Vacancy Protection Specialist – NES

Position Title: Protection Specialist
Location: NES / Kurdistan region of Iraq (KRI)
Period: 6 months – until February 2021
Closing date: 7 September
Starting Date: As soon as possible

CONTEXT PRESENTATION: Un ponte per… (UPP) is an international humanitarian organization, based in Italy. Originally named Un Ponte Per Baghdad (A Bridge to Baghdad), the association became simply Un Ponte Per… after the extension of its work to the Balkans, as well as other Middle East and Mediterranean countries. UPP is currently active in Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Serbia and Kosovo alongside civil society organizations. In Italy and in Europe, UPP works to promote peace and disarmament, human rights, and refugees and migrants inclusion. UPP strongly rejects war as a solution to international and national conflicts, it exerts restless efforts with the ultimate objective of developing more equal and peaceful coexistence up to social cohesion.

For further information please refer to our website: www.unponteper.it/en/

BACKGROUND
Entering year 9 of the Syria crisis, conflict continues to expose civilians to acute humanitarian needs in health, and protection. In North East Syria (NES) widespread displacement, destruction of basic services and increased exposure to protection risks is on-going. In response, UPP implements health and protection programmes through funding of several donors including EU, OFDA, AICS and private funding. UPP and local partners aim is to improve the health status of the conflict-affected population with a view of building the capacity of local actors and the resilience of communities in NES.

JOB DESCRIPTION
In coordination with the relevant Desk Officer at HQ and the Protection Coordinator, the Protection Specialist will support the Protection Unit, streamlining protection principles and SoPs and building Protection capacities in the North East Syria (NES) Programmes. The Protection Specialist will also work to develop UPP Protection and Child Protection programming through creating and providing needs-based capacity building and coaching to the Protection team and to the implementing partner. The selected candidate will work closely with UPP’s Health team and partner organizations on developing coordinated, integrated services that will adequately respond to the protection needs of the most vulnerable, including children. In coordination with protection and health teams, the Protection Specialist will also ensure upholding of protection standards in health facilities through safety audits as well as technical review of tools and practices. The selected candidate will further contribute to the development of protection prevention campaigns with the aim to increase self-protection capacities of the most vulnerable among communities affected by conflict, including early marriage.
The Protection Specialist in coordination with PM and Desk guidance will provide technical input and substantially contribute to reporting (Donor, internal, ad-hoc) of monthly/interim reports, assessments and evaluations.

KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Technical backstopping
- Provide supervision and technical support to UPP’s Protection team and partner organizations to implement activities with high quality standards and in respect of international Protection standards and internal SOPs;
- Provide technical support to the implementing partners in order to strength local capacities and ensure a correct implementation of the project in line with UPP internal guidelines and donor’s requests;
- Support the design, implementation and evaluation of protection-related programming with partners;
- Provide technical advice on all issues relating to humanitarian protection, protection mainstreaming, and child protection in line with project workplan and UPP country strategy;
- Provide support to protection outreach strategy, including the implementation of awareness campaigns according to assessed needs (interpersonal violence, GBV, early marriage or other child protection issues identified);
- Devise and implement a protection M&E plan, in coordination with MEAL and technical teams for protection data collection tools, assessments and evaluations;
- Participate in the development of proposals, budgets and concept notes in coordination with Protection Desk Officer and Coordinator.

Capacity Building
- Build the child protection capacity of UPP staff and implementing local partners, with a specific focus on youth engagement, case management services and PSS activities;
- Develop and lead the roll out of internal SOPs on CP Case Management services and Youth Community Centres/ Child-Friendly Spaces;
- Promote and implement effective measures to identify, prevent and reduce protection issues;
- Oversee and contribute to the missions integrated protection and gender mainstreaming in health and other sectors through community-based protection methods;
- Develop and implement country level protection plans in coordination with Desk Officer and HoM in areas such as child protection, as part of the protection strategy.

Staff mentoring
- Support Project Managers and Protection Coordinator in the recruitment, management and supervision of UPP and partners local protection staff;
- Provide mentoring and guidance on protection issues to field staff in direct contact to persons of concern;

Monitoring & Reporting
- Undertake regular field monitoring visits to assess progress and identify technical quality issues and/or other implementation issues, provide solutions and implement modifications as required;
- Monitor protection referrals and report on incidents through working relations with program staff, partners and other stakeholders;
- Contribute to UPP data collection, child-friendly CRM and Feedback mechanisms to ensure Do No Harm and beneficiary accountability throughout the program;

Coordination & Representation
- Maintain close coordination with Project Management and technical teams;
- Liaise and maintain good relations with local partners, other INGO and with all relevant stakeholders;
- Stay abreast of developments in the area that have an impact on the protection environment and represent UPP at relevant cluster / working group and other meetings;
- Represent UPP and participate to donor meetings, upon request of HoM and/or Desk Officer;
Performing any other task relevant to the project and position assigned by the HoM and the Desk Officer.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

**Education & experience**
- University degree in Social Sciences, Social Work, Human Rights, International Affairs or related fields.
- 3+ years relevant professional experience in Community Based Protection;
- Experience in designing and delivering training programmes on protection and child protection and/or GBV in emergencies;
- Experience in delivering technical guidance such as producing protection technical documents, assessments, evaluations and reporting on protection activities/issues;
- Experience in reviewing and aligning sector tools and strategic documents in line with protection standards;

**Skills**
- Proven communication and behavioral skills to work directly with affected communities;
- Proven record of positive collaborative experience with local counterparts (CSOs, local NGOs, and others);
- Experience of planning, organizing and prioritizing work, working under pressure and matching deadlines;
- Solid Team working and management skills;
- Proactive attitude;
- Excellent computer literacy skills;
- Excellent oral and written English
- Ability to travel in the Middle East and in the EU.

**DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:**
- Prior experience of donor procedures including EU is an asset;
- Experience in Protection Mainstreaming, Child Protection Case Management services, Child-Friendly Spaces and/or PSS activities.
- Familiarity with Child Protection in Emergency related projects and tools;
- Experience delivering remote technical guidance and trainings;
- Knowledge of the Middle East context and relevant local actors;
- Knowledge of Arabic / Kurmanji is a strong asset.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Interested candidates are invited to submit a detailed CV, a brief cover letter to address the requirements above and contact information for two professional references to: vacancy@unponteper.it. Please reference “Child Protection - Name Surname” in the subject line of your email application.