



University volunteer TERMS OF REFERENCE: ToR 36

Preamble:

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, University 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, University 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 University volunteers even more rewarding and productive.

The “**University Volunteer Network**” provides human resources and knowledge resources, through the recruitment of students from partner universities. These volunteers serve for six months in developing countries.

The Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) acts as the coordinating university of the Spanish University Volunteer Network currently comprising 27 Spanish universities. To date, 155 assignments have been carried out. This year, it is envisaged to field 45 volunteers to work towards achieving the MDGs in selected areas of education, health, environment and Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D). The volunteers are to primarily support host institutions supported by UNV’s MDG Facility as well as UN Projects and Programmes engaged in MDGs-related activities. The focus of these assignments will be on capacity building.

1. UNV Assignment Title: Participation in the activities related to achievement of MDG 4

2. Type of assignment (International University volunteer): Spanish University Volunteers

3. Project Title:
Improvement of quality of medical services on the base of maternal hospitals

4. Duration: 6 months

5. Location, Country: UNICEF office, 160 Chui prospect, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
(Field trips are expected)

6. Expected starting date: October 2009 (earlier dates are desirable)

7. Brief Project Description:

a) Infant and under-five mortality is declining.

There has been a gradual decline in infant mortality (IMR) and under-five mortality (U5MR) rates over the past ten years. In order to achieve the MDG goal for under-five mortality, there must be accelerated progress. In 2007, the IMR was 29.8 by MoH data and 36 according to MICS. U5MR was 36.6 according to MoH data and 41 according to MICS

b) Neonatal mortality is increasing.

There has been an worrisome increase in the number deaths of newborns – including those weighing more than 1.5 kilogrammes – indicating that children are dying due to lack of medical assistance, or because the low quality of care. Available data from RMIC (Republican national Information Center) shows also that the increase in infant mortality is not directly connected with the new criteria ILBO, WHO for live births. Of all infant deaths in the first year of life (IMR) 50 per cent are neonatal deaths (occurring within the first 28 days). Approximately 75 per cent of neonatal deaths occur within the first seven days of life, and most of these occur in the first 24 hours after birth.

Perinatal Care:



The country UNICEF Program provided the required technical support to the Ministry of Health for the formulation of the Strategy for Perinatal Care in the Kyrgyz Republic. This strategy was adopted by the MoH in April 2008 and is based on the principle of regionalization and women's increasing access to quality specialised services during pregnancy, delivery and the post-birth period. A MoH working group developed the strategy over the course of a year with the technical support of UNICEF and UNFPA. UNICEF supported a series of workshops on neonatal care, intensive therapy in the newborn period, training rounds, and provided international consultation that led to the formulation of the strategy. Now the main priority in this area is improvement of quality of medical services on the base of maternal hospitals, introduction of comprehensive approaches in terms of improvement of quality of medical services on the base of primary health care, hospital care levels, improvement of internal and external monitoring, dramatic changes in the process of accreditation and certification of maternal hospitals.

Goal of the project:

The main goal of the programme is to reduce perinatal mortality in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Main expected results:

• **Policies, legislation, and budget allocation support reformed Perinatal System:**

By the end of the project, a supportive environment at the political level will be created to support the implementation of the National Perinatal Care Programme. The project will advocate for appropriate allocation of resources (based on costed services) and will support the development of clinical guidelines, standards and protocols, as well as supportive policies and legislation. Evidence-based advocacy will be used to raise awareness of policy and decision-makers in the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Mandatory Health Insurance Fund, the Prime Minister's Office and President's Administration in order to change views on how the perinatal/neonatal care system functions and the conduction of a model referral system in pilot regions.

• **Regional Training Centers have the capacity to continue training perinatal care training programmes:**

By the end of the project, the project will strengthen the capacity of two Regional Training Centers to ensure sustainability of the human resource needs of the National Perinatal Care Programme, including training trainers, conducting research, making international materials available, and sponsoring key counterparts to allow them to attend international workshops or conferences.

• **Quality of Perinatal Care Services will be improved**

Health staff at the tertiary and secondary levels of health care (district level) will improve their skills and knowledge in perinatal care.

• **Improved breastfeeding practices:**

By the end of the project, breastfeeding will be effectively promoted in all maternity hospitals in the country through the 10 Baby Friendly Hospital Steps.

8. Host Agency / Host Institute: UNICEF Kyrgyzstan, Health and Nutrition section

9. Organizational Context:

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provides life-saving assistance and protection for children; functions that must be performed, or rapidly and efficiently resumed, in a crisis – both natural and man-made. UNICEF responds in emergencies to protect the rights of children. In coordination with United Nations partners and humanitarian agencies, UNICEF makes its unique facilities for rapid response available to its partners to relieve the suffering of children and those who provide their care.

Currently our main priority program is Perinatal Care and the main approach is improvement of quality of medical services on the base of maternal hospitals. From the Global experience Health system in Spain was successful in the improvement of quality of medical services and implemented several different models. We hope that volunteer from Spain will be able to contribute in the technical assistance to working group of MoH in the development of strategic approaches for the improvement of quality of medical services on the base of maternal hospitals.

