

# UN VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

## LSOR000038--Public Health Specialist

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>	Lesotho
<b>Host Institute</b>	World Health Organization
<b>Volunteer Category</b>	National Specialist
<b>Number of Volunteer</b>	1
<b>Duration</b>	12 months
<b>Expected Starting Date</b>	31-12-2020
<b>Duty Station</b>	Maseru [LSO]
<b>Assignment Place</b>	Family Duty Station
<b>Assignment Place Remark</b>	

### Living Conditions

Lesotho is a landlocked country and entirely surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. It is 30,355 km<sup>2</sup> in size with a population of 2.2 million. About one quarter of the country has altitudes of between 1,500 and 2,000 metres. Because of its altitude, Lesotho remains cooler throughout the year than other regions at the same latitude. Most of the rain falls as summer thunderstorms. Maseru and surrounding lowlands often reach 30 °C in summer. However, due to current climate change conditions, the weather conditions keep changing such that there may be four seasons in one day at times. The rural highlands are less developed, and winters are severe with heavy snowfalls that often cut off the population from access to basic social services such as health.

Lesotho is a lower middle-income country whose economy is based on diamonds exported all over the world and water sold to South Africa, manufacturing, agriculture, livestock, and to some extent the earnings of Labourers employed in South Africa. About 40% of the population lives below the international poverty-line of US\$1.25 a day. The constitution of Lesotho protects basic civil liberties, including freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of the press, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of religion.

Maseru is the capital and the largest city in the country with a population of approximately 500,000 people. Basic goods and services including health facilities, public transport, telecommunication and banking services and educational facilities are readily available. The

main airport is King Moshoeshoe III about 15 km away from the city.

As this is a national UN Volunteer assignment, the UN Volunteer will be responsible for arranging his/her own housing and other living essentials.

# Assignment Details

**Assignment Title** Public Health Specialist

## Organizational Context & Project Description

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. The organization uses a six-point agenda which seek to contribute to addressing global health related policy gaps. The mission of the WHO Lesotho Country Office is to promote the attainment of the highest possible level of health for all people living in Lesotho through collaboration with the government and other partners in health development and the provision of technical and logistic support to country programmes.

The current COVID-19 pandemic situation with established local transmission and spread in rural areas, there is need for immediate targeted action to contain the outbreak. The country has reported a cumulative total of 1,961 COVID-19 cases. The health system is faced with many challenges to effectively manage the outbreak of this magnitude. Human resource capacity within and outside the heather is constrained due to limited production and brain drain. The national outbreak response currently focuses on the public health interventions particularly those relevant to personal and hand hygiene, cough etiquette, hand shaking and social distancing. Community-based interventions are being rolled out through the existing community structures to assist districts in tailoring interventions to the local needs. However, there exist substantial human resource gaps for an effective outbreak response to be undertaken.

Development Partners currently supporting the national response include the UN, CDC, USAID, PEPFAR, World Bank, Global Fund, GAVI, CHAI, PIH, PSI. WHO plays a partner coordination role and provision of technical support to the Ministry of Health to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies with public health consequences, including through ensuring that the public is provided with as much relevant health information as possible, using different mediums of communication. WHO continues to work around the clock to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health to build capacity of healthcare workers and build a resilient health care system that can prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.

**Sustainable Development Goals** 3. Good Health and Well-being

## Task description

Under the supervision of the WHO Representative, the UNV Public Health Specialist will provide technical support and advice to the ministry of health in the successful implementation of the district response plan focusing on the nine pillars aligned to the national plan. The incumbent will work closely with all key stakeholders, UN entities and other programme officers to ensure the implementation of the national plan for effective response and Post COVID-19 recovery

- Support the MoH in setting up and implementing a comprehensive COVID-19 contact tracing process and provide on-site support in responding to challenges encountered by contact tracing teams.
- Support implementation of infection, prevention and control interventions in health facilities and other institutions:
- Work with relevant officers and committees in monitoring adherence to IPC guidelines.
- Support data collection, analysis and reporting on health care workers infected with COVID-19.
- Support implementation of the clinical care pathway and provide technical assistance to implement the case management guideline
- Promote use of the available response guidelines and SOPs to ensure the application of common approaches, tools and standards.
- Support the districts in ensuring continuity of essential health services during the response to COVID-19.
- Support MOH in coordination of field operations (RRT) including receiving alert and timely deployment of team for sample collection, availing logistical supplies, disinfection, transportation, isolation and treatment.
- In consultation with the wider UN, provide strategic planning and foresight support to Government of Lesotho in development of

