



UN VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

Preamble:

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers.

In most cultures volunteerism is deeply embedded in long-established, ancient traditions of sharing and support within the communities. In this context, UN Volunteers take part in various forms of volunteerism and play a role in development and peace together with co-workers, host agencies and local communities.

In all assignments, UN Volunteers promote volunteerism through their action and conduct. Engaging in volunteer activity can effectively and positively enrich their understanding of local and social realities, as well as create a bridge between themselves and the people in their host community. This will make the time they spend as UN Volunteers even more rewarding and productive.

1. UNV Assignment Title: Programme Officer - Human Rights & HIV

UNV PRSF, Outcome 2 'Delivery and use of basic services enhanced at sub-national levels through volunteerism'

2. Type of Assignment: International UN Volunteer

3. Project Title: Supporting enabling legal environment for HIV affected communities

4. Duration: March 2013-March 2014

5. Location, Country: New Delhi

6. Expected Starting Date: March/April 2013

7. Brief Project Description: Punitive laws or Laws that impede effective HIV responses have gained considerable importance over the last decade. International and National efforts on HIV are seriously hampered by the social and legal environment of law and enforcement of law that in turn have a deterrent effect on HIV services. The project aims to bridge the knowledge on the implications of such laws, recommendations to their standard and appropriate interpretation at all levels, capacity building of stakeholders, advocacy to change and creating awareness.

8. Host Agency/Host Institute: UNDP

9. Organizational Context:

UNDP India supports the Government of India to to understand and respond to the development dimensions of HIV and health, complementing the health sector work of other UN partners. The HIV and Development unit supports the National AIDS Control Program, Government of India to reduce HIV and AIDS among vulnerable groups and uphold the rights of the marginalized communities, including sexual minorities and people living with HIV. UNDP has advocated for laws and regulations that protect against discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS and vulnerable groups. UNDP is embarking on the new country programme (2013-17) where policy advisory services, partnership development have been identified as the key strategies to achieve the programmatic goal of improved access to stigma free HIV services for the affected populations.

10. Type of Assignment Place: Assignment without family (HPC specific)

United Nations Volunteers

PO Box 260 111 53153 Bonn Germany Telephone +49.228.815-2000 Fax +49.228.815-2001

Email information@unvolunteers.org <http://www.unvolunteers.org>

UN Volunteers is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



11. Description of tasks:

Under the direct supervision of Assistant Country Director, HIV and Development Unit, the UN Volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

Punitive Laws: conceptualizing an advocacy and convening strategy to promote the removal of punitive laws essential for HIV prevention for men who have sex with men, transgender, injecting drug users and sex workers. This will be part of a larger decriminalization and HIV prevention strategy that involves the other project in the HIV unit on stigma, human rights and sexual minorities.

Access to medicines: India as a strategy is going ahead with universal health coverage for all those who need it. One of the most important conditionality for achieving this goal is universal access to affordable (low cost) and effective medicines. In this regard the issue of Intellectual property rights and patents in an environment of trade agreements are one of challenges the country faces with its public health goal. Keeping pace with the developments on the issues with relationship with multilateral and bilateral trade agreements will be a necessary strategy

Documentation of rights violations against MSM, TG, sex workers: Providing technical assistance to the monitoring and management of an initiative to document rights violations against MSM, TG, sex workers, and taking a lead in the projects that advance strategic litigation strategies.

Legal issues in transgender health: conceptualizing an advocacy, and convening strategy to advance transgender health by addressing the issues of legal gender status change and legal identity.

The program officer will work with grantees on designing and implementing advocacy materials and campaigns targeting government officials, donors, and the media

Convening: the program officer will, as appropriate, convene meetings and seminars at a national, regional, and/or international level that promote legal and human rights issues related to access to treatment, sexual health and rights

Supporting the recruitment and management of external consultants to assist with the above work as needed

Traveling to relevant meetings and representing UNDP as appropriate.

Preparing background papers, literature reviews, and information searches

Promotion of the United Nations Volunteers Programme mandate¹

UN volunteers are expected to integrate the UN Volunteers Programme mandate within their assignment as well as promote voluntary action through engagement with communities (urban & rural) during the course of their work. As such UN volunteers should dedicate a proportion of their working week to the following in support of and in synergy with his/her primary role as UNV Programme Officer:

- Strengthen knowledge and understanding of the influence and impact of voluntary action by communities in Sri Lanka through the following:
 - research of the subject matter,
 - develop knowledge of non-profit community based organizations developing new or applying traditional methods in engaging with communities,
 - undertake awareness-raising (promotion) activities for increased community participation and action,

¹The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme was created by the General Assembly (GA) in 1970 through GA resolution [26/59](#). Since then, UNV's mandate has been expanded by GA resolution [31/131](#) in 1976, GA resolution [56/38](#) in 2001 and others in the follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers in 2001.



