



VA: PSS Specialist (Protection)

Position: PSS Specialist (Protection)

Duty Station: North East Syria (NES) / Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) or Home based (remote)

Mission: North East Syria (NES)

Period: 6 months – until February 2021

Closing date: 7 September or until filled

Starting Date: As soon as possible

CONTEXT PRESENTATION: Un ponte per (UPP) is an international humanitarian organization, with headquarters 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: 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, Protection (ProM, WPE/GBV, CP) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) programmes through funding of several donors including EU, OFDA, AICS and private funding.

UPP and local partners aim is to improve the health and psychosocial wellbeing of the conflict-affected population with a view of building the capacity of local actors and the resilience of communities in NES.

JOB DESCRIPTION

UPP is seeking a Psychosocial Support (PSS) Specialist to join its NES Mission under the NES Protection & PSS Unit. The PSS Specialist will be responsible of overseeing and providing overall technical supervision to all PSS programme components and staff, in collaboration with Protection and Health teams.

The selected candidate will lead the implementation of MHPSS activities, and ensure quality through ongoing monitoring and evaluation, with a specific focus on Protection Child Protection and GBV issues. Key tasks include remote and in-person technical supervision and leading capacity building efforts of local UPP and implementing partner staff. Lastly, they will draft a staff care plan to address key PSS needs of local UPP staff. They will also support local partners in developing their own staff care strategy.

In coordination with the relevant Desk Officer, the PSS Specialist reports to the Protection Coordinator and closely coordinates Medical Coordinator for technical matters; coordinates with Project Managers for all project related matters, and with the HoM for general matters (i.e. security, mission coordination).

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KEY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Technical Support & Supervision

- Revise and monitor the implementation of the UPP MHPSS strategy during COVID-19 outbreak;
- Ensure tools and activities are in line with MHPSS in emergency best practices and interagency standards;
- Draft and facilitate an MHPSS staff capacity assessment to inform the development of capacity building plan;
- Support the design and delivery of mental health community awareness and outreach activities
- Draft and train staff on in-person and remote group, individual PSS and PFA session SOPs;
- Collaborate and create synergies with UPP and partners technical teams to strengthen an integrated approach (GBV, CP, health);
- Conduct situational analysis to identify key MHPSS needs and gaps in UPP project locations;
- Provide technical inputs to HQ and field for the development of new proposals and strategic revisions;
- Lead on the promotion of PSEA principles through the planning and implementation of operations and strategies.

Capacity Building

- Provide remote trainings, including ToTs, to UPP and Implementing partners MHPSS, Health and Protection teams. Provide in-person training, where feasible on WHO's Problem Management Plus (PM+), MhGap other technical specialized trainings.
- Draft and deliver COVID-19 related MHPSS training, targeting different field profiles.
- Lead the development and implementation of group-based psychosocial programming
- Engage trained staff and volunteers in on the job mentoring and supervision
- Collaborate to the development of TORs and SOPs for remote PSS support during COVID-19;
- Support local capacities and GBV mainstreaming efforts in MHPSS interventions together with Protection / GBV technical specialists;
- Contextualize and supervise the implementation of MHPSS in primary health care (PHC) in humanitarian settings.

Management and Coordination

- Provide coordination and remote supervision to UPP PSS field staff in coordination with Project Managers and Protection Coordinator;
- Provide remote technical support and supervision to local implementing partners' PSS field staff;
- Strengthen an integrated community based protection (CBP) and health UPP MHPSS strategy in collaboration with Thematic Coordinators and Desk Officers;
- Create links between PSS, WPE/GBV, CP and Health teams and secure LEARN Consortium inter-sectorial synergies;
- Participate and represent UPP and local partners the MHPSS sub-working group and other MHPSS related COVID-19 Task Forces;
- With the support of interagency coordination bodies (working groups, etc.) ensure the existence of a functioning MHPSS service and referral mappings.

M&E and Reporting

- Supervise MHPSS field data collection and monthly reporting;
- Contribute to project monthly, semi-annual and final reports, in line with Consortium guidance.
- Provide regular reports on assessments and consultancy activities (i.e. training, FGDs, KII reports)



- Submit internal weekly and monthly reports for MHPSS project related matters in coordination with the Project Manager and Protection Coordinator and Medical Coordinator.

Staff care

- Draft a staff care assessment for local and field staff, to inform the development of a comprehensive staff care strategy;
- Draft and implement the staff care strategy;
- Support local partners in the process of developing their own staff care strategy.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Required Qualifications

- Master's Degree in Psychology, Social Work, Human Rights or BA in another relevant field and relevant professional certifications;
- Minimum of 4 years of experience in the humanitarian sector, preferably working with refugees or internally displaced populations; of which at least 3 years in the field of MHPSS in emergencies and/or PSS protection response;
- At least 3 years of experience in the field of MHPSS in emergencies and/or PSS protection response providing case management and PSS;
- Experience with remote staff coordination and technical supervision;
- Proven skills in capacity building of local partners;
- Strong knowledge of Protection/MHPSS M&E frameworks with demonstrated capacity and experience in conducting field level assessments;
- Experience providing quality written technical documentation (SoPs, ToR) and other technical reports (evaluations, assessments)
- Ability to travel to the Middle East. Possibility to obtain visa in KRI.

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Proven communication and behavioural skills to work directly with affected communities;
- Proven record of positive collaborative experience with local counterparts (CSOs, local NGOs, and others);
- Commitment to and comply with the organization PSEA principles & policies;
- Experience of planning, organizing and prioritizing work, working under pressure and meeting deadlines
- Solid Team working and ability to work independently in multicultural settings;
- Proactive attitude;
- Excellent oral and written English
- Excellent computer literacy skills including advanced knowledge of MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and email/internet software.

DESIRABLE

- Knowledge of Arabic and/or Kurmanji language is an asset
- Experience and knowledge of MHPSS/Protection in Syria crisis MENA is a strong asset;
- Experience working with CP cases and/or survivors of GBV.



HOW TO APPLY: Interested candidates are invited to submit a detailed CV, a brief cover letter to address the requirements above to: vacancy@unponteper.it . Please reference “PSS Specialist” in the subject line of your email application. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.