



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

TERMS OF REFERENCE Hydrogeologist P3 Level

Mission

The Hydrogeologist will support the UNHCR Country Operation, in coordination with the Government and UNHCR Partner GOAL, to coordinate the provision of water services to persons of concern to UNHCR. This will include ensuring that an adequate level of water service is provided at each site in accordance with applicable UNHCR and National Standards.

Duty Station: Tongogara, Zimbabwe

Background

Tongogara Refugee Camp (TRC) is located in Chipangayi area of Chipinge District, Manicaland Province, some 550 kilometres south-east from Harare and approximately 80 km, using the main road, west of Chipinge town. The camp area falls under the agro-ecological zone five that normally experiences low amount of rainfall, on average 200 to 400 mm per year. It is mostly a dry, hot and dusty area for the better part of the year. It is accessible during dry periods, however access becomes difficult during rains and floods.

The Save River runs parallel to the Camp. However due to environmental conservation efforts, the river waters may not be used for irrigation. Agricultural activity is also not permitted in the riparian land (river bed). The camp was adapted from a centre established in the 1950's as an experimental station for agriculture for the surrounding farms. In 1980, at the time of Zimbabwe's independence, the experimental station became an assembly point for the ex-ZANU forces and was by 1981 turned into a refugee camp for over 60,000 Mozambican refugees. This lasted until the FRELIMO and RENAMO ceasefire in 1992 which saw the large-scale return of Mozambican refugees and closure of the camp in May 1995. It was re-opened in early 1998 for refugees from various parts of Africa. The camp occupies an area of about 800 hectares. A game park, which borders the camp was rehabilitated in 2012 with a perimeter electric fence in areas adjacent to the camp. This reportedly improved the security situation in the camp. However, due to prolonged lack of power on the electric fence and frequent vandalizing of the fencing wire there are still incidents of wild animals coming through the fence and encroaching in refugee residential areas especially at night, posing security threats to camp residents.

The population of the camp as of May 2019 was approximately 14,019 predominantly from DRC, Burundi, Rwanda and Mozambique. The population size reported as increasing at a rate of about 150 people per month with new arrivals. The settlement covers an approximate area of 6km² occupying a disused agricultural research station along the Sabi River within the middle reaches of the Save Catchment.

Tongogara was considerably impacted by cyclone IDA1 and as a result the WASH situation in the camp has further deteriorated. An emergency response team member was deployed for 2 months to mitigate the initial damages caused by flooding and high winds. A draft strategy was created to lay out a vision for the approach to improving water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services in the camp.

The WASH issues in the camp can be considered almost chronic with lack of both financial and HR resources by both the existing partner GOAL and also the UNHCR operation.

Water: A recent expert WASH mission from HQ further corroborated with data that an issue exists with the current water supply from 11 existing functional boreholes in terms of both quantity and also quality especially with regards to the salinity. A plan has been developed by the expert hydrogeologist to partly rectify these issues with the drilling of 2 to 3 dedicated boreholes in specific locations to deal with both quality and quantity issues using hybrid systems (solar and either existing mains power and generators). Funding exists from African Development Bank (AfDB) to support this in addition to 3 dedicated solar powered boreholes within the surrounding host community (see draft Request for Quotes and Mission report for details). It is anticipated that this activity will start in October this year to coincide with the end of the dry season and will indeed require support to set up and start a monitoring programme for an initial period of 6 months. ***A hydrogeologist who can assist the WASH implementing Partner in supervision of the drilling and establishing a monitoring system to collect groundwater data is a priority.***

Sanitation: Sanitation coverage was quite low and was further exacerbated by Cyclone Idai in March 2019 resulting with approximately only about 35% of latrines and ultimately open defecation. The latrine type used and typical in Zimbabwe is the VIP or Blair latrine at both household and institutional levels. Also within the camp large amounts of timber for cooking are imported which due its poor quality is not preferred by the refugees resulting in adoc tree harvesting to produce charcoal. A component of the AfDB budget will be to construct more latrines to reduce the gap.

Hygiene Promotion and BCC: A KAP survey was undertaken in May 2019 for the whole camp. To allow for a comprehensive BCC strategy based on evidence to change key critical poor practices it is proposed a further comprehensive KAP survey be developed using RANAS (<https://www.ranasmosler.com/>) whose main focus will be BCC only.

Environmental sustainability: Given that there are issues with groundwater salinity, flooding and also poorly managed irrigation schemes it is also proposed that a study be commissioned using recently developed surface water management guidelines developed by Arup.

Key Responsibilities

Leadership and Coordination

- Lead the delivery of WASH services for refugees to meet the UNHCR standards and / or the national WASH standards, depending on the context ***with a special focus on installation of new boreholes funded by AfDB and further hydrogeological works such as possible geophysical campaigns and further groundwater monitoring.***
- Act as a focal point for WASH issues within UNHCR and liaise with UN and international agencies, Government and Non-governmental counterparts.
- Coordinate 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.

WASH Strategy, Planning and Programme Support

- 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 specifically the AfDB funded project which has **WASH components to solarise water supplies**.
- 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.

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

- *The majority of the support will be to support UNHCR through GOAL to provide technical assistance in; more detailed site hydrogeological surveys using geophysics to site bores were solarised pumping systems will be installed; conduct down borehole camera surveys on existing functioning boreholes where no drilling records exist; develop a plan to rehabilitate existing boreholes if required; further monitor water levels and water quality in the area as salinity has been identified as a major problem; and help define extents of aquifers and the salinity therein using ground based geophysics possibly with a University in Harare.*

Monitoring, Evaluation and Quality Assurance

- Supervise and monitor the implementation of the ongoing water and irrigation projects administered directly by UNHCR and its partners.
- Ensure that mechanisms to monitor the performance of UNHCR's 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.
- Perform other duties as required.

Expected Outputs

- Technical advice, coordination and oversight provided to enable response to **immediate water needs for both camp dwellers and specific host communities for both domestic and agricultural use**.
- Regular reports on WASH gaps and implementation through UNHCR reporting channels provided.
- Improved and upgraded water supply system and infrastructure, including irrigation to serve the refugees, and if possible, also to the host communities implemented.
- Environmental impact caused by refugees' presence in hosting areas reduced.

Essential minimum qualifications, professional experience and skills

Academic:

University degree in Hydrogeology/ Water / Civil / Environmental / Engineering.

Experience:

Essential

- At least 8 years of progressively responsible functions in water/ sanitary engineering or a related field in a developing countries dealing with WASH facilities and access to water including irrigation projects.
- Proven experience with Engineering Project Management and ability to achieve quality results, on time, and within budget.
- Ability to coordinate a range of diverse actors and activities to achieve a common objective in the area of WASH.
- 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 Hydrogeology including survey, programme implementation, technical design, monitoring and coordination.
- Exposure to UNHCR mandate, its priorities and principles.

Desirable

- Good understanding of integrated water resource management, water, irrigation, wastewater and solid waste management strategies and design.
- 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 field implementation approach.
- Expertise in planning, formulation, implementation, monitoring and reporting on humanitarian operations.

Skills:

- 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.

Reporting Line

This position will report directly to the TRC head of office as the first reporting line with close oversight from programme staff from Harare and the regional WASH Officer.

Duration

6 to 12 months