



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.

General

Assignment title:	Programme Assistant – Gender Portfolio
UN Host Entity:	UNDP
Country of assignment:	Sri Lanka
Duty station:	Colombo
Family / non-family duty station:	Family Duty Station
Volunteer category:	International UN University Volunteer
Duration:	5 months
Expected starting date:	20 September 2022
Sustainable Development Goal:	5. Gender Equality

Details

Organization mission and objectives

For over five decades, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has worked in close partnership with the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) to provide strategic support in crisis prevention and recovery, governance, poverty reduction, environment, and sustainable development. In light of Sri Lanka's post-conflict economic development trajectory, the drive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda, and, more recently, the shocks to the country due to the Easter Attacks and the COVID-19 pandemic, the GoSL and UNDP have been working in tandem to address key national development challenges.

To support the UNDP Country Office (CO) in addressing these complex development challenges, UNDP's Policy and Engagement (P&E) team consists of several central service functions which cut across the UNDP CO, UN agencies, the Government and other stakeholders, and facilitate a whole-of-society and whole-of-Government approach:

- Innovation – Realising and advocating for UNDP Sri Lanka's investments in design thinking, experimentation, implementation and integration, whilst providing a platform for innovation through the Citra Social Innovation Lab.
- Communications – Promoting UNDP's work to external partners, positioning CO visibility, as well as facilitating in-house communications within the CO.
- Partnerships – Scanning horizons for likeminded stakeholders to forge strategic partnerships to advance & accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.
- SDG Policy – SDG Integration among all UN Agencies, Economic Intelligence Analysis and Innovative Financing Advisory.
- Gender – Ensure a gender lens on all interventions, considering gender mainstreaming cuts across all UNDP's project and programmes

Assignment context

UNDP gender portfolio will have a strong component of eliminating SGBV and empowering women to combat IPV and other forms of violence against them. (SDG 5.2 indicators). This component will include strategies: i. formulate a national action plan (NAP) to address SGBV in Sri Lanka, ii. Capacitate the state and non-state agencies to implement the NAP and achieve the SDG 5.2 indicators, iii. Facilitate on line resource/repository for agency access for capacity building, promotional activities, awareness raising, iv. Support the NAP monitoring process and an information flow , v. Use the international events/days to highlight the need for zero violence and the key action carried out through the NAP.

Task description

The volunteer is expected to support the Gender Portfolio of UNDP. In specific, support is needed for three key outputs: i. Develop a repository of existing IEC promotional material on zero violence collected in collaboration and coordination with different agencies/CSOs working to address SGBV in Sri Lanka at all levels, ii. Innovative support to the UNDP 16 days activism 2022 and also UNDP collaboration with the Forum Against GBV, iii. Documentation of the 16 days activism work carried out by UNDP in collaboration with different partners.

Under the direct supervision of Gender Specialist UNDP, the UN University Volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

1. Develop a repository of existing IEC promotional material on zero violence
2. Support to the UNDP 16 days activism 2022 programme
3. Documentation of the 16 days activism work

Furthermore, UN Volunteers are required to:

- Strengthen their knowledge and understanding of the concept of volunteerism by reading relevant UNV and external publications and take active part in UNV activities (for instance in events that mark International Volunteer Day);
- Be acquainted with and build on traditional and/or local forms of volunteerism in the host country;
- Reflect on the type and quality of voluntary action that they are undertaking, including participation in ongoing reflection activities;
- Contribute articles/write-ups on field experiences and submit them for UNV publications/websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.;
- Assist with the UNV Buddy Programme for newly-arrived UN Volunteers;
- Promote or advise local groups in the use of online volunteering, or encourage relevant local individuals and organizations to use the UNV Online Volunteering service whenever technically possible.

Requirements

Required education level Secondary Education

Minimum experience 0 years

Area(s) of expertise: Currently studying towards a degree in Gender Studies or other relevant field.

Living conditions

Sri Lanka is an island nation located off the south coast of India. It's home to an estimated population of over 21 million people. It is a multi- ethnic, multi- cultural and multi- religious country. Colombo is situated in the Western Province of Sri Lanka and is the commercial capital of the country. The city is located on the west coast of the island, adjacent to the administrative capital, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte. Bandaranaike International Airport is located 35km from Colombo and is served by the main international airlines.

Sri Lanka is a tropical country with moderate temperate and high humidity all throughout the year. Average temperature in Colombo ranges between 27 and 30 degrees Celsius. The island experiences two main monsoon seasons, where heavy rainfalls occur, from May to August and October to January.

Sri Lankan food is characterized by fragrant spices, all forms of coconut, and rice. Rice and curry are the main dishes. Sri Lankan cuisine tends to be quite spicy.

There are hotels and other types of accommodation options available in Colombo. Supermarkets, banking and medical facilities are present within the city. Telephone and Internet service is widely available. Phone plans and data are inexpensive; however, you should not expect internet service to work consistently or at high speed.

Sri Lanka became a member of the United Nations on 14 December 1955.