WASH and IPC content.
- Responsible for/support the definition of UNICEF's response in the WASH sector related to ensure key water, sanitation and hygiene practices are identified and promoted among affected population (strategies, outcomes, target population) as per agreed standards and CCC's benchmarks.
- Based on the identified needs, and in coordination with other UNICEF's relevant sections – particularly SBC, health and education – and implementing partners, develop and implement strategies and plans to:
 - reach target population with culturally appropriate and gender sensitive messages to reduce health risks with reference to both physical and behavioural aspects,

- develop capacities for safe water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and community outreach among national and local partners and stakeholders.
- Support the identification of needs for the distribution of non-food items (e.g. Stop Cholera kits) related to public health and for effective water treatment, handwashing and hygiene practices. Develop and implement a plan to address these needs and post-distribution monitoring.
- Support the implementation of the Case area targeted interventions (CATIs) approach, with particular focus on efforts to improve access to clean water and sanitation facilities; implementation of hygiene promotion about the importance of handwashing, safe food handling, and other preventive measures; enhanced surveillance and monitoring activities to track the spread of the disease.
- Based on the local context, to include menstrual hygiene management support as part of specific hygiene promotion interventions and the overall WASH response, ensuring women and girls special needs are considered and reflected.
- Incorporate Early Recovery and Disaster Risk informed approaches as integrated component of UNICEF's response in the WASH sector in activities related to WASH including hygiene promotion and behaviour change communication.
- Support the inclusion and mobilization of affected communities as part of WASH interventions, as appropriate, for participation in planning, construction, operation and maintenance of WASH facilities and services.
- Collaborate with the design and effective implementation of a monitoring plan to follow up the implementation of UNICEF's response in the WASH sector, incorporating required changes into hygiene-specific activities, with special attention to special needs of women, children and people with disabilities, and other cross-cutting areas.
- Contribute to WASH reporting in accordance with UNICEF's CCC based Humanitarian Performance Monitoring criteria.
- Within UNICEF, collaborate with:
 - Programmes Sections to ensure integration of UNICEF's response to the emergency, exploring opportunities for WASH to support and enhance the programmatic response in other sectors, including the provision of WASH services in schools, GBV victim care services and other institutions.
 - Operations Section, as well as with government authorities and other implementing partners, to establish and maintain sound internal controls, to coordinate financial and supply management requirements and ensure accountability.
 - SBC / Communications section to ensure development of effective communication materials and strategies for advocacy, social mobilization and emergency programme implementation for the WASH sectoral response.
- Interact with government and partners (including UN, Donors, NGOs, CSOs, etc.) in the different stages of the emergency programme implementation, following up on cooperation agreements, recommendations and other UNICEF's commitments for the emergency response, including capacity development of national partners. Contribute to development of funding concept notes and proposals and effective communication/relations with donors and partners.
- Ensure UNICEF's engagement and contribution into cross-sectoral assessment, analysis and evaluations of the emergency response such as Damage Loss Assessment (DLA), Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), etc.
- In coordination with the WASH officer, explore possibilities to strengthen UNICEF's WASH regular/development programme/intervention through recovery/reconstruction/stabilization activities.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

- Advanced university degree or equivalent experience in Environmental Public Health, Programme Communication or Sanitation Engineering, or other field related to behaviour change and communication.
- Knowledge of public health and one or more other relevant areas (e.g.: behaviour change, health promotion, community development, education, etc.)
- Experience and understanding of hygiene promotion and community mobilisation in relation to water, sanitation and hygiene activities.
- Experience with emergency preparedness and response, particularly for cholera.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience with either the UN and/or NGO
- Fluency in French and English (verbal and written).