WASH TECHNICAL AUTHOR

Guidance Series Consultant | REDR UK JOB PROFILE

redr uk
people and skills for disaster relief

7 DEC 2026 – 7 JUN 2027 | HYBRID (OR REMOTE)



REDR UK - JOB PROFILE

JOB TITLE	WASH Technical Author – Guidance Series Consultant
RESPONSIBLE TO	Associate Director
LOCATION	Hybrid (or Remote)
PERIOD	7th Dec 2026 – 7th Jun 2027
GRADE & SALARY	Associate (please provide your daily rate along with the application)

ABOUT THIS ROLE

RedR's Engineering in Emergencies handbook is a practical how-to guide for people working in disaster and crisis settings, helping teams plan and deliver safe, effective engineering solutions when conditions are tough and resources are limited. It has been a critical reference around the world for years, but the context and the challenges have evolved, so the current text needs to change too. We're looking for a Technical Author to build on the significant efforts which have already been made and consolidate our existing material, and incorporate new resources, to produce 6 clear guidance notes that help practitioners use the latest thinking and lessons learned.

We are looking for a sector leading WASH expert consultant to produce 6 x concise, practical and technically robust guidance notes for publication by RedR.

The Guidance Notes would follow the structure of the Engineering in Emergencies Book structure.

- *Emergency Sanitation*
- *Water source development*
- *Emergency water supply*
- *Water storage, treatment and distribution*
- *Pumps*

A separate introductory note would set out the purpose, scope and structure of the series.

SCOPE OF WORK

- Review the existing Engineering in Emergencies chapter material and relevant supporting information already developed.
- Synthesise this into a 10-page technical document focused on the key engineering principles, practical considerations and good practice relevant to humanitarian settings.
- Ensure the content is technically sound, concise and usable by practitioners, rather than attempting to reproduce the full handbook chapter.
- Identify where illustrations, diagrams or other visual material are required.
- Produce simple hand sketches or concepts sufficient to brief the illustrator/graphic designer.
- Produce example calculations to assist users in this process
- Identify and propose three appropriately qualified technical reviewers for the note (supported by RedR existing network)
- Support circulation of the draft for technical review.
- Review and incorporate relevant comments from the peer-review process into the final technical draft.
- Submit a final agreed technical version to RedR for design and publication.
- Deliver weekly progress update meeting to Associate Director.

TIMESCALES

- 6 Technical guidance notes will be complete and publicised by 7th June 2027.
- The consultant would be expected to develop a programme to deliver approximately 1 technical guidance note per month, for review and publication from mid January.
- Two weeks should be allowed for each stage of peer review.
- Reviewer comments will subsequently be incorporated into the final technical draft

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

The applicant will require:

- Strong technical knowledge and practical experience covering the areas addressed by the series, including water source development, emergency water supply, water storage, water treatment and distribution, and pumps.
- Understand the engineering constraints associated with emergency and humanitarian contexts and be able to distinguish essential engineering principles from unnecessary technical detail.

- Have demonstrated ability to review and synthesise complex technical material into clear, concise and practical guidance.
- Be able to communicate technical concepts clearly to a mixed practitioner audience.
- Be able to produce simple technical sketches or concepts to inform professional illustration and graphic design.
- Have experience of technical peer review and be able to identify suitable reviewers and incorporate review comments constructively.
- Be able to work independently to a defined scope and timetable while collaborating effectively with RedR.
- Have extensive practical experience working in humanitarian settings.

REDR RESPONSIBILITIES

RedR will:

- Provide access to the existing Engineering in Emergencies material and supporting documentation.
- Agree the scope and overall structure of each guidance note.
- Support the review process where required.
- Take the approved technical draft and turn it into a professionally presented guidance note.
- Coordinate final graphic design and illustration.
- Publish and distribute the completed guidance notes digitally, including through the RedR website.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please send a CV and cover letter outlining your suitability for this role to <hr@redr.org.uk> by 1st December. Your application should also include your daily rate and an estimated number of dates to complete the work, alongside an outline workplan.

We will be conducting rolling applications from 23rd November and anticipate a start date of 7th December.

Due to the number of anticipated applicants, we will only be able to reply to shortlisted applicants.

ABOUT REDR

RedR strengthens the capacity of the humanitarian system to prepare, respond, and recover from disasters worldwide. Founded in 1980 with deep heritage in engineering, we have spent 45 years building humanitarian capacity through three core activities: training, technical assistance, and systems-level change through convening and sharing.

Our Vision – A world in which sufficient competent and committed personnel are available and responding to humanitarian needs.

Our Mission – To strengthen the capacity and resilience of aid workers, communities and organisations in humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding contexts.

Our Values

- Collaboration: Work together towards shared goals
- Excellence: Continually improve through listening and innovation
- Lifelong Learning: Never stop learning
- Integrity: Be honest, fair and speak up
- Accountability: Do what we say we will

OUR WORK

RedR's work strengthens the ability of people, organisations and systems to prepare for, respond to and recover from crises. Our work addresses major humanitarian challenges stemming from conflict and displacement, hunger and malnutrition, climate-related disasters, environmental pressures, inequality and protection risks.

OUR APPROACH

At the highest level, these services are intended to help humanitarian actors anticipate risk, make better decisions, protect people more effectively and sustain quality action in complex and changing environments. They support stronger local and national leadership, more resilient organisations and a humanitarian system that learns, adapts and collaborates to meet needs more effectively. We strengthen capacity through:

- **Convening and Sharing –** Synthesising sector insights to provide thought leadership, facilitate forums, and influence standards across the humanitarian sector.
- **Training Programmes –** Multi-modal delivery including face-to-face, simulations, online facilitated, e-modules, and self-paced learning, coaching and mentoring.

- **Technical Assistance –** Delivering contextualised solutions, guidance frameworks, and advisory services.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2025-27

Strengthening Resilience
Building capacity to mitigate crisis impact on vulnerable populations through enhanced technical expertise and localised solutions.

Innovation in Learning
Expanding digital transformation capabilities, e-learning scalability and developing leading training methodologies, leveraging technology to reach broader audiences with contextualised content.

Localisation Leadership
Advancing power-shifting initiatives by strengthening local and national actors, building strategic partnerships with local institutions, and advocating for sectoral change.

Systems-Level Impact
Influencing humanitarian standards, contributing to policy frameworks, and creating consensus across the sector through our unique position at the intersection of practitioners, technical experts, and academia