

UNICEF Nigeria Country Office

Terms of Reference

Position Title:	WASH Cholera Specialist
Level:	P3
Location:	Maiduguri, Nigeria
Duration:	6 months
Start Date:	1 July, 2026
Reporting to:	Chief of Field Office, Maiduguri, with technical guidance from the Chief of WASH

Purpose/Rationale

Humanitarian action is of fundamental importance to UNICEF and encompasses interventions aimed at saving lives, alleviating suffering, maintaining human dignity, and protecting the rights of affected populations wherever there are humanitarian needs, as well as interventions addressing underlying risks and causes of vulnerability to disasters, fragility and conflict. UNICEF’s humanitarian action is guided by the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs), which set organizational, programmatic and operational commitments and benchmarks against which UNICEF holds itself accountable for the coverage, quality and equity of its humanitarian action and advocacy and which are mandatory for all UNICEF personnel.

Nigeria continues to face recurrent cholera risk linked to weak water and sanitation services, seasonal flooding, population displacement and humanitarian access challenges. In Maiduguri and Jere, health authorities have reported an ongoing outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea first detected in Shehuri, with affected areas including Gomboru, Old Maiduguri and Bulablin Ali Kotoko, and around 600 admissions reported between 4 and 13 May 2026. Given the likelihood that acute watery diarrhoea may include cholera and the broader national pattern of recurrent outbreaks, UNICEF requires surge WASH capacity to strengthen preparedness, response coordination, infection prevention measures, water quality monitoring, hygiene promotion and rapid support to affected communities.

Based in Maiduguri, the WASH Cholera Specialist will provide direct programme implementation support to UNICEF, government counterparts and implementing partners to accelerate delivery of cholera preparedness and response activities in Borno and Yobe States, with a strong focus on outbreak-affected and high-risk communities. The Specialist will work closely with field teams to translate outbreak analysis and response plans into practical field actions, including partner work planning, supply deployment, household and community-level WASH interventions, support to cholera treatment facilities and oral rehydration points, water quality monitoring, chlorination, sanitation improvement, disinfection and hygiene promotion. The role will emphasize day-to-day operational follow-up, quality assurance, problem-solving and documentation of implementation progress, while maintaining close coordination with Health, RCCE and other sectors.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

The WASH Cholera Specialist’s major tasks and responsibilities will focus on practical programme implementation support and will include, but not be limited to:

Cholera programme implementation support and field coordination

- Provide hands-on implementation support for UNICEF-supported cholera WASH interventions in Borno, Yobe and other high-risk locations, ensuring that partner activities are delivered rapidly, safely and to agreed quality standards.
- Support government and implementing partners to translate cholera response plans into detailed field workplans, daily/weekly activity schedules, micro-plans, site lists, supply requests and monitoring arrangements.
- Coordinate day-to-day technical and operational follow-up with WASH partners, Health partners, RCCE actors and local authorities to ensure integrated implementation around cholera hotspots, treatment facilities, oral rehydration points and affected communities.
- Support the identification of hotspot communities and priority facilities for intervention, including cholera treatment centres, oral rehydration points, health facilities, schools, displacement sites and other high-risk settings.
- Support timely roll-out of key outbreak control measures, including emergency safe water supply, chlorination, household water treatment, water storage, sanitation improvement, environmental cleaning, disinfection and targeted hygiene promotion.
- Identify operational bottlenecks affecting implementation, including access, partner staffing, supply availability, water trucking, chlorination coverage, community acceptance and reporting delays, and support practical corrective action.
- Participate in field-level outbreak coordination fora and use implementation evidence to inform operational decisions, situation updates, technical briefs and response recommendations.
- Ensure implementation approaches are conflict-sensitive, community-centred, accountable to affected populations and aligned with national guidance, UNICEF standards and humanitarian principles.

Field assessment, implementation targeting and response analysis

- Support rapid field assessments in outbreak-affected and high-risk communities to identify priority implementation gaps in safe water, sanitation, hygiene practices, supplies, partner coverage and service functionality.
- Work with Health and surveillance teams to translate case data, hotspot mapping and transmission analysis into targeted WASH implementation packages and partner deployment priorities.
- Monitor implementation quality through field visits, including water quality testing, residual chlorine monitoring, verification of household treatment practices, sanitation conditions, hygiene promotion quality and functionality of supported services.
- Support practical use of standard tools for hotspot assessment, partner supervision, supply tracking, quality monitoring, field reporting and follow-up of agreed corrective actions.

