**Title of position:** Focal Point for Health Aspects of Multi-hazard EWS

**Title of supervisor:** WMO/WHO Climate and Health Office

**Background:**

Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) are critical to public health as they protect lives and health assets in communities across the world. The health sector has vital roles to play in all aspects of MHEWS including contributing to the analyses of hazards (especially biological hazards), health vulnerabilities and health system capacities to all hazards risk assessments; development and dissemination of health-impact early warnings; public risk communication; and emergency preparedness. These health dimensions of MHEWS need to be technically developed to guide appropriate national implementation. While some guidance on health-related aspects of MHEWS is available, the current situation remains fragmented with significant gaps and health issues have not been addressed fully in current MHEWS initiatives. As the lead UN technical agencies for meteorology and health, WMO and WHO need to consolidate priority guidance and standards that can help regional and national actors to produce and communicate climate-based health warnings, appropriate training materials, and evidence to support health impact based forecasting, and increase health sector participation in global, regional and national MHEWS initiatives and programmes.

The WMO/WHO Joint office for climate and health is seeking a one to two year secondment to coordinate with technical divisions of both organizations to develop a comprehensive package of country support tools and technical assistance for the health aspects of MHEWS. In coordination with the WHO, WMO, and the WHO Thematic Platform for Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management, this groundwork will support the roll out of climate and health risk management (CHRM) toolkit in 3 selected high risk countries.

**Expected duties to include:**

* Draft the strategy and action plans for development of health aspects of MHEWS and the CHRM Toolkit
* As an affiliated project of the WHO Thematic Platform for Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management, help organize a working group and technical consultation of experts and country representatives to define the strategy and identify priorities for CHRM Toolkit
* Work towards strengthened capacity of the WMO/WHO Joint office for effective participation in global initiatives[[1]](#footnote-1) and coordinated technical activities with WHO and WMO units working on early warning systems, the WHO Thematic Platform for Health EDRM and other partners.
* Support the advancement of illustrative examples, such as developing a UNISDR-WMO-WHO collaboration on risk knowledge/understanding, risk reduction and risk management) and guidance for health aspects of MHEWS, including health impact forecasting, risk assessment, risk communication and emergency preparedness .
* Support the coordination and activities of the Global Heat Health Coordination Network
* Support the development of a training and communication package based on key climate risks (e.g. heat, storms, floods, droughts)

**Qualifications required:**

Education MSc or equivalent university degree from a recognized university or technical institute in Public Health, Environmental Science or allied sciences relevant to climate and health applications, meteorology, physics or engineering.

Experience

1. 3-5 years of relevant professional experience in public health, disaster management, humanitarian programmes or research, ideally in a local or national government setting, such as a national health agency or national meteorological service.
2. Technical expertise and experience related to health emergency and disaster risk management, infectious disease management, and environmental health;
3. Knowledge of early warning systems, and the production and application of climate and related weather, water and environmental information and services in the health sector;
4. Substantial project management skills and experience;
5. Experience in the coordination of international projects;

Other requirements

1. Strong writing skills in the preparation of proposals, reports, project briefs, etc.
2. Excellent qualitative and quantitative skills in analysis, synthesis and computing;
3. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills and ability to work in international settings with staff from various geographical regions.

Language skills

Excellent knowledge of English (spoken and written). Knowledge of other official languages of the WMO Secretariat would be an advantage. (The official languages of the Secretariat are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.)

1. (such as the Global Heat Health Information Network; HI-Weather, Climate Risk Early Warning Systems, (CREWS) and the International Network for Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems (IN-MEWS), [↑](#footnote-ref-1)