- encourage local people to volunteer thought and action to enhancing their community.
- Build relationships with a wide range (private/public) local organizations, groups or individuals and support and/or participate in community driven voluntary activities and assist them to tell their stories to the World Volunteer Web site;
- Encourage, mobilize and support co-workers and fellow UN volunteers to better understand the connections between community participation and voluntarism;
- Monitor on a continual basis the impact of policy reform on voluntary action at the community level;
- Contribute to articles/write-ups on the findings from the monitoring process and experiences from the above outlined activities and submit them to UNV publications/websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.;
- Promote and/or advise local groups in the use of OV (online volunteering), and encourage relevant local individuals and groups to use OV whenever technically possible.

12. Results/Expected Output:

- Knowledge base and advocacy agenda
- Recommendations to change/amend/interpret impeding laws with a global perspective and reflections
- Actionable advocacy strategy for the next 2 years
- A final statement of achievements towards volunteerism for development during the assignment, such as reporting on the number of volunteers mobilized, activities participated in and capacities developed.

13. Qualifications/Requirements:

- A university law degree
- Demonstrated commitment to using law progressively to advance public health and human rights objectives.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.
- Ability to work efficiently under pressure and on a wide range of tasks
- Sensitivity to issues of marginalized groups like men who have sex with men, transgender, sex workers, people living with HIV etc.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Willingness to undertake state travel in India
- Ability to listen and communicate clearly and effectively with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds

Competencies and values:

- **Integrity and professionalism:** demonstrated expertise in area of specialty and ability to apply good judgment; high degree of autonomy, personal initiative and ability to take ownership; willingness to accept wide responsibilities and ability to work independently under established procedures in a politically sensitive environment, while exercising discretion, impartiality and neutrality; ability to manage information objectively, accurately and confidentially; responsive and client-oriented;
- **Commitment to continuous learning:** initiative and willingness to learn new skills and stay abreast of new developments in area of expertise; ability to adapt to changes in work environment;
- **Planning and organizing:** effective organizational and problem-solving skills and ability to manage a large volume of work in an efficient and timely manner; ability to establish priorities and to plan, coordinate and monitor (own) work; ability to work under pressure, with conflicting deadlines, and to handle multiple concurrent projects/activities;
- **Teamwork and respect for diversity:** ability to operate effectively across organizational boundaries; ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and harmonious working relations in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity and gender;
- **Communication:** proven interpersonal skills; good spoken and written communication skills, including ability to prepare clear and concise reports; ability to conduct presentations, articulate options



and positions concisely; ability to make and defend recommendations; ability to communicate and empathize with staff (including national staff), military personnel, volunteers, counterparts and local interlocutors coming from very diverse backgrounds; capacity to transfer information and knowledge to a wide range of different target groups;

- **Flexibility, adaptability, and ability** and willingness to operate independently in austere, remote and potentially hazardous environments for protracted periods, involving physical hardship and little comfort, and including possible extensive travel within the area of operations; willingness to transfer to other duty stations within area of operations as may be necessary;
- **Genuine commitment towards the principles of voluntary engagement**, which includes solidarity, compassion, reciprocity and self-reliance; and commitment towards the UN core values.

14. Living Conditions:

New Delhi is the capital city of India and is one of the fastest growing cities in the world. Home to a population of 14 million, the city is made up of Old Delhi and New Delhi. New Delhi is a cosmopolitan city due to the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural presence of the vast Indian bureaucracy and political system. The climate of New Delhi is a monsoon-influenced humid subtropical climate with high variation between summer and winter, in terms of both temperatures and rainfall. The temperature varies from 40 °C (104 °F) in summers to around 7 °C (45 °F) in winters.

15. Conditions of Service

A 6- months contract; monthly volunteer living allowance (VLA) intended to cover housing, basic needs and utilities, equivalent to US\$1796 (single rate); settling-in-grant (if applicable); life, health, and permanent disability insurance; return airfares (if applicable); resettlement allowance for satisfactory service.

Description of Assignment prepared by the Project Manager/UN Agency: Ms. Alka Narang, Assistant Country Director, UNDP, India

Date: 23rd January 2013

Description of Assignment approved by UNV Country Office Team/Support Office: Gul Berry, UNV Programme Associate, New Delhi, India

Date: 23rd January 2013