



**Title:** Psychosocial Support Specialist  
**Reports to:** JRS/USA Director of Programs  
**Place:** Washington, DC, USA  
**Starting Date:** September 2018

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **Psychosocial Support Specialist**

#### **Jesuit Refugee Service/USA**

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organization with a mission to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. JRS undertakes services at national and regional levels with the support of an international office in Rome. JRS works in more than 50 countries worldwide to meet the educational, health, psycho-social and emergency needs of more than 630,000 refugees and other forcibly displaced persons regardless of race, ethnic origin or religious beliefs.

#### **Job Description**

In 2017, JRS's mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programs served 164,383 people representing about a quarter of the total people served globally by JRS. MHPSS is one of the core programs of JRS and is closely linked with improved outcomes in other core interventions in education, livelihoods and emergency assistance. JRS implements MHPSS programs in urban areas, detentions centers, and camps to strengthen coping mechanisms and build relationships among refugees, asylum seekers, internally-displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Under the direct supervision of the Director of Programs, the Psychosocial Support Specialist will oversee and provide technical oversight of all areas of MHPSS at JRS. In particular, the incumbent will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Collaborate with the Director of Programs in the development of a global JRS MHPSS strategy in line with all JRS programs.

- In collaboration with key JRS stakeholders and advisors and in accordance with our strategic framework, improve mainstreaming of psychosocial approaches into JRS programming.
- Develop with Communications, Advocacy, and Development departments strategies to share JRS MHPSS interventions and activities with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Assist the Programs staff across different regions in implementing needs assessments, writing proposals, reporting, and evaluating MHPSS programming, as well as implementing the IASC Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for MHPSS Programs in Emergency Settings.
- Ensure that MHPSS staff from across JRS are up-to-date and aligned with international standards and best practice in MHPSS.
- Build staff and organizational capacity and learning in MHPSS at project, country and regional levels.
- Ensure that JRS is an active member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Reference Group on MHPSS in Emergencies.
- Represent JRS externally to a wide range of stakeholders and build relationships with other actors in the MHPSS field.
- Stay up to date on current issues, trends and best practice in the MHPSS field.
- Assist in the hiring of national and international staff working in MHPSS-related programs.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- MA or PhD in social work, counseling or psychology with 3-4 years working experience; or a bachelor's degree with 5-6 years working experience.
- Previous NGO project management including Monitoring and Evaluation experience within the context of MHPSS is required.
- Previous experience or demonstrated interest in humanitarian assistance or international development is required.
- Strong organizational and supervisory skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Excellent proficiency in written and verbal English, a second language (French or Spanish) is desirable.
- Excellent communication and presentation capacities and the ability to persuasively articulate JRS's message.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work in a multi-cultural, international, high-energy professional environment.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to relate to and motivate local staff effectively.
- Ability to exercise sound judgment and make decisions independently.
- Strong analytical, strategic-thinking and planning capabilities.
- Ability to innovate in a changing environment and promote creativity within the organization.
- Understanding of and commitment to humanitarian relief work and international humanitarian standards.
- Advanced computer proficiencies in MS Office packages.

### **Required Core Values**

- Commitment to JRS's mission, vision and values; the ability to convey with enthusiasm JRS's role in accompanying and serving forcibly displaced people and advocating for their right to protection and a life in dignity.
- High integrity, honesty and confidentiality; ability to deal tactfully and discreetly with people, situations and information.
- Acceptance of diversity and inclusion as a core value; willingness to work in flexible, sub-optimal and multi-cultural environments.

### **Travel**

The position requires regular travel to JRS locations at region, country, and project level.

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Applicants are requested to submit the following documents to [liana.tepperman@jrsusa.org](mailto:liana.tepperman@jrsusa.org):

1. Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resume including three (3) professional references with contact information, phone, and email address.
2. A cover letter describing the candidate's desire and motivation to work for JRS and how her/his qualifications and experience meet the requirements for this position.

**The vacancy will close on September 7, 2018, however candidates will be considered on a rolling basis and the position may be filled before the closing date.**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.