UN VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

MMRR000094--Development Economist 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

Country of Assignment: Myanmar
Host Institute: United Nations Development Programme
Volunteer Category: International Specialist
Number of Volunteer: 1
Duration: 12 months
Expected Starting Date: 01-02-2020
Duty Station: Yangoon [MMR]
Assignment Place: Family Duty Station
Assignment Place Remark
Living Conditions

Myanmar, bordered by Bangladesh, India, China, Laos and Thailand, has an estimated population of 51 million people. Myanmar’s capital city is Naypyidaw and its largest city is Yangon.

The country is ethnically diverse. The government recognizes 135 distinct ethnic groups. Besides the Bamar, the dominant ethnic group in the country, Myanmar is home to many minority ethnic groups and nationalities which have their own distinct cultures and languages.

Despite the country’s ethnic diversity, Buddhism remains as the largest religion in Myanmar, playing a prominent role in shaping Myanmar’s culture. Local architecture and food habits clearly demonstrate influence of ancient Indian culture intertwined with local traditions and some Chinese influences.
Climate varies with location and season in Myanmar though it is hot throughout the year, with temperatures averaging 27 degrees Celsius (80 degrees Fahrenheit). During the months of March, April and May, it can be very hot and humid, especially around the coastal regions. However, the interior areas such as Bagan and Inle as well as mountainous regions can be cooler than the coastal regions due to their higher altitudes.

The state of health care in Myanmar is poor. The government spends anywhere from 0.5% to 3% of the country's GDP on health care, consistently ranking among the lowest in the world. Yangon has many public hospital and private clinics that can treat routine ailments; however, some people that require specialized treatment services and facilities go to Bangkok or Singapore. The recommended vaccinations prior to the assignment are those against typhoid, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Tuberculosis and Japanese Encephalitis.

While purified water for drinking and cooking is available in cities, water supply varies markedly across the city. Every house or apartment will have its own pump and tank, and some will have another pump attached to the tank to improve the pressure. The tank will have an overflow to take away the excess water if the pump continues running after the tank is full. Before moving into the apartment, make sure that the landlord shows you clearly how all electrical and water systems work.

All UNVs ready to serve or serving in Myanmar are eligible to request *Information Guideline for United Nations Volunteers serving in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2019.*

## Assignment Details

### Assignment Title
Development Economist Specialist

### Organizational Context & Project Description

UNDP supports countries around the world to formulate strategies, policies, and programme interventions that promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To advance these aims, UNDP provides technical policy advice and programming tools, especially to help address critical sustainable development challenges.

UNDP country offices work closely with government counterparts and other national stakeholders to support the introduction of inclusive and sustainable development policies that are aligned with the national context. National economists based in country offices across the Asia-Pacific region contribute to this work, including through support to policy dialogue with government officials and other partners, assistance in programme development, and production of research and analysis. These colleagues also collaborate and share experiences and practices across countries inside and outside the Asia-Pacific region.

In Myanmar, UNDP’s Country Programme (2018-2022) has two outcomes – governance and sustainable
peace, and sustainable and inclusive growth. The Country Office is a key interlocutor and advisor to the Government of Myanmar on issues related to the two outcomes. The Country Programme has adopted an integrated approach to programming to better address the interlinkages between peacebuilding and social cohesion, governance, environment and natural resource management, resilience, urbanization and balanced and inclusive growth. In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, the programme also focuses on strengthening the ability of national counterparts to address the needs of the vulnerable, defined as those exposed to conflict/violence, climatic and disaster risks and those marginalized by inadequate economic opportunities and poor public service delivery. For implementation of the Country Programme, the Country Office is structured into five units including a Strategic Management Unit (SMU) and two Programme Teams: Governance for Sustainable Peace Unit, and Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Unit, through whom its programmes and projects in Myanmar are managed and supported.

UNDP Myanmar is recruiting a Development Economist to help contribute to its overall work programme. The Development Economist will support the country office by providing economic analysis and policy advice to management and government counterparts that favor inclusive development, including the integration of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into national plans and activities. S/he will also work closely with the two Programme Teams and be responsible for helping develop large-scale development solutions and activities aimed at enhancing UNDP’s programmatic support. The Development Economist is expected to contribute to knowledge generation through research and analysis, represent UNDP as required in policy discussions, and work closely with the Senior Management, SMU and Programme Teams as well as the regional network on SDG integration, acceleration, and innovation. The Development Economist will also work closely with the Conflict and Gender Specialist to ensure that overall cross-cutting issues are mainstreamed throughout the Country Office’s programmes and projects.

The Development Economist will be based full-time in the UNDP Country Office in Yangon, with possible relocation to Nay Pyi Taw. Domestic and international travel may be required. S/he will work closely with Senior Management, the Programme and SMU teams in the Country Office, other Country Office Advisors and UNDP’s key partners, including the private sector, and colleagues in the Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH). S/he will also collaborate with the Asia-Pacific regional network of country economists. This will include systematic engagement with and oversight from the lead regional economic advisors based in Bangkok and Beijing. S/he is also expected to develop and maintain a network of colleagues across development partner agencies, government institutions, the private sector, and civil society.

