



Health Referent - Infectious Diseases (Paediatrics)

Candidate Information Pack

2026

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Introduction



UK-Med is the most deployed Emergency Medical Team globally, responding to complex humanitarian healthcare emergencies at speed and scale. We have expanded significantly over the last few years and have an ambitious strategy in place for growth.

The world is experiencing an unprecedented level of humanitarian need. Natural disasters, disease outbreaks and conflict can hit at any time. The people affected are often the poorest and most vulnerable and the health problems they experience post-disaster are long-lasting. We believe that they deserve the highest quality emergency medical aid. We seek to save lives, but also to build resilient health systems so that people can lead healthy lives in the future.

At UK-Med, we work together to:

- **Respond** rapidly to emergencies, delivering the expertise needed to support local health services and save people's lives.
- **Prepare** health staff through training and capacity building, enabling health services to be better prepared for emergencies.
- **Learn** and share learning worldwide through our academic partners, ensuring patients get the best care.

Since late February 2022, we have been responding to calls for help with the crisis in Ukraine. We now have programmes across Ukraine including surgical support, health clinics, and emergency preparedness training. More than 30,000 people have already received direct support or training from UK-Med as a result.

In June 2022, we were awarded EMT (Emergency Medical Team) status by the World Health Organization. A month later, we were formally appointed to provide EMT services for the UK government. As such we are at the front line of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's response to humanitarian crises and can also respond to any crisis, anywhere in the world, under our own banner.

In February 2023, UK-Med deployed the UK Emergency Medical Team field hospital to Turkey in response to the earthquakes there. Since launching our response in Gaza in late 2024, we have created two field hospitals within the Gaza strip and supported surgical departments in several locations. Over 1,000,000 patient consultations benefiting from UK-Med's treatment so far.

UK-Med Chief Executive Officer

David Wightwick

Advert

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| Role: | Health Referent Infectious Diseases (Paediatrics) |
| Hours: | Zero-hours, ad-hoc engagement. Work is entirely demand-led and may range from periods of no activity to short-term or intermittent assignments, depending on operational needs. |
| Remuneration: | Up to £195 GBP gross per day (dependent on experience, qualifications, and registrations) |
| Duration: | Open – ended |
| Location: | Hybrid working with potential travel to Manchester UK-Med Office and deployment to any of the UK-Med responses. |

Can you use your health expertise to shape our humanitarian health response?

UK-Med is a frontline medical aid charity. Born of the NHS, we've been working for over 30 years towards a world where everyone has the healthcare they need when crises or disasters hit.

We are seeking an experienced health professional to join us as a part-time **Health Referent – Infectious Disease (Paediatrics)**, strengthening the expertise within our core Health Team. As UK-Med has grown, so too has the need to embed specialist technical expertise within the organisation on an ongoing basis.

In this role, you will bring specialist knowledge in paediatric infectious diseases to ensure UK-Med's programme design and implementation remain aligned with current best practice.

As a Health Referent, you will provide clinical and technical expertise through:

- Advising and guiding health teams in humanitarian contexts in planning and delivery
- Supporting the development of SoPs, policies, and guidance within your area of expertise
- Designing and delivering capacity-building initiatives (e.g. training, online learning, coaching) for UK-Med personnel and partners (e.g. Ministry of Health, NGOs)
- Contributing to recruitment processes, including shaping role descriptions, person specifications, and interview materials
- Supporting programme design and proposal development linked to your expertise
- Contributing to quality assurance and after-action reviews of health activities

Our ideal candidate will be a highly skilled health professional with significant experience in humanitarian health responses, particularly in paediatric infectious diseases. You will be flexible in responding to urgent needs, while also able to deliver against longer-term priorities independently.

We expect the successful candidate to have a strong interest in deploying into UK-Med's emergency health responses, particularly infectious disease outbreaks.

We offer competitive remuneration and benefits, a supportive working environment, and the opportunity to make a meaningful impact through your work.

How to apply

To apply, please submit a **current CV and a supporting letter** (2 pages) that includes a detailed explanation of your suitability for this post with **specific reference to the essential criteria** in the person specification.

