

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND
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DUTY STATION: Bujumbura, Burundi
SECTION: WASH, Climate and Environment
LEVEL: P-3, Temporary Appointment
DURATION: 6 months
TITLE: WASH Emergency Specialist

PURPOSE OF POST:

As part of the L3 emergency in Burundi, UNICEF Burundi is looking to recruit a 364-day Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Emergency Specialist for its Country Office.

If you're a committed individual, a creative professional, and passionate about making a lasting difference for children, the world's leading children's rights organization would like to hear from you.

UNICEF works in some of the world’s toughest places, to reach the world’s most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfil their potential. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone.

Under the supervision of the Chief WASH, the WASH Emergency Specialist will lead and support WASH responses to humanitarian emergencies across the country.

The role of the WASH Emergency Specialist is an operational role. The selected candidate will be expected to deploy across the country to support and ensure emergency preparedness and response.

This involves ongoing contact with a broad range of UNICEF staff and responders, as well as a wide range of officials from the national authorities, to provide expertise and authoritative advice on priority actions to be taken. The incumbent contributes to designing and implementing WASH response plans regarding incident management, including identifying needs, resources, and gaps and negotiating access to common logistics facilities at the country level. He/she will work closely with the WASH sector, intersectoral (Health, Nutrition, Protection, SBC, Supply), and other UN agencies (WHO, OCHA, UNHCR, IOM and WFP).

The mission of the WASH Emergency Specialist is to coordinate WASH activities, prevent, prepare for, and rapidly respond to public health emergencies (Cholera, Mpox, floods, landslide IDPs, and other epidemic diseases) and nexus. The WASH Emergency

REPORTS TO: Chief WASH, Climate and Environment

NUMBER/LEVEL OF POSTS SUPERVISED: 0

Specialist should also support the WASH section in any other tasks contributing to achieving results for children in Burundi, both in emergency and development contexts.

On 24 July 2024, the Ministry of Health (MoH) declared an outbreak of Mpox following the confirmation of 03 cases in two districts. Since then, and as of 21 October 2024, out of a total of 1189 reported cases, three districts in the Municipality of Bujumbura have recorded 702 cases, which is 59%. The Bujumbura North district is the most affected, with 359 cases (42.0%). The striking similarities between the geographical distribution of Mpox and measles cases highlight concerns about child vulnerabilities and equity regarding actual emergencies.

Burundi is also at risk of Ebola and Marburg virus diseases. It should be recalled that after the declaration of the Marburg Virus Disease outbreak in the United Republic of Tanzania in March 2023, the Government of Burundi, through the Ministry of Public Health, developed a contingency plan to prepare for this threat. This plan was developed for three months and was aligned with the guidelines of the World Health Organization.

Rwanda, another country bordering Burundi, is facing its first outbreak of Marburg virus disease, a rare but deadly hemorrhagic fever, since September 23, 2024. Note that the border shared by Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo constitutes an epidemic zone for Mpox.

Moreover, Burundi is enduring climate-change-related natural disasters and is amongst the least prepared countries to respond to climate-change-induced shocks.

From September 2023 to August 2024, the beginning of the rainy season, more than 298,000 people (54% are women) were affected by torrential rains, floods, landslides, and the overflowing of Lake Tanganyika due to the El Niño phenomenon. These disasters destroyed or partially damaged homes, classrooms, health facilities, roads, crops, water networks, and electrical installations.

KEY FUNCTIONS, ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RELATED DUTIES/TASKS

Humanitarian WASH preparedness and response

- Leading needs assessments during emergencies and preparing evaluation reports;
- Promote continuous learning, strengthening, and scaling up in WASH for both development and humanitarian contexts through capacity building for UNICEF staff and partners;
- Led the WASH sector coordination in tight collaboration with the IPC/WASH commission and Mpox coordinator;

QUALIFICATIONS &COMPETENCIES

- An advanced university degree (Master's or higher) in one of the following fields is required: sanitary engineering, Water & sanitation engineering, civil engineering or another relevant technical field.

- Evaluate gaps and needs and propose remedial actions to ensure minimum standards are respected in terms of WASH, IPC and Water Quality;
- In collaboration with partners (UN agencies, NGOs) and local authorities, support the implementation of community response activities;
- Proactively participate in the WASH/IPC activities and provide selected guidance;
- Strengthen capacity building for the WASH and IPC WHO country office team;
- Support collaboration with another technical working sector, including logistics and communications;
- Proactively interact with the WASH/IPC experts at UNICEF RO and government authorities for follow-up and any support;
- Develop an evaluation framework to regularly review and adapt UNICEF's IPC/WASH response in HCFs and emergency response in schools and communities;
- Support the implementation of efficient, timely, rigorous, and transparent evaluation of UNICEF's WASH/IPC response to the Mpox outbreak;
- Provide technical and operational emergency support to government counterparts, NGO partners, stakeholders, UN system partners and other country office partners/donors on the application and understanding of UNICEF policies, strategies, processes and best practices in WASH to support programme implementation;
- Perform any other work required by the functional supervisor.

Programme development and planning

- Drafting WASH inputs for the situation analysis, reports and preparing donor proposals;
- Provide timely, comprehensive, and current data to inform WASH policy and programme development, planning, management, and implementation.

Programme management, monitoring and delivery of results, evaluation and reporting

- Participate in major evaluation exercises, Mpox, floods, IDP's response review meetings with government and other partners;
- Monitoring and evaluating WASH activities and supporting national government WASH sector systems;
- Participate in monitoring and evaluation exercises, programme reviews and annual sectoral reviews with government and other counterparts and prepare reports on results for required action/interventions of programme management;
- Ensure corrective actions are undertaken to address bottlenecks

Networking and partnership-building

- Build and sustain close working partnerships with government counterparts and national stakeholders through active sharing

- A minimum of five (5 years) of relevant professional experience in one or more of the following areas is required: in WASH Emergency and Development related programmes or another related area is required.
- A minimum of five years of professional experience in WASH and development-related programmes for developing countries is required.
- Proven experience in leading WASH emergency programmes in response to public health emergencies (Mpox, Cholera, Ebola, Marburg, other epidemic crisis)
- Relevant experience in a UN system agency or organization is considered an asset.
- Fluency in French and English is required. Knowledge of the duty station's local language and country context is considered an asset.

For every Child, you demonstrate...

UNICEF's Core Values of Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust and Accountability and Sustainability (CRITAS) underpin everything we do and how we do it.

Core Values

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

Core Competencies

- Builds and maintains partnerships (1)
- Demonstrates self-awareness and ethical awareness (1)
- Innovates and Embraces Change (1)
- Drives to achieve impactful results (1)
- Manages Ambiguity and complexity (1)
- Thinks and Acts Strategically (1)
- Works Collaboratively with others (1)

of information and knowledge to facilitate programme implementation and build the capacity of stakeholders to achieve WASH output results;

- Establish active and participatory partnerships with key stakeholders in WASH/IPC (Government, WHO, other UN agencies, NGOs, bilateral agencies) and interact with them at various stages of the Mpox response and review Strategic Response Plan design and implementation;
- Ensure alignment of UNICEF response with the government response plan.
- Maintain close working relationships with other UNICEF sectors, particularly Risk communication and community engagement, Health, Child Protection, and Nutrition Education, to ensure cross-sectoral integration of the WASH/IPC component of the Mpox response;
- Ensure full compliance of the WASH/IPC response with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children;
- Promote the quality of the Mpox response programme through the formulation of goals, strategies, and approaches, using results-based planning methodology and terminology;
- Bring coherence, synergy and added value to UNICEF's Mpox response process in planning and design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.