

Terms of Reference

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Expert (P3-level), El Gedaref, Sudan

MISSION LOCATION

Gedaref, Sudan

DURATION

3 months

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

1. In November 2020, military confrontations between the federal and regional forces in Ethiopia's Tigray region, which borders both Sudan and Eritrea, prompted thousands of people to flee the region seeking safety in neighbouring Sudan.
2. Prior to the current emergency, East Sudan was receiving an average of 4,000 new arrivals per year, mostly from Eritrea. In the first three weeks of the Tigray crisis more than 45,000 Ethiopian crossed the border (data 30 November) who are hosted in transit sites and gradually relocated to new settlement sites such as Um RaKuba in Gedaref State.
3. The Refugee Working Group (RWG) in East Sudan is the main coordination forum for the emergency response, while the Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF) provides coordination at national level.
4. The RCF launched an inter-agency Emergency Refugee Response Plan to respond to the Ethiopia situation, to meet the urgent needs of nearly 100,000 Ethiopian refugees expected to be fleeing into Sudan.
5. Refugees have needs on all levels. Many have lost their belongings and lost ones and are in state of distress at arrival. A growing number of Unaccompanied or Separated Children arrive, who for whom specialised psychosocial support should be prioritised.
6. Currently partners in health and protection (including GBV and Child Protection) attempt to integrated mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in their work, but there is as yet no specialized MHPSS partner.
7. The existing refugee site in Kassala for Eritrean refugees have minimal services for MHPSS and limited specialized support. The new refugee sites will require setting up of mental health and psychosocial support services with clear linkage with the national health system.
8. National services for mental health and for psychosocial support in the states of Gedaref or Kassala are extremely scarce.
9. UNHCR and partners have identified the need for capacity to
 - a. support in coordinating MHPSS services as integrated within sectors
 - b. build capacity MHPSS for partners
 - c. foster links between the humanitarian situation in Gedaref and national system for MHPSS and with existing MHPSS capacity elsewhere in the country.

AIM OF THE MISSION

There are urgent immediate needs around MHPSS that should be addressed. The overall aim is to integrate MHPSS within the local humanitarian system and with the national capacity.

MISSION OBJECTIVES

1. Perform a rapid assessment of needs and resources for mental health and psychosocial support in the emergency operation. Assessment needs to be done in close collaboration with humanitarian actors in health, protection and other sectors and linking with other assessments where possible.
2. Establish a cross-sectoral technical working group for MHPSS with technical staff from various sectors and where possible existing national actors. Strong functional links with the coordination structures for health and protection are essential. Accountability and responsibility for resource allocation remains within existing sectors.
3. Organize basic MHPSS capacity building activities for a range of actors in health, protection and other sectors. This can include: workshops in psychological first aids and basic psychosocial skills.
4. Based on sectoral needs and available capacity of the deployee: provide training and technical supervision for MHPSS interventions, for example in scalable psychological interventions or integration of mental health in general health care.

5. Explore and promote links between the emergency MHPSS activities and the national system on state level. Possible links to the upcoming AMIF programme for MHPSS strengthening in Sudan (EC funded, with WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR as partners) should be explored.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of the Emergency Coordinator, the MHPSS expert will:

- Perform the assessment of needs and resources
- Set up a system for MHPSS coordination
- Provide technical support in capacity building around MHPSS
- Provide technical input for the refugee response plans and Sit Reps

PROFILE

Experience

- Experience in MHPSS responses in humanitarian contexts;
- Experience working in conflict/humanitarian contexts
- Experience in working in large scale complex humanitarian emergencies (previous working experience in Sudan or Ethiopia is an advantage);

Essential requirements

- Mental health professional (Master's degree in psychiatry or clinical psychology with six years of experience);
- In depth theoretical and practical knowledge of and the IASC Guidelines for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings and associated products (e.g., IASC Assessment toolkit, the 4Ws mapping tool, M&E framework, and the Health, Protection and CCCM booklets);
- Familiarity with Refugee Operations and the Global Compact on refugees (UN, 2018), humanitarian appeals, humanitarian response plans and common humanitarian funds;
- Firsthand experience in training and implementation of MHPSS tools such as Psychological First Aid (PFA) < mhGAP and Problem Management Plus.
- Good understanding of health and protection responses.
- For this position, fluency in English is required. Arabic is desirable.

Personal Characteristics

- Ability to work in physically and emotionally challenging context to adapt to rapidly changing contexts;
- Strong networking capacities for building constructive relationships with all humanitarian actors and national counterparts
- Willingness to serve in a capacity building role, fostering the capacities of actors on the ground;
- Ability to work independently and in collaboration with the Public Health and Protection teams;