Applications must be submitted through our [online jobs portal](#) no later than **Monday 1st of June 2026**

Please note that this is a rolling recruitment process. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis and hiring manager will review applications as they are received, decisions may be made at any time if a suitable candidate is identified.

Applications for work in the UK can only be accepted from people with an existing right to work in the UK.

UK-Med is committed to safeguarding of our personnel and beneficiaries and has a zero-tolerance approach to sexual exploitation and abuse. We conduct thorough vetting before any appointment is confirmed.

UK-Med is committed to the principles of diversity, equality, and inclusion. We strive to provide an inclusive and supportive environment where employees feel respected and supported to be able to fulfil their potential.

Applications for work in the UK can only be accepted from people with an existing right to work in the UK.

About UK-Med

UK-Med (www.uk-med.org)

We train and deploy medical teams and specialists to save lives when epidemics, conflict and natural disasters hit. As disasters grow more frequent, severe and complex there has never been a greater need to respond quickly and effectively. We believe in a world prepared to help.

It started in 1988 with a team of eight Manchester clinicians led by our founder Tony Redmond, when a huge earthquake ripped through Armenia. Teams continued to deploy throughout the 1990's and 2000s, and when Ebola struck West Africa in 2014 UK-Med stepped up. We recruited and trained the one hundred and fifty UK clinicians who worked alongside local medical teams, other NGOs and DFID to bring the outbreak under control.

UK-Med has deployed teams to a range of countries and crises including Cape Verde, China, Gaza, Haiti, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Jordan, Kosovo, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Bangladesh. Our teams have undertaken a range of work on deployment including general medical care, trauma and surgical care, outbreak response and training of local healthcare staff.

UK-Med Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

People affected by epidemics, conflict and natural disasters receive high-quality emergency medical care.

Mission

To provide high-quality essential health care in response to natural and man-made disasters.

Values:

Excellence – The emergency medical care and training we provide is of the highest standard, recognised by both the World Health Organisation and UK government.

Accountable – Our patients, colleagues, partners and donors are at the core of what we do.

Professional – We work to professional standards and interact in a professional manner.

Collaborative – We work with partners and other medical teams to ensure people affected by disasters receive the best possible care.

Effective – We work where the need is greatest, adapting our actions to the specific context.

Altruistic – Saving lives and alleviating suffering is our drive.

Job Description

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| Job Title | Health Referent Infectious Diseases (Paediatrics) |
| Reports to | Senior Health Advisor Outbreak |
| Duration | Open – ended |
| Hours | Zero -hours, ad-hoc engagement. Work is entirely demand-led and may range from periods of no activity to short-term or intermittent assignments, depending on operational needs. |
| Place of work | Hybrid working with potential travel to Manchester UK-Med Office and deployment to any of the UK-Med responses. |

Purpose of role

This role is designed to balance strong infectious disease expertise (complex Infectious diseases) with robust paediatric experience, alongside operational and humanitarian competencies in UK-Med and UK EMT health programmes responses. The successful candidate will be expected to translate technical knowledge into practical, field-adapted solutions and support deployable health responses. The role will ensure that paediatric considerations are effectively integrated into infectious disease responses and service delivery models, in line with WHO EMT standards.

Key responsibilities

Supporting field teams

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| 1 | Provide accessible, high-quality technical advice to field teams managing infectious diseases, including paediatric populations, across outpatient, inpatient, and stabilisation/referral care models. Support clinical decision-making, including triage, case identification, stabilisation, and referral pathways in resource-limited and outbreak settings. |
| 2 | Ensure integration of paediatric considerations into IPC measures, patient flow, and zoning (e.g., cohorting, isolation, red/green zones) within EMT responses and outbreak response facilities. |
| 3 | Contribute to UK-Med health strategy proposals/adaptations to enhance the health of infants, children and adolescents by promoting excellence in the diagnosis, management and prevention of infectious diseases through clinical care, education, research expert advice. |

