

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

Purpose	Position Emergency Specialist
Level	NO-C
Type of Contract	Temporary Appointment
Location	Mopti
Duration	364 days
Start Date	September 2024
Reporting to	Chief of Field office Mopti

PURPOSE

Mali is facing multiple crises, including insecurity in the center and north, with strong regional ramifications (especially in Liptako Gourma), inter-communal conflicts, socio-political instability, climate change, the protracted effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the crisis in Ukraine, affecting 12.9 million people. The humanitarian situation has deteriorated. 7.5 million people need a humanitarian assistance, including 3.9 million women, 5.1 million children and 1.1 million people with disabilities. Hostilities often result in grave violations of child rights including killing, maiming, recruitment and use by armed groups, as well as gender-based violence. Across the country, 1.6 million children need protection. Attacks and threats by armed groups on education infrastructure, initially limited to the central and northern regions, have now expanded to the south of the country, affecting 1,766 schools, 500,000 children and 10,000 teachers across insecure regions. In the northern and central regions, more than 96 per cent of IDPs live in areas where access to water is below the national average. Mali also has one of the highest mortality rates due to unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in Africa.

Global acute malnutrition prevalence exceeds 10 per cent in several areas; more than 275,665 children under 5 years of age are suffering from severe acute malnutrition; and food insecurity affects 3.6 million people. The country faces recurrent disease outbreaks, including measles and polio. In Mali, 4.3 million people need access to basic health services. Increasing constraints on humanitarian access are a major concern, especially in areas lacking basic social services and infrastructure.

The central regions of Mopti, Bandiagara, Douentza, Segou and San continue to be marked by a multifaceted crisis affecting people's livelihoods. Multiple attacks on villages and infrastructure, particularly schools, hostilities between armed actors, natural disasters such as floods have led to new displacements of populations within regions. According to the displacement tracking matrix (DTM) of May 2024, there were 111,577 internally displaced persons in the regions of Mopti, Bandiagara, Douentza (a decrease of 25,723 compared to December 2023 situation), and 54,681 in the regions of Segou and San (an increase of 6947 compared to December 2023 situation). Concurrently, the number of refugees, mainly from Burkina Faso, surged from 210,000 in December 2023 to 288,500 by May 2024. Many sought refuges in project-targeted locations like Koro and Douentza. Moreover, recent Nutrition SMART surveys conducted in June 2024 highlighted deteriorating conditions in several areas, particularly in those targeted by projects, where critical levels of acute

malnutrition have surpassed emergency thresholds, putting thousands of children at risk of death. The persistent rise in insecurity further exacerbates the living conditions of vulnerable populations, compounded by limited access to essential social services, including health care, and compounded by climate-related hazards. Humanitarian access remains a major challenge for the implementation of the response to populations in need because of multiple attacks, kidnappings and risks related to the presence of explosive devices. To address these issues, the humanitarian actors are working under the clusters' umbrella and sectorial groups, under the leadership of the government, to improve coordination and synergies, and to find solutions to the challenges encountered and set targets for responding appropriately to the humanitarian needs of the populations.

Considering the increasing humanitarian crisis and needs that the country continues to face including the humanitarian consequences of the COVID-19 pandemics and the wider geographical coverage of the new country programme into high-risks regions, to ensure the delivery of timely, efficient, and high-quality responses to crises and to strengthen the emergency coordination mechanisms, there is a need to maintain a consistent Emergency unit staffing in Mopti sub-national office.

UNICEF, as lead of the WASH, education and nutrition clusters and the child protection area of responsibility is ensuring an integrated and coordinated response while strengthening conflict-sensitive, gender-responsive and child-centered dimensions through its Mopti sub-national office.

Under the guidance of the Chief Field of office in close consultation with the emergency team and Bamako sections, the emergency specialist will ensure overall Emergency coordination and delivery of results in accordance with the regional emergency workplan and HAC, UNICEF's CCCs, Humanitarian response plan (HRP), Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) with a focus on centrality of Protection Strategy and humanitarian standards of child protection. The emergency specialist will provide support to UNICEF's emergency preparedness and response operations, in analysis, planning, coordination, reporting and implementation to advance the survival and well-being of children and mothers and affected communities in emergency situations.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of the UNICEF chief of field of office, in close consultation with the emergency section in Bamako and program specialists, the Emergency Specialist will be expected to perform the following functions:

Emergency Preparedness

1. Adopts adequate emergency preparedness measures through the development and updating of regional contingency plans and establishment of early warning mechanisms, to ensure effective preparedness and response to specific emergencies.

2. Participates in the formulation and development of plans of action in preparation and response to emergencies, monitors compliance of all sectors with emergency plans of action, including financial resources. Ensures coordination of the management of emergency preparedness and response.
3. Provides technical advice related to emergency preparedness and response, including on programme management related issues. Provides advice to the office in the implementation of emergency preparedness measures in the field to strengthen preparedness and response mechanisms in the country faced with impending emergencies.
4. Develops and maintains databases on regional information and ensure the flow of information and communication crucial for the planning and implementation of emergency preparedness and response management. Identifies availability of resources in emergency prone areas and establish logistics plans to be implemented during an emergency operation, to ensure a timely and effective emergency response.
5. Plans, organizes, and conducts training for the office's staff capacity building in emergencies preparedness and response. Assists in developing and conducting emergency training courses. Provides training and/or briefing, as required. Participates in other emergency training workshops in the region and builds up the emergency preparedness and response capability of UNICEF staff in the field office as well as implementing partners.

