



DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

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, 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

Assignment title:	UN University Youth Volunteer in Protection
UN Host Entity:	UNHCR
Country of assignment:	Ghana
Duty station:	Accra
Family / non-family duty station:	Family Duty Station
Volunteer category:	International UN University Volunteer
Duration:	5 months
Expected starting date:	20 September 2023
Sustainable Development Goal:	10. Reduced Inequalities

Details

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Organization mission and objectives

The UNHCR is mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. UNHCR's primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees.

Assignment context

The Government of Ghana is a parliamentary democracy. The security situation is generally safe and calm. Ghana is a lower middle-income country.

Ghana is a state party to both the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. Ghana is also a state party to the 1969 Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa. It has not signed either the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons or the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. It has signed the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) but has not ratified it yet.

The status and treatment of refugees is governed under the 1992 Refugee Act of Ghana, (PNDC Law 305D) and implemented by the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) under the Ministry of the Interior (MoI). The refugee law is currently under review by the GRB. First instance Refugee Status Determination (RSD) is conducted by the GRB Secretariat and adjudicated by the GRB Governing Board. Appeals are examined by the Appeals Committee which is constituted by the Minister of the Interior. Both bodies were appointed in the fourth quarter of 2021 and were functional in 2022. Current RSD procedures are satisfactory vis-à-vis international standards. There continue to be some delays both at the first instance and appeals stage. UNHCR however continues to advocate and provide technical support to the GRB Secretariat to address the backlog.

Refugees have freedom of movement and have rights to association, expression, religion as well as socio-economic rights. Women's rights and the rights of children are protected. Refugees have access to free education up to senior high school. Refugees have the right to work although they must acquire work permits to access formal employment. The majority, however, are in the informal sector. Refugees have access to the national health insurance scheme.

The main focus of activities in 2022 was on the Comprehensive Solutions Strategy for the Cessation of the Ivorian Refugees. Large numbers of Ivorians opted for voluntary repatriation and returned to the Ivory Coast. A significant number of

Ivorians, over 4,000, opted for alternative legal status. There is still a need to secure this group residence permits.

The unfolding security and humanitarian emergency in the Sahel saw some influx and continued to pose a risk of a significant influx into Ghana. The registrations of approximately 1,100 new Burkinabe asylum seekers took place in the Upper East Region in 2022. The numbers continue to rise. GRB and UNHCR do not have a permanent presence in the North. Security is a challenge in the North. There are plans to review the Contingency Plan and develop a response plan with diverse stakeholders in 2023.

Resettlement is used as a protection tool to address the needs of refugees identified with various protection risks, namely women and girls at risk, sexual and gender-based violence cases and refugees with medical needs.

UNHCR Ghana operation has offices in Accra (also covering the Volta Region) and in Takoradi covering four refugee camps (Western, Central and Bono regions). The Protection and Durable Solutions Unit in Accra consists of:

1. Senior Durable Solutions Officer
2. Associate Protection Officer
3. Protection Associate
4. Senior Protection Assistant (Community Based)
5. Registration/Data Management Assistant.
6. Durable Solutions Associate
7. Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Associate

The Protection Assistant/Associate UNV would be part of the Protection and Durable Solutions Unit in Accra.

Task description

In order to carry out this work, the UN Volunteer will be properly trained both formally, through available workshops, seminars, e-Learning platforms; and informally through on-the-job training, intensive coaching/mentoring, shadowing other colleagues to familiarize his/herself with the relevant global and local policy and procedures related to Protection activities.



The UN Volunteer will be closely supervised by both senior and middle level management within the unit and it is expected that within a few months s/he will have the necessary skills to carry out many of the daily tasks with limited guidance.

Under the direct supervision of the Senior Durable Solutions Officer and with the support of protection staff, the UN University Volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

- Learn UNHCR registration standards and procedures
- Learn the refugee status determination (RSD) criteria
- Learn the resettlement (RST) criteria
- Learn how to interview refugees (supervised)
- Draft reports and other documents
- Learn how to provide refugees for protection needs and making referrals and recommendations
- Conduct country of origin information (COI) research
- Support/Assist in the preparation of applications
- Support/Assist in Complementary Pathways by providing information to refugees and matching refugees for jobs and scholarships
- Support/Assist to organize and support file management.

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.

Requirements

Required education level Secondary Education

Minimum experience 0 years

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Area(s) of expertise: Currently studying towards a degree in _____ or other relevant field.

Skills and experience description

- Demonstrated interest and/or experience in international law / refugee law, political science, social sciences – preferably in social work etc.
- Previous experience as a volunteer and/or experience of another culture, (i.e. studies, volunteer work, internship) would be highly regarded;
- Drafting skills in English.

Language skills

English mandatory optional
basic fair working knowledge fluent mother tongue

 mandatory optional
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Competencies and Values:

- Accountability
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Building Trust
- Client Orientation
- Commitment and Motivation
- Commitment to Continuous Learning
- Communication
- Creativity
- Empowering Others
- Ethics and Values
- Integrity
- Judgement and Decision-making
- Knowledge Sharing
- Leadership
- Managing Performance
- Planning and Organizing

- Professionalism
- Respect for Diversity
- Self-Management
- Technological Awareness
- Vision
- Working in Teams

Driving license needed: **No**

Living conditions

Ghana is generally regarded as a relatively safe country however one must be vigilant and alert for crime. There is a wide variety of housing. Some areas, like Cantonments, can be relatively expensive. There are many fine restaurants in Accra and venues for music and entertainment.

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Title, Department: Sr. Durable Solutions Officer, Protection and Durable Solutions Unit

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Name of supervisor: Andrew Ginsberg

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