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
Djibouti

Host Institute
United Nations Development Programme

Volunteer Category
National Specialist

Number of Volunteer
1

Duration
6 months

Possibility of Extension
Yes

Expected Starting Date
Immediate

Duty Station
Djibouti [DJI]

Assignment Place
Family Duty Station

Assignment Place Remark

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. National UN Volunteers are part of the CIGNA insurance plan.

Assignment Details

Assignment Title
Macroeconomist

Organizational Context & Project Description
We are inspiration in action
The impact of COVID-19 has harshly impacted the domestic economy of Djibouti. The pandemic which has engulfed the world has affected the lives and livelihoods of the Djiboutian, particularly after the government announced the confinement on 24 March 2020. The precaution measures adopted by the national authorities and the population against the viral disease have reduced the mobility of the large percentage of the population to avoid the COVID-19 spread in the country.

The confinement was uneasy for the salaried people, even though their livelihood did not depend on daily wages. The confinement was announced towards the end of the month and employees had the opportunity to stockpile some food reserve for the next 15 days. However, the confinement was extended until May 17, 2020 compelling the economic activities to stop or slow down for eight weeks.

Above all, the situation is dramatic for the ones employed on daily basis, such as the casual labour, construction workers, domestic helps, street vendors, among others. With the announcement of confinement, their daily wage work was hampered drastically, in many cases reduced to zero earnings. The awareness campaigns requiring social distancing, hand washing, wearing masks and gloves became secondary for this stratum of society for whom next meal and next glass of water is under question. Beyond the wellbeing of this important component of the Djibouti population, this situation may compromise measures adopted to contain the spread of COVID-19.

According to the national statistics, 65% of the population are under the international definition of poverty line. Before the COVID-19 outbreak, the national registry maintained by the Ministry of Social Solidarity has information of 70,951 of such households. However, it is likely that this pandemic, and the business lockdown that it involved, brought many more Djiboutian below the poverty line. Such information is highly crucial in helping the government design and decide on the relief packages to cushion the impact of COVID-19 for the bottom of the pyramid population.

In the absence of complete household level data and the extent to which the formal and informal MSMES are affected, the government will have challenges in reaching out to the most vulnerable segments of the population. The lack of basic needs, mainly the food and water, the vulnerability of the already socio-economically fragile population will rise exponentially. Underlying health related issues, gender equality and education related goals are expected to be tougher to attain in the post-COVID-19 emergency phase. In this regard, identifying the households and understanding the current and near future socio-economic conditions of these target households is very important to contain the impact of the COVID-19 to a large extent.

In this regard, in response to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance and Economy’s request on April 22, 2020 to the cohort of development partners to provide information on the current impact of the COVID-19, household survey and survey of the MSMEs have been designed jointly with National Institute for Statistics of Djibouti, Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity, Ministry of Communications, and Ministry of Finance and Economy. This assessment is part of the multiple assessments that will help government establish baseline and build a recovery roadmap in the post COVID-19 phase. The overall objective is to inform government prioritization of relief resources as well as strategic planning for recovery that focuses on mitigating the secondary impacts of COVID-19. Secondary impacts include negative effects, often socio-economic, that are not the direct and immediate consequences on human health but can span a longer period than the outbreak and affect a wider group of people with various levels of intensity, e.g. women and girls, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic diseases, among others. The underlying objective of the Survey is to support evidence-based resource mobilization process to fund the recovery roadmap of the government of Djibouti.

Sustainable Development Goals

3. Good Health and Well-being

Task description

Under the overall supervision of Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Djibouti Country Office and working closely with the Socio-Economic Recovery Assessment Team, the UN Volunteer to develop the socio and economic framework in Djibouti. The framework would also support and align with a UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to Covid-19 released by United Nations (August 2020).

The UNV will support with quantitative and qualitative macroeconomic data collection and analysis, conducting household survey, MSME survey and reviewing the existing socioeconomic framework for Djibouti in reference to the Assessing the socioeconomic impact of COVID19 and other relevant research works to be carried out.

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

- Provide support with methodologies and approaches to develop the socio-economic framework including tools, indicators, etc.
Qualifications/Requirements

- Provide support to the review and refine the survey methodology and methodological tools.
- Provide support with quantitative and qualitative macroeconomic data collection (primary and secondary disaggregated data on household impact of COVID-19, MSMEs, fiscal, macro-financial) and analysis, assessing the macroeconomic impact of Covid-19.
- 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.
- 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

- Draft report of the Household Survey and MSME Survey findings.
- Development of the socio and economic framework in Djibouti 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 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.

Required Degree Level

Bachelor degree or equivalent

Education - Additional Comments

- B.A. (Master's degree preferred) in Economics, Finance or closely relevant subject.

Required experience

36 months

Experience Remark

- At least 2 years of experience in quantitative and qualitative macroeconomic data and economic analysis.
- Experience of designing and planning business sector and/or household surveys with the use of questionnaires and digital data analytical tools is an asset.
- Experience of preparing a report with a detailed approach assessing the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on labor markets, SMEs and household welfare in the region based on micro surveys.
- Prepare notes, briefs, presentations and project proposals, when requested.
- 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 French required, English working knowledge.
- Djiboutian national.

Language

- French (Mandatory), Level - Fluent
- AND - English (Optional), Level - Working Knowledge
Area of Expertise

- Macroeconomics and public finance Mandatory

Area of Expertise Requirement

- Knowledge of macroeconomic – including PFM, fiscal, macro-financial, monetary and exchange rate, the banking sector and Central banking, international trade - concepts, principles and policies and ability to apply to strategic and/or practical situations;
- Knowledge of global macroeconomic trends and ability to collect and analyse macroeconomic data at country level;
- Knowledge of PFM systems and/or macroeconomic modelling;
- Knowledge of Economic Planning and Recovery concepts and the ability to apply to strategic and/or practical situations;
- Knowledge of handling data analysis software, including STATA, SPSS, Tableau and other relevant tools;
- Knowledge of data and statistics analysis for 2030 Agenda for development and the ability to apply to strategic and/or practical situations;
- Knowledge of sustainable development concepts, principles and issues and the ability to apply to strategic and/or practical situations, covering the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

Need Driving Licence

No

Competencies & Values

- Accountability
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Ethics and Values
- Integrity
- Managing Performance
- Planning and Organizing
- Professionalism
- Respect for Diversity
- Self-Management
- Working in Teams

Conditions of Service and other information

Condition of Service

Click here to view Conditions of Service

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 (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  
DJIR000170-7728

Application procedure

* Not yet registered in the UNV Talent Pool?
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?
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 is a national UN Volunteer assignment, therefore only nationals of Djibouti and legal residents in the Djibouti with a residency permit, the status of refugee or with the status of being stateless are eligible to apply.

Candidates with long-term experience are encouraged to apply. Provided that the respective requirements are met, the assignment might be considered as UN Volunteer expert, including 40% additional VLA or as UN Volunteer Senior Expert (15 years of experience incl. international experience), including 100% additional VLA.

Application deadline: 30 September 2020

doa.apply_url  
https://vmam.unv.org/candidate/show-doa/REpJUjAwMDE3MA==

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.