

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EMERGENCY (SURGE) MISSIONS

Title: WASH Specialist, P3
Reports to: Chief Field Office
Duration: 3 months
Location: Goma DRC (with field missions)

BACKGROUND

The province of North Kivu has been facing repeated humanitarian and health crises for over two decades. These crises have resulted in massive population displacements both inside and outside the province, and even the country.

For example, since March 2022, clashes between the M23 and the FARDC in the territories of Rutshuru, Nyiragongo and Masisi have forced a large proportion of the civilian population to flee their original localities. Moreover, since October 20, 2022, clashes have intensified, and on October 29, 2022 the towns of Rutshuru and Kiwanja fell under the control of the M23 group. This led to a massive displacement of populations along 4 different axes: Rutshuru-Goma-Nyiragongo, Rutshuru-Kanyabayonga, Rutshuru-Binza and Rutshuru-Bambo. Some of the displaced headed for the Bambu, Kibirizi, Binza and Kanyabayonga health zones. The massive arrival of these displaced people in the above-mentioned areas has exerted considerable pressure on the scarce existing infrastructures and consequently affected the host communities.

Despite the involvement of local, national, and regional authorities, including the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADEC), the situation remains unchanged and humanitarian needs are growing.

Here are a few highlights of the current situation:

1. Massive population displacements: Over 2.5 million people are internally displaced in North Kivu. Clashes between armed groups have resumed in Masisi territory since the beginning of January 2024, leading to massive population displacements to several localities. More than 72,000 IDPs are living in extremely precarious conditions due to overcrowding caused by the influx of newly displaced people to villages along the Sake - Bweremana axis.

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2. Human rights violations: The protection situation for civilians remains worrying in Rutshuru territory, despite a slight interruption observed since the beginning of January. Since December 15, at least 26 civilians have been killed in attacks and clashes in several villages. In the Beni and Lubero territories of North Kivu, 518 people were killed by armed actors in 240 incidents recorded in 2023.

3. Humanitarian response: Despite the volatile context, humanitarian actors have maintained their presence and continue to respond to the needs of affected populations. Efforts are being made to raise awareness of sexual exploitation and abuse prevention, reproductive health, promotion of hygiene.

The situation is complex and requires a full attention from humanitarian organizations to meet urgent needs, including those for water, sanitation, and hygiene, especially in the new sites being created on the Sake-Bweremana axis and in Kanyabayonga.

For this purpose, the WASH section needs an experienced WASH Specialist to support UNICEF Goma office WASH team to ensure quality and the timely humanitarian response in North Kivu conflict. She/he will coordinate the program activities for strong and efficient implementation and support the team in updating its response strategies.

PURPOSE OF THE MISSION

Under the supervision of the WASH Manager, the specialist facilitates the implementation of UNICEF's WASH activities in an L3 humanitarian emergency context with the NEXUS approach if required. Knowing that the implementation of WASH activities in humanitarian emergencies is multi-sectoral, involving organizations and actors from displaced and host communities, as well as implementing partners from NGOs, UN agencies and other national and international organizations engaged in comprehensive prevention and response initiatives.

The WASH Specialist contributes to the achievement of results in line with results-based management (RBM) plans, allocation, approaches, and methodology, as well as UNICEF strategic plans, performance standards and accountability framework.

RESPONSABILITIES

The scope of the activities listed below may vary depending on the duration of the mission and the phase of the crisis.

1. Program development and implementation

- Conduct field assessments and/or situational analyses, safety audits to determine WASH response needs and gaps.
- Guide partners in the planning and implementation of program documents to ensure a focused response in IDPs/returnees and host communities.

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- Initiate/regularly update mapping of WASH services and capacities to inform response guidance mechanisms.
- Coordinate and facilitate emergency WASH training sessions for healthcare providers, community service workers, IDPs, etc.
- Draft the various reports required (sitrep L3, donor report, etc.).
- Support the section to accelerate the implementation of activities and engage with donors to raise additional funds for the program, in line with the overarching vision and work.

2. Partnerships

- Maintain strong working relationships with the WASH CLUSTER for which UNICEF provides the lead.
- Represent UNICEF in relevant Clusters and other humanitarian coordination bodies to ensure that WASH issues are properly addressed in the context of humanitarian response efforts.
- Establish linkages between existing GBV, PSEA and WASH programs to ensure synergies between programs that maximize program impact.

