

# UN VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

## CAFR000778--Political Affairs Officer

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

<b>Country of Assignment</b>	Central African Republic
<b>Host Institute</b>	UN Mission in CAR
<b>Volunteer Category</b>	International Specialist
<b>Number of Volunteer</b>	2
<b>Duration</b>	until 30-06-2021
<b>Possibility of Extension</b>	Yes
<b>Expected Starting Date</b>	Immediate
<b>Duty Station</b>	Obo [CAF], Bambari [CAF]
<b>Assignment Place</b>	Non-Family Duty station

### Assignment Place Remark

Fluent in French and confident in English, or fluent in English and confident in French.

### Living Conditions

The Central African Republic is a non-family duty station with a difficult security and working environment. Security instructions from the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) need to be strictly complied with in all duty stations. The country security level is between 3 and 5, restricting movement to official travel only. Currently a curfew applies from 6 pm to 6 am.

The country is landlocked, with very limited travel possibilities, and surrounded by countries with volatile and security problems (Cameroon, Chad, DRC, Sudan, South Sudan). There is an unstable socio-political situation and social unrest and grievance, in particular in the capital city Bangui, with frequent civil servant strikes causing interruption of health, education and civil service, due to years of unpaid salaries. Power cuts are a

norm, causing insecurity in the city. The population in Bangui, including the expatriates, is concerned about increasing crime as a direct result of the March 2013 coup by the SELEKA, a coalition of rebel groups, and events in December 2013 that carried the country into chaos. The country is entirely dependent on the Cameroon seaport, situated 1500 km away, causing regular shortage of basic domestic goods. Travel time for a truck from Douala in Cameroon to Bangui averages a week because of very bad roads and roadblocks along the way.

This situation puts tremendous stress on personnel. There are very limited medical infrastructures and services do not function properly. Living conditions are difficult due to the high cost of living and the scarcity of basic products and food. Supermarkets having all variety of food and appliances are available, but are costly. Fresh vegetables and fruits are available in the market.

There is no MINUSCA Guest House in Bangui. Private accommodation possibilities are limited and getting a house that is compliant with UN security measures can take several weeks. UN personnel in Bangui live on the local economy by renting apartments and houses. In comparison to a few years ago, more accommodation is available now, but at high cost. Sharing accommodation is recommended. Currently all serving UN Volunteers have access to decent accommodation ensuring minimum standards of comfort. The average monthly cost for accommodation varies from around 500 USD for a small apartment with no furniture, no power generator and no running water, to 2,000 USD with all commodities.

A UN Dispensary provides basic medical care for UN personnel and a UN hospital has been operational since August 2014. A Level II Hospital run by a military medical team exists as well. Only four airlines officially recognized by the UN System serve the country: Air France (twice a week), Royal Air Maroc (twice a week), Kenya Airways (three flights per week) and Asky (three flights per week). Flights are sometimes subject to cancellation when security situation volatility increases.

The town of Bria (Sector East HQ) is located in eastern CAR, approximately 600 km from Bangui. The security situation is stable there (no need for escorts). MINUSCA has constructed tented camp for civilian personnel with air-conditioned and acceptable standards, as well prefabricated accommodation camps. There are catering services provided by a commercial entity on a payment basis. The local market is also well-furnished with basic goods. There is Level 2+ fully equipped military hospital in the Bria Green field, where all civilian and military camp components are situated.

The town of Bouar (Sector West HQ) is located in western CAR, approximately 500 km from Bangui, where living conditions are quite acceptable. The local market is open every day and well-furnished with seasonal fruit and basic goods. A military Level I clinic exists, but the mission has plans to establish a better facility.

MINUSCA has constructed a tented camp for civilian personnel with air-conditioned and acceptable standards, as well as prefabricated accommodation camps and office units. There are also catering services provided by a commercial entity on a payment basis. The security situation is stable, but escorts are needed in some cases.

The town of Kaga Bandoro (Sector Centre HQ) is located in the centre of the country at 320 km from Bangui. The living conditions are similar to the ones prevailing in Bria.

A Rest & Recuperation (R&R) scheme has been re-established since August 2013 and maintained for all CAR duty stations at a 6-week frequency.

