

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

<b>Title:</b>	WASH Cluster Coordinator (Standby Partner)
<b>Reports to:</b>	WASH Sector Coordinator
<b>Duration:</b>	Three months deployment with a possibility to extend to six months
<b>Location:</b>	Beirut, Lebanon

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### BACKGROUND

Hostilities on the Lebanon-Israel border sharply escalated in September 2024, altering the pattern of the conflict that has been ongoing since October 2023. Attacks conducted between 16 and 27 September 2024 led to the deadliest period of the conflict with 1,030 dead, including 87 children, 56 women and two UN staff, and 6,352 injured in 10 days. The cumulative number of deaths from October 2023 to September 2024 has surpassed 1,640 people, including 104 children and 194 women, according to the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health.

The escalation has led to a surge in mass displacement, with more than 210,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), including around 74,000 children, officially counted by September 2024<sup>i</sup>. More than 100,000 Lebanese and Syrians have fled Lebanon for Syria.

On 29 September 2024, Lebanon's Prime Minister announced that collective shelters were being set to accommodate up to one million IDPs. More than 700 collective shelters, most in public schools, were in place by September 2024, hosting nearly 100,000 IDPs<sup>ii</sup>. UNICEF frontliners reported instances of Syrian families being denied access to some public shelters.

Educational institutions across the country are closed for learning, following the postponement of the new school year and temporary suspension of classes by the Ministry of Education. Public infrastructure has been damaged, including more than 25 water facilities since October 2023, affecting water supply for over 360,000 people. Nearly 30 Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) were closed by September 2024 due to security risks.

On 28 September 2024, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon activated the Humanitarian Country Team's (HCT) planning scenario of an uncontrolled conflict affecting one million people. A new Inter-Agency Flash Appeal (USD 424 M) and UNICEF HAC Appeal (USD 105 M) are being launched.

The escalation has further compounded the economic and financial crisis that pushed 44 per cent of the population in Lebanon into poverty, according to the World Bank.

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### PURPOSE

In coordination with WASH sector coordination, the surge WASH coordinator, in collaboration with national authorities, provide country-level leadership and facilitate processes that will ensure a well-coordinated, coherent, strategic, and effective WASH response by a mobilized, organized and adequately-resourced groups of agencies, organizations, NGOs, local communities, etc. In support of the national government, act as interface between humanitarian WASH partners and duty bearers to ensure WASH related needs of the affected population are properly covered.

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### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

#### Coordination mechanisms

- Ensure the inclusion of key WASH humanitarian partners in a way that respects their mandates and programme priorities, as well as national and local authorities, other governmental actors, civil society and other actors working and related to the WASH sectoral response.
- Ensure appropriate coordination mechanisms between all WASH humanitarian partners are in place, including effective links, communication and information management, as well as technical working groups and/or sub-national coordination platforms as appropriate.

- Ensure information on all current and potential WASH partners, their capacities and areas of work (including Who, What, Where and When) are properly collected, analysed and fed back to partners

#### Needs assessment, analysis and strategy development

- Ensure effective and coherent WASH assessment, analysis and feedback involving all relevant partners, including the identification of gaps and conceptualize how sectoral needs can be met through collective delivery, involving all relevant partners and ensuring complementarity of their actions.
- Facilitate WASH cluster/sector and its members/partners:
  - develop/update agreed WASH responses strategies and prioritised action plans and ensuring these are adequately reflected in the overall country strategies and appeals.
  - are aware of relevant policies, guidelines, technical standards and relevant commitments that the Government/concerned authorities have undertaken under international human rights law; and that sectoral response is in line with them.
  - develop an exit/transition strategy for the WASH sector and key sector partners.
- Facilitate integration of agreed priority cross-cutting issues in WASH assessments, analysis, planning, monitoring and response (e.g. age, diversity, environment, gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights) as well as the utilization of participatory and community based approaches in WASH the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the WASH response.
- Facilitate WASH humanitarian responses build on local capacities.
- Promote WASH emergency response actions while at the same time considering WASH within early recovery planning as well as prevention and risk reduction concerns.

#### Monitoring and reporting

- Ensure adequate monitoring mechanisms are in place to review outcomes of WASH interventions and progress against strategy and action plans; including an analytical interpretation of best available information in order to benchmark progress over time (monitoring indicators: quantity, quality, coverage, continuity and cost; with target population data disaggregated by sex, age, etc.).
- Ensure adequate WASH outcome reporting and effective information sharing (with government and other partner support) to demonstrate closing the gaps.

#### Intersectoral coordination and advocacy

- Ensure effective links with other clusters or sectoral coordination platforms and represent the interests of the WASH sector in discussions with the UNICEF Representative and Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) and other stakeholders on prioritization, resource mobilization and advocacy.
- Identify core WASH advocacy concerns, include resource requirements, and contribute key messages to broader advocacy initiatives of the RC/HC, UNICEF and other actors.
- Advocate to donors to fund WASH actors to carry out priority WASH activities in the sector concerned, while mobilize at the same time encouraging WASH actors to mobilize resources for their activities through usual channels.
- Where critical gaps in addressing WASH priorities are identified:
  - lobby for implementing humanitarian partners (including UNICEF) to address the gaps;
  - with advice/support from the UNICEF Representative, RC/HC and other humanitarian partners advocate, as appropriate, on the adequate provision of resources and safe access.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES**

- University degree (minimum preference at Master's Degree level) qualification desirably in subjects/ areas of WASH e.g. Health Promotion or Education, Civil or Public Health Engineering, Public Health (MPH), Environmental Health. Note that work experience may substitute for higher degree qualification.
- Knowledge of WASH sector as a whole and its priority issues; an ability to strategize how these sectoral needs are met through collective delivery, and ensuring that the roles, responsibilities and functional linkages among Cluster support team are clear and well-coordinated
- A minimum of 2 years of experience of responding to first phases of an emergency.
- A minimum of 5-8 years of experience with either the UN and/or NGO

- Fluency in English (verbal and written). Good written and spoken skills in the language of the humanitarian operation and knowledge of another UN language an asset.

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<sup>i</sup> IOM DTM Round 48

<sup>ii</sup> Disaster Risk Management Unit – Shelter Management Dashboard v. 29 September 2024