

Terms of Reference

WASH Officer – Maungdaw, Myanmar

MISSION LOCATION

Maungdaw, Rakhine State, Myanmar

DURATION

6 months with possibility for extension

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

On 25 August 2017, the day after the final report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State was released, Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) militants launched a series of attacks on Myanmar security forces in the northern part of Rakhine State (Maungdaw area). The ensuing security operations forced over 700,000 persons– largely stateless Rohingya – to seek safety in Bangladesh while thousands have been displaced within Rakhine State. Since the August 2017 events, humanitarian access to respond to the needs of affected communities has been significantly curtailed.

On 6 June 2018, the Government of Myanmar (GoM), UNDP and UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing a framework aimed at creating conditions for voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees from Bangladesh as well as supporting recovery and resilience-based development for the benefit of all communities living in Rakhine State. Acknowledging the conditions in Myanmar are not yet conducive to refugees' safe and dignified return and root causes of displacement are yet to be addressed, the scope of UNHCR and UNDP's support to the GoM currently focus on assessing immediate community needs, identifying priorities and implementing community-based initiatives (quick-impact projects) to improve the lives of all remaining communities in three northern townships of Rakhine State, build trust and promote social cohesion among all communities.

In that context, UNHCR requires the technical expertise of WASH Officer for its Office in Maungdaw to support identification, implementation and management of community-based Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). More specifically, he/she will be in charge of ensuring the adequate implementation of small to medium scale community based WASH activities aimed at improving communities' access to water and sanitation, including through community infrastructural works including rehabilitation/reconstruction of water points and drainage systems in due consideration to technical standards and project objectives.

AIM OF THE MISSION

- UNHCR programme in the northern part of Rakhine is implemented based on needs assessment and through a mixed-modality, i.e. direct implementation and implementation through competent partners who receive proper guidance from UNHCR.
- Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) are identified and oriented to address priority needs of communities in due consideration to the Do-No-Harm principle.
- UNHCR Field operations in the northern part of Rakhine are supported in carrying out technical needs assessments, developing strategies and projects, taking into account the current situation, local context, age and gender, culture, climate, environmental protection and available resources and skills.

MISSION OBJECTIVES

- As part of UNHCR's commitment and efforts to ensure effective implementation of the tripartite MoU, review designs and specifications for community based Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), infrastructure-related, in light of technical and economic feasibility, cost effectiveness, environmental adaptability and management sustainability;
- Technically backstop UNHCR and partners during design and implementation of community based Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), WASH infrastructure-related;
- Support in capacity building efforts for technical staff on design, supervision and management of water schemes;
- Support in development of basic guidelines, standard operating procedures and workflow schemes for community-based projects (QIPs) in the area of WASH infrastructure in coordination with other technical staff.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of Head of Field Office, the WASH Officer will:

- In consultation with UNHCR's partners, authorities and local communities themselves, identify the need for community based Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) that can benefit all communities and ensure that UNHCR operations are supported in carrying out technical needs assessments taking into account the evolving situation on the ground.
- Contribute to development of the QIP strategy taking into consideration the local context, age and gender, culture, climate, environmental protection and the availability of local resources, including materials, capacities and existing infrastructure.
- Advise on QIP activities, consultations regarding contract development and technical specifications for all WASH infrastructure-related projects
- Provide clear guidance on and ensure compliance with standards for WASH related interventions.
- Organize and provide trainings in construction techniques and practices leading to more durable solutions and drawing from local building practices and materials.
- Support UNHCR's coordination role in Maungdaw area in areas of WASH activities through engagement with partners. Together with UNHCR's implementing and operational partners, compile, analyze and map available information on WASH situation and activities.
- Ensure that specifications, bills of quantities / budget, designs for all WASH activities are produced in a technically sound and monitor programme performance to ensure works are implemented according to plans and completed within the designated timeframe.
- Promote the sustainability of technical interventions through local capacity building and self-help in collaboration with partners in the field. Ensure that local communities have been consulted on all activities so as not to create unnecessary tension among populations.
- Perform other duties as required.

PROFILE

Experience

- Undergraduate degree (equivalent of a BA/BS) in water and sanitation engineering / water resources development / civil engineering disciplines (water supply and/or hydrology) or sanitation/hygiene engineering plus minimum 6 years of previous work experience relevant to the function.
- Graduate degree (equivalent of a Master's) plus 5 years or Doctorate degree (equivalent of a PhD) plus 4 years of previous relevant work experience may also be accepted.

Essential requirements

- Prior experience of implementing WASH projects in humanitarian context and large scale emergencies coordinating with operational partners governmental technical departments.
- Prior experience in designing and implementing a community-based projects.
- Project formulation, planning, supervision and management skills.
- Proficient in basic computer softwares, including technical tools.

- Previous involvement in project implementation processes (including development of bill of quantities, analysis of local capacity and local markets, cost estimations, partner negotiation, etc.)
- Experience of WASH project management (including site supervision, monitoring, quality control, evaluation etc.) and application of participatory approaches to facilitate active participation of communities into the project cycle and into the construction process.
- Ability to develop projects/activities with political awareness and in due consideration to local context, including sensitivity to cultural and gender specific needs to ensure that the social and cultural background of the communities is taken into account while designing, developing and implementing WASH infrastructure/civil works.
- Experience in developing WASH need assessments, monitoring and evaluation.
- Experience in building on existing local capacity and transfer knowledge as appropriate.
- Demonstrated experience in organising and conducting training activities in the areas of environmental sanitation, natural resources management, water quality, bore-hole drilling, vector control and appropriate technologies.
- Ability to make the linkages to rehabilitation and development programmes will be an added advantage.
- Diverse field experience and familiarity with UNHCR activities, including knowledge of protection, are desirable.

Personal Characteristics

- Good interpersonal, communication and coordination skills;
- Excellent English language skill (writing and oral)
- High flexibility and adaptability, with capacity to manage pressures and respond to rapidly evolving environment and unforeseen requirements.
- Ability to work effectively in a team, while also undertaking required tasks independently.
- Applies cultural sensitivity in behavior and has capacity to live in hardship conditions.
- Experience in emergency and security management is an asset. Your text here