

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)**

### **MHPSS Subnational Public Health Emergency Technical Working Group (TWG) Coordinator – Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Response**

#### **Central African Republic**

**Duty station: Bangui**

**Duration: initially 3 months**

### **1. Background and Rationale**

The Central African Republic (CAR) is preparing itself to respond to an outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) caused by the Bundibugyo virus strain. CAR represents a complex humanitarian and public health context with a 2000km long border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. Certain areas in CAR are facing access and security constraints which may further hamper the delivery of life saving support especially during the current rainy season.

The response is led by the Ministry of Health (MoH) with technical and operational support from the World Health Organization (WHO), Health Cluster partners, and other national and international actors, and is implemented under the Incident Management System (IMS). The peacekeeping mission MINUSCA is a key actor in CAR and WHO leadership is in close contact with the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) as well as the UN resident coordinator and all heads of agencies.

EVD outbreaks generate substantial mental health and psychosocial impacts, including fear and anxiety related to transmission and mortality, stigma and social exclusion, grief and bereavement, and psychological distress among affected communities and frontline responders. If unaddressed, these impacts can undermine community trust, care-seeking behaviour, and adherence to public health measures.

To address these needs, WHO will deploy an MHPSS Technical Working Group (TWG) Coordinator to strengthen coordination, ensure harmonized technical approaches, and integrate MHPSS across the EVD preparedness and response activities. The WHO Country Representative a.i. (WR), the Emergencies programme (WHE) team lead and our health cluster coordinator will engage with the TWG to ensure optimal coordination across all actors in CAR.

### **2. Purpose of the Assignment**

To coordinate and strengthen the mental health and psychosocial support component of the EVD response through effective leadership of the MHPSS subnational Public Health Emergency Technical Working Group, ensuring evidence-based, coherent, and well-integrated interventions over a six-month deployment.

### **3. Key Tasks**

#### **Coordination, Leadership and Governance**

- Establish and support the functioning of the MHPSS TWG under the IMS for Ebola Preparedness activities and eventual response ;
- Facilitate regular MHPSS coordination meetings and follow-up on action points;

- Promote alignment of partner interventions with WHO and IASC MHPSS standards;
- Strengthen coordination between MHPSS and other EVD preparedness and response pillars;
- Act as the main technical focal point for MHPSS within the subnational response.
- Liaise and coordinate with National MHPSS TWG and other subregional MHPSS TWGs as needed for information exchange, referral, and technical mutual support under the leadership of the WR and the WHE team lead;
- Following the request and under the guidance of the WR and WHE team lead provide support in any other relevant area of work related to mental health.

### **Technical Support and Integration**

- Provide technical guidance on evidence-based MHPSS interventions appropriate for EVD contexts;
- Support integration of MHPSS into case management, RCCE, survivor care, and contact tracing;
- Support the MOH in strengthening mental health governance and supporting the Emergency Operating Center;
- Support capacity building and supervision of MHPSS staff and community workers.

### **Assessment, Monitoring and Reporting**

- Coordinate MHPSS needs assessments and analysis;
- Support 4Ws mapping of MHPSS actors and services;
- Contribute MHPSS inputs to situation reports and IMS briefings;
- Monitor implementation quality and identify gaps.

### **4. Expected Deliverables**

- Functional subnational public health emergency MHPSS Technical Working Group with documented outputs;
- Harmonized MHPSS response plan aligned with EVD priorities;
- Updated MHPSS 4Ws mapping and gap analysis;
- Regular MHPSS inputs to situation reports;
- Final handover and transition report.

### **5. Qualifications and Experience**

- Advanced university degree in psychology, psychiatry, public health, social work, or related field;
- At least 5 years of experience in MHPSS in humanitarian emergencies or outbreaks;
- Experience in inter-agency coordination and technical leadership;
- Knowledge of IASC MHPSS Guidelines and WHO mhGAP;
- Ebola or infectious disease outbreak experience desirable.

### **6. Competencies**

- Strong coordination and leadership skills;
- Solid technical expertise in MHPSS in emergencies;
- Ability to operate within IMS structures;
- Strong communication and reporting skills.

## **7. Languages**

- Essential: French and English
- Desirable: Local language Sango

## **8. Code of Conduct**

The incumbent must adhere to WHO Code of Conduct, confidentiality, data protection, safeguarding, and security policies.