

Term of reference for an Interagency MHPSS Situation analysis, assessment and mapping Expert, Mauritania

Position:	Cleared by ROs and classified by HRD/HQ
Position Title:	Interagency MHPSS Situation analysis, assessment and mapping Expert
Grade:	P3
Duty Station:	Bassikounou
Organization:	HQ/WCO MRT
Programme:	WHO's Health Emergencies
First Level Supervisor:	Incident Manager
Second Level Supervisor:	Team Lead EPR
Functional relation:	Health Operation and technical expertise

1. Background and Justification

Mauritania is currently facing a **complex, multi-hazard humanitarian and public health crisis**, marked by:

- **Three concurrent epidemics:**
 - Diphtheria
 - Rift Valley Fever
 - Dengue
- **A rapidly worsening refugee situation**, with **over 300,000 refugees from Mali** hosted primarily in Hodh El Chargui and continued influx expected.

The crisis is most acute in **Bassikounou/Mbera camp area**, but impacts are **national**, requiring consistent multi-level technical support and coordination.

Mental health and psychosocial needs are substantial among **refugees, host communities, children and women, frontline workers, and families affected by epidemics and displacement**. Current MHPSS capacity in-country is **limited and fragmented** across institutions and partners.

Existing WHO staff are fully engaged in outbreak response and essential emergency duties, with **no surge capacity available** to lead structured MHPSS coordination, assessment, and system-building.

To ensure a **coherent, IASC-aligned national MHPSS response**, a dedicated expert is urgently required to:

- Lead a national **interagency MHPSS situation analysis**
- Conduct **MHPSS needs assessments and service mapping**
- Establish **referral pathways and coordination mechanisms**
- Strengthen **national and decentralized response capacities**
- Bridge **humanitarian and health-system strengthening efforts**

This deployment is essential to avoid fragmentation, delays, and inadequate coverage of vulnerable populations.

2. Purpose of the Position

To provide **technical leadership, coordination and operational support** to the Government and partners to strengthen MHPSS preparedness and response in Mauritania, through

comprehensive MHPSS needs assessment, mapping, and inter-agency coordination in line with **IASC MHPSS guidance** and **WHO standards**.

The expert will support the **entire country**, while being **physically based in Bassikounou** to ensure proximity to the most affected populations.

3. Key Responsibilities

Technical leadership & assessments

- Lead an **inter-agency MHPSS situation analysis** at national and field levels
- Conduct **MHPSS needs assessments** and **service/resource mapping**
- Identify **gaps, vulnerabilities, and priority interventions**
- Develop/strengthen **MHPSS referral pathways and protocols**
- Support integration of MHPSS into **health and other sectors emergency operations**

Coordination & liaison

- Support the Ministry of Health and partners in establishing or strengthening an **MHPSS Technical Working Group**
- Coordinate with **UN agencies, NGOs, Red Cross Movement, civil society, and community structures**
- Ensure alignment with **IASC MHPSS guidance** and global emergency frameworks
- Facilitate **government-UN-partners interface** for MHPSS interventions

Capacity strengthening

- **Provide technical support and mentorship** to national and subnational teams and partners from various sectors
- Adapt training material and orientation sessions on **MHPSS in emergencies, referral systems, and psychological first aid (PFA)**
- Train health and community workers to improve detection, management, and referral of priority mental health conditions
- Support and contribute to the functioning, supervision, and quality assurance of **community-based listening and psychosocial support areas**, ensuring safe, confidential, and culturally appropriate services
- Promote **community engagement** and participation in MHPSS activities, including awareness campaigns, peer-support initiatives, and culturally appropriate outreach
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Reporting & knowledge management

- Produce regular **situation reports, assessment briefs, and recommendations**
- Contribute to **resource mobilization and donor updates**
- Prepare a **final mission report with roadmap and priority actions**

4. Qualifications

Essential Qualifications:

- Advanced university degree in psychology, psychiatry, social work, mental health, public health, or related field.

Experience:

- Minimum **7 years** professional experience in MHPSS in humanitarian/emergency contexts.

- Proven experience in **IASC MHPSS coordination, emergency assessments, and service mapping**
- Experience working with **refugee/IDP settings**, public health systems, and/or epidemic emergencies
- Experience working with UN system and government counterparts preferred.

Technical Competencies:

- Strong understanding of **IASC MHPSS guidance** and **emergency MHPSS frameworks**
- Demonstrated skills in **assessment, analysis, coordination, and reporting**
- Ability to build partnerships and facilitate interagency processes
- Knowledge of **emergency public health, communicable disease outbreaks**, and humanitarian principles
- Excellent communication, teamwork, and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work in **remote, austere environments** and travel frequently

Core Competencies (WHO):

- Teamwork
- Respecting and promoting individual and cultural differences
- Communication
- Producing results
- Building and promoting partnerships across the organization and beyond
- Ensuring the effective use of resources

Languages:

- **Fluency in French** (oral and written) is essential.
- Working knowledge of **English** is required.
- Knowledge of **Arabic** or local languages is an asset.

5. Deliverables

- Interagency **MHPSS Situation Analysis and Assessment Report**
- **Service mapping and referral pathways**
- **MHPSS coordination mechanism reinforced**
- Training materials + capacity-building report
- Final mission report with **strategic recommendations and action plan**

6. Duration

- Proposed: **3 months**, with possibility of extension depending on needs and funding.