



UN VOLUNTEER 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.

1. **UNV Assignment Title:** Assistant to decentralized territorial and rural economic development
2. **Type of Assignment:** International UN Volunteer
3. **UNV Programme Strategy:** Volunteerism integrated into development policies, strategies and Programmes
4. **Project Title:** UNDP/ART Ecuador Framework Programme – Project 00062201
5. **Duration:** 12 months with option to extend
6. **Location, Country:** Quito, Ecuador
7. **Expected Starting Date:** February 2013
8. **Brief Project Description:** The UNDP/ART Ecuador Programme is framed within the International ART Initiative (Support to Territorial Networks of Cooperation for Human Development). This initiative promotes a new type of active multilateralism, in which the United Nations System collaborates closely with governments and prioritizes the active participation of local communities and socio-economic actors from the North and the South.

ART Ecuador is defined as a Programmatic Framework because it represents an institutional context organized to facilitate coordination and complementarity among donor countries, United Nations agencies, local and regional governments, and other actors of decentralized cooperation, associations, universities, the private sector and NGOs. By using the Programmatic Framework, each actor disposes of an instrument to increase the sustainability, integrity and impact of its own initiatives, without sacrificing its identity and visibility. Currently, the Programme's framework is being implemented in the Provinces of Azuay, Carchi, Bolivar, Los Ríos, El Oro, Loja, Esmeraldas and in Playas Municipality.

One of the key action lines for 2013 will be to support Autonomous Decentralized Governments (at provincial, municipal and rural parish level) in the decentralization process of the government competency of agricultural development, as sanctioned by Ecuador's 2008 constitution.

9. **Host Agency/Host Institute:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

10. **Organizational Context:** UNDP/ART Ecuador's main objective is to make available to the country and other interested international cooperation actors a programmatic and management framework that strengthens the coordination between different levels of development processes, namely territorial, national and international levels. The Programme also promotes increased complementarity among

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international cooperation actors in order to support the national decentralization strategy and the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals in Ecuador.

The Programme's main national counterparts are the National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES) and the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation (SETECI) of the National Government of the Republic of Ecuador.

At the territorial level, the Programme works with Autonomous Decentralized Governments at the provincial, municipal and rural parish level. Through the local government implementation of the ART methodology, the Programme promotes multi-actor and multi-level participatory development planning among the executive, government bodies, civil society, academia and the private sector.

UNDP Ecuador, in close collaboration with UNDP's Hub for Innovative Partnerships in Geneva, is in charge of the management of the ART Ecuador Programme.

11. Type of Assignment Place: Assignment with family

12. Description of tasks:

Under the direct supervision of the coordinator of the UNDP/ART Ecuador Programme, the UN Volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

- Provide technical assistance to local decentralized autonomous governments (in particular at the rural level) in the realm of:
 - The decentralization of the government competency of agricultural development;
 - Multi-level government promotion of agricultural development;
 - Public-private sector alliances to promote rural economic development;
 - Private sector development in support of rural economic development;
- Organize workshops and trainings to strengthen local government capacities (in particular those of rural governments) in the realm of agricultural development;
- Support community development through ART's methodological framework at the local level, engaging civil society organizations (CSOs) and promoting the involvement of volunteers (VIOs) as an essential element of integral local development;
- Promote and facilitate the exchange of local governments' technical assistants, local economic development agencies, private sector and non-governmental experts and volunteers, in the field of rural economic and community development, to learn from successful experiences in other regions of the country;
- Organize the systematization of rural economic development experiences in territories accompanied by the UNDP/ART Programme;
- Support the elaboration of UNDP Knowledge Products that reflect the methodological experiences of the UNDP/ART Ecuador Programme in accompanying the decentralization process of the government policy of agricultural and local economic development.

Furthermore, UN Volunteers are encouraged 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 IVD);
- 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.

13. Results/Expected Output:

- Work plan on rural economic development support within the framework of the UNDP/ART Ecuador Programme and its methodology;
- Territorial strategy to strengthen local governments' capacities to manage the decentralized government competence of agricultural development;
- Territorial strategy to strengthen public-private sector alliances and to promote multi-actor and multi-level community development;
- Information products and UNDP Knowledge Products on the ART Programme's experiences in the realm of rural economic development;
- Reports and documents on developed work;
- A final statement of achievements towards volunteerism for development during the assignment, such as reporting on the number of volunteers mobilized, activities participated in and capacities developed.

14. Qualifications/Requirements:

- Advanced University-level degree in relevant fields such as Agronomy, Rural Development, Local Governance, International Development (with a focus on local/rural development);
- Experience in volunteer work is desired;
- Knowledge of the human development approach;
- Relationship and network building capacities;
- Experience in the field of context and policy analysis, participative development approaches, rural economic development or community development are an asset;
- Fluency in Spanish;
- Fluency in English (oral and written).

15. Living Conditions:

The place of assignment is the city of Quito in Ecuador. Quito, the capital of Ecuador is located in the Andes region, at 2,800m above sea level. The temperature varies between 10 and 26°C (50 to 70°F). The city has two seasons, a dry season (summer) and a rainy season (winter). As in any other world capital, Quito has full access to medical and educational services. Transport, telecommunications and banking services are guaranteed in the city.

The country is characterized by its geographic diversity, ranging from the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific ocean to the west, through the coastal plain (coastal region), the highlands of the Andean highlands (Region Sierra) ending in the forest east of the country (East Region)

The city does not present serious problems in terms of public safety, but has levels of crime normal for any capital city. The general safety conditions are guaranteed by the rules established by United Nations.

16. Conditions of Service

A 12 month contract, with a monthly volunteer living allowance (VLA) intended to cover housing, basic needs and utilities, equivalent to US \$1,811 (single), 2,061 (one dependent), 2,261 (two dependents); settling-in-grant (if applicable); life, health, and permanent disability insurance; return airfares (if applicable); resettlement allowance for satisfactory service.

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Date: 16/07/2012

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