

TA Requisition/TOR Form

(FOR Temporary Appointments)



UNICEF Cameroon: TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Job Title and Level: Health Officer(Emergency), NOB, Northwest & Southwest

Section: Health & HIV

Duration: 364 days

Duty Station: Buea, Cameroun

PURPOSE OF ASSIGNMENT:

The Health Officer (Emergency) reports to the Health Specialist & Emergency (Level 3)/Chief Field Office for guidance and general supervision. The Health Officer (Emergency) supports Health and HIV Humanitarian Response in the Southwest and Northwest regions.

ASSIGNMENT CONTEXT:

Cameroon is currently grappling with a multi-faceted security and sociopolitical crisis affecting six regions. Notably, the West and Littoral regions, along with the major cities of Yaoundé and Douala, are hosting a substantial number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the Northwest and Southwest regions, including many mothers and children. These IDPs often lack access to healthcare, which increases their vulnerability to diseases and the risk of premature death.

In the Northwest (NW) and Southwest (SW) regions, there are 409,173 IDPs, with a distribution of 57% in the NW and 43% in the SW, and 360,547 returnees (60% NW, 40% SW). Persistent attacks on individuals, their property, and public infrastructure, including health centers and schools, are common. Many health facilities in these regions have been destroyed, closed, or are non-functional due to insecurity, forcing healthcare providers to abandon their posts. This has severely compromised access to healthcare. Children in these areas are particularly susceptible to disease outbreaks, protection violations, abuse, and trauma. According to the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) data, there was a slight decrease of about 10% in IDP numbers between May 2019 and September 2020. Yet, 71% of health facilities remain operational, with 62% of frontline health facilities providing primary healthcare. Only about one quarter of pregnant women give birth in health facilities, and children under five have reduced access to immunization services, with one-third receiving no doses at all. The three main diseases—malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia—continue to pose significant threats, along with psychological disorders. Additionally, there is a scarcity of medicines, with prices increasing by more than 50% amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regarding water access, only 38% of assessed villages have water accessible to all, with 32% relying on piped spring water as the primary drinking source. Only 32% of villages have general access to latrines. The education system has largely collapsed, with only 13% of schools and 54% of community learning centers remaining operational. Protection and security issues are also a major concern, with villages reporting recurrent problems such as armed attacks, thefts, shootings, arbitrary detentions,

kidnappings, economic exploitation, and gender-based violence. There are also issues with unaccompanied and separated children and specific security concerns that affect women, particularly the risk of attack when traveling outside the village or within the community, which deters them from seeking care services for children aged 0-5 years.

The COVID-19 pandemic has added a new layer of complexity to the crises in Cameroon, disrupting the demand for and provision of healthcare and other services, thereby increasing the risk of morbidity and mortality. According to the National Institute of Statistics, 39% and 54% of health facilities reported decreases in deliveries and immunizations, respectively. Educational institutions, including preschools and schools, were closed for approximately four months. The pandemic heightened anxiety among 78% of the population, and awareness of government-imposed restrictive measures was uneven, with 68% of women and 79% of men being informed. Nonetheless, COVID-19 has led to improvements in hygiene practices and infection prevention control within health facilities.

In the present context of insecurity, the engagement of UNICEF through its Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) has been pivotal in the success of most its interventions. It is therefore important to commit more resources in engaging local actors for better appropriation of preventive measures and interventions rolled out while strengthening coordination activities at the regional and district levels. As part of its emergency response in the health sector, UNICEF is recruiting an emergency health specialist.

OBJECTIVE

Under the supervision of the Health Specialist & Emergency, and in close collaboration with the Health Section, the Emergency Health Officer will have primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation and monitoring of the emergency Health response in the North-West and South-West regions.

KEY FUNCTION, ACCOUNTABILITIES, AND RELATED DUTIES/TASKS

1. Provide strategic advice and manage program activities:

- Lead and provide technical support conduct health assessments in the North-West and South-West regions.
- Identify key emerging issues and needs.
- Propose strategic and operational guidance to the Field Operations and Health Departments to enhance the UNICEF emergency response in the North-West and South-West regions.
- Monitor the health emergency response, keep track of key indicators (e.g. Humanitarian Performance Monitoring + HPM indicators) and provide timely and accurate information to the Field Operations and Health Departments.
- Contribute to the writing of Health funding proposals.
- Conduct Programmatic visits to partners to monitor program implementation.