Programme and proposal design and development

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| 4 | Contribute to the implementation of context-adapted models of care for infectious diseases affecting children, including outpatient, inpatient, and referral pathways, in the design of ID paediatric health programming, in close collaboration with the health technical advisor in this field |
| 5 | Support implementation of WHO EMT and HID standards, including defining measurable objectives and operational indicators for paediatric infectious disease components. |

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| 6 | To contribute to develop and implement highly Infectious disease standards to EMT teams in line with best practice and standards, aiming at Classification of the HID EMT, , bringing expert input to the design process in the field of Paediatric ID. |
| 7 | To contribute to proposals and bids, including having technical discussions with representatives of donors, delivery partners, Ministries of Health and WHO, if required. |
| 8 | To design operational plans, SoPs for interventions (including clinical SoPs if appropriate) and other tools to support operational activities (e.g., templates). |
| Quality and standards | |
| 7 | To set quality standards including clear definition of quality measures, monitoring process and timelines |
| 8 | To monitor and review quality of UK-Med / UK EMT activities and outputs in responses with regard to the area of Paediatrics infectious disease care, participating in the introduction / improvement of the collection and analysis of epidemiological new-born and paediatric data. |
| 9 | Design and deliver context-adapted training and mentoring on infectious disease management in paediatric populations, including bedside teaching, simulation-based learning, and remote technical support. |
| 10 | To Participate in sessions and events that contribute to the learning, feedback and/or reviews efforts following deployments. |
| Personnel | |
| 11 | To contribute to role descriptions, person specifications and selection processes for technical health roles in responses and at HQ level. |
| 12 | To support performance review and provide technical expertise to employee relations cases where technical performance is a factor, in the specific field of expertise. |
| Field work – to be offered on occasion | |
| 13 | To participate in health assessment teams and advance teams for UK-Med and/or the UK EMT, where Paediatrics and/or ID is an area of the response. |
| 14 | Deploy, when required, as part of EMT or advisory teams, providing direct technical and/or clinical support in infectious disease responses, including outbreak settings. |
| 15 | Ensure integration of paediatric considerations across key outbreak response pillars, including case management, IPC, WASH, RCCE, etc., aligned with WHO EMT Minimum Standards and Humanitarian Inclusion Standards (HID). |
| Safeguarding | |
| 1 | To comply with and uphold UK-Med safeguarding policies (including child protection, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, bullying and harassment) and all Codes of Conduct. |
| 2 | To report all possible breaches of policy or Codes of Conduct through the appropriate channels in a timely fashion. |
| General duties | |

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| 3 | To ensure and promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in line with UK-Med's EDI Policy. |
| 4 | To comply with all financial and procurement policies and procedures, including those relating to anti-bribery, anti-terrorism, and anti-slavery. |
| 5 | To support UK-Med's environmental policies and procedures, taking personal responsibility for contributing to reducing negative environmental impacts. |
| 6 | To comply with all health and safety policies and procedures |
| 7 | To undertake training and comply with vetting and health requirements (including CRB / police checks, referencing, health screening and vaccination requirements) appropriate to the role as specified by UK-Med. |
| 8 | To treat all people including colleagues, patients and other beneficiaries, volunteers, partner staff and the general public with respect and ensure their dignity in interactions with you and UK-Med. |
| 9 | Other tasks as might be required to ensure effective delivery of UK-Med deployments, projects and programmes of work |

Person Specification

Health Referent – Infectious Diseases (Paediatrics)