3. Reporting

- Monitor WASH assistance provided by UNICEF, through implementing partners, to crisis-affected populations.
- Ensure quality assurance of program activities by keeping accurate records of activities with all partners.
- Prepare regular progress reports and document lessons learned and share them with the section.
- Support the manager on the coordination of humanitarian issues and prepare reports, advocacy messages and SitReps as required.

4. Capacity development

- Develop awareness materials, contextualize existing training package, and provide technical support to UNICEF partners for capacity building.
- Coach and build capacity of implementing partner staff members responding to an emergency/humanitarian crisis if needed.

5. Technical guidelines

- Develop and periodically update a WASH works approach tailored to the operation, taking into account multi-sectoral approaches by area, gender, depending on the availability of local resources, including materials and existing infrastructure.

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- Contribute to the development of WASH strategies and revise them periodically to take account of changing circumstances and ensure alignment with national and global policies and guidelines, including: the Sustainable Development Goals, DRC CLUSTER WASH standards, SPHERE standards.
- Advise operational partners on technical issues relating to facilities, while ensuring compliance with global, national, and operational strategies and guidelines. Ensure that technical elements comply with standards that reflect minimum standards, and that they are implemented within budgetary requirements for all work.
- Control and monitor the design and construction of WASH structures to confirm that they have been approved by the relevant authorities, are technically sound, and are completed with accurate plans, detailed specifications, and estimates.
- Develop technical studies on Drinking water supply, drilling, waste management, etc

6. Collaboration

- Work with the logistics team on issues related to procurement and other works and services related to the sector, including the development of technical and guidance documents, tender documents, and reference terms
- Carry out technical evaluation of received tenders and review/inspect quality of infrastructure works during implementation and upon completion.
- Work closely with all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, operational and implementing partners and affected communities, on program issues, while ensuring their full participation in all work to achieve optimal levels of adequacy in the WASH response of skills development and income generation opportunities.

COMPETENCES

Core competencies:

- Strong understanding of the logical framework approach and different types of indicators (core and outcome in particular), understanding of project cycle management (monitoring and evaluation stages).
- Good understanding of the humanitarian approach, humanitarian reform, the transformative agenda and the roles of each humanitarian actor (government, UNOCHA, clusters, organizations).
- Knowledge and experience with donors: for example, ECHO and (ideally) BMZ, CERF, NORAD, FCDO, WB or other donors.
- In-depth knowledge of WASH in emergencies to be able to engage with partners, understand different cluster systems.

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- Proactively establish and maintain working relationships, share ideas through information management networks and promote synergies with other actors.
- Diplomatic skills and ability to establish excellent working relationships with partners to gather information.
- Strong communication, interpersonal, analytical and negotiation skills.
- Facilitation and capacity-building skills.
- Ability to multi-task within deadlines, with an emphasis on quality.

Technical skills:

- Previous experience of implementing WASH projects, facilities and infrastructure in humanitarian contexts and large-scale emergencies with the NEXUS approach, in coordination with operational partners and government technical departments.
- Previous experience in designing and implementing WASH strategy, including in host families, collective shelters and camps, in emergency situations, while considering the transition to more sustainable solutions.
- Project Management and planning skills.
- Previous involvement in implementation processes (including preparation of bills of quantities, analysis of local capacities and markets, cost estimates, etc.).
- Experience in WASH infrastructure project management (including monitoring, quality control, evaluation, etc.), including the application of participatory approaches to facilitate the active involvement of communities in the project cycle and construction process.
- Experience in WASH and facilities needs assessment and gap analysis for response development.
- Experience in strengthening existing local capacities and transferring knowledge, where appropriate.
- Knowledge of standards relating to water, sanitation and hygiene, the environment and land use.
- Computer skills, including Excel, Word and PowerPoint, mapping software (QGIS or ARCGIS), drawing software (AUTOCAD, ACRHICAD), hydraulics software (EPANET).
- Cholera experience is a major asset

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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

- A master's degree in one of the following fields is required: Hydraulics and civil engineering, sanitary engineering, and other fields related to WASH activities.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in planning and managing WASH programs, as well as in humanitarian intervention in the field of WASH is required.
- Fluency in French and English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language (English, Arabic, Chinese, Russian or Spanish) or a local language is an asset.
- Experience of working in complex and volatile contexts such as natural disasters, armed conflict or complex emergencies is highly desirable.

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WASH Manager East
UNICEF RDC

April 03, 2024

Madi Foura Sassou

Chef de Bureau
UNICEF GOMA

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