



UN YOUTH 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 Youth 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 Youth 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: UN Youth Volunteer Technical Assistant

2. Type of Assignment: International UN Youth Volunteer

3. Project Title: Slum upgrading in the city of Cuenca

4. Duration: 12 months

5. Location, Country: Cuenca, Ecuador

6. Expected Starting Date: Feb/Mar 2015

7. Brief Project Description:

The Project aims to technically support the Municipality of Cuenca in the implementation of ten pilot projects of slum upgrading in the city suburbs.

8. Host Agency/Host Institute: United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

9. Organizational Context:

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations Agency with the mandate of the UN Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. The Agency in the country owns an agenda with several national governmental counterparts and local governments in two mainly areas: 1) Technical support for institutional capacity building and policy and normative process at national and local level, to promote and guarantee housing, basic services, city and habitat rights, and; 2) Technical support for the elaboration of tools and methodologies at local and national level, in urban planning, land management and urban design under the principles of environmental sustainability and equity.

The Municipality of Cuenca is one of the local counterparts of the Agency in the country. For this project, which involves providing technical assistance in slum upgrading and supporting the update of the Territorial and Development Planning, the assignment will be in close coordination with the areas of territorial planning, urban design and decentralization of the Municipality.

10. Type of Assignment Place: Assignment without family

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>

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11. Description of tasks:

Under the direct supervision of the Planning Unit of the Municipality of Cuenca and of the Habitat Programme Manager (UN-Habitat) the UN Youth Volunteer, as part of the team for the project, will undertake the following tasks:

- Supporting the organization and implementation of workshops between the Municipality and the community of neighborhoods, and other workshops or meetings required by the project;
- Assisting in the development of technical materials that will be used during the project as tools, manuals, and capacity building methodologies;
- Supporting the Planning Unit in the preparation of technical reports of the project;
- Participating in the monitoring of the goals established for each intervention of the neighborhoods, taking into account the indicators previously defined;
- Preparation of the aid memoirs/reports of the meetings and workshops where the UN Volunteer will participate;
- Contributing to the identification of lessons learned of the project and recommendations for a new phase of implementation;
- Creation and / or strengthening a network of contacts with organizations, groups or individuals and support local and / or participate in national volunteer initiatives included those related to the global campaigns of UN- Habitat;
- Organization of at least one workshop in coordination with UNV FU, for UN- Habitat partners on areas that are of common interest for both agencies;
- To promote, mobilize and support partners, UNV volunteers and local community members to participate proactively in developing a voluntary basis.

12. Results/Expected Output:

- Technical reports of project progress;
- Reports of the monitoring of the goals established for each intervention of the neighborhoods and recommendations to improve the project's implementation;
- Aid memoirs of the meetings and workshops where the UN Volunteer will participate;
- Draft document with the identification of lessons learned of the project and recommendations for a new phase of implementation;
- 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;
- Preparation of bi-monthly reports on the implementation of activities.
- At least one training workshop organized in coordination with UNV FU, to train UN – Habitat partners in areas of common interest.

13. Qualifications/Requirements:

- University degree in architecture, political science, sociology, economic or related field.
- Demonstrated interest in the field of local development, urban/ territorial planning, urban management, urban design or related;
- Motivated to contribute towards peace and development and to serve others;
- Good interpersonal, networking and communication skills;
- Willingness to contribute and work as part of a team;
- Flexible and open to learning and new experiences;
- Respect for diversity and adaptability to other cultures, environments and living conditions;
- Fluency in spoken and written Spanish;
- Previous experience as a volunteer and/or experience of another culture, (i.e. studies, volunteer work, internship) would be highly regarded;
- Computer skill

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14. Learning expectations

Learning and development are a central part of the UN Youth Volunteer's assignment and take place before, during and after his or her assignment in the field. Ideally, offering diverse opportunities for learning and development aim to strengthen the volunteer's skills and competences, improve the quality of the assignment and keep the volunteer's motivation high.

Learning elements for the UN Youth Volunteer include the development of:

- Professional skills: including specific competencies and reflection on assignment-related abilities; and on-the-job skills such as time management, problem solving, team building; and career preparedness such as interview skills, CV preparation, job searching.
- Inter-personal skills: including communication and listening skills; multi-cultural awareness and cultural competency; and conflict and stress management.
- Volunteering-related skills: including leadership; civic responsibility; and engagement and active participation.

Beyond the learning opportunities provided by UNV, host agencies are expected to support knowledge and capacity development in the technical areas that are relevant to the UN Youth Volunteer's assignment. Host agencies are also expected to provide, at their expense, UN Youth Volunteers with equal opportunity to participate in training courses and workshops offered to the host agency's personnel.

Furthermore, the UN Youth Volunteer is encouraged to:

- Strengthen the knowledge and understanding of the concept of volunteerism by reading relevant UNV and external publications and taking active part in UNV events.
- Be acquainted with and build on traditional and/or local forms of volunteerism in the 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 volunteering experiences and submit them to the team at UNVHQs for consideration (beyond other communications responsibilities), and input to the UNV publications/websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.;
- Assist with the UNV Buddy Programme for newly-arrived UN Youth 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.

15. Living Conditions:

The volunteer's place of the assignment will be in Cuenca city, the capital of the Azuay Province. Cuenca is the third city of Ecuador and it's located in the Andes Region at about 2,500 m altitude. The temperature ranges from 10 to 25° C (50 to 70° F). The city has two seasons, dry season (summer) and a rainy season (winter).

As in other cities of the country, in Cuenca there are full accesses to medical and educational services. Transport, banking and telecommunications services are also guaranteed. The city doesn't present problems in terms of safety; however, it has normal levels of crime. The overall security conditions are guaranteed by the rules established by the UN.

16. Conditions of Service

A 12-months contract; monthly volunteer living allowance (VLA) intended to cover housing, basic needs and utilities, equivalent to US\$ 1,449, settling-in-grant (if applicable); life, health, and permanent disability insurance; return airfares (if applicable); resettlement allowance for satisfactory service.



17. How to apply:

This modality aims to mobilize Youth between 23 and 29 years old. Since this UN Youth Volunteer assignment is funded by AECID, only Spanish nationals can apply.

If you are not a candidate in the UNV database, please apply by registering your profile through the following link:

<http://ereta.unv.org/html/index.php?module=myprofile&ad=YTH14ECU000572>

Important : Once you have created your UNV account and after validating your email address, please complete all sections of your profile and make sure the correct advertisement code '**YTH14ECU000572**' is selected in the 'Special Recruitment' tab of MyProfile. Your application can only be considered once you have clicked on the green 'Submit My Profile' button. As a confirmation of your successful registration, you will receive an email with your UNV roster number.

If you already are a candidate in the UNV database, please update your profile through: <http://MyProfile.unv.org> and select the code '**YTH14ECU000572**' from the drop down list in the 'Special Recruitment' tab.

Please take note of the **closing date indicated in the general instructions in AECID's website in order to apply to these Youth UNV assignments**. Profiles of interested applicants must be fully registered in the UNV database of candidates before such date. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.