



Position: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Consultant- Country

Location: Iran- Country Office

Duration: 20 working days

Reports to: Iran Health Advisor

About RI:

Relief International is a leading non-profit organization working in 16 countries to relieve poverty, ensure the well-being, and advance dignity. We specialize in fragile settings, responding to natural disasters, humanitarian crises, and chronic poverty.

Relief International combines humanitarian and development approaches to provide immediate services while laying the groundwork for long-term impact. Our signature approach — which we call the RI Way—emphasizes local participation, an integration of services, strategic partnerships, and a focus on civic skills. In this way, we empower communities to find, design, and implement the solutions that work best for them.

Position Summary:

Addressing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) is an integral part of Relief International (RI)'s approach to the health and wellbeing of Afghan refugees in Iran. Experiences of displacement due to armed conflict, persecution, or disasters put significant psychological and social stress on individuals, families, and communities. People not only experience atrocities before or during flight, their living conditions once they have reached safety can also impose significant stress and hardship. Moreover, people with pre-existing mental health conditions often face major protection risks during forced displacement.

Relief International (RI) will implement a MHPSS pilot project in Alborz province, to assess and support family psychosocial wellbeing for school-age children. Through the pilot project, trained community health volunteers will conduct screening for 1500 Afghan children aged between 6-18 years, in 3 schools, in screening, assess children's behaviour, social competence, academic functioning and general mental well-being.

RI is seeking a MHPSS consultant to write an implementation research paper documenting the results of the screening and recommending practical actions and responses RI can undertake. The implementation research paper will consist of two parts a) a desk-based literature review and b) analysis and documentation of the RI MHPSS pilot project. The consultant will be based in Tehran and will be supervised by RI's Iran Health Advisor.

The Consultant will ensure that all data collection tools are in place.

Tasks:

1. Desk-review: Conduct a literature review of MHPSS implementation amongst school-aged children in Iran and identify gaps in existing literature (3 days)
2. Data analysis: Analyze feedback from care givers, Community volunteers and records of sessions the children had with psychologists and psychiatrists. Analysis will be based on the stated objectives for the

project, including results of psychosocial and psychological needs, identify problems/gaps and propose/prioritize timely practical actions to respond to mental health and psychosocial issues amongst school-aged children.(3 days)

3. Qualitative research: Design data collection tools (to be reviewed by RI Health Advisor and MEAL manager) and conduct qualitative research to assess various aspects of the implementation of the pilot project. Research will include:
 - In depth Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with mental health providers.
 - Key Informant Interviews (KII) with mental health providers, community volunteers, education professionals – teachers, headmasters etc. (5 days)
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4. Data Analysis: Review and analyze the primary data in relation to the secondary data and context (4 days)
5. Presentation: Presentation of the analysis internally for feedback (1 day)
6. Report writing: Write a Comprehensive Report with the following sections: based on the pilot objectives, detailing the problems around MHPSS program implementation within Afghan refugees and possible opportunities for further investigation.(4 days)

DELIVERABLES

1. Full report (20pages) with the following sections: Literature review, methodology, data analysis, limitations, findings, recommendations and possible ways forward, and bibliography
2. Presentation (digital slide deck) of findings and recommendations (summarising the full report)
3. External summary report (5 pages)

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:

- Advanced university degree in Clinical Psychology (MSc) with previous experience in research
- Minimum of 3 years of professional experience in humanitarian MHPSS work, including in emergencies and in conflict settings.
- Experience of working in Iran context and ability to maintain confidentiality at all times
- Understanding of the existing medical and mental health system in Iran, in relation to services available at different types of facility and the referral system, Knowledge of international MHPSS standards, guidelines (e.g. Sphere, IASC)
- Fluency in English and Farsi languages, both writing and speaking is desirable.

RI Values:

We uphold the Humanitarian Principles: humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and operational independence. We affirmatively engage the most vulnerable communities.

We value:

- *Inclusiveness*
- *Transparency and accountability*
- *Agility and innovation*
- *Collaboration*
- *Sustainability*

Safeguarding commitment

- Uphold and promote RI's commitment to ensuring the safeguarding and safety of the vulnerable communities we serve.
- Consistent with RI's safeguarding and protection policies, ensure all people who come into contact with Relief International are as safe as possible.

Equity and Diversity commitment

- Demonstrate sensitivity and understanding of systemic diversity and cultural differences.
- Ensure that gender equity is addressed in our staffing and programming.

How to apply.

If you are interested in this job, please email your cover letter and CV in English to tehran@ri.org and mention the <Job Title_FULL NAME> in the subject line. **Applications close on 16 June 2021**.

Due to limited resources, only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Note to external agencies, we will not be accepting CVs from third parties.

Relief International is committed to protecting our staff and the communities we work with from abuse and harm including sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

All RI contracted individuals/staff are expected to abide by our Code of Conduct.