

DELEGATE PROFILE

PUBLIC HEALTH IN EMERGENCIES (PHiE) DELEGATE



PROFILE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVE

Australian Red Cross deploys Public Health in Emergencies (PHiE) delegates in response to disasters (including disease outbreaks) and crises around the globe as part of IFRC Emergency response and/or Recovery Teams. At a broad level, the PHiE profile covers the areas of diarrheal diseases, vector borne diseases, maternal and child health, nutrition, field epidemiology and epidemics. Recent examples of PHiE deployments have been to the Dengue Outbreak in Vanuatu, Cholera Outbreaks in Yemen and Somaliland, and the Cox's Bazar Population Movement Operation.

The overall role of the PHiE Delegate is as follows:

- Assess the public health related needs of communities affected by disaster or crisis;
- Together with local counterpart/s, design and implement emergency public health interventions, and
- Design, implement and monitor early-to-long-term recovery programming with a focus upon strengthening community and public health systems

Due to the broad nature of the PHiE profile and its duties, we do not expect delegates to be experts in all identified areas of public health. Our aim is to source field experienced Public Health professionals, and support them to develop their skills at a broader level in line with the profile.

Standard deployments are 12 months in duration.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- In coordination with other sectors undertake emergency needs assessments, taking the lead on the public health technical areas. Assess and analyse data and ensure findings are documented and easily accessible for the emergency operations team;
- Together with local counterpart/s develop a public health response plan that balances context, capacity and broader operational goals;
- Take a strategic approach to public health intervention design in order to successfully plan for, and incorporate transitions to early recovery/long term recovery and exit;
- Work closely with RCRC movement to mobile first aid/surgical teams, field clinics and field hospitals to ensure a cohesive and coordinated approach to emergency health as a whole;
- Draw upon sector and technical knowledge to provide contextual options to mitigate specific public health risks and address needs, particularly where public health is at the core of an operation (for example an outbreak). Act as a technical focal point for meetings, planning and reporting;
- Work closely with local counterparts, and operational team members such as logistics, HR, finance and information management to ensure that response plans and transitional/recovery programming are well thought out and implemented smoothly;
- Coordinate and communicate with local government and partners, and other humanitarian agencies to ensure a holistic approach to public health and prevent gaps and/or duplication in services;
- Monitor and support the health referral program and health information system and ensure feedback relating to key public health data is provided to operational partners, UN agencies, Ministry of Health (MoH), NGO partners and other relevant sectors (protection, community services etc.) to ensure a multi sectoral approach that evolves as needed with the situation;
- Work with local counterparts and Information Management colleagues to establish secure and confidential data management systems including the collection of surveillance forms from different reporting health facilities and sites, editing and cleaning up data, and analysing/reporting the information;
- Liaise regularly with the community through local health committees and seek feedback on the community's perception of health services, promoting community involvement in all aspects of health programming;
- Take a capacity building approach to work, providing training, technical support, mentoring and dissemination as part of emergency response and recovery activities.

KEY KNOWLEDGE, QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Qualifications and experience

- University qualification in Public Health or related field including Health Promotion, International Health, Epidemiology etc. Substantial demonstrated experience in these fields in lieu of specific academic qualifications will also be considered.
- Minimum 5 years working experience in the above fields, including minimum 2 years' experience in a developing country or remote Australian context. Experience in a leadership or management role highly regarded.
- Demonstrated expertise in program design, monitoring and reporting, to cover relief, transition & recovery phases.
- Contemporary knowledge and working understanding of the humanitarian sector, and specifically public health in emergencies.

Knowledge and behavioral requirements

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills with strong ability to discuss sensitive subjects and convey complex ideas to RCRC Movement colleagues, community members, in addition to high level stakeholder communications as necessary.
- Experience in developing and delivering training courses and broader level capacity building.
- Well developed ability to assess and analyse situations and prioritise/ make decisions accordingly.
- Strong ability to be flexible and adaptable, and at ease in ambiguous and high intensity environments.
- Culturally competent with an excellent ability to work effectively as part of multicultural teams and engage in a respectful, considerate manner with local staff and communities.