

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EMERGENCY (SURGE) MISSIONS

Title:	WASH Drought Specialist
Reports to:	WASH Specialist CEED Output Led
Duration:	Three-month deployment with a possibility to extend to six months
Location:	Lusaka, Zambia

BACKGROUND

The Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) activated the WASH sector in December 2024, which is led by the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation (MWDS) with UNICEF support to address cholera, drought, and floods. While cholera cases and fatality rate are declining as a result of consecutive dry days, there is an increase in malnutrition, and a lack of water in dry areas is rapidly increasing, especially in Zambia's Southern Province. The forecast for the end of February and March 2024 indicates below-average rainfall is expected. This will lead to drier conditions in the majority of regions in Zambia. This will not just directly affect agricultural activities, but it is also anticipated water sources will dry up and people will have to walk farther to obtain drinking water. The data collected by DMMU reveal that approximately 2 million people in Zambia are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity and are in need of urgent action. This type drought is expected to increase in Zambia as a result of Climate Change. In this immediate context, UNICEF Zambia together DMMU and MWDS is looking for a WASH drought Specialist to ensure a coordinated and effective drought response.

PURPOSE

Under the overall direction and guidance of the Climate, Environment, Energy and Disaster Risk Reduction/Response/Recovery (CEED) WASH Specialist at UNICEF, the WASH Drought Specialist will support the Zambian WASH sector drought disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery. The selected candidate will support government by providing technical support and strengthening capacity of local partners to ensure a well-coordinated, strategic, adequate, coherent, and effective response by participants in the Zambia National WASH Cluster that is accountable to those who are affected by the current emergency but also ensure strengthens systems that can be sustained beyond the short-term deployment. In their effort to enable an efficient and effective response to the humanitarian crisis, the WASH drought Specialist is responsible for supporting government of Zambia coordination mechanisms; Needs assessment, analysis, and strategy development; Monitoring and reporting; and Advocacy as outlined below.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

The selected candidate will support government by providing technical support and strengthening capacity of partners to achieve the following task. It will be important that all tasks completed, do not merely respond to this current emergency, but build government systems to prepare for and respond to drought in the long-term.

Coordination mechanisms

- Ensure continued, effective engagement with WASH partners and government at the national and subnational level.
- Strengthen technical capacities of WASH actors to ensure more effective, high quality WASH services to the affected populations.
- Provide strategic technical support to achieve improved coordination and accountability
- Strengthen linkages and interacting with other clusters such as nutrition, humanitarian actors, government counterparts, and relevant authorities for operational planning, engagement and active contribution of operational partners.
- Strengthen engagement with partners and ensure that there is effective communication, reporting, engagement, and coordination.

- Support coordination with the development program to strengthen Humanitarian/Development Nexus and resilience response
- Ensure sub-national requests for critical WASH supplies and support UNICEF program to follow up on stock and release to partners.
- Support country level leadership and facilitate coordination of humanitarian WASH response among actors.
- Provide strategic guidance in the planning, development, and implementation of the WASH cluster response and its technical components, in line with DMMU and MWDS Plans and international humanitarian standards and indicators.
- Ensure evidence- based actions and gap filling to enhance and accountable, predictable, and effective WASH response to the affected population.
- Support WASH Cluster on integrated approach to service delivery to drought-affected people through collaboration with other clusters, mainly Health, Nutrition and Food Security.
- Develop cluster's specific SoPs and approaches to eliminate duplication of service delivery

Needs assessment, analysis and strategy development

- Support and lead technical assessment and mapping various related WASH needs assessment planned or done in relation to drought and ensure clear needs/gaps are refined.
- Analysis to identify and address (emerging) gaps, obstacles, duplication, and cross-cutting issues.
- Support prioritization grounded in response gap analysis.
- Include cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, age, psycho-social and environmental factors in all aspects of the response
- Ensure use of national assessment tool at sub-national level through training.
- Identify WASH priority needs and areas in relation to drought impacts for humanitarian funding requirement/considerations and development of proposals and plans
- Support national cluster team in updating key WASH Cluster documents such as Strategic Operating Framework, WASH technical guidelines and standards.

Monitoring and reporting

- Ensure adequate drought response monitoring mechanisms to evaluate the impact of WASH programs on drought crisis and progress within the framework of drought operational framework/strategy.
- Ensure adequate reporting and effective information sharing with DMMU, WASH partners, and within WASH cluster team.
- Monitor and report progress towards implementation of the cluster drought response strategy and results, recommending corrective action where necessary.
- Support National WASH cluster to compile situation reports
- Conduct field missions to identify WASH needs, response, gaps, areas of improvements, priority areas, identify advocacy concerns and enhance program quality.
- Support efforts to strengthen the capacity of the national authorities and civil society.

Advocacy

- Identify core WASH advocacy concerns/needs for messaging and actions.
- Undertake advocacy activities on behalf of cluster participants and the affected population
- Recommend corrective action where necessary based on routine monitoring and reporting
- Draft policy papers, briefs, and other strategic materials for use by WASH Cluster and UNICEF Country office.
- Produce and publish regular bulletins or reports to show onward progress on the cluster response in relation to the humanitarian response strategies/ work plan/response plan.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

Minimum Qualifications

- Advanced University degree in a WASH subject area such as Civil or Public Health or Water/Environmental sanitation Engineering.
- A minimum of 8- 10 years of professional work experience which should include direct WASH emergency experience, with the UN and/or NGO, at field based, team Leader/WASH programme management level
- A minimum of 2 years of experience with drought preparedness, response, or recovery.

- Fluency in English (verbal and written) required, and a working knowledge of the local language preferred.

Competencies

- Technically competent in the WASH sector and in the cluster approach
- Understanding of the development/humanitarian nexus
- Supportive of government leadership of the sector
- Demonstrates personal and professional integrity in all interactions
- Ability to work with diverse stakeholders to develop consensus
- Communication skills to present ideas effectively and clearly while listening and acknowledging others' perspectives and views
- Demonstrates an understanding of the international humanitarian response and coordination mechanisms, and humanitarian reform
- Understanding of humanitarian principles and how to apply these
- Able to clarify complex strategies for operational implementation
- Communicates, works and networks effectively
- Demonstrates leadership, ability to work independently with minimum follow-up, and yet seek guidance when needed
- Builds and motivates the cluster coordination
- Formal training in cluster coordination and Zambia experience is an advantage