**UNICEF Ukraine, Construction Expert to support the Urban WASH Recovery**

**Purpose of the job**

The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector in Ukraine is at a pivotal moment, with increasing emergencies linked to the impact of the war on already old and decaying infrastructure whose resilient is becoming thinner, increasing risks of system collapse. Cities, particularly those in the frontline, have been severely hit by the conflict. According to the Humanitarian Situation Monitoring by REACH, assessing 282 settlements near the frontline. They found that 21% (59 out of 282) had severe or extreme WASH sector vulnerability. In areas within 30 km of the front line, the majority of settlements with extreme vulnerability were identified, with over half the population in 19 out of 27 such settlements lacking access to water in the two weeks prior to data collection. Disruptions were due to damaged water networks, pumping stations, and treatment facilities, as well as power outages. As per the Third Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA3), 11.1 billion USD is required for WASH recovery.

As reconstruction and recovery efforts and strengthened, efforts are also being accelerated for institutional reform linked to the aspiration of the Government and communities to join the European Union (EU). It is therefore critical to strengthen and develop projects, based on the correct technical choices for the recovery, for the optimization and modernization of the sector, in line with EU standards, particularly in urban areas. The objective is to pioneer and pave the path for projects with added value to inform the “build back better and greener” principles in Ukraine, with scope for replication at scale. This includes governance and managerial aspects such as energy efficiency, climate adaptation, water safety and security, improving water quality and water quality monitoring, and the improved management of WASH services, including by increasing cost recovery, reducing non-revenue water, enhancing metering and tariff structure, and promoting social accountability with the engagement of water users and grievance redressal mechanisms.

In this context, UNICEF is playing a prominent role in structuring WASH sector recovery across the humanitarian-development nexus in Ukraine. UNICEF is therefore seeking a senior expert to manage the critical area of urban WASH recovery, to provide technical and managerial assistance in the coordination of urban WASH recovery efforts, with a focus on construction aspects, particularly in frontline cities severely impacted by the conflict. The expert will work closely with government entities, municipalities, donors, and implementing partners, under the aegis of the Ukraine WASH Cluster, to ensure innovative engineering solutions for a more optimized urban WASH sector, in line with Ukraine's EU aspirations.

**Responsibilities**

The post holder will have the responsibility at the national level for the planning, implementation and monitoring of efforts for urban WASH recovery in Ukraine, encompassing the following:

* Planning and implementation of urban recovery projects, including evidence-based technical solutions and construction/operational protocols, towards cost-recovery and energy-efficient recovery, in line with the EU aspirations of the Government and communities.
* Development and roll-out of technical solutions, with scope for replication and scaling up, to improve the situation of non-revenue water, localization of water and wastewater treatment systems and networks, and other priorities of the sector.
* Ensure environmental and social safeguards (ESS) of all construction projects undertaken by UNICEF.
* Develop smart plans, with immediate needs for 1-2 years, priority needs for years 3-4, and the gradual enhancement towards the compliance to EU directives from year 5 onwards.
* Develop and operationalize performance monitoring systems for all urban WASH recovery projects being implemented by UNICEF and partners.
* Build strong networks with key stakeholders involved in urban WASH recovery in Ukraine, coordinating strongly with the Ministry for Restoration, municipalities, and partners involved in urban WASH recovery.
* Ensure documentation and cross-sharing of good practices, in terms of technical choices and construction designs, ESS systems and operation and maintenance (O&M) protocols for the various works undertaken. This may include cross-learning across projects, with the Ministry of Restoration, the DREAM platform and other stakeholders.
* Support government and partners to develop training content and training plans for capacity development of technical staff within local utilities.
* Maintain flexibility to respond to changes in the operating environment and evolving requirements.

**Accountabilities and duties & tasks**

The post holder is accountable to the UNICEF Representative in country and will be managed by the UNICEF WASH Chief.

**Core functions:**

* Develop evidence-based technical solutions for urban recovery projects.
* Implement construction and operational protocols aligned with Ukraine’s EU aspirations.
* Focus on cost-recovery and energy-efficient solutions for the urban WASH sector and addressing non-revenue water issues and localized water and wastewater treatment systems.
* Roll out technical solutions with scalability and replication potential.
* Ensure ESS compliance for all construction projects, by prioritizing environmental and social impact considerations.