10. Description of Duties:



Under the direct supervision of **Ms. Cholpon Imanalieva** - Health and Nutrition Specialist of UNICEF Kyrgyzstan office, the University volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

- Participation in the development of tools for improvement of quality of medical services on the base of maternal hospitals with working group of the MCH team of the MoH (head of MCH team – Ms. Anara Eschodjaeva)
- To propose indicators for assessment of quality of medical services on the base of maternal hospitals separately for internal and external monitoring.
- To participate in the statistical analysis of results of survey conducted for assessment of risk factors of death of children under 5 at home and first day of hospitalization and participate in report writing (leader – Mr. Aibek Ibraimov – center of Development of medicine of the MoH)
- Capacity building of partners in conduction of surveys, preparation of methodologies of different types of surveys, sampling, statistical analysis – organize 3 days training on the base of National Center of Mother and child health.
- To provide technical assistance in the preparation of clinical guidelines in terms of searching evidence based information for preparation of guidelines related to treatment of newborns.
- Participate in the preparation of communication materials related to increasing of awareness of population about newborn care (coordinator of Perinatal care programs – Ms. Aigul Kalieva)
- We would like to inform that we are expecting that Professor Pedro Saturno from Spain will train our key decision makers in Perinatal Care on different approaches to improve quality of medical services and we are expecting that selected volunteer will provide help with adjustment and translation of some important materials from Spanish to English later when we will stay in touch with Dr. Saturno.
- Participate in other activities related to Perinatal Care program.

The volunteer will be supporting the following area(s) of the MDGs.

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve maternal health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Achieve universal primary education | <input type="checkbox"/> Combat HIV/AIDS malaria and other diseases |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Promote gender equality and empower women | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure environmental sustainability |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduce child mortality | <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a global partnership for development |

- In addition University volunteers are encouraged to further promote volunteerism and engage in volunteering activities:
- Strengthening their knowledge and understanding of the concept of volunteerism by reading relevant UNV and external publications and taking active part in UNV activities (for instance in events that mark IVD);
- Getting acquainted with and building on traditional and/or local forms of volunteerism in the host country;
- Reflecting on the type and quality of voluntary action that they are undertaking, including participation in ongoing reflection activities;
- Assisting with the UNV Buddy Programme for newly-arrived University volunteers;
- Promoting or advising local groups in the use of online volunteering, or encouraging relevant local individuals and organizations to use the UNV Online Volunteering service whenever technically possible.
- Contributing articles/write-ups on field experiences and submitting them for UNV publications/websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.;
- Contribute to the development of volunteer's movement among students of medical universities in Kyrgyzstan for support of activities for reduction of child mortality in Kyrgyzstan.

11. Results/Expected Output:

1. The list of indicators for assessment of quality of medical services provided in maternal hospitals is prepared on the base of Global knowledge and experience.
2. Evidence based literature related to treatment of newborns is prepared and provided to working group of the MoH.
3. Network of volunteers from Medical Universities is strengthened and involved into activities of UNICEF office aimed at the reduction of newborn's death in the country.



4. Three days training on main approaches of conduction of survey, methodology, sampling and statistics is organized for our main partners.

12. Qualifications/Requirements:

Experience in conduction of surveys in public health area, evidence based medicine, quality of medical services.

- **Education:** Study (degree) on public health, medicine
- **Language:** English compulsory, Russian is highly desirable

- **Specific skills in requested area (e.g. related to education, health, environment or ICT4D):**
Public health

- **Computer/software skills:** MS office, internet, email

- **Additional skills:**

Good writing skills, communication skills, commitment, desire to work in diverse environment

14. Other information:

A) Visa

Please specify type of visa needed for nationals from Spain to enter your country:

- Tourist visa (if yes, return ticket needed)**
- No visa or visa upon arrival at airport**
- Visa before departure**

B) Accommodation

- **Location of assignment:** Bishkek; probably visiting of other districts
- **Nearest airport:** Bishkek, Manas airport
- **Type of accommodation:** Apartment
- **Address:** to be identified
- **Approximate monthly cost of accommodation:** in Bishkek – 400-500 USD
- **Means of local transport for the volunteer:** mini-buses, buses, in-city taxi and office car when available for Bishkek, inter-cities taxi or office car to travel to Talas, mini-buses and in-city taxi for Talas, airplane to travel to Osh, mini-buses, office car and/or in-city taxi in Osh.
- **What other facilities will be offered to the University volunteer(s):**
 1. Working place in one of the medical facilities will be provided.
 2. Volunteer will have a chance to participate in cultural events organized by UNICEF office and partners.
 3. Volunteer will have a chance to participate in field visits if it will be related to program.

C) Local transportation

- **Means of local transportation for the volunteer:** different type of transportation (bus, mini-bus, airplane, office car and rented car if travel will relate to program activities.)
- **Approximate monthly cost:** 50-100 USD

D) Security provision

- **Security provision and approximate costs:** None

15. Conditions of Service

Monthly volunteer stipend (intended to cover housing, basic needs and local transport), equivalent to EUR 683 per University volunteer; visa fees, life and health insurance; return airfares

Date 6th April, 2009