

TERMS OF REFERENCE Sub-National WASH Sector Coordinator

SUMMARY		
Title of Assignment	Sub-National WASH Sector Coordinator	
Section	WASH	
Location	Qamishli, with travel to the field	
Duration	2 Months <i>(with possibility to extend to 3 months following an extension request)</i>	
Start date	From: 28 Feb 2021	To: 28 April 2021
Reporting to	Chief of Field Office, Qamishli	

1. BACKGROUND

Despite overall slight improvement of WASH conditions in Syria, vast WASH related needs persist in many parts of Syria¹. This situation is exacerbated in NES where investments in the sector were already low prior to the crisis and where the impact of the crisis was especially severe. Even though the combined population in NES only represents 12 per cent of the overall Syrian population, about 21 per cent (2.2 million people) of the overall number of people in need of WASH services are located there. In addition, the NES governorates host a high number of IDPs which are amongst the most vulnerable population in the country and often solely rely on humanitarian aid. Interviewees in IDP sites very often reported water insufficiency (37 per cent) or having barely enough water.²

Sanitation needs are also significantly higher among people living in these IDP sites compared to the rest of the population, with 65 per cent of households reporting issues with sanitation such as over-crowding, lack of sex segregation, cleanliness, lack of locks or lights, and harassment. Substandard conditions of sanitation facilities are particularly concerning for women and girls, due to greater risks of sexual harassment, sexual violence, humiliation, physical violence and exploitation they face and adoption of harmful menstrual hygiene behavior. In addition, a large proportion of households in these IDP sites indicated not being able to access one or multiple hygiene items in the previous month at the time of the assessment, including sanitary pads.

The Turkish offense in October 2019 in NES (Operation Peace Spring) further compounded WASH challenges in NES as several critical civilian infrastructures were damaged following military operations in the Tell Abyad-Ras al-Ain corridor. Additionally, the ongoing Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID19) pandemic, and with 14820 cases and 975 deaths reported by the Ministry of Health (as of 13 February 2021), has also impacted WASH programming and prioritization in Syria.

Against the above backdrop, the sustained implementation of a coordinated assistance remain critical in the provision of WASH services to affected communities. In this regard, the support of the sub-national WASH Sector Coordinator is crucial in ensuring effectively and timely implementation of UNICEF and partners' response to issues outlined above.

2. PURPOSE

In line with UNICEF's CCC and its mandate as WASH Sector lead in Syria (within the Government of Syria controlled areas), UNICEF has specific responsibilities to ensure continued effective WASH sector coordination to the WASH humanitarian response. Considering the scale of the humanitarian response, further complicated

¹ To adequately understand the scale and diversity of WASH needs, the overall number of people in need of WASH assistance stands at 10.7 million, which is complemented by figures presenting specific WASH needs related to water quality and quantity (5 million people), sanitation (4.7 million people), solid waste management (4.7 million people), and heavy financial burden linked with purchasing water and/or hygiene supplies (7.9 million people). In addition, the entire population of Syria (20.5 million) people relies on drinking water treatment chemicals provided by humanitarian community, and people living in IDPs last resort sites (1.2 million) require comprehensive and continued WASH assistance to survive (WASH HNO 2020).

² WASH Household Survey in IDP Sites in north-east and north-west Syria, 2019.

by the COVID19 pandemic, it is of upmost importance to ensure that UNICEF, Government and partners response is properly coordinated.

In order to ensure complement the current capacities in terms of sub sector coordination and support the effort of sustaining a sound coordination hub in Qamishli (covering the Governorates of Al Hasakeh and Ar Raqqa in North East Syria), the WASH Sector / Section is requesting surge support for a sub-national sector coordinator (FST or SBP) for an initial period of 2 months, and with possible extension of one additional month.

3. MAIN TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) Support in the appraisal and reinforcement of the sub national level sector information management capacity (including service mapping specifically for Al Hol IDP camp, NES WASH Service mapping 2021, review and refining of existing mapping tools and formats);
- b) Support the National WASH Sector coordinator on operationalisation of the National Sector Coordination ToR at the sub national level;
- c) Support the development of sub national support plan for the operationalisation of AAP and monitoring of the WASH response;
- d) Coordinate the planning and implementation of emergency humanitarian WASH sector interventions;
- e) Facilitate session (s) to sub - sector partners on Humanitarian WASH coordination³

4. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

- Advanced University degree in Civil/Water Resources Engineering, Sanitation Engineering, Geology, Hydrogeology, or other related field; combined with at least 5 years international experience in humanitarian response as well as emergency WASH coordination and WASH Cluster Coordination
OR
First level university degree in Civil/Water Resources Engineering, Sanitation Engineering, Geology, Hydrogeology, or other related field; combined with at least 7 years international experience in humanitarian response as well as emergency WASH coordination and WASH Cluster Coordination may be accepted in lieu of advanced university degree
- Experience working with government agencies, local authorities, international organizations, NGOs and communities in the field of water, sanitation and participatory approaches in health and hygiene promotion
- Fluency in English (verbal and written). Good written and spoken skills in the language of the humanitarian operation and knowledge of another UN language an asset
- Strong facilitation and coordination skills, including participatory group discussion
- Strong communication, advocacy and negotiation skills

³ Note: these sessions will aim at improving WASH sub sector partners participation to sector activities and knowledge of cluster outputs. They will focus on presenting Sector / cluster's objective and outputs (strategic orientation, harmonized technical standard and methodologies, online document repository, specific tools and template used in country), and inform partners about the inputs they are expected to provide (input to monitoring framework, participation in sector event and working groups).