

UN VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

THAR000252--Advisor in Capacity building for expanding midwifery services

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 Information

Country of Assignment	Thailand
Host Institute	United Nations Population Fund
Volunteer Category	International Specialist
Number of Volunteer	1
Duration	12 months
Expected Starting Date	Immediate
Duty Station	Bangkok [THA]
Assignment Place	Family Duty Station
Assignment Place Remark	

Living Conditions

Bangkok allowed basic living needs, including accommodation, banking facilities, medical facilities and telecommunications/internet services are readily available. All staple foods can be found in the markets, eg: rice, meat, vegetables, fruit, cooking oil, salt, etc. Many imported goods are available in Bangkok and other places throughout Thailand. Bangkok has many good restaurants with good health standards and most guesthouses provide food. In Thailand the most used means of transportation are taxi or local bus (and, in Bangkok, the elevated train service). Mobile phone is the most dependable tool to be in-touch with colleagues and friends. Internet service is readily available and affordable at most apartment complexes. ATMs are everywhere in Thailand and Western cards can usually be used to withdraw Thai Baht.

For those with children, schooling options in Bangkok are to be well evaluated and determined before taking your children at duty station. School fees and area really depends on your preferences. Admission fee for school in Thailand ranges from \$3,000 - \$9,000 and tuition fee from \$5,500 - \$25,533 (per annum). Depending on educational quality and the area which comes with price tags, you may need to explore more on schools to find out what they could offer that serves the needs of your children. No specific allocation is available for schooling and Volunteers will need to bare the entire costs.

Assignment Details

Assignment Title

Advisor in Capacity building for expanding midwifery services

Organizational Context & Project Description

Significant progress has been made in recent years in reducing maternal and child mortality with substantial improvements across key indicators since 1990. During the MDG era, the global under-five mortality rate (U5MR) fell by 53 per cent between 1990 and 2015, and the global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) declined by 44 per cent; although these reductions are short of the targeted two thirds reduction for U5MR and 75 per cent fall for MMR. As a result, the SDGs will keep the spotlight on the unfinished agenda of ending preventable maternal, newborn and child mortality.

Midwifery is a key element of SRMNH care and midwifery practice has contributed to significant reductions in maternal and infant mortality. Midwives are regarded to be essential in achieving high quality maternal and neonatal care in all setting in all countries. Midwives play a vital role in the safe delivery of babies, but also do much more in supporting and caring for women and newborns during pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, labour, and the post-partum/postnatal periods. Midwives promote woman-centred care and the well-being of women and newborns across the continuum of sexual, reproductive, maternal, and newborn health (SRMNH).

Education, regulation, and professional associations are the Three Pillars of a strong midwifery profession and are all crucial to support health workers in delivering quality midwifery care. Education ensures a highly competent, qualified workforce; Regulation provides the legislative guidance necessary for the practice of midwifery; and Associations support the development and implementation and enforcement of policies, and advocate/protect the midwifery profession to ensure quality care.

Education is the key to high quality care and therefore midwife education programmes should be regularly reviewed and updated to include the latest knowledge and evidence. Programmes are most effective when they include both theoretical and practical courses with the adequate faculty and facilities. Use of ICM standards for midwifery education and tools can help ensure that student midwives develop the right competencies to deliver quality care, allowing them to develop further and become midwifery practitioners as well as educators or researchers. Regulation is a critical component not just as a means for protection of the public and protecting practitioners by defining the authority to perform the full functions of midwifery practice, including provision of basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care skills, but also for quality assurance. A strong midwifery association, supported by its members and recognized by government, regulatory authority and education programmes, is a key pillar to promote high quality midwifery workforce.

Responding to country needs in the Asia region

Almost all the high RMNH burden countries in the Asia region have some deficiency, either in quantity or quality, of workforce needs to achieve universal coverage; and in addition a number of countries still do not have a legally recognized cadre of professional midwives. It is globally acknowledged that to fulfil their professional responsibility midwives must be well-regulated, to ensure safety of the public, and so must their education, to ensure competency and *fitness-to-practice* at the point of registration and gaining their license to practice.

