

Profile: Mental health and psychosocial support specialist

Required Qualifications

Education

Advanced degree in public health, behavioral science, social science, or medicine.

Experience

- Considerable experience of work with international organizations in emergency situations dealing with various aspects of mental health and psychosocial support in humanitarian settings;
- Field-based experience in programme management in humanitarian settings;
- Considerable experience of working within the health sector, particularly in low or middle income countries;
- Good knowledge about mental health and psychosocial support as emergency response (as outlined in recent IASC Guidelines);
- Good knowledge about different cultural attitudes, practices and systems of social support;
- 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

To facilitate timely and effective mental health and psychosocial support in the response phase of emergencies.

Specific objectives and tasks

- To facilitate assessments of mental health and psychosocial issues;
- To establish coordination of intersectoral mental health and psychosocial support;
- To assist in identifying and filling gaps in the field of mental health and psychosocial support;
- To assist in building national and local capacity in the field of mental health and psychosocial support.

Main tasks

- Organize orientation and training activities and supervision exercises related mental health and psychosocial support;
- Facilitate community self-help and social support projects and initiatives;
- Facilitate integration of specific psychological and social considerations in the provision of general health care;
- Ensure protection and care for people with severe mental disorders (especially among those in institutions);
- Facilitate the minimization of harm related to alcohol and other substance use;
- Provide population-wide access to information about positive coping methods;
- Initiate momentum for the development of post-emergency community-based mental health services in coordination with national and humanitarian partners.