

Profile: Management of chronic conditions specialist

Required Qualifications

Education

Degree in medicine and post-graduate studies involving management of chronic diseases in emergencies or equivalent proven experience.

Experience

- Several years experience in the management of chronic diseases in developing countries, with proven ability to critically assess situations, conceptualize and recommend innovative remedy actions in emergency or humanitarian relief / response contexts addressing the needs of people affected by chronic diseases;
- Several years experience with international organizations including UN agencies and NGOs in emergency situations;
- Proven analytical, decision-making, organizational and leadership skills, complemented by excellent interpersonal skills, with ability to promote consensus and to negotiate in difficult situations.

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

To contribute to reduce excess mortality and suffering of people affected by chronic diseases during the immediate aftermath of natural or man-made disasters, and over the relief phase.

Specific objectives

- To analyse the impact of the emergency/crisis on the performance of health and social services for people affected by chronic diseases in collaboration with local and national authorities and partners to ensure the delivery of the required health and social services;
- To promote the continuation of the delivery of health and social services to people affected by chronic diseases during relief operations and to prevent risk of complications resulting from the interruption of their long-term management/treatment regimes.

Main tasks

- Critically assess the state of health facilities (primary and secondary), as well as the referral and support systems and the vital needs for people affected by chronic diseases within the affected area/population;
- Establish extensive contacts with a broad range of officials at the duty station, WHO headquarters, Regional and Country Offices to provide expertise and authoritative advice, and extensive contacts with a broad range of representatives from local, regional and national health and governmental authorities, to provide expertise, as well as to advocate and successfully influence strategies and measures for reactivating essential health services as part of WHO's emergency response for relief efforts;
- Coordinate mapping and monitoring of existing stocks of chronic disease medicines and supplies, facilitating efficient and effective secondary distribution and identifying gaps and potential mismanagements;
- Promote means for timely referrals of people affected by chronic diseases to hospitals and specialist units;
- Provide technical advice for the adoption of special emergency food rations for people affected by chronic diseases;
- Audit local medical laboratories, with a view to mapping capacity to diagnose and monitor chronic diseases, anticipating and evaluating priority gaps to recommend measures for the reactivation of diagnostic and monitoring functions;
- Provide expertise to local and national authorities in collaboration with partners and other actors to ensure chronic diseases are treated according to internationally accepted protocols;
- Identify vulnerable populations and catchment areas, gaps and priorities, and elaborate plans of action and guidelines for emergency measures to reactivate essential services to address the needs of people affected by chronic diseases;
- Coordinate with other UN and Non-UN humanitarian agencies which are operational at the field health, within the health cluster and other relevant clusters for developing efficient mechanisms for managing chronic diseases in the affected population.