



University volunteer TERMS OF REFERENCE: ToR 38

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.

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1. **UNV Assignment Title:** **Agronomist**
2. **Type of assignment (International University volunteer):** **Volunteer**
3. **Project Title:** **FAO Emergency Relief Support to Eastern and Northern Sri Lanka**
4. **Duration:** **6 months**
5. **Location, Country:** **Colombo, Sri Lanka**
6. **Expected starting date:** **soonest**
7. **Brief Project Description:**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN has been providing emergency inputs to returning farm families who had been displaced due to conflict. As the need for extensive future work is looming with currently several hundred thousand of displaced people in camps and within the last conflict zone in the north, we are now looking at ways to improve the farming systems and approaches to provision of agriculture inputs and training to farmers.
8. **Host Agency/Host Institute:** **The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN**

¹ Instructions for completing this form

- The form should be completed as detailed as possible bearing in mind that the Terms of Reference are aimed at student volunteers and not professionals.
- Host organizations should retain a copy of the form.
- The goal of this form is to provide pertinent information on the qualifications requested in order to recruit the best possible candidate for this student volunteer assignment.



9. Organizational Context: The Volunteer will be based in the FAO Representation office in Colombo, with possible travel depending on scope of the position.

10. Description of Duties:

The Volunteer will work with the FAO programme offices to review current agricultural systems and identify options for improvement. The target farmers will be recently returned farmers re-settling their former farm lands after having been displaced due to conflict. Issues to review are fertilization, composting, water management, green manuring, soil management, crop rotation, etc.

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

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

Under the direct supervision of FAO Emergency Coordinator the University volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

1. review current farming systems and FAO field support to farmers;
2. meet with other INGOs / NGOs to review on-going farmer support;
3. meet with Government agronomists to discuss options on farming system improvement;
4. identify and propose options for use by FAO's field programme in support of returning farmers; and
5. draft extension materials for use with farmers in the field.

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.;



11. Results/Expected Output:

- The Volunteer, through his or her assistance on agronomy, will contribute to better planning and implementation of FAO support to farmers returning after conflict related displacement
- Improved provision of agriculture inputs and training of farmers by FAO
- Improved Programming Unit at the Representation

12. Qualifications/Requirements:

- **Education:** Ideally a B.S. or B.A. but University education *under-way* (“*cursando*”) is okay
- **Language:** English
- **Specific skills in requested area (e.g. related to education, health, environment or ICT4D):**
1) experience in agriculture / farming systems
- **Computer/software skills:**
Basic
- **Additional skills:**
Most importantly the person should be a self-starter and interested in taking on new and different challenges

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:** Colombo, Sri Lanka
- **Nearest airport:** Colombo
- **Type of accommodation:** We will find a secure apartment near the office
- **Address:** close to the UN compound
- **Approximate monthly cost of accommodation:** within budget
- **Security provision and approximate costs:** to be provided
- **Means of local transport for the volunteer:** tuk tuk



- What other facilities will be offered to the University volunteer(s)?

C) Local transportation

- **Means of local transportation for the volunteer:** tuk tuks are every where and reasonably priced for private use. For official work, we have vehicles and drivers.
- **Approximate monthly cost:**

D) Security provision

- **Security provision and approximate costs:** we operate within the UN security network

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: 30 March 2009

Requested by: PT Evans, FAO Representative