**Position Title: Technical Officer – Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) (Health Cluster)**

**Grade: P3/P4 equevlent**

**Major Office: WCO, South Sudan**

**Duty Station: Juba, South Sudan with frequent travel in the country**

# Organization: WHO South Sudan, Health Cluster/WHE

# Nature of Position: Stand By Partnership Agreement

**First Level Supervisor: Health Cluster Coordinator, WHO South Sudan**

**Second Level Supervisor: WHO Representative to South Sudan**

**Background and Justification**

South Sudan continues to face severe health crisis due to multiple factors. The health system in South Sudan is unable to cope with the emergencies and provide life-saving services. It relies heavily on international aid and faces many challenges, such as a lack of funding, staff, medicines, and equipment. The people suffer from hunger, violence, and poor health. Women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities are the most vulnerable groups. They have limited access to health care and face high risks of death and illness. According to the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP 2024), it is estimated that in 2024, about 9.0 people in the country need one or more forms of humanitarian assistance, especially in the counties most affected by floods, conflicts, IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons), returnees and disease outbreaks. Of these, 6.3 million need health care services. Based on WHO’s internationally accepted projections, one in every five persons in humanitarian settings may experience a form of mental health and psychosocial problem. A range of actors from across the clusters are involved in direct service delivery for MHPSS and contributing to the general mental health and psychological well-being of communities throughout South Sudan. For this reason, a group focused on MHPSS, which can convene a broad range of actors responsible, is recommended by the IASC. Key actors include those engaged in education, general protection, protection of children, prevention and response to gender-based violence, and delivery of health services.

**Purpose of the Position**

In the context of the WHO Health Emergencies Incident Management System (IMS), at the country level, the incumbent will strengthen the country's ability to scale up Mental Health and Psychosocial (MHPSS) interventions in the humanitarian context by strengthening MHPSS TWG within the health cluster.

**Objectives of the Programme and the Immediate Strategic Objective**

In the context of the WHO Health Emergencies Incident Management System (IMS), at the country level, the incumbent will strengthen the ability of the country to scale up the prevention and treatment of mental, neurological, and substance use disorders and promotion of mental health with a particular focus on the affected population. The incumbent will support the intersectoral MHPSS coordination for health, nutrition, protection (including GBV and child protection), education, WASH, shelter, and food security to reach more people who need higher-quality services.

# Organizational context (Describe the individual role of the incumbent within the team, focusing on the work environment within and outside the organization)

Reporting to the Health Cluster Coordinator and under the overall guidance of the WHO Representative in South Sudan, and in close collaboration with the respective technical leads in the Country office, the Technical Officer will be accountable for the effective management and provision of expert advice for the application and adaptation of WHO, Sphere Project and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) policies and strategies in the areas of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). The incumbent will work with multiple players, including the national health authorities, other public sector ministries, emergency and development partners, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and academic institutions.

S/he will closely work with the MHPSS TWG to arrange the MHPSS meetings on a monthly basis, encourage members to actively contribute experiences, perspectives, and inputs to the technical group, and ensure tasks are distributed equally. In addition, the incumbent will work closely with the cluster representatives responsible for informing and acting in accordance with their line ministry and with the relevant UN agency and ensure clusters (Health, Nutrition, Protection (including GBV and child protection) work in synergy for the well being of the affected communities.

# Summary of Assigned Duties (Describe what the incumbent has to do to achieve main objectives; include main achievements expected):

During deployment, the duty station may change, and duties may be modified based on the

technical needs of the Programme.

1. Provide technical support to the multisectoral MHPSS working group co-chairs across the three clusters (Health, Education, and Protection) in coordinating MHPSS TWG meetings and mapping services following the health cluster’s cluster integration and mainstreaming initiative.
2. Support the co-chairs and relevant clusters (Health, Protection, and Education) in developing the MHPSS TWG action plan for 2024-2025 (work plan).
3. Provided technical assistance to the Department of Mental Health at the Ministry of Health (government counterpart co-chairing the MHPSS TWG) to deliver quality mental health services in the country, focusing on primary health care.
4. Conduct an assessment with MHPSS partners to identify gaps and skills for capacity building on service delivery and contribute to addressing the identified needs.
5. Map and operationalize the existing MHPSS services/projects/activities to ensure the coverage of needs at all levels and strengthen referral pathways between service providers.
6. Undertake capacity and knowledge/skill transfer activities to sustain MHPSS work in the country.
7. Work with relevant partners/clusters to identify local co-chairs and enhance their capacity during the deployment as part of the exit strategy.
8. Develop individual work plans out of the TOR.
9. Perform any other related duties as required by the functional supervisor.

**Core, management or leadership competencies required - See WHO competency model - list in order of priority, commencing with the most important ones.**

1. Building and promoting partnerships across the organization and beyond
2. Communication
3. Ensuring the effective use of resources
4. Creating an empowering and motivating environment
5. Teamwork
6. Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences

**Describe the essential knowledge and the skills specific to the position**

1. International policy frameworks (WHO, Sphere, IASC) for reduction of public health challenges related to mental health in emergency settings.
2. Implementation tools (e.g., WHO/United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) MHPSS assessment toolkit, psychological first aid field guide, mhGAP Humanitarian Intervention Guide, mental health component of Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK), “Building Back Better” casebook) for reduction of public health problems related to mental health in (post-) emergency settings.

Demonstrated ability to:

1. Plan and conduct capacity-building activities in MHPSS.
2. Work effectively in an emergency and humanitarian response context, under constraints and meet deadlines.
3. Collaborate on MHPSS across different sectors.

# Education Qualifications

\* **Essential**

Advanced university degree (Master’s level or above) in psychiatry, clinical, psychology, social work or allied sciences from an accredited/recognized institute.

3 years’ experience in a humanitarian context

# Desirable

Post-graduate qualification or specialized training in (a) public health (b) clinical psychology or psychiatry and/or (c) MHPSS in emergency and humanitarian crises.

# \* Essential

# At least seven years of relevant experience, at the national and international levels, in the assessment, development and implementation of policies, strategies and action plans for MHPSS in the context of emergencies. Experience in capacity building, developing and promoting collaborative partnerships.

# Desirable

1. Experience of managing national mental health programme(s) including experience with implementing WHO’s mental health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP).
2. Training in delivering bio-psychosocial interventions for MNS disorders.
3. Relevant work experience in WHO, other UN agencies, relevant nongovernmental, health cluster partners or recognized humanitarian organizations.

# Use of Language Skills

Excellent knowledge of English. Working knowledge of another WHO official language would be an asset.

# Other Skills (e.g. IT)

Knowledge of Microsoft Office software applications.