

Profile: Maternal, newborn and child health/ Reproductive health (MNCH/RH) specialist

Required Qualifications

Education

Degree/diploma in nursing, midwifery or medicine. Training in public health, obstetrics/gynaecology, paediatrics or health systems and related areas of disaster and/or emergencies response will be an asset.

Experience

- Several years of experience with governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (international or national) dealing with various aspects of continuum of care services for maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) and/or the promotion of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH). Specific experience of work during conflict, crisis and emergency situations and/or displacement will be an important asset;
- Strong programme management and coordination skills to support, in each phase of crisis, conflict and displacement, the provision of continuum of care services for MNCH, and/or comprehensive SRH, the prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections including HIV; and the prevention and management of gender-based violence;
- Knowledge of packages for emergency care related to MNCH and SRH, in particular the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) and the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health in Emergencies. Experience in implementation of such packages is an asset;
- Prior participation in joint UN assessment missions during emergencies and disasters would be an asset;
- Good knowledge of the UN and NGO humanitarian community.

Personal skills

- Maturity, initiative, cultural sensitivity and a high sense of responsibility;
- Willingness and ability to work under pressure with a high degree of independence;
- Flexibility to be readily available for rapid 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 support for timely and effective responses in emergency situations to address the maternal, newborn and child health, and sexual and reproductive health needs of populations.

Specific objectives

- To act as a link between various programs to promote access to and delivery of a comprehensive approach to SRH and ensure effective linkages for the promotion of the continuum of care for MNCH;
- To assess the situation of needs and the availability, accessibility and quality of services to meet these needs;
- To identify appropriate responses on the basis of the above assessment;
- To coordinate a harmonized response that demonstrates results;
- To strengthen technical capacity of national and local institutions and support their efforts in responding to and ensuring the overall coordination of all stakeholders;
- To work through the Health Cluster ensuring effective linkages with other relevant Clusters (i.e. water and sanitation, nutrition, protection, etc).

Main tasks

Under the overall guidance of the Health Cluster or other health coordination framework, the expert will be the focal point for MNCH/SRH services in order to provide technical and managerial leadership based on updated evidence-based best practices for priority interventions. The focal point will work with partners and relevant country authorities to provide the following:

- Coordinate and provide policy and programmatic support and technical advice for promoting the continuum of care for MNCH and comprehensive SRH as essential components of an effective and integrated humanitarian health response;
- Coordinate timely, multi-sectoral, inter-agency rapid assessments to facilitate joint identification, prioritization and timing of interventions, such as, but not limited to, immunization, nutrition and access to basic and emergency obstetric care;
- Coordinate formulation of joint plan of action, with clear accountabilities and divisions of labour among partners;
- Map service availability and capacities, including functioning capacity of referral mechanisms and required skills mix of human resources (i.e. number of midwives), and identify existing gaps in the response using health cluster/interagency assessment tools;
- Strengthen or develop information systems that include necessary MNCH/SRH information, and well structured standardized monitoring and evaluation framework/toolkit that ensures the documentation of the impact on MNCH/SRH in emergency and crisis situations as part of the overall health response;
- Coordinate with UN partners, NGO's and national authorities to ensure that necessary and adequate logistics, supplies and human resources are available, well distributed and maintained at all times for the adequate provision of continuum of care services and comprehensive sexual/reproductive health programming;
- Liaise with other sectors (protection, community services, camp management, education, etc.) to ensure a multi-sectoral approach;
- Strengthen or develop and introduce national and other standardized policies or protocols for service delivery (such as health sector response to survivors of sexual violence and referral of obstetric emergencies; and, when planning for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services: syndromic case management of STI and family planning);
- Coordinate and deliver technical training and the necessary technical back up for implementing partners.