



UN VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

Id 1723065978515712

VMAM Id 1723065978515712

Opportunity Type (Online/Onsite) Onsite

Opportunity Title Laboratory Management Officer

UN VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

Host Entity	WHO
Country of Assignment	Eswatini
Duty station	Mbabane,
Volunteer Category	International UN Volunteer Specialist
Number of UN Volunteers	1
Duration	24m
Possibility of Extension	No
Expected Start Date	10/01/2023
Sustainable Development Goal	3. Good health and well-being
Disabilities	No

DOA Details

Organisation mission and objectives

The purpose of this position is to provide technical support to the government in laboratory management for COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases. Strengthened public health laboratory capacity is a key pillar to public health preparedness, surveillance, response and recovery. It also is to maintain and monitor the equipment by the Project for Strengthening Laboratory and Surveillance Systems to Control COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases in Eswatini, supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Understanding the importance of laboratory work in supporting Public Health preparedness, surveillance, and response and recovery from emergencies. As lead agency in health, WHO works closely with the Ministry of Health, other UN agencies and partners to improve the health outcomes for the people of Eswatini. In its Country Cooperation Strategy, WHO Eswatini Country Office identified the following five broad strategic agendas of focus (1) strengthening quality service delivery; (2) addressing communicable and non-communicable disease prevention and control; (3) promoting equitable and integrated health services across the life course; (4) promoting multisectoral approaches for healthier populations; and (5) enhancing health security and disaster preparedness and response. Since there are new laboratories that are a Biosafety level 3 laboratory supposed by Global Funds and two Biosafety level 2 laboratories donated by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Eswatini in 2021, there are not enough laboratory experts who perform molecular tests, this volunteer will help achieving Eswatini's Universal Health Coverage.

Assignment context

Strengthening Laboratory and Surveillance Systems to Control COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases in Eswatini. Provide technical support to the government in laboratory management for COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases.

Task description

Working under the overall guidance and supervision of the WHO Country Representative / Health Systems Strengthening Team in Eswatini, the UNV will act as the laboratory expert and provide technical support to the Ministry of Health and partner, in that he/she will:

- Provide technical support to the Ministry of Health (MoH) Eswatini on addressing all issues pertaining to laboratory testing;
- Support national efforts with stakeholders and laboratory networks; and support implementation of programs, partnerships and activities that support diagnostic systems;
- Support development of strategies and plans to strengthen laboratory role in integrated disease surveillance;
- Support development of workplans, specimen handling, pathogen isolation and archiving;
- Provide support with information sharing among other practices as informed by the relevant WHO guidelines and norms;
- Support the implementation of laboratory quality management systems, particularly, BSL2 Laboratories in Pigs Peak Government Hospital and Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital;
- Monitor progress made on laboratory testing for COVID-19, including support on mapping of laboratories involved in molecular testing and sequencing for COVID-19 in Eswatini;
- Participate in other sub pillar meetings to contribute on laboratory activities for COVID-19 and other epidemics response;
- Support updating monthly summary progress report of laboratory activities in Eswatini;
- Perform any other duties as assigned

Eligibility Criteria

Age 27-80

Nationality INTERNATIONAL

Additional eligibility criteria

This assignment is funded by JICA, therefore only former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA-JOCV) who could get recommendation by JICA-JOCV Secretariat are eligible to apply. Please check your application eligibility on the JICA website (https://www.jica.go.jp/volunteer/obog/career_support/unv/index.html). The assignment is planned to start October/November 2023.

DOA Requirements

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Required education level Bachelor degree or equivalent

Area(s) of specialisation Clinical / Medical Laboratory Sciences or related field

Required experience

Required experience ³

Required skills and experience

Laboratory service support and collaborating with key stakeholders in MoH; • Experience in providing technical support to the MoH and other medical institutions; • Establishes standards to maintain medical laboratory equipment and ensuring optimal performance thereof; • Drafting and contributing to workplans and other best practices; • Maintains medical laboratory productivity and other functional areas. • Any other related skills.

Language

Language	Language skills	Language requirement
English	Fluent	Yes

Area of Expertise

- Health

Driving license required

No

Type of driving licenses

Competencies and values

Accountability; adaptability and flexibility; client orientation; commitment and motivation; empowering others; ethics and values; integrity; judgement and decision-making; knowledge sharing; leadership; planning and organizing; professionalism; respect for diversity; self-management; technological awareness; working in teams.

Other information

Living conditions and other remarks

Eswatini is a landlocked country bordering South Africa and Mozambique with a population of 1.2 million. Eswatini has close economic ties to South Africa, which it depends on for about 85% of its im-ports and about 60% of exports. Eswatini is a member of the Common Monetary Area (CMA), with Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa. Under the CMA, the Eswatini lilangeni (the domestic currency) is pegged to the South African rand, which is also legal tender in the country. The country's economy rebounded in 2021, despite the continued COVID-19 pandemic and the June 2021 political unrest. The vaccination campaign, which reached about 29.2 percent of the population at end March 2022, helped to contain the spread of the virus and eased uncertainties on both demand and supply prospects. Though the June-July political unrest resulted in the destruction of physical assets, theft of inventory, and constrained operational hours, its impact on production was partly mitigated as firms accessed a Reconstruction Fund set up by the Government to cushion business from damages of the political unrest. It is a great tourist destination and a family duty station. <https://www.unv.org/>
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