Operational planning, partner follow-up and supply support

- Support development and implementation of operational cholera response plans for priority LGAs and communities, with clear activity packages, geographic targeting, timelines, partner roles and field supervision arrangements.
- Support supply forecasting, request preparation, distribution planning and tracking for critical cholera WASH items, including chlorine, water treatment products, water storage containers, soap, disinfection materials, water quality testing supplies and hygiene promotion materials.
- Provide implementation-oriented technical guidance on emergency water supply, chlorination points, household water treatment and safe storage, excreta management, desludging, solid waste management, environmental cleaning and disinfection at community and facility level.
- Support partners to implement rainy season preparedness actions, including readiness checks, pre-positioning, rapid response arrangements, high-risk site verification and contingency planning for access constraints.
- Document implementation challenges, field adaptations, good practices and lessons learned, and use these to improve partner workplans and operational guidance as the outbreak evolves.

- Ensure partner workplans include clear output targets, service quality benchmarks, monitoring indicators, implementation arrangements and accountability mechanisms for tracking progress and results.
- Coordinate with OCHA, Health and other relevant sectors to ensure cholera WASH implementation gaps, operational constraints and priority field needs are reflected in inter-sector planning, advocacy and resource mobilization.

Partner support, quality assurance and advocacy

- Support implementing partners with practical technical guidance, workplan review, implementation troubleshooting, field mentoring and follow-up to ensure activities are delivered on time and according to agreed standards.
- Identify implementation gaps, funding constraints, partner capacity needs and quality concerns, and recommend practical actions to sustain and improve life-saving WASH interventions.
- Contribute field-based evidence, implementation updates, budgets and justifications for donor engagement, advocacy messages and communication products that highlight outbreak risks, priority WASH actions and the needs of children and vulnerable communities.

Implementation monitoring, reporting and corrective action

- Monitor implementation of UNICEF-supported cholera WASH interventions through regular field visits, partner check-ins and review of activity data against agreed targets, standards, coverage and quality benchmarks.
- Conduct supportive supervision with partners and government counterparts, agree corrective actions, track follow-up and escalate implementation issues requiring management attention.
- Track key operational information, including partner activities, supply use and pipeline, water quality results, chlorination coverage, service functionality, hotspot actions, household reach and implementation progress.
- Prepare timely field implementation updates, situation reports, dashboards, partner follow-up notes and inputs for internal and external reporting on cholera preparedness and response.
- Contribute to implementation reviews, after-action learning and evaluation exercises, with a focus on what improved field delivery, coverage, quality and timeliness of cholera response interventions.

Training and capacity building

- Support practical training and on-the-job mentoring for government staff, implementing partners, frontline responders and community structures on implementation of cholera WASH packages, including water quality monitoring, chlorination, household water treatment, sanitation, disinfection, hygiene promotion and WASH-related infection prevention and control measures.
- Strengthen the implementation capacity of local authorities, civil society and partners to plan, deliver, monitor and adapt cholera response activities in affected and high-risk communities.
- If cholera spreads beyond Borno, provide implementation support, field mentoring and operational guidance to trainings, preparedness activities and partner response capacity building in other parts of the country as required.

Qualifications of Successful Candidate

- An advanced university degree in one of the following fields is required: civil or environmental engineering, water supply, sanitation, public health, environmental health, epidemiology, or another relevant technical field.
- A minimum of 8 years of professional experience in WASH, public health emergency response, cholera programme implementation, cholera preparedness and response, or related humanitarian programming is required.
- Demonstrated experience supporting cholera or acute watery diarrhoea outbreak response, including coordination with government and humanitarian partners, is highly desirable.
- Experience working in humanitarian settings in northeast Nigeria or similarly complex emergency contexts is an asset.

- Fluency in written and spoken English is required. Knowledge of local languages used in northeast Nigeria is an advantage.

Competencies Required

<p><u>Core Values attributes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care • Respect • Integrity • Trust • Accountability 	<p><u>Competencies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds & maintains partnerships • Demonstrate self awareness and ethical awareness. • Innovates & embraces change • Drive to achieve results for impact • Manages ambiguity and complexity • Thinks and acts strategically • Works collaboratively with others • Nurtures, leads and manages people
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

How to apply

This application falls under standby partner support to UNICEF.

Note

- Maiduguri is a **non-family** duty station with six weeks Rest and Recuperation (R&R).