

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Position Title: | Water and Sanitation (WASH) Technical Officer |
| Grade: | P4 |
| Unit/Team: | |
| Major Office: | |
| Duty Station: | Myanmar |
| Organization: | HQ/WHE WHO's Health Emergencies |
| Nature of Position: | |
| CCOG Code: | |
| First Level Supervisor: | WHE Team Lead |
| Second Level Supervisor: | WHO Country Representative |
| Technical Supervisor: | IMST WASH Focal point |
| Functional relation: | WASH & IPC expert |

1. Background and Justification

Purpose of the Position

The conflict in Myanmar continues to escalate, further exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation in the country. According to OCHA's 24 May humanitarian update, the humanitarian crisis has "entered a dangerous new chapter with entrenched conflict posing grave risks to civilians, stirring a worrying resurgence of inter-communal tension and driving record levels of displacement". Some 18.6 million people are estimated to require humanitarian assistance in 2024 – 1 million more than the same time last year. This is almost 19 times the number prior to the military takeover and equivalent to a third of the population. The public healthcare system has collapsed and there is a lack of access to services, especially in conflict-affected areas.

Between 12 June and 18 July 2024, the country has witnessed a resurgence of acute water diarrhoea (AWD) and cholera outbreaks, with confirmed cases being reported both in conflict-affected areas and townships falling under the control of State Administration Council (SAC) and d/f health authorities. In alignment with the UN commitment 'to stay and delivery', the World Health Organization in Myanmar is working with all concerned parties to prevent mortality and morbidity from AWD/cholera outbreaks among people living in conflict-affected areas (Chin, Rakhine, Kachin, and Northern Shan), as well as Yangon States.

As of 16 July, only in the State of Yangon, public and private hospitals have reported up to 121 cholera confirmed cases. The available information related water quality testing results casts a light on the need of strengthening timeliness and quality of water sampling, testing and data analysis for action. The d/f Ministry of Health has not set-up Oral rehydration points (ORP), Cholera Treatment Centres (CTC) and Cholera Treatment Units (CTU); all cases are being referred to and admitted to general hospital of Yangon State. This puts additional pressure on the WASH capacity of these facilities and calls for enhanced action to support the current facilities, including IPC, in coordination with all concerned parties.

The incumbent will provide technical expertise in planning, monitoring, evaluating, coordinating, and implementing support on WASH activities, including provision of safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, hygiene, and infection control at the principal hospitals of the State of Yangon being used for patients' referral and admission. The incumbent will also support coordination with the d/f authorities and other partners for safe and dignified burial of contagious bodies and medical waste management.

2. Job Description

Objectives of the Programme and of the immediate Strategic Objective

The mission of WHO's Health Emergencies Programme (The Programme) is to help countries, and to coordinator international action, to prevent, prepare for, detect, rapidly respond to, and recover from outbreaks and emergencies.

Organizational context

Under the supervision of the Team Lead, the overall guidance of the Head of WHO Country office, the incumbent has the front-line responsibility for the coordination of sanitation and hygiene interventions at the target health facilities. This involves ongoing contacts with a broad range of WHO staff and responders as well as a broad range of official from the d/f health authorities, to provide expertise and authoritative advice on priority actions to be taken. The incumbent contributes to designing and implementing water and sanitation plans of action pertaining to the incident management, including identifying needs, resources, and gaps, negotiating access to common logistics facilities at country level. The incumbent will work closely with counterparts at the respective regional office, HQ, other WHO staff and partners.

Summary of Assigned Duties:

- 1) Provide WASH (water, hygiene, sanitation, waste management) and Infection Prevention Control (IPC) emergency rapid assessment expertise in priority health care facilities currently receiving AWD/Cholera patients.
- 2) Evaluate gaps and needs and propose remedial actions to ensure minimum standards are respected in terms of WASH, IPC, and Water Quality.
- 3) Linked to (2), support the development of plan of expansion of IPC/WASH support, including activation of Oral rehydration points (ORP), Cholera Treatment Centres (CTC) and Cholera Treatment Units (CTU).
- 4) Provide on-site technical support/guidance and tools to improve the IPC practices and prevent transmission of infections.
- 5) Ensure applicability and appropriate implementation of the recommended infection control activities in the health facilities and for the health activities supported by the WHO, specifically for medical waste management, safe and dignified burial of infectious bodies, health staff and patients' protection.
- 6) Implement a monitoring system of WHO WASH activities in the concerned health facilities and community activities in coordination with health and WASH partners.
- 7) Advice, and when required provide onsite support to the health partners (WHO and Health Cluster) on WASH.
- 8) In collaboration with partners (UNICEF) and local authorities, support the implementation of community response activities.
- 9) Ensure and/or reinforce the link between WHO surveillance team and the country WASH cluster to better respond the needs (targeted response).
- 10) Proactively participate to the WASH Cluster and key partners (WASH and non-WASH) and provide selected guidance.
- 11) Strengthen capacity building for the WASH and IPC WHO country office team.
- 12) Support collaboration with other technical teams including infection prevention and control, risk communications and case management as part to the integrated health and emergency response in conflict-affected areas and hard-to-reach areas.
- 13) Where necessary, lead the training for concerned partners to build up local competences and ease the implementation the water, hygiene, and sanitation standard for all health activities.

- 14) Proactively interact with the WASH experts at UNICEF, d/f health authorities for the follow-up and support.
- 15) Perform any other related incident-specific duties, as required by the functional supervisor.

3. Recruitment Profile

Competencies:

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

Functional Knowledge and Skills

- Demonstrated knowledge of emergency response situations in the field of water and sanitation with proven ability to identify and solve technical problems in difficult circumstances.
- Excellent analytical and organizational skills, with proven ability to elaborate and implement projects.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with ability to promote cohesive action and convince officials with tact and diplomacy.
- Knowledge of WHO, the UN system or a nongovernmental organization (NGO) work in the field of response relief and/or of their practices and procedures as related to the work.

Education Qualifications

Essential

- Advanced university degree (Master's level or above) in engineering, health of humanitarian logistics or other related field from an accredited/recognized institute, with specialization in water and sanitation.

Desirable

- Complementary studies in public health water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- Degree or training in computer applications in water and sanitation project design and related database systems.

Experience

Essential

- At least seven (7) years of relevant experience, at the national and international levels, in the design and implementation of water and sanitation assessment and/or the design and management of related projects in emergency situations. Experience in developing and promoting collaborative actions with national authorities.

Desirable

Experience or a sound knowledge of WHO mandate and goals or in UN organizations/agencies, health cluster partners, recognized humanitarian organizations, international institutions, or NGOs. Experience in emergencies whereby UN organizations/agencies operate in protracted emergencies.

Use of Language Skills

- Excellent knowledge of English

Other Skills (e.g. IT)

- Good computer skills in Microsoft Office.