**Planning and strategy development**

* Support and coordinate the development of operational and strategic plans for immediate needs (1-2 years), for prioritized needs for years 3-4, and gradually enhanced compliance with EU directives from year 5 onwards.
* Support and coordinate the development and implementation of pragmatic performance monitoring systems for urban WASH recovery projects, in line with EU requirements.

**Advocacy**

* Build strong networks with key stakeholders (Ministry of Restoration, municipalities, etc.), and coordinate efforts with partners involved in urban WASH recovery.
* Document and share best practices in technical choices, construction designs, and ESS systems.
* Support capacity development through training content and plans for local utilities.

**Job grade factors**

* Contribute to leadership, guidance, and direction for urban WASH recovery efforts.
* Contribute to UNICEF goals and objectives related to urban WASH recovery.

**Competencies**

**Core competencies:**

* Understands the rationale behind Humanitarian Reform, its main components and recent developments including the Recovery Agenda.
* Understands, uses, and adapts the tools, mechanisms, and processes developed as part of Humanitarian Reform.
* Demonstrates commitment to Humanitarian Principles: <https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/OOM-humanitarianprinciples_eng_June12.pdf>
* Demonstrates commitment to Principles of Partnership: <http://www.globalhumanitarianplatform.org/doc00003804.doc>
* Communicates, works, and networks effectively with a wide range of people to reach broad consensus on a well-coordinated response, and demonstrates leadership where required.
* Thinks and acts strategically and ensures that urban WASH recovery activities are prioritised and aligned within an agreed strategy.
* Demonstrates commitment to UNICEF and independence from employing organization.
* Builds, motivates, and leads the relevant teams involved in the efforts.
* Successful track-record in presenting complex issues to various stakeholders effectively, sensitively, and within professional poise.

**Professional Skills**

* Ability to build trust, develop, and maintain effective working relationships with respect for diversity.
* Commitment to the UNICEF’s values and guiding principles.
* Communicates effectively including tailoring languages, tone, style, and format to match audiences; actively listens to perspectives of stakeholders and team members; interpreting messages and respond appropriately; speaking and writing clearly and efficient; and makes presentations in public with confidence.
* Conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines, and achieving results.
* Fosters innovation and empowers management.
* Excellent oral and written communications skills, as well as analytical skills, with an exemplary ability to identify problems and propose solutions.
* Strategic thinking and decision-making skills, with a commitment to excellence.
* Strong interpersonal, team work, and self-management skills, as well as mature judgment.
* Ability to perform under pressure while maintaining a sense of humour.

**Technical competences**

Deep understanding of critical technical aspects related to urban WASH/reconstruction recovery. Proficient engagement with stakeholders, to provide strategic guidance, and communicate effectively on complex engineering issues. Demonstrate expertise in construction, design, and implementation of urban WASH infrastructure, ensuring energy efficiency, safety, and environmental sustainability.

**Languages**

The post holder will have at least CEFR level B1 in the following languages:

* English
* Ukrainian/Russian will be an asset
* Another UN language is an asset

**Qualifications & experience**

**Qualifications**

Advanced university degree in Civil / Environmental / Civil Engineering, or a related field relevant to construction and WASH recovery. Extensive work experience in n infrastructure projects may be considered as a replacement for formal qualifications.

**Experience**

At least 8 years of progressively responsible work experience in infrastructure development, post-disaster reconstruction, or related fields. Experience should include:

* Managing complex urban reconstruction projects.
* Coordinating with multiple stakeholders, including government entities and international organizations.
* Familiarity with energy-efficient and cost-effective infrastructure solutions.
* Experience in post-conflict or post-disaster recovery contexts is highly desirable.

**Duty Station**

Kyiv, Ukraine, with frequent travel to affected urban areas.

**Starting date and duration of assignment:**

As soon as possible for 6 months (possible 6 months extension)

COVID-19: 2G/3G (vaccinated or cured) is highly recommended.