

Position Title: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Specialist
Grade: P4
Unit/Team:
Major Office:
Duty Station: Luanda, Angola
Organization: WHO Angola Country office
First Level Supervisor: Incident Manager
Technical supervisor: WASH focal point/HQ

1. Background and Justification

Purpose of the Position

In the context of the WHO Health Emergencies Incident Management System (IMS), at the country level, the incumbent will provide technical expertise in planning, monitoring, evaluating, coordinating and implementing support of environmental health interventions with a focus on provision of safe drinking water, safely managed sanitation, hygiene, and medical waste management. Provide technical advice based on WHO Guidance and tools.

2. Context

- As of today (Mid-April 2025) and since the beginning of the epidemic, a cumulative total of 11 534 cases have been reported, there have been 438 deaths since 7 January 2025, Luanda leads the list of provinces with the most cases of cholera. The case fatality rate is particularly high and rose in March from 3.7 to 3.8% which is far above the alert threshold (1%). Cuanza Norte is the second most affected province. In the past days, many cases have also registered, in the province of Benguela, in the province of Luanda and in the province of Bengo.
- Water is a clear identified driver for the expansion of the epidemic (almost all sources were sample were taken positive to E.Coli), and even though some measures were taken by the authorities, there are little coordination and guidance to perform an efficient response
- The epidemic is now expanding rapidly to all provinces in this vast country with some geographical difficulty of access for some of them
- There are very few humanitarian and development actors remaining in this country considered as middle income in economic terms, but there are huge inequality between higher and lower income population. The inequality is also geographic with remote regions receiving little support from central system by the essence of the regionalization

In the context of the WHO Health Emergencies Incident Management System (IMS), at the country level, the incumbent will provide technical expertise in planning, monitoring, evaluating, coordinating and implementing support of WASH interventions with a focus on provision of safe drinking water. Provide technical advice based on WHO Guidance (e.g. WHO Guidelines on Drinking-water Quality, WHO Guidelines on Sanitation and Health) and tools (e.g. WHO/UNICEF Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool; WASH FIT).

3. 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 coordinate 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 Incident Manager and Head of WHO Country office and working closely with counterparts at the respective regional office, HQ, other WHO staff and partners, the incumbent has the front-line role of supporting key Ministry of Health decisions and UN and partner actions for health-based water, sanitation and hygiene efforts. This involves collaborating with a broad range of WHO staff and responders as well as a broad range of officials from the MOH, and partners (e.g. UNICEF) to provide expertise and authoritative advice on priority actions to be taken. Contribute to designing and implementing water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management improvement plans of action pertaining to the incident management, including identifying needs, resources and gaps, and coordinating with procurement and logistics teams at country level.

Summary of Assigned Duties:

During deployment, the duty station may change, and duties may be modified, based upon the technical needs of the Programme.

- Provide emergency rapid assessment expertise for WASH with a focus on water supply in the first phase.
- Work in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Water, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and Provincial/Municipal leadership to evaluate gaps and needs and propose immediate remedial actions for improvement.
- Help design and support water quality monitoring and surveillance schemes to ensure water safety in communities and healthcare facilities.
- Advice, and provide onsite support to the health partners including national authorities on WASH.
- Lead the training for Government staff and WHO partners to build up local competences and ease the implementation of the water supply and monitoring.
- Write the required evaluation or situation reports to ensure appropriate communication with incident manager and all related technical experts. Represent WHO in the interagency WASH meetings, by ensuring an ongoing, timely and technically sound input.
- Work in coordination with other international actors involved (UNICEF/IFRC)

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

Experience

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: Some experience or a sound knowledge of WHO mandate and goals or in UN organizations/agencies, health cluster partners, recognized humanitarian organizations, international water and sanitation institutions or NGOs.

Use of Language Skills

The candidate must have a minimal verbal capacity of communication on technical issue and negotiation in Portuguese. (Mandatory)
Fluency in English or French