

**STANDBY TERMS OF REFERENCE****A. ASSIGNMENT DETAILS:**

<b>Standby Modality: in-country, remote, hybrid</b>	<i>In-country</i>
<b>Country and duty station</b>	Burundi Bujumbura
<b>Title and Level:</b>	Emergency WASH specialist (P3)
<b>Type of Crisis:</b>	Emergency Response to Influx of Refugees, cholera and Displaced of Persons in Burundi
<b>Emergency experience required</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: Emergency WASH / (refugees and returnees and IDP public health) No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Duration of assignment:</b>	03 month
<b>Supervisor Name and Email:</b>	Name : Ousseini Mai Maigana Email : <a href="mailto:omaigana@unicef.org">omaigana@unicef.org</a>

**B. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:**

Burundi remains one of Africa's most densely populated countries, with a very young and rural population. It ranks 187th out of 193 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI), placing it near the bottom globally. On the 2025 Global Hunger Index (GHI), Burundi scores 42.5, categorized as "alarming", with over 55% of the population undernourished and more than half of children under five stunted. According to the latest Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) estimates, Burundi has made only modest progress. As of 2025, 64% of the population has access to basic drinking water services, 47% to basic sanitation, and 7% to basic hygiene facilities. Rural areas continue to lag significantly behind urban centers.

Since early December 2025, renewed fighting in Uvira, Sange, the Ruzizi Plain, the Hauts Plateaux, and Fizi has forced, according the UNHCR flash info (decembre,16) an

## STANDBY TERMS OF REFERENCE



estimated 82,275 people to flee to Burundi in just two weeks, among them 53% children, bringing the total to 36,000 arrivals recorded in 2025. Most families crossed through informal river and lake points, arriving exhausted, hungry, and in urgent need of water hygiene and sanitation, health care, and protection.

The new influx compounds existing pressures on Burundi's overstretched health and social systems, including active cholera and Mpox transmission and heightened malaria incidence during the rainy season.

Refugees are scattered across provisional sites, Ndava, Gatumba, Cishemere and Rumonge stadium, where multisectoral assessments revealed extremely poor living conditions.

The Government designated Bweru (Ruyigi) as the long-term site, but a rapid UNICEF assessment confirmed the complete absence of basic infrastructure (no water system, health facility, sanitation, shelters, learning spaces, or protection services). Significant investment is urgently required before relocation can begin. The Musenyi site in Rutana, which exceeded its planned capacity earlier this year, continues to host over 16,000 people.

The country is also facing with additional risks and hazards, including disease outbreaks such as Cholera (3,098 Cholera cases with 13 deaths). Since 1 January 2025, cases have been reported in 14 health districts: Cibitoke, Bujumbura North, Bujumbura Centre, Bujumbura South, Isare, Kabezi, Mpanda, Makamba, Bubanza, Mabayi, Rwibaga, Rumonge, Nyanza, and Bukinanyana. In recent days, Bweru site has recorded 27 suspected cases of cholera, including one death. Moreover, Burundi is enduring climate-change-related natural disasters and is amongst the least prepared countries to respond to climate change-induced shocks.

The Emergency WASH Specialist will coordinate a rapid emergency response to the influx of refugee persons from the DRC into Burundi, to reduce morbidity and mortality risk attributable to the cholera epidemic.

**C. TERMS OF REFERENCE (Please note a set of already populated [Terms of Reference](#) for key profile areas used in UNICEF are available for your use. You may use these and adapt to your needs accordingly).**

**ROLE PURPOSE:**

Under the technical guidance and managerial responsibility of the Chief\_WASH in close collaboration Refugees WASH emergency coordinator, the WASH Specialist will

be accountable for the quality of UNICEF interventions regarding WASH both in (temporary and permanent sites) and at community level.

**D. MAJOR DUTIES AND KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:** *(The scope of the activities listed below may vary, depending on the length of the assignment and phase of the crisis. Please adapt the standard TOR if necessary).*

**1. Emergency WASH Programme planning and management, monitoring, and delivery of results**

- Participate in sectorial, intersectoral assessment or evaluation mission in affected area.
- Develop and implement action plans to improve access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene practices in refugees transit site, camp and in returnees host communities.
- Monitor the response within the WASH sectors and identify GAP and advocate to address them.
- Draft /review/Update WASH emergency response Plan.
- Work closely with other colleagues to identify implementing partner and draft programme document when and as needed
- Monitor and report on the use of sectoral programme resources (financial/budget, administrative and other assets), verify compliance with approved allocations, organizational rules, regulations/procedures and donor commitments, standards of accountability and integrity.
- Work collaboratively with colleagues and partners to collect/analyse/ share information on implementation issues, provide solutions on routine programme implementation and alert appropriate officials and stakeholders for higher-level interventions and/or decisions.
- Draft updates for WASH in the situation analysis, Situation report, flash appeal to inform the development of WASH-related outcome, output results and product along the crisis.
- Ensure integration of agreed priority cross-cutting issues in WASH assessments, analysis, planning, monitoring and response (e.g. age, PSEA, inclusion, climate change, diversity, environment, gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights).

**2. Coordination:**

- Co-lead the WASH sectorial Working group with government and UNHCR
- Collaborate closely with other WASH actors and humanitarian agencies, local authorities, and refugee communities to ensure a coordinated WASH responses related to DRC humanitarian Crisis in Burundi.
- Provide technical support to the emergency WASH sectorial group in information management.

# STANDBY TERMS OF REFERENCE



### **3. Training and Awareness:**

- Organize training sessions UNICEF implementing partners and keys WASH sectors group actors including government counterparts on WASH in emergency and awareness campaigns, refugees and hygiene promotion and the proper use of WASH facilities.

### **4. Reporting:**

- Prepare regular reports on the progress of activities, challenges encountered, and outcomes achieved

### **E. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

- A master's degree in hydraulic engineering, public health, emergency response, social sciences, behaviour change communication, sanitary engineering or another specialist field related to WASH in emergency is required.
- Background/familiarity with Emergency and particularly in WASH in emergency (preparedness, coordination and response) and the IASC Cluster/sector approach.
- A minimum of five years of professional work experience in WASH in emergency - related programs for developing countries, including successful experience in WASH in emergency for refugees and returnees and IDP context,
- Solid experience in public health emergency WASH response including cholera, EVD, Marburg
- Fluency in both oral and written French working knowledge of English is required.