



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:	Research Associate, for Local Climate Adaptation Living (LoCAL), Facility programme
UN Host Entity:	United Nations Capital Development Fund
Country of assignment:	Nepal
Duty station:	Kathmandu [NPL]
Family / non-family duty station:	Family Duty Station
Volunteer category:	International UN University Volunteer
Duration:	5 months
Expected starting date:	20 September 2023
Sustainable Development Goal:	13. Climate Action

Details

T. +49 (0) 228-815 2000
F. +49 (0) 228-815 2001

A. Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
W. www.unv.org

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Organization mission and objectives

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is the United Nations' flagship catalytic financing entity for the world's 46 Least Developed Countries (LDCs). With its unique capital mandate and focus on the LDCs, UNCDF works to invest and catalyse capital to support these countries in achieving the sustainable growth and inclusiveness envisioned by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Doha Programme of Action for the least developed countries, 2022–2031.

UNCDF builds partnerships with other UN organizations, as well as private and public sector actors, to achieve greater impact in development; specifically by unlocking additional resources and strengthening financing mechanisms and systems contributing to transformation pathways, focusing on such development themes as green economy, digitalization, urbanization, inclusive economies, gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

A hybrid development finance institution and development agency, UNCDF uses a combination of capital instruments (deployment, financial & business advisory and catalysation) and development instruments (technical assistance, capacity development, policy advice, advocacy, thought leadership, and market analysis and scoping) which are applied across five priority areas (inclusive digital economies, local transformative finance, women's economic empowerment, climate, energy & biodiversity finance, and sustainable food systems finance).

Assignment context

UNCDF has worked in Nepal since 1984, channelling technical assistance and capital investment in several thematic areas, emerging from its mandate from the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to assist LDCs in the development of their economies. Nepal is one of the most vulnerable country in terms of climate-related risks. Nepal has suffered from the impacts of increased frequency of extreme weather events, such as landslides, floods and droughts resulting in the loss of human lives as well as high social and economic costs.

The Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) was established by UNCDF to promote climate change–resilient communities and local economies, and has evolved into a standard, internationally recognized country-based mechanism to channel climate finance to local governments in least developed countries (LDCs). It seeks to contribute through local governments to country achievement of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals – particularly poverty eradication (SDG 1), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) and climate action (SDG 13). First piloted in Bhutan and Cambodia in 2011 with support from the GCCA and the EU, LoCAL has been deployed across 14 countries and over 100 local governments, with more country initiatives under preparation. The collective lessons learned from linking performance-based climate resilience grants, capacity building support in climate change related areas and support to core systems and procedures on handling of climate change investments, eligible expenditures, etc. have been collected and documented in a set of guidelines now approved by the UNFCCC.

LoCAL is engaged in 31 countries, and helps to coordinate public policies for adaptation and decentralization. It gives the choice to those most affected by climate change impacts to adapt to new conditions, to test new practices and to live with

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dignity. LoCAL also makes it possible to increase the level of funds made available to local communities. The assignment will be closely linked to the roll out of the LoCAL programme in Nepal.

Task description

Under the direct supervision of UNCDF Programme Officer, the UN University Volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

- Support UNCDF's Country Office Nepal team in carrying out the preparatory activities to roll out the Local Climate Adaptive Living (LoCAL) Facility programme in Nepal;
- Support the review of municipalities' gaps and opportunities to build sustainable climate resilient investments and climate actions adapting to climate change impacts;
- Contribute to research and review initiatives undertaken in Nepal in promoting green jobs, climate change adaptation interventions; community level interventions building resilience of communities;
- Support the team research good practices in integrating climate change adaptation into local governments' planning and budgeting systems and analyse trends in the area of National Adaptation Plan, National Determined Contribution implementation at the local level;
- Assist the review of related policies preparation of knowledge products on initiatives UNCDF's interventions and on the reporting of the same.
- Participate in related meetings and take note of follow up actions.
- Participate in online related learning courses offered by the programme.
- Support the write up of articles related to events and initiatives undertaken and contribute to quarterly reporting.
- Any other tasks as may be required relating to UNCDF's interventions in country.

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 Environmental Science, Development Studies or other relevant field.

Skills and experience description

- Demonstrated interest and/or experience in Climate Change research, climate finance, development finance.
- Previous experience as a volunteer and/or experience of another culture, (i.e. studies, volunteer work, internship) would be highly regarded;

Language skills

English mandatory optional
 basic fair working knowledge fluent mother tongue

Competencies and Values

- Accountability
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Building Trust
- Client Orientation
- Commitment and Motivation
- Commitment to Continuous Learning
- Communication
- Creativity
- Empowering Others
- Ethics and Values
- Integrity
- Judgement and Decision-making
- Knowledge Sharing
- Leadership
- Managing Performance
- Planning and Organizing

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- Professionalism
- Respect for Diversity
- Self-Management
- Technological Awareness
- Vision
- Working in Teams

Driving license needed: **No**

Living conditions

The UNV will be placed in the UNCDF Country Office in Kathmandu Nepal and will work alongside the country office team. The UNV may be required to travel to pilot municipalities accompanying the country team as and when required. Should unforeseen exigencies such as the pandemic affect travel, due considerations will be made to allow the UNV to work from home.

Name of Hiring Manager: Sophie De Coninck

Title, Department: Global Programme Manager, LoCAL, Local Transformative Finance

Email of hiring manager: sophie.de.coninck@uncdf.org

Name of supervisor: Pragyan Joshi

Title, Department: Programme Office, Local Transformative Finance

Email of supervisor: pragyan.joshi@uncdf.org