**Sustainable Development Goals**

1. No poverty

**Task description**

Under the direct supervision of the Team Leader, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Unit with matrix reporting to the Regional Economic Advisor in BRH, the International UN Volunteer will carry out the following tasks:

- Provision of support to the two programming units within UNDP Myanmar, UNDP country office management, including to help strengthen programme development and implementation.
• Provision of technical policy advice to national government counterparts, especially in support of the 2030 Agenda and the introduction of sustainable and inclusive economic policies.
• Representation, advocacy, and partner engagement to support UNDP’s institutional positioning and advance its mandate.
• Contribution to UNDP’s work across the Asia-Pacific region, including collaboration with the regional economist network and analysis of priority regional thematic areas.

1. Provision of support to UNDP country office management, including to help strengthen programme development and implementation.

• Support UNDP country office teams to develop and manage relevant thematic portfolios, such as activities to support inclusive growth and progress towards the SDGs;
• Support the coordination and implementation of the CO’s innovation-private sector strategy and engagements to accelerate achievement of SDGs including SDG localization initiatives;
• Provide analysis and research in priority thematic areas at the country level, including through the publication of policy briefs or other analytical outputs;
• Compile and analyse statistical data as required in support of country strategies and activities;
• Collaborate across UNDP teams, especially to ensure linkages to the work emerging from national and state/regional priorities;
• Support the creation of large-scale development solutions to help address complex development challenges; and
• Assist UNDP country office management with preparation and implementation of country programmes and strategies, including the Country Programme Document (CPD).

2. Provision of technical advice to national government counterparts and other partners, especially in support of the 2030 Agenda and the introduction of sustainable and inclusive economic policies.

• Support and facilitate dialogue on sustainable development issues with government officials, development partners, civil society, and the private sector;
• Provide policy and programming advice and support for development planning and policy formulation at the national, sub-national and local levels;
• Support the identification and analysis of interventions that can impact multiple development goals and targets at the same time;
• Support monitoring and reporting of progress related to SDGs and other national development frameworks including through preparation of Human Development Reports working closely with the SMU.

3. Representation, advocacy, and partner engagement to support UNDP’s institutional positioning and advance its mandate.

• Develop and/or strengthen partnerships with UN agencies, IFIs, bilateral development agencies, private sector entities, and civil society;
• Represent UNDP country office in relevant forums, conferences, or workshops, including to present research or programmatic results;
• Support UNDP resource mobilization and future growth strategies through project pipeline development and design of large-scale programme and development solutions;
• Contribute to national, regional, and global knowledge networks and communities of practice.

4. Contribution to UNDP’s work across the Asia-Pacific region, including collaboration with the regional economist network and analysis of priority regional thematic areas.

- Participate actively in the UNDP Asia-Pacific regional network of economists, including through attending regional meetings (in-person and/or virtual), sharing relevant experiences, and conducting peer reviews;
- Substantively contribute as possible to UNDP regional knowledge products and development of programming offers in regional priority areas (e.g., inequality, future of work, innovative financing);
- Enhance UNDP’s understanding and design of new approaches to sustainable development across the region by acting as a regional thematic lead where 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

Key results/expected outputs include, but are not limited to:

- Effective implementation of the Country Programme (2018-2022) based on robust economic analysis and timely policy advice
- Integration of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into national plans and activities
- Strengthened ability of national counterparts to address the needs of the vulnerable, defined as those exposed to conflict/violence, climatic and disaster risks and those marginalized by inadequate economic opportunities and poor public service delivery
- Development of large-scale development solutions and activities aimed at enhancing UNDP’s programmatic support
- Strengthened interlinkages between peacebuilding and social cohesion, governance, environment and natural resource management, resilience, urbanization and balanced and inclusive growth
- Improved knowledge generation and sharing through research, analysis, and communication materials
Qualifications/Requirements

Required Degree Level | Master degree or equivalent
Education - Additional Comments

Master’s degree in Economics, Econometrics, Statistics or equivalent

Required experience | 84 months
Experience Remark

- 7 years of relevant development experience at the national or international level

Language

- English (Mandatory), Level - Fluent

Area of Expertise

- Microeconomics Mandatory
- Development programme management Mandatory

Area of Expertise Requirement

- Extensive experience in applied economic research and policy-level analysis on SDGs reporting, SDG targets and indicators;
- Direct experience providing technical advice to government officials;
- Experience in designing, monitoring and evaluating development projects;
- Experience using computers and office software packages, including programmes for statistical analysis of data;
- Knowledge of the SDGs, SDG localisation, innovation, creation of multi-stakeholder platforms including with the private sector and their application at the national and sub national levels.

Need Driving Licence | No

Competencies & Values

- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Building Trust
- Client Orientation
- Commitment and Motivation
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$ 1,631. 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**

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.

**Application Code**

MMRR000094-5976

**Application procedure**

* Not yet registered in the UNV Talent Pool?

First register your profile at [https://vmam.unv.org/candidate/signup](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](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](https://vmam.unv.org/candidate/profile).

Then go to ‘My Page’ at [https://vmam.unv.org/candidate/mypage](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: 12 January 2020**

doa.apply_url

https://vmam.unv.org//candidate/show-doa/TU1SUjAwMDA5NA==

**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.