Emergency Response

1. In the event of an emergency, takes prompt action to implement the initial operational tasks relating to emergency assistance. Immediately verifies the nature and extent of the emergency with staff, government officials, other UN agencies or local organizations and media.
2. Participates and assists with assessment of local emergency and security situation affecting children and mothers in the locality, in conjunction with the Bamako Office.
3. Visits the location to conduct an initial rough assessment of the magnitude of the crisis and its implications for children and its impact on the community. Assesses the validity of the office preparedness plan and ability of the office vis-à-vis the current crisis as well as immediate and additional needs. Determines corporate priorities and an appropriate intervention (supply procurement, fund-raising and staff development) by UNICEF. Coordinates with other partners to make a rapid assessment covering priority areas as defined by the Core Commitment for Children in Emergencies. Establishes contact with community groups, government, UN agencies, media and other partners to keep abreast of emergency situations.
4. Applies the emergency preparedness and response plan as necessary and identifies urgent staffing requirements and communicate with Bamako office staff as required. Executes the timely delivery of assistance and procurement of supplies, monitors the appropriate and effective use of UNICEF resources/inputs. Identifies problems and constraints to ensure effective project delivery. Certifies the disbursement of funds, monitors expenditures and submits financial status reports. Sets up a reporting system and sends daily situation reports to concerned parties.

Emergency Project

1. Actively participates in the implementation of plans of action and workplans for emergency projects. Implements and manages project activities. Undertakes field visits to emergency project areas, to assess local conditions and monitor project progress. Makes technical decisions on project administration (e.g., activates, requests for reprogramming allocation of emergency funds). Prepares inputs for appeals and updates related to emergencies. Works with program sections and senior management to mobilize donor response and recovery/rehabilitation-related funding, including annual or multi-annual humanitarian appeals and documents (e.g., pitch documents). Communicates and advocates on the situation and needs of children through local and international media, as appropriate.
2. Identifies longer-term requirements of the emergency operation/interventions.
3. Identifies implementing/operational partners and establishes implementing arrangements. Ensures that the UNICEF support is effectively provided to the government with respect to sectoral coordination within the framework of the cluster approach and based on the Core Commitment for Children.
4. Participates in all humanitarian and recovery related forum and keeps management informed of all humanitarian developments in the country in terms of policies, strategy, situation developments, potential threats, and opportunities/issues in partnership.
5. Promotes that disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response strategies are mainstreamed in the regional office's workplans. Prepares sectoral input for the country programme documents if needed, plan of action, annual work plans, and all related documents of the office's Emergency Preparedness and Response. Contributes towards the preparation of the Situation Analysis and the Country Programme Document.

Key Results

1. Emergency preparedness is effectively arranged together with establishment of contingency plans and early warning mechanisms.
2. Emergency preparedness and response plans address gender issues that may be expected to intensify during emergencies.
3. Emergency plans of action are developed, and compliance and coordination of all sectors with the plans are implemented.
4. Technical advice on emergencies and programme management related to implementation of emergency preparedness measures are effectively provided.
5. Emergency preparedness and response, and a consistent flow of information of the humanitarian situation are effectively coordinated within the office.
6. Substantive improvements are made in the emergency preparedness and response capability of UNICEF staff and implementing partners through conduct of effective training activities.
7. Needs assessment are effectively conducted to determine priorities and an appropriate intervention by UNICEF based on the local emergency affecting children, their families and community.

8. Timely delivery of assistance and supplies is provided, urgent staffing requirements are identified, and the appropriate use of UNICEF resources is monitored for effective project delivery.
9. Inputs to Emergency appeals and project proposals are prepared.
10. Longer-term requirements of the emergency operation/interventions are determined to build a regular operational and staffing structure.
11. Continuous, effective, and strategic coordination, communication, consultation and liaison are maintained with regional State Governments, UN agencies, NGOs to support of the special needs of children and women affected by emergency situations within the framework of the Inter agency standing committee humanitarian cluster approach and based on the Core Commitments for Children in humanitarian action.
12. Management is kept informed of humanitarian developments in relevant policies, situation developments, potential threats, and opportunities/issues in the region.
13. Emergency preparedness, response and resilience strategies are mainstreamed in the region's workplans. Sectoral input is provided for all related documents for the office's Emergency Preparedness and Response, as well as for the Situation Analysis and the Country Programme Document

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

Advanced University degree in one of the following fields: social sciences, public health, nutrition, Wash, international relations, or other related disciplines. Preferably a combination of management, administration, and relevant technical fields.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Five years of progressively responsible professional work experience at the national or regional level in programme/project development, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and administration.
- At least, 2 years of Field work experience in **complex setting** and **experience in emergency response** management is required.
- The context requires working flexibility and competency to adapt to multiple operational constraints in a highly volatile and unpredictable context.

LANGUAGES

- Fluency in French and intermediate level in English are required.
- Knowing the local languages is an asset.

VALUES AND COMPETENCY REQUIRED:

<p>Core Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care • Respect • Integrity • Trust • Accountability 	<p>Core Competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurtures, Leads and Manages People (1) • Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (2) • Works Collaboratively with others (2) • Builds and Maintains Partnerships (2) • Innovates and Embraces Change (2) • Thinks and Acts Strategically (2) • Drive to achieve impactful results (2)
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Technical Knowledge

- UNICEF policies and strategy to address on national and international emergency issues, particularly relating to conflicts, natural disasters, and recovery.
- Knowledge of global humanitarian issues, specifically relating to children and women, and the current UNICEF position and approaches.
- Knowledge of UN humanitarian reform principles, international humanitarian laws.
- Knowledge of the principle of gender parity and equality.
- The UNICEF mission statement and The Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies.
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women.
- UN security operations and guidelines.

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