UNFPA APRO organized the Asia Pacific Midwifery Workforce Workshop in March 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. In the penultimate session, each country team identified the top three priorities for their SRMNH workforce. 14 out of the 17 participating countries included midwifery education among their topmost priorities: development of midwifery curriculum or revision of existing curriculum; conforming to ICM competencies; strengthening pedagogic skills; improving the quality of education; and introduction of topics such as gender. Three countries specifically mentioned the need for having midwives as teachers and for experienced midwifery teachers/trainers.

A Rapid Country Assessment of ten countries in the Asian region using *WHO Rapid Assessment approach to identifying the need to strengthen midwifery in-country* indicated that sufficient educators are essential to design and implement quality midwifery programmes, to produce new competent midwifery graduates. Furthermore, these midwifery educators will be responsible to develop and monitor national standards for education and practice. In addition, midwives will be able to participate meaningfully in the policy dialogue that needs to take place regarding MCH services and the role of midwives.

While midwifery curricula had been developed, there were variations in the curriculum which were not always in line with ICM

guidance. Furthermore, with respect to preparation of midwifery educators, relatively few countries meet the Global Midwifery Educators competencies as defined by WHO in the Midwifery Educator Core Competencies (2014). The number of midwives as midwifery teachers was limited as faculty were mainly doctors or nurses.

UNFPA has played an important role in strengthening midwifery in Asia and Pacific. The Regional Office has convened regional meetings to discuss and update Country Office staff and representatives of national midwifery institutions and associations on the state of midwifery in the world, human resource issues, among others. In collaboration with MCH focal points from ASEAN member states, APRO has developed the ASEAN Regional Guideline for Minimum Requirements for Training and Accreditation of Skilled Birth Attendants.

Country Offices and other stakeholders acknowledge that UNFPA has been and continues to be the lead development partner helping to promote professional midwifery development and growth in the country. Given the centrality of midwives in promoting and ensuring universal access to good quality sexual and reproductive health, UNFPA will continue to adopt and support as a central strategy/platform to achieve SRH and rights; the promotion, production, deployment and support of Professional Midwifery by Midwives.

Sustainable Development Goals

3. Good Health and Well-being

UNV Focus Area

Securing access to basic social services

Task description

The Midwifery Adviser is located in the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) of UNFPA, and is under the overall supervision of the Regional Director and reports directly to the Deputy Regional Director. S/he is the principal adviser at the regional level for evidence based advocacy and policy dialogue/advice and capacity building in the area of midwifery. S/he works in an integrated manner with the technical, operations, programme and communications staff in the APRO. The Midwifery Adviser will:

- Support the development of qualified expert midwife trainers and educators in countries through strengthening (sub) regional institutional midwifery education capacities;

- Assist countries to accelerate their national midwifery plans through technical support to national institutions and UNFPA country office in developing strong regulatory mechanisms to promote the quality of midwifery services;

- Support the establishment and/or strengthening of national midwifery associations;

- Contribute to developing a mechanism to share technical skills and knowledge within and among programme countries and/or other regions in the area of expertise;

- Facilitate and help maintain and make accessible data bases on best practices, partnerships and consultant rosters and help ensure their accessibility;

- Play a convening role to promote an enabling policy environment to strengthen the quality and coverage of midwifery services in countries, in particular for midwifery education and the establishment of regulatory systems;

- Promote the engagement of midwives in national and regional policy dialogue on health plans and health system strengthening;

- Contribute to the advocacy efforts to advance sexual reproductive health and reproductive rights including attainment of relevant ICPD and SDG targets and indicators;

Collaborate on substantive issues with UN agencies, academia, research and training institutions, think tanks, centers of excellence, professional societies in the region.

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.

Results/Expected Outputs

Establishment of a regional nodal institution that offers a specific programme for the education of midwifery teachers in the

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region or sub-region

Better implementation of national midwifery plans with a focus on education, regulation and association

Coalition of partners that advance quality midwifery services

Empowerment of midwifery associations and networks in the region.

- The development of capacity through coaching, mentoring and formal on-the-job training, when working with (including supervising) national staff or (non-) governmental counter-parts, including Implementing Partners (IPs);
- Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) perspective is systematically applied, integrated and documented in all activities throughout the assignment
- A final statement of achievements towards volunteerism for peace and development during the assignment, such as reporting on the number of volunteers mobilized, activities participated in and capacities developed

Qualifications/Requirements

Required Degree Level Master degree or equivalent

Education - Additional Comments

Type of Degree: Master's degree in midwifery or maternal health or public health

Required experience 84 months

Experience Remark

7 years of relevant professional and managerial experience in relevant area of work including in a developing country and excellent knowledge of midwifery education, legislation and regulation, preferably in the Asia region.