The Central African Republic is a unique country and MINUSCA is a unique operation. It provides for an interesting and enriching environment, but also requires a mature level of cultural and security awareness, as well as more stamina and commitment than elsewhere to make life comfortable and affordable. Therefore, flexibility and the ability and willingness to live and work in harsh and potentially hazardous conditions, involving physical hardship and little comfort, are essential.

## Assignment Details

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**Assignment Title**

Political Affairs Officer

**Organizational Context & Project Description**

T. +49 (0) 228-815 2000

A. PO Box 260111, 53113 Bonn, Germany

F. +49 (0) 228-815 2001

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The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Concerned with the security, humanitarian, human rights and political crisis in the Central African Republic and its regional implications, the Security Council authorized on 10 April 2014 deployment of a multidimensional United Nations peacekeeping operation – MINUSCA, with the protection of civilians as its utmost priority. In its current context, the mission's other task included support to the implementation of political agreement for peace and reconciliation negotiated in Khartoum and signed on 6 February 2019 between the Government and representatives of the 14 armed groups. According to United Nations Security Council Resolution S/RES/2448 (2018), the mission should also facilitate humanitarian assistance; promote and protect human rights; support justice and the rule of law; and disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation processes.

**Sustainable Development Goals****16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions****Task description**

The UN Volunteer Political Affairs Officer will report directly to the Director of the Political Affairs Division or a designated officer and will be responsible for the following duties:

**1) Political Analysis and Advice**

- Provide country-specific and regional analysis on the impact of developments in CAR and in the region and make policy recommendations for UN response.
- Identify, analyze and monitor political developments and emerging issues with respect to the
- implementation of the Mission's mandate assesses implications and make recommendations on policies, strategies and other measures to address the issues of concern and to advance mandated objectives.
- Provide support to the follow-up and implementation of the Political Peace Agreement signed on 6 February 2019.

**2) Reporting and Information Management**

- Prepare summary and analytical reports including, but not limited to, daily and weekly situation reports, briefing notes, options papers, code cables and input for the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, General Assembly or other bodies.
- Prepare contextual information material, such as background notes, political profiles, and databases of relevance to the assigned portfolio.
- Manage information to ensure its accessibility and utility.

**3) Planning, Coordination and Facilitation**

- Develop and maintain collaborative relationships with UN Common System colleagues and counterparts, Government representatives, civil society actors, military and law enforcement actors, academic and research institutions, and other national and international partners on information sharing, policy and coordination matters.
- Support prefectural efforts to develop inclusive political dialogue through the follow-up and implementation mechanisms of the Political Peace Agreement to address root causes of conflict with all main stakeholders, including signatories.
- Consult and cooperate with partners to develop strategies and plans of action to address political challenges, in pursuit of shared objectives. Monitor, evaluate and report on implementation.
- Assist in the organization of meetings and mission events, prepare written summaries and conduct follow-up activities as appropriate and draft correspondence, political reports, analyses and talking points for Mission Leadership.
- Draft programmatic funding project proposals in support to Mandate implementation.
- Facilitate project implementation either directly or through implementing partners, throughout the project implementation cycle.
- Prepare narrative and financial reports on project implementation, as required by PAD guidelines.
- Participate in fact-finding and other missions.
- Prepare written summaries of meetings/visits and assist with follow-up activities, as appropriate.
- Perform other relevant duties as required.

- When working with (including supervising) national staff or (non-) governmental counterparts, the incumbent is strongly encouraged to set aside dedicated time for capacity development through coaching, mentoring and formal and on-the-job training

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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- Provide annual and end of assignment reports on UN Volunteer actions, results and opportunities using UNV's Volunteer Reporting Application- 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**

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- Participate in fact-finding and other missions.
- Prepare written summaries of meetings/visits and assist with follow-up activities, as appropriate.
- Perform other relevant duties as required.

- When working with (including supervising) national staff or (non-) governmental counterparts, the incumbent is strongly encouraged to set aside dedicated time for capacity development through coaching, mentoring and formal and on-the-job training
- **4) Project Design and Management**
- Under the guidance of the Political Affairs Division, participate in designing and implementing programmatic funding projects in support to Mission mandate implementation and strategically aligned with the Political Affairs Division's workplan.
- Through frequent field visits - whenever possible, evaluate and report on project outputs and outcomes, paying particular attention to gender indicators.