2. Facilitate coordination, both internally and externally:

- Participate in UNICEF technical coordination meetings at the centralized (Yaoundé, when applicable) and decentralized levels (North-West and South-West regions if applicable).
- Ensure that key information (e.g., strategic and emerging issues, needs) is shared on a timely and concise manner with the Field Operations and Health Departments, as well as with all other relevant departments (e.g., Protection and WASH departments).

- Participate and represent UNICEF in the decentralized coordination Health fora (e.g. governmental fora, Health Sector group meetings, OCHA meetings); In accordance with humanitarian principles and UNICEF's mandate, ensure that UNICEF health emergency programs are well known by all the stakeholders in the North-West and South-West regions
- Coordinate response in both regions, Northwest, and Southwest.

3. Strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders:

- Ensure that Partnerships with civil-society organizations are developed, reviewed, finalized, and followed up (including budget and expenditure monitoring).
- Provide technical support to UNICEF implementing partners and NGOs in developing and implementing the health emergency response.
- Monitor partnerships implementation and reporting in accordance with objectives and deliverables set out in the agreements.
- Provide technical assistance to NGOs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in the implementation of their activities.
- Document activities being implemented with support of the Partnership, Advocacy and Communication
- Implementation of strategies, reporting in line with the CCC
- Provide key high impact health interventions for mother, newborn and child which are: Protection of children aged 0 - 15 years both boys and girls against measles and vaccine preventable diseases for routine immunization; Protection of Pregnant women and newborns are against maternal and neonatal tetanus through Tetanus diphtheria vaccine; Ensuring that children under five are treated for the three-main killer in children: diarrhea with ORS and zinc, malaria with ACTs after diagnosis with a Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT), for pneumonia with amoxicillin; Protection pregnant women, mothers, and their children against malaria
- Provide weekly updates on the humanitarian response activities in the Southwest and North-West regions, and other reports as requested (Weekly, monthly sit reps, donors', bulletin reports...).

4. Oversee other duties and responsibilities as required:

- Carry out other relevant duties that may be assigned by the Chief Field Office generally and in response to unforeseen emergencies.

Indicative Assignment dates : 364 days

Supervisor: Health Specialist & Emergency

Qualifications or specialized knowledge/experience/competencies required for the assignment:

EDUCATION:

- A university degree in one of the following fields is required: public health/nutrition, pediatric health, family health, health research, global/international health, health policy and/or management, environmental health sciences, biostatistics, socio-medical, health education, epidemiology, or another relevant technical field.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- A minimum of two years of professional experience in one or more of the following areas is required: public health/nutrition planning and management, maternal and neonatal health care, or health emergency/humanitarian preparedness.
- Recognized abilities to organize and implement trainings strategic planning, situation analysis, documentation, monitoring, supervision, evaluation of health interventions, research.
- Proven skills in communication and social behavior change, networking, advocacy and negotiation.
- Experience and competencies in emergency and humanitarian responses in difficult and security compromised settings is an advantage.
- Working with a UN agency and/or other relevant actors, on programming in Health in Emergencies is an added value.
- Given the security and working context, we strongly recommend candidates from Northwest or Southwest regions.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

- Fluent in English and good working knowledge of French is required. Knowledge of another official UN language or a local language is an asset.

COMPETENCIES**Core value**

- Care
- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Accountability
- Sustainability

Core Competencies (For Staff without Supervisory Responsibilities) *

- Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (1)
- Works Collaboratively with others (1)
- Builds and Maintains Partnerships (1)
- Innovates and Embraces Change (1)
- Thinks and Acts Strategically (1)
- Drive to achieve impactful results (1)
- Manages ambiguity and complexity (1)

7. Submitted by: **Abdelkader Bacha**

Name and Title: OIC Chef Section Santé & VIH/SIDA

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

8. Review & Endorsement:

1) Reviewed by Human Resources: Marie Sagna-Nadji

Date _____ Signature _____

9. Approved by: Representative: Nadine Perrault

Date: _____ Signature: _____