Language Skills

- English (Mandatory) , Level - Fluent

Area of Expertise

- Nursing and midwifery Mandatory
- Public health Optional

Area of Expertise Requirement

Skills:

Advanced computers skills (word-processing/spreadsheets, PowerPoint)

Strong conceptual and analytical abilities;

Strong partnership and communication skills;

Self-motivation and a high level of responsibility to complete tasks in a timely manner;

Administrative and management skills, organizational skills and interpersonal skills;

Ability to work in teams from a multidisciplinary and cultural background.

Need Driving Licence No

Competencies & Values

- Accountability
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Commitment and Motivation

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- Commitment to Continuous Learning
- Communication
- Ethics and Values
- Integrity
- Planning and Organizing
- Respect for Diversity
- Working in Teams

Conditions of Service and other information

Condition of Service

[Click here to view Conditions of Service](#)

Conditions of Service for International Specialist:

The contract lasts for the period indicated above with possibility of extensions subject to availability of funding, operational necessity and satisfactory performance. However, there is no expectation of renewal of the assignment.

A UN Volunteer receives a Volunteer Living Allowance (VLA) which is composed of the Monthly Living Allowance (MLA) and a Family Allowance (FA) for those with dependents (maximum three).

The Volunteer Living Allowance (VLA) is paid at the end of each month to cover housing, utilities, transportation, communications and other basic needs. The VLA can be computed by applying the Post-Adjustment Multiplier (PAM) to the VLA base rate of US\$ 1,602. The VLA base rate is a global rate across the world, while the PAM is duty station/country-specific and fluctuates on a monthly basis according to the cost of living. This method ensures that international UN Volunteers have comparable purchasing power at all duty stations irrespective of varying costs of living. The PAM is established by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and is published at the beginning of every month on the ICSC website <http://icsc.un.org>.

For example, kindly enter the link [Calculator](#)

In non-family duty stations that belong to hardship categories D or E, as classified by the ICSC, international UN Volunteers receive a Well-Being Differential (WBD) on a monthly basis.

Furthermore, UN Volunteers are provided a settling-in-grant (SIG) at the start of the assignment (if the volunteer did not reside in the duty station for at least 6 months prior to taking up the assignment) and in the event of a permanent reassignment to another duty station.

UNV provides life, health, permanent disability insurances as well as assignment travel, annual leave, full integration in the UN security framework (including residential security reimbursements).

UN Volunteers are paid Daily Subsistence Allowance at the UN rate for official travels, flight tickets for periodic home visit and for the final

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repatriation travel (if applicable). Resettlement allowance is paid for satisfactory service at the end of the assignment.

UNV will provide, together with the offer of assignment, a copy of the Conditions of Service, including Code of conduct, to the successful candidate.

Application Code

THAR000252-2711

Application procedure**How to apply via the UNV Talent Pool**

** Not yet registered in the UNV Talent Pool?*

Please first register your profile at <https://vmam.unv.org/candidate/signup>. Important: After creating your account, complete all sections of your profile and submit it. Then go to 'My Page' at <https://vmam.unv.org/candidate/mypage> and click on the 'Special Calls' hyperlink. Lastly, select the special call to which you would like to apply.

** Already registered in the UNV Talent Pool?*

Please first update your profile at <https://vmam.unv.org/candidate/profile>. Then go to 'My Page' at <https://vmam.unv.org/candidate/mypage> and click on the 'Special Calls' hyperlink to select the special call to which you would like to apply.

This assignment is funded by the Government of Japan, therefore only nationals from Japan are eligible to apply. Please note that if you have previously served as a UN Volunteer under *Japan Trust Fund*, you are not eligible to apply. If you are a former *Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer* (JICA-JOCV) and eligible to apply for JICA funded UN Volunteer assignments, you are not eligible to apply for this assignment funded by the Government of Japan.

Application deadline: 31 May 2018.

Disclaimer

United Nations Volunteers is an equal opportunity programme which welcomes applications from qualified professionals. We are committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture.