

Terms of Reference / WASH Officer, P3, Cox's Bazaar

MISSION LOCATION

Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh

DURATION

6 months

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Following militant attacks against security posts on 25 August 2017, Myanmar launched a brutal crackdown on Rohingya residents of Rakhine State, triggering the largest, swiftest refugee exodus in the region in decades, with over 720,000 fleeing across the border within several weeks. UNHCR declared a Level 3 emergency, which is expected to be reclassified as Level 2 during the first quarter of 2019.

Prior to the emergency, an estimated 300,000 Rohingya refugees were living in Cox's Bazar. Today, over 906,000 have sought safety in official and makeshift camps. Of those, 620,000 live in the congested Kutupalong "mega camp." The Rohingya are settled in a fragile area at high risk of flooding and landslides. UNHCR and partner agencies are implementing large-scale disaster risk reduction projects and the relocation of at-risk persons, while transitioning to mid-term site planning and development. Concurrently, UNHCR is addressing strains on host communities through investments in livelihoods and infrastructure.

The Rohingya are a resilient people but have acute protection needs, following decades of severe discrimination and human rights abuses in Myanmar. Restrictions on movement and scarcity of available land in Bangladesh result in overcrowded sites with a range of risks. Protection and gender mainstreaming throughout the response is key, with focus on community-based empowerment and resilience. Protection and gender focused interventions are needed to address widespread trauma, legal and physical needs, GBV, and child protection. A major operation is underway to register, biometrically enrol and issue documentation to all Rohingya refugees as a key priority in 2019. Another key priority is building the capacity of authorities to take on more responsibility for camp administration and camp management.

Bangladesh is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol. The Government does not recognise the Rohingya as refugees, referring them as "Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals." The country has generously received the Rohingya refugees on the national territory and, to date, has respected the principle of non-refoulement. The presence of huge numbers of refugees – who now represent two-thirds of the local population – has had important impacts on local communities, service delivery, the economy and the environment.

The Government sees the presence of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh as a threat to regional stability and considers return to Myanmar, as soon as possible, as the only available solution. This policy approach impacts on the humanitarian operation, with the Government discouraging medium or longer-term approaches, including the development of permanent infrastructure, providing formal education or livelihoods opportunities for the refugees and the use of cash to deliver assistance.

Interagency coordination in Bangladesh is unique, complex and differs from the Refugee Coordination Model. The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) provides overall coordination for the humanitarian operation, under the leadership of a Senior Coordinator from UNHCR. The Senior Coordinator leads a Heads of Sub-Office (HOSO) Group,

with the participation of UNHCR's Head of Operations and other agency heads in Cox's Bazar. In Dhaka, the Strategic Executive Group (SEG) brings together the UNHCR Representative, UN Resident Coordinator and IOM Chief of Mission as Co-Chairs, which provides overall direction and coordination for the operation and the principal interface with the Government's National Task Force, which is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In Cox's Bazar, UNHCR works closely the Refugee Repatriation and Relief Commissioner (RRRC), who leads the humanitarian operation for the Government of Bangladesh through the Camp-in-Charge officers working in the settlements, as well as with District Deputy Commissioner and local officials. Additionally, UNHCR works with nearly 100 international and national NGOs, the Bangladesh military, border guards and police.

UNHCR's Bangladesh operation receives a steady stream of visits from senior UN and government official, private sector donors, experts and researchers and the media. External relations and public information is an important part of UNHCR's work, both in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar.

AIM OF THE MISSION AND MAIN MISSION OBJECTIVES

The candidate will be required to manage all aspects of WASH emergency preparedness for the monsoon and cyclone seasons.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Leadership and Coordination

- Oversee the delivery of WASH services for refugees in various sites including but not limited to Choukali to meet the UNHCR standards.
- Manage national WASH team members.
- Act as a focal point for WASH issues within UNHCR operational areas as directed and liaise with UN and international agencies, Government and Non-governmental counterparts.
- Support implementation of Project Partner Agreements (PPA) for UNHCR WASH Partners. This includes Partner management, and monitoring of implementation activities on site.
- Support coordination of the activities of WASH Partners, together with other UN agencies, governmental and non-governmental counterparts and local authorities to ensure delivery of WASH services to beneficiaries meet UNHCR standards of assistance, depending on the context.
- Facilitate adoption of methodologies for monitoring and reporting.
- Provide technical support for donor visits, as required.