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Post COVID-19 recovery packages designed to “build back better” thereby reducing the likelihood of future shocks and increase resilience

- Support WHO Representative (chair of the COVID-19 Health Partners group) in agenda setting, preparations of meetings and report writing
- Support the COVID-19 coordinator in coherent monitoring and reporting of the joint programmes on COVID-19 response
- Monitor all international support COVID-19 ongoing programmes / projects implemented by Ministry of Health
- Any other related tasks as may be required or assigned by the supervisor.

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

- As an active WHO team member, efficient, timely, responsive, client-friendly and high-quality support rendered to WHO and its beneficiaries in the accomplishment of her/his functions, including:
  - Monthly performance report based on the terms of reference
  - District specific standard operating procedures for contact training
  - Facilitate setting up of IPC committees at facility
  - A strategy to address the barriers and enablers of Covid-19 response
- 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

- Bachelor’s degree in Medicine/Environmental Health/Nursing or Health related
- Post-graduate Degree in Public Health/epidemiology/health related field

**Required experience** 60 months

### Experience Remark

- Minimum of 5 years working experience in Public Health.
- Previous experience in working in disaster, communicable disease outbreak, or other emergency settings.
- Working experience in Lesotho with multiple partners including Ministry of Health, UN or a reputable international NGO will be an added advantage
- Good understanding of health delivery, health systems and emergency context, policies, planning and management issues
- Experience with testing and contact tracing for COVID-19, TB, STIs, HIV, or other infectious diseases a big plus
- Excellent leadership and coordination skills and capabilities with high-level of personal motivation and initiative
- Demonstrated experience working collaboratively, fostering and maintaining partnerships across institutions or sectors

### Language

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- English (Mandatory) , Level - Fluent
- AND - Sesotho (Optional) , Level - Working Knowledge

**Area of Expertise**

- Public health Mandatory

**Area of Expertise Requirement**

**Need Driving Licence** No

**Competencies & Values**

- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Communication
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Respect for Diversity
- 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:**

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, even within countries. Such restrictions may affect the ability national UN Volunteers to begin their assignments at their assigned duty station or limit the ability to enter UN premises. Thus, UNV cannot guarantee assignments will proceed as normal.

Candidates for national UN Volunteer assignments requiring travel to the duty station may be exceptionally granted during this period alternative working arrangements to work from their place of recruitment until restrictions are lifted. Candidates for national UN Volunteer assignments may also need to begin their assignments remotely in cases where access to UN premises is restricted. These are decisions at the discretion of the host entity. Candidates proceeding to interview are recommended to discuss travel requirements, any restrictions, and possible alternative arrangements with the host entity. If selected, candidates should carefully consider the circumstances before

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accepting UNV's offer.

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.

Travel to duty station (if applicable) and a Settling-In-Grant will be provided in the event the duty station is not within commuting distance from the place of recruitment. The applicable Volunteer Living Allowance is provided monthly to cover housing, utilities and normal cost of living expenses. Life, health and permanent disability insurance are included (health insurance for up to 3 dependents), as well as final repatriation (if applicable) and resettlement allowance for satisfactory service.

Furthermore, in non-family duty stations that belong to hardship categories D or E, as classified by the ICSC, a Well-Being Differential (WBD) on a monthly basis will be provided.

For UN Volunteer entitlements, kindly refer to the link <https://vmam.unv.org/calculator/entitlements>

### **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 and official processes;
- 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;
- Any necessary security measures, ensuring that UN Volunteers are covered by the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) in line with the UNDSS Security Policy Manual;
- 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**

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### 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 for to which you would like to apply.

Application deadline: **15 August 2021**

**doa.apply\_url**

<https://vmam.unv.org/candidate/show-doa/TFNPUjAwMDAzOA==>

### 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.*