| Qualifications / Professional Memberships | | |
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| 1 | Medical degree with current professional registration (and relevant national regulatory body for health profession in the country of practise, residence or nationality.) | Essential |
| 2 | Minimum 5+ years post-registration clinical experience in paediatric care, with a strong focus on paediatric infectious diseases and outbreak response. Candidates must be on, or have completed, a recognised paediatric specialist training pathway (e.g. accredited by a Paediatric Infectious Disease Society), with experience providing technical guidance or leadership in paediatric care. | Essential |
| 3 | Demonstrable experience in infectious diseases, including clinical and/or operational experience managing infectious diseases in paediatric populations | Essential |
| 4 | Additional advanced qualifications and trainings, or membership of professional bodies and institutions within the field of Paediatrics Infectious Diseases (sub-specialties) | Desirable |
| 5 | A higher degree in global health or other related discipline or equivalent experience (e.g., Diploma level for training in tropical medicine and/or infectious diseases from a recognised training provider) | Highly Desirable |
| Knowledge, Skills and Experience | | |
| 6 | Broad clinical experience managing infectious diseases affecting paediatric populations, with childhood pathogens (example: as Respiratory syncytial virus, influenza virus, HIV, TB, malaria, Staphylococcal aureus, streptococcal infections, fungal infections, resistant bacterial pathogens, childhood diarrheal pathogens, and others). | Essential |
| 7 | Work experience in the area of diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of paediatric infections. | Essential |
| 8 | Knowledge or experience in the field of childhood vaccine development and testing is an asset. | Desirable |
| 9 | Experience in Antimicrobial Stewardship (ASP) strategies to enhance paediatric patient outcomes and diagnostic stewardship is an asset. | Desirable |
| 10 | Previous experience of managing, supervising or supporting health teams and programmes, ideally in humanitarian health settings. | Desirable |
| 11 | Experienced in writing and reviewing effective policies, protocols and standard operating procedures | Highly Desirable |

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| 12 | Ability to organise work to meet deadlines, including urgent responsive work on demand and at short notice. | Essential |
| 13 | Excellent communication skills and able to quickly build trust and rapport with a range of stakeholders | Essential |
| 14 | Excellent English language skills, including written, spoken and comprehension | Essential |
| 15 | Sound understanding of relevant clinical roles and career pathways in both UK NHS and humanitarian sector | Desirable |
| 16 | Experience working in resource-limited settings and/or humanitarian contexts And Experience in emergency health response and/or outbreak response | Highly Desirable |
| 17 | Familiarity with WHO EMT standards and/or infectious disease outbreak frameworks | Desirable |
| 18 | Experience of contributing to the development and delivery of staff development, training and capacity building | Essential |
| 19 | Willingness and ability to deploy internationally at short notice | Highly Desirable |
| 20 | Strong interest in, and availability for, deployment to infectious disease outbreak responses. | Highly Desirable |
| 21 | Additional languages particularly French, Spanish, or Arabic | Desirable |
| Personal Attributes | | |
| 21 | Flexible and adaptable with the ability to respond to changing situations | Essential |
| 22 | Works well with colleagues both internally and externally and takes a collaborative approach | Essential |
| 23 | Self-motivated and able to work with minimal supervision. | Essential |
| 24 | A creative problem-solver with excellent attention to detail | Essential |
| 25 | A good decision-maker, able to take effective, considered and timely decisions by gathering and evaluating relevant information | Essential |
| 26 | Works independently within area of responsibility and knows when to involve others | Essential |
| 27 | Applies technical and professional expertise to the highest standards | Essential |
| 28 | Able to prioritise workload and manage competing deadlines. | Essential |
| 29 | Willingness and suitability to deploy into humanitarian emergencies as MEAL focal point in support of programmatic setup and bridge gaps. | Essential |

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| 30 | Ability to travel nationally and internationally to any of the UK-Med response including Ukraine and / or to various field offices. | Essential |
| 31 | Willingness to work some weekends and evenings to contribute programme delivery and organisational priorities. | Essential |

Key terms and benefits

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| Salary: | Up to £195 GBP gross per day (dependent on experience, qualifications, and registrations) |
| Working hours: | Zero-hours, ad-hoc engagement. Work is entirely demand-led and may range from periods of no activity to short-term or intermittent assignments, depending on operational needs. |
| Deployment: | You may be required to spend time overseas in our international programmes of work. You must be fit to deploy and agree to undertake medical assessments to confirm this fitness. |
| Safeguarding: | To follow UK-Med safeguarding practices as required within the role. |
| Professional requirements: | Current registration / certification to practice as paediatric infectious diseases medical doctor from an accredited and relevant national regulatory body for health profession in the country of practise, residence or nationality. |
| Term of contract: | Open ended |

UK-MED

Building a world
prepared to help