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

- Provide technical guidance and support to partners especially on sanitation and faecal sludge management related issues to ensure quality, cost-effectiveness, sustainability and impact soundness in their implementation and in accordance with UNHCR policies, standards and priorities.
- Facilitate capacity strengthening activities of national UNHCR WASH staff and of staff implementing/operational partners staff to address key areas of WASH importance to refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR.
- Update technical sanitation standards on a need basis and support capitalization process on sanitation field experience and feedback.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Quality Assurance

- Support the UNHCR WASH field team to supervise and monitor the field implementation of the WASH project administered directly by UNHCR and its partners in both new and existing settlements.
- Ensure that mechanisms to monitor the performance of UNHCRs partners on WASH activities in the refugee camps / settlements / host community are in place.
- Ensure that the WASH monitoring system data collection and reporting is carried out systematically, properly and timely with quality information.

Reporting

- Report regularly on WASH activity implementation by all WASH partners, while maintaining accurate records of all relevant WASH performance indicators.
- Prepare monthly sectorial reports and submit material for preparation of periodic project monitoring reports as required by the office at country level.
- WASH situation analysis

WASH Strategy, Planning and Programme Support

- Advocate, help and support the development of new policies and strategies for UNHCR in key aspects of WASH.
- Contribute to the budgeting, planning, programmatic processes and financial management of the operation in the area of WASH.
- Advise Programme staff and managers on the strategic development of WASH aspects of the Programme.
- Actively participate in drafting WASH strategies, developing and implementing work plan, indicating indicators, for any existing or newly installed refugee settlement or settlement extension identified.
- Jointly with technical staff of implementing partners and other WASH actors, update detailed needs and resource assessments and revise designs of technical plans as necessary, taking into account practical aspects of implementation, long-term sustainable solutions, and relevant technical specifications and guidelines.
- Advise and assist the UNHCR programme staff on the development of WASH aspects of the programme including budgeting and input to financial management of the programme on technical areas, when needed.

Expected Outputs

- Technical advice, coordination and oversight provided to sanitation projects.
- Technical advice, coordination and oversight provided to overall sanitation response in UNHCR area of responsibility.
- Leadership provided to Sanitation TWG.
- Development of long term WASH strategy for the Sector in collaboration with the Sanitation TWG.
- Requested reports on sanitation gaps and implementation through agreed reporting channels provided.
- Sanitation and solid waste management improved.
- Environmental impact caused by refugees' presence in hosting areas reduced.
- Perform other duties as required.

PROFILE

Essential requirements

- University degree in Water / Civil / Environmental / Engineering. Advance training in water, sanitation or public health engineering will be preferable.
- With MA degree at least 5 years and with BA degree at least 6 years of progressively responsible functions in water/ sanitary engineering or a related field in developing countries dealing with WASH facilities
- Proven experience with Project Management and ability to achieve quality results, on time, and within budget
- Proven ability to deal with multiple tasks in a courteous and service-oriented manner in demanding working conditions that often have short deadlines
- Proven technical expertise in the area of WASH including surveys, programme implementation, technical designs, monitoring and coordination
- Exposure to UNHCR mandate, its priorities and principles.

Desirable requirements

- Applied knowledge in UNHCR programme management, project formulation, programme cycles and reporting standards.
- Previous exposure to UN sector approach, preferably both at the global policy level and at the level of field implementation.
- Expertise in planning, formulation, implementation, monitoring and reporting on humanitarian operations.

Personal Characteristics and skills

- Innovative solutions and results driven, an excellent team player, fast moving forward in executing tasks without compromising quality and accuracy
- Ability towards analytical and creative thinking for rapid solutions
- High ethical and professional standards
- Good communicator with strong interpersonal and negotiations skills to deal with persons of various cultural and educational backgrounds.
- Team player with service oriented attitudes.
- Proficiency in basic computer software such as water modelling software, GIS, AutoCad.

Languages:

- Excellent knowledge of English (written / oral / comprehension) is essential.
- Working knowledge of another UN language.