• Le développement des capacités grâce à l'encadrement, le suivi et la formation continue, en travaillant (y compris la supervision) avec le personnel national ou les homologues de la contrepartie (gouvernementale ou non-gouvernementale, y compris les partenaires d'exécution (IP)); • La perspective de l'âge, du genre et de la diversité (AGD) est systématiquement appliquée, intégrée et documentée dans toutes les activités tout au long de l'affectation • Un rapport des réalisations dans le domaine du volontariat pour la paix et le développement pendant l'affectation, comme par exemple le nombre de volontaires mobilisés, la participation aux activités et la contribution au développement des capacités.

• The development of capacity through coaching, mentoring and formal on-the-job training, when working with (including supervising) national staff or (non-) governmental counterparts, 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

A degree in law, political sciences or international relations is highly desirable.

**Required experience** 36 months

### Experience Remark

A minimum of three (03) years of progressively responsible experience in political affairs, diplomacy, conflict resolution, development, disarmament or related field. Experience in political analysis and outreach, solid report writing skills (on political issues) is required, and Relevant experience in international organization or nongovernmental organization- in a conflict or post-conflict setting is highly desirable.

### Language

- French (Mandatory) , Level - Fluent
- AND - English (Mandatory) , Level - Working Knowledge
- And One of these - English (Mandatory) , Level - Fluent

### Area of Expertise

- Crisis and conflict prevention, mitigation, resolution and reconciliation Mandatory
- Other emergency management experience Optional

### Area of Expertise Requirement

Political science, international relations, international economics, law, public

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administration or related fields. A first-level university degree (BA) in combination with qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree

**Need Driving Licence** Yes

#### Competencies & Values

- Integrity
- Planning and Organizing
- Working in Teams

## Conditions of Service and other information

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

#### Conditions of Service for International Specialist:

Note on novel coronavirus – COVID-19.

The rapidly changing nature of novel coronavirus COVID-19 has placed significant and increasing restrictions on the freedom of movement of people across the globe, within countries and across borders. Such restrictions make it very difficult for international UN Volunteers to begin their assignments at their assigned duty station and UNV cannot guarantee assignments will proceed as normal.

Candidates for international UN Volunteer assignments during this period may be exceptionally granted alternative working arrangements to work from their place of recruitment until restrictions are lifted. This is at the discretion of the host entity. Candidates proceeding to interview are recommended to discuss the likelihood of travel and possible alternative arrangements with the host entity. If selected, candidates should carefully consider the circumstances before accepting UNV's offer.

In cases where the UN Host Entity partner has requested the UN Volunteer to perform their assignment remotely, the Post Adjustment Multiplier (PAM) and related entitlements to be paid may be adjusted to the temporary duty station from where the UN Volunteer has been requested to work if requested by the UN Host Entity.

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\$ 1,682. 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 UN Volunteer entitlements, kindly refer to the link <https://vmam.unv.org/calculator/entitlements>

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 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.

### **Supervision, induction and duty of care of UN Volunteers** ([Roles and Responsibilities of Host Entities](#))

UN Volunteers should be provided equal duty of care as extended to all host entity personnel. Host entity support to the UN Volunteer includes, but is not limited to:

- Introductory briefings about the organisation and office-related context including security, emergency procedures, good cultural practice and orientation to the local environment;
- Support with arrival administration including setting-up of bank accounts, residence permit applications and completion of other official processes as required by the host government or host entity;
- Structured guidance, mentoring and coaching by a supervisor including a clear workplan and performance appraisal;
- Access to office space, equipment, IT support and any other systems and tools required to complete the objectives of the assignment including a host entity email address;
- Access to shared host entity corporate knowledge, training and learning;
- Inclusion of the volunteer in emergency procedures such as evacuations;
- Leave management;
- DSA for official travel, when applicable;

- All changes in the Description of Assignment occurring between recruitment and arrival or during the assignment need to be formalized with the United Nations Volunteer Programme;

- Investigate misconduct: sharing reports with the UNV;

- Provide emergency assistance, e.g. the death of volunteer or medical evacuation, in collaboration with UNV. Accept letters of guarantees or potential liabilities for covering medical costs not claimable under medical insurance in extraordinary situations (e.g. isolation facilities` services during pandemics).

**Application Code** CAFR000778-8678

### Application procedure

#### \* 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.

**Application deadline:** 26-09-2021

**doa.apply\_url** <https://vmam.unv.org/candidate/show-doa/Q0FGUjAwMDc3OA==>

### 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.*