

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Position Title: Sanitation and Public Health Emergency Coordinator

Duty Station: UNICEF Gaza Office

Level: P3

Duration: 3.5 months

Start Date: 15 July 2026

Reporting Line: Reports to the WASH Cluster Coordinator; works in close coordination with the relevant WASH Cluster technical leads.

1. Context

In the aftermath of the October 2025 ceasefire in Gaza, humanitarian access has improved, enabling the movement of people and the delivery of critical supplies. However, sanitation access remains severely compromised due to prolonged conflict, displacement, and supply chain disruptions. As a result, 57% of the population is exposed to sewage or fecal matter within 10 meters of their homes, posing serious health and environmental risks. Only about half of all households have access to basic sanitation, meaning they have private, improved facilities that safely separate human waste from contact. The rest rely on shared, inadequate, or unsafe options, increasing health risks and undermining dignity.

The risk of waterborne disease outbreaks, particularly cholera, is high, as confirmed by a joint WHO-MOH assessment, led in October 2025.

The WASH Cluster partners must urgently scale up the sanitation and public health emergency (PHE) response based upon common, strategic and realistic cluster response plans. This surge position will provide strategic leadership and technical coordination to address immediate needs and support planning in collaboration with national authorities and WASH humanitarian partners for a relevant cluster sanitation response plan.

The deployment is a critical coordination role, housed within UNICEF – the Cluster Lead agency, and the position is expected to collaborate closely with the UNICEF WASH section, Coastal Municipal Water Utility and other sanitation stakeholders and partners to develop strategic documents and establish operational coordination tools, as described below.

2. Strategic Objectives of the Deployment

- **Strengthen strategic planning and coordination for sanitation and outbreak preparedness and response in Gaza strip**, ensuring alignment with public health priorities and national systems.
- **Lead the development of a contextualized sanitation strategy** for households, including decentralized solutions and procurement planning.

- **Facilitate evidence-based decision-making** through assessments, partner mapping, and gap analysis.
- **Support localization and sustainability** by working closely with the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and other national stakeholders.

3. Key Deliverables

1. **Household Sanitation Strategy:** Develop with working group members relevant sanitation designs and procurement plans tailored to displaced and host populations.
2. **Decentralized Sanitation Roadmap:** Co-develop a strategic roadmap with PWA for decentralized sanitation systems.
3. **Sanitation Working Group Leadership:** Co-lead the working group with Oxfam and UNICEF; convene bi-monthly coordination meetings.
4. **Joint Assessments and Strategic Inputs:** Conduct and Participate in interagency assessments and contribute to strategic planning and reporting on sanitation and public health matters.

4. Application of the Six Core Functions of Cluster Coordination

1. Supporting Service Delivery

- Facilitate partner collaboration in developing strategic plans, update the Gaza Cluster partners during the preparation processes. Ensure the promotion of the strategies and capacity development of partners as required.
- Facilitate partner coordination and ensure timely delivery of sanitation services and supplies.
- Lead operational planning for sanitation scale-up in accessible areas.

2. Informing Strategic Decision-Making

- Use assessment data and partner inputs to guide prioritization and resource allocation.
- Provide technical advice on sanitation risks and mitigation strategies.

3. Planning and Strategy Development

- Lead the development of sanitation strategies and roadmaps in coordination with national authorities.
- Align WASH interventions with health sector outbreak preparedness plans.

4. Advocacy

- Advocate for sanitation needs in inter-cluster forums and donor briefings.
- Highlight gaps and risks to mobilize resources and policy support.

5. Monitoring and Reporting

- Support the update of 4Ws, SitReps, and dashboards to reflect sanitation activities and gaps.
- Track progress against strategic objectives and report on key indicators.

6. Preparedness and Contingency Planning

- Develop contingency plans for cholera and other disease outbreaks.
- Ensure coordination mechanisms are in place for rapid response.

5. Ways of Working

The coordinator will be embedded within the WASH Cluster team, which includes:

- Two WASH Cluster Coordinators (national and international)
- One Information Management Officer
- Assessment and Monitoring Staff

The role will work collaboratively with WHO, MOH, PWA, CMWU and other WASH partners. Field travel across Gaza will be required to support assessments, partner coordination, and monitoring.

Regular documentation, reporting, and handover planning will ensure continuity and integration with the existing team post-deployment.

Language requirements

Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish) or a local language is an asset.