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.

Country of Assignment: Afghanistan
Host Institute: United Nations Development Programme
Volunteer Category: National Specialist
Number of Volunteer: 1
Duration: 5 months
Possibility of Extension: Yes
Expected Starting Date: 01-08-2020
Duty Station: Kabul [AFG]
Assignment Place: Non-Family Duty station
Assignment Place Remark:
Under the overall guidance of the Resident Representative (while the Deputy Representative is being appointed) and the daily direct supervision of the Head of Livelihoods and Resilience Unit in the UNDP Afghanistan Country Office (the name of this unit may change as the result of the 2020 Strategic Review) and working closely with the Senior International Economist (yet to be appointed), the UN Volunteer is responsible for developing and reinforcing the socio-economic framework in Afghanistan. The framework would also support and align with a UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to Covid-19 released by United Nations (April 2020).

Living Conditions:
As this is a national UN Volunteer assignment, the UN Volunteer will be responsible for arranging his/her own housing and other living essentials. The position is based in Kabul with travels to provinces only if required.
Organizational Context & Project Description

Like many other countries, Afghanistan faced COVID-19 while it was not prepared and the medical system and infrastructure was not ready to respond to the pandemic adequately as the country is still struggling with prolonged conflict, declining economy, decreased international funding and a fragile health system. The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the numerous grave challenges the country faces.

Poverty is expected to remain high, driven by weak labor demand and security-related constraints on service delivery. Furthermore, 67% of non-agricultural jobs are in a vulnerable employment category and the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to contribute to a contraction in the economy up to 4% in 2020 and slash economic output by up to 17% by 2023.

The effect of 40 years of conflict, political tension both nationally and internationally, repeated droughts and floods, high-levels of food deprivation, mass unemployment, millions of internally displaced people and a fragile health-care system has made Afghanistan highly vulnerable to COVID-19 from both a public health and socioeconomic perspective. It has also created a low level of preparedness in relation to the level of response that is likely to be required.

UNDP has committed to help GiRoA respond to the crisis by providing targeted assistance to those experiencing multi-dimensional poverty, to migrant populations in border areas, as well as to people in conflict-affected areas and those groups most vulnerable to the effects of the virus.

In Afghanistan, ongoing policies have been focused on ensuring that the distribution of basic supplies, crucial government services, and utilities continue during the COVID-19 crisis period. On the policy front, the country will need to strengthen its social safety net to effectively protect the most vulnerable populations as well as those in the informal sector to support post COVID-19 recovery.

In order to effectively reach these groups given the constraints of time and resources, UNDP, like the rest of the UN system, is acquiring a better understanding of how they are affected, how they respond, and which mechanisms and safety nets they have put in place to defend themselves and their livelihoods against the virus. In this context, two socioeconomic impact assessment are being conducted out one at the macro and micro level at subnational level with the aim of preparing the UN system to respond to a potential economic crisis that may cripple the provision of public services across the country, further exacerbated by the pandemic.

To contain the economic shock due to the COVID-19 in Afghanistan, there must be a focus on the following priorities: (i) The Immediate Public Health Response, (ii) Safety Nets for Vulnerable Populations, (iii) Economic Productivity and Employment and (iv) Fiscal Policies for the Amelioration of Economic Impact.

UNDP assessment tools and policy analyses are put at the service of the shaping of policy, and internal capacity UNDP country office is being strengthened to perform as key interlocutors for the government in all issues pertaining to development. A Senior International Economist, will be brought on board to enhance the capacity of UNDP Afghanistan Country Office and lead the production of policy oriented analytical work related to the socioeconomic impact of COVID19; produce policy advice that contributes country-level policy decisions to mitigate negative impacts of COVID-19; and produce country-level rigorous analytical work - quantitative and qualitative - to support Afghanistan Country Office and counterparts on the analysis of policy response to COVID-19.

Considering the COVID-19 travel related restrictions and the socioeconomic impact at the national and local level, UNDP Afghanistan Country Office seeks the services of a National UNV to support the Senior International Economist to be recruited in developing the socioeconomic framework for Afghanistan to respond to COVID-19 and beyond scenarios, in particular on quantitative and qualitative macro and micro economic data collection and analysis.

Sustainable Development Goals

3. Good Health and Well-being

Task description

Under the overall guidance of the Resident Representative (while the Deputy Representative is being appointed) and the daily direct supervision of the Head of Livelihoods and Resilience Unit in the UNDP Afghanistan Country Office (the name of this unit may change as the result of the 2020 Strategic Review) and working closely with the Senior International Economist (yet to be appointed), the UN...
Volunteer is responsible for developing and reinforcing the socio and economic framework in Afghanistan. The framework would also support and align with a UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to Covid-19 released by United Nations (April 2020).

The UNV will support with quantitative and qualitative macro and micro economic data collection and analysis, reviewing the existing socioeconomic framework for Afghanistan in reference to the Assessing the socioeconomic impact of COVID19 at national and subnational level and other related research works to be carried out.

Under the direct supervision of the international consultants, the UNV will:

- Provide support with methodologies and approaches to develop the socio-economic framework including tools, indicators, etc.
- Provide support to the definition of indicators as per identified sub-areas, data collection methodology and tools, including data sources and detailed workplan for collection of necessary data.
- Provide support with quantitative and qualitative macroeconomic data collection (primary and secondary disaggregated data on macro and micro social economic analysis and analysis, multi dimension poverty and assessing the macro and micro economic impact of Covid-19 at national and subnational level.
- Provide support to develop the ‘living’ Covid-19 framework for Afghanistan.
- Provide support to compile the feedback on the draft socioeconomic framework from consultation process with partners.
- Prepare PowerPoint presentations, notes, briefs, when requested.

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.

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**

- Development of the socio and economic framework in Afghanistan together with the international economist
- 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

Master's degree in Economics, Social Studies, Finance or closely relevant subject.

Required experience

36 months

Experience Remark

- At least 3 years of high-quality applied research and experience in the macroeconomic field – including social protection, poverty reduction, international trade and fiscal and monetary
- Strong knowledge and experience in quantitative and qualitative macroeconomic data and social-economic analysis;
- Strong communication skills;
- Familiarity with processes of UN agencies and/or IFIs an asset;
- Work individually as well as part of a team towards common goals;
- Fluency in English required

Language

- English (Mandatory), Level - Working Knowledge

Area of Expertise

- Microeconomics Optional

Area of Expertise Requirement

- At least 3 years of high-quality applied research and experience in the macroeconomic field – including social protection, poverty reduction, international trade and fiscal and monetary
- Strong knowledge and experience in quantitative and qualitative macroeconomic data and social-economic analysis;
- Strong communication skills;
- Familiarity with processes of UN agencies and/or IFIs an asset;
- Work individually as well as part of a team towards common goals;
- Fluency in English required

Need Driving Licence

- No

Competencies & Values

- Accountability
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Building Trust
- Commitment and Motivation
- Commitment to Continuous Learning
- Empowering Others
- Ethics and Values
- Integrity
- Knowledge Sharing
- Planning and Organizing
- Professionalism
- Respect for Diversity
- Technological Awareness

We are inspiration in action

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

6 Sep 2020
Conditions of Service:


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 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

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.

Application Code
AFGR001540-7457

Application procedure
VMAM Application module will be processed.

**doa.apply_url**
https://vmam.unv.org//candidate/show-doa/QUZHUjAwMTU0MA==

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.*