**Terms of References**

**Junior Psychologists for MHPSS COVID-19 Emergency Response**

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Program

Directorate General Health Services (DGHS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

1. **Project Rationale:**

In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, Health Department KP with the collaboration of UNICEF has designed the MHPSS COVID-19 Emergency Response. The response aims at providing standardized MHPSS services to the general community, people suffering from COVID-19, as well as their care givers through strategic communication and psychosocial interventions.

1. **Summary Description**

The MHPSS COVID-19 Emergency Response plan aims to deploy Psychologists at the DHO Office in 6 Divisions of KP i.e. Mardan, Mansehra, Swat, Kohat, D.I. Khan, and Bannu. The deployment of the Psychologists aimed at strengthening the District Health Offices for effectively and efficiently managing the MHPSS COVID-19 response at these divisions and providing psychosocial support services as required. While, the Psychologists are placed at the divisional headquarters their responsibilities spreads across all districts and communities, including newly merged districts, within the divisions concerned.

1. **Scope & Deliverables**

Psychologist shall provide psychosocial support services in the MHPSS COVID-19 Emergency Response through performance of the following duties:

* 1. **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Service Provision**

1. ***Clinical***
2. Assess and provide psychotherapeutic interventions in the context of COVID-19 emergency, by using standardized clinical protocols to a range of population including the general community, individuals infected with COVID-19, individuals suspected of being infected with COVID-19, caregivers of individuals infected with COVID-19, as well as frontline workers dedicatedly operating in the COVID-19 emergency. The services will be all inclusive regardless of gender and age segregation, and will also be available for high-risk and vulnerable population. The services will be provided to the relevant communities and clients as directed by the DHO or at the discretion of the Health Department KP. The psychologist(s) should be well trained in the following clinical areas:

* Depression
* Anxiety
* Psycho-somatic illness
* Trauma and grief resolution
* Disruptive Behavior in children
* Age related mental health problems

1. Proficiency in designing and following psychological intervention plans in collaboration with colleagues with the MHPSS Program.
2. Attend supervision meetings regularly to discuss intervention plans for the clients
3. Provide psycho-education as and when needed to the families and clients
4. Is adept at providing psychotherapeutic services via various modalities including in-person/face to face, telephone, audio/video conferencing online, etc.
5. Has the ability to conduct and manage group sessions, is well versed in the rules of group therapy
6. Is proficient in effective communication and delivery of training sessions (including Psychological First Aid for COVID-19) to healthcare professionals, other frontline workers as well as general community (lay persons)
7. ***Professional***
8. Ensure regular data compilation and data/ report sharing of MHPSS services provided (including clinical and health promotion services) with senior psychologist.
9. Able to match the interventions to the individual client needs.
10. Maintain their client files properly with all the clinical protocols duly filled and attached.
11. Assist and follow the Senior Psychologist in all the orders and duties assigned from them.
12. Guide the COVID-19 frontline workers as per need in the execution of their duties.
13. ***Health Promotion***
14. Discuss psychological care plans as needed with peers.
15. Provide support in conducting community sensitization and awareness events planned for the MHPSS COVID-19 Emergency Response.
16. Dissemination of IEC material and MHPSS messages as required by DHO office and at the discretion of Health Department.
17. Establishing liaisons with relevant COVID-19 frontline workers and health administration.
18. **Reporting**

The Psychologists shall directly be reporting to the senior psychologist of their district at the District Health Officer. The incumbent shall assist and support the senior psychologist in all MHPSS related activities in context of COVID-19 Emergency.

1. **Contracting**
2. The Senior Psychologist will be contracted by ASK Development and will work under the direct supervision of the Directorate General Health Service, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa.
3. **Time Frame**

The position is for the duration of the MHPSS COVID-19 Emergency Response plan i.e. until end March 2022. Although through biannual performance evaluations, Directorate General Health Services reserves the right to termination of services as per the evaluation results.

1. **Qualifications/Experience required**

* The candidate should have B.S. Honors/ M.Sc. Psychology with Diploma in Clinical Psychology (1 year)
* He / She should hold at least 2 years of recent experience in clinical psychology
* Have excellent management, professional communication, and report writing skills and able to develop and share success stories on regular basis
* Multilingual (Preferably Pushto, English, Urdu, &Hindko)
* Follows instructions strictly
* Should not be reluctant to field visits

**Note:** These Terms of Reference are intended only as a guide to the duties involved and may be modified to meet changing needs. The post holder will be expected to be flexible in his/her role and responsibilities to work more effectively.