

TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

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

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Duty station: TBC

Duration: 6 months

1. Background and Rationale

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is responding to an outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) caused by the Bundibugyo virus strain, occurring within a complex humanitarian and public health context. 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).

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 response.

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 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 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

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 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

8. Code of Conduct

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