

Profile: Public health nutrition specialist

Required Qualifications

Education

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

Experience

- Several years of experience with international organizations including UN agencies and NGOs in emergency situations dealing with various aspects of nutrition in emergencies, such as, but not limited to; assessment of nutrition in emergency situations (participation in joint UN assessment missions would be an asset); training and technical support in the management of nutrition in emergencies including preparedness and rehabilitation;
- Extensive field experience in managing emergency situations with a focus on nutrition programmes;
- 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 a timely and effective nutrition response in emergencies.

Specific objectives

- To assess the nutrition situation within a broad framework of food security, food aid, health, and water and sanitation;
- To coordinate a harmonized response that demonstrates results and impact achieved;
- To strengthen the capacity of national and local institutions and support their efforts in responding to and in ensuring the overall coordination of emergency nutrition interventions of all stakeholders;
- To work closely with the Health and Nutrition Clusters and ensure effective links with other relevant Clusters.

Main tasks

In the response phase, provide leadership and facilitate a timely and effective nutrition response. This includes:

- Coordinate timely, multi-sectoral, inter-agency rapid assessments which incorporate all the underlying causes of under-nutrition;
- Facilitate joint identification and prioritization of nutritional needs based on assessments and/or surveys;
- Map available capacities, and identify existing gaps in the response;
- Facilitate a joint plan of action, with clear accountabilities and division of labour among agencies.
- Develop performance benchmarks and a system of reporting and communication.
- Coordinate with UN partners, NGO's and national authorities to ensure adequate nutrition supplies are available, well distributed and maintained at all times.

Ensure appropriate preparedness measures are in place to mitigate the nutritional effects of an emergency. This includes:

- Work with partners and relevant country authorities to initiate/strengthen nutrition surveillance systems and integrated early warning systems;
- Map the capacity of existing stakeholders and partners, and identify gaps;
- Coordinate and deliver technical nutrition training and the necessary technical back up for implementing partners;
- Facilitate agreement on the response triggers that would determine a nutrition emergency.