

Profile: Health information management, assessment specialist

Required Qualifications

Education

Degree in medicine or advanced university degree in public health, with post-graduate studies involving health information systems management in emergencies or equivalent proven experience.

Experience

- Several years experience in epidemiology and health information systems in developing countries, with the ability to critically assess situations, conceptualize and recommend innovative remedy actions in emergency or humanitarian relief/response contexts;
- Several years experience with international organizations including UN agencies and NGOs in emergency situations dealing with rapid health assessments, health information system analysis in emergency situations and technical support for Ministries of Health and the Health Sector to respond to acute and complex emergencies;
- Proven analytical, decision-making, organizational and leadership skills, complemented by excellent interpersonal communication skills, with ability to promote consensus and negotiate in difficult situations;
- Good knowledge of the UN and NGO humanitarian community.

Personal skills

- Maturity, initiative, tact and a high sense of responsibility;
- Willingness and ability to work in hardship environment;
- Readily available for deployment in emergency situation;
- Ability to work in close collaboration with different nationalities and cultural backgrounds;
- Excellent knowledge of English or French with a good knowledge of the other. Other UN languages would be an advantage.

Terms of Reference

Overall objectives

In the context of emergency response/relief operations, contribute in promptly addressing priority health needs of populations affected by crisis.

Specific objectives

- To critically assess the impact of the emergency/crisis on human life and health status of the affected population,
- To critically assess the performance of the existing health system and services
- To critically assess the state of relief operations setting up
- To critically assess the emergency health information system
- To work in close collaboration with local and national authorities and partners to ensure the implementation of efficient activities.

Main tasks

- Critically assess threats to human life and health, damage to health infrastructure for primary and secondary care, the state of health referral and support systems, including cold chain, laboratory, essential drugs and health information systems, and the vital needs for the affected populations;
- Promote the adaptation and joint adoption of standard multisectoral rapid assessment tools;
- Conduct, coordinate and support health assessments, and map health needs to enable the development of targeted strategies for at risk populations, looking at a broad range of health and socio-economic factors, gaps and priorities;
- Establish extensive contacts with a broad range of officials at duty station, headquarters, Regional and Country Offices to provide expertise and advice, and establish contact with staff from local, regional and national health and governmental authorities, to provide expertise in the field of health information management and assessments;
- Examining the main causes of illness and death, acute malnutrition rates, the occurrence of epidemics or starvation, the presence of endemic diseases, crude and under-five mortality rates, the state of relief operations, security and accessibility of the affected territories, displacement and migration of the population, state of communications and patterns of external assistance, patterns of violence against the general population;
- Assess public health laboratory infrastructures, with a view to mapping capacity to diagnose priority diseases and foreseeable impact of epidemic-prone diseases, anticipating and evaluating priority gaps to recommend measures for the reactivation of diagnostic and outbreak verification functions;
- Provide expertise to local and national authorities in collaboration with partners and other actors to ensure the gathering, analysing and dissemination up-to-date information to facilitate interventions;
- Map vulnerable populations and catchment areas, gaps and priorities;
- Coordinate with other UN and Non-UN humanitarian agencies, which are operational at the field the collection, within the health cluster and other relevant clusters, the analysis and interpretation of data relevant to the health status of the affected population to avoid duplications, overlaps and contradictions.