



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:	International Midwife Mentor
UN Host Entity:	UNFPA
Country of assignment:	Bangladesh
Duty station:	Cox's Bazar
Volunteer category:	International UN Volunteer-Specialist
Duration:	24 months
Expected starting date:	1 October 2024
Sustainable Development Goal:	5. Gender Equality

Details

Organization mission and objectives

UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency with the mission to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UNFPA calls for the realization of reproductive rights

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for all and supports access to a wide range of sexual and reproductive health services – including voluntary family planning, maternal health care and comprehensive sexuality education.

UNFPA has been active in Bangladesh since 1974 to achieve the three transformative results - ambitions that promise to change the world for every man, woman and young person to 1) end unmet need for family planning, 2) to end preventable maternal death, and 3) to end gender-based violence and harmful practices. Currently, UNFPA is implementing 10th Country Programme (2022-2026) in Bangladesh. UNFPA's main office is in Dhaka, while there is a sub-office in Cox's Bazar to coordinate UNFPA's humanitarian efforts in response to the Rohingya refugee crisis.

Assignment context

A wave of military violence against the Rohingya population caused mass (forced) displacement from Myanmar into Bangladesh in 2017. Initially, approximately 730,000 Rohingyas arrived at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Almost seven years after the initial influx, Bangladesh is currently hosting the world's largest refugee camp, spanning over 33 congested camps, in the space-constrained, densely populated and climate vulnerable Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas of the Cox's Bazar District. There are currently (January 2024) a total of 975,350 Rohingya refugees registered in Bangladesh, of which 51.3% are women and girls. With restricted movement and limited access to regular income and livelihood opportunities, an estimated 95% of the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and 99% refugees in Bhasan Char are categorized as highly vulnerable, relying entirely on humanitarian aid.

UNFPA provides vital sexual and reproductive health services, combats gender-based violence, and supports adolescents and youths in line with the Joint Response Plan for humanitarian support to the Rohingya refugees across Cox's Bazar district and Bhasan Char island in Bangladesh. Within the Rohingya Response, UNFPA is chairing the SRH working group (42 partners), as well as leading the GBV-Sub Sector (54 partners), leading the coordination of activities and facilitation of information management, technical expertise, and resources.

UNFPA's sexual and reproductive health response in Cox's Bazar

According to the JRP, there are over 350,000 women of reproductive age who are in need of sexual and reproductive health information and services (ca. 24.5% of the total population). Under the JRP, and with support of various donors including the Government of Japan, UNFPA's SRH programme supports access to SRH services, strengthening of emergency obstetric and newborn care facilities, improving quality of antenatal and post-natal services, quality facility-based deliveries and ambulance services for emergency referrals.

UNFPA works with its partners to deploy 283 licensed national midwives across the Rohingya Response, supporting government and non-government health facilities. They provide midwifery-led Sexual Reproduce Health (SRH) services in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char. As the midwifery profession was newly introduced in Bangladesh in 2015, knowledge and skill gaps in obstetrics care are observed in health institutions remain, where midwives are required to provide assistance to expectant mothers' high-quality care during the ANC, labor, delivery, and postpartum phase. Implementing high-quality midwifery will improve efforts to reform health systems, as midwifery is a vital component of any health system. Research indicates that midwives who are competent, informed, and caring minimize stillbirths and maternal and new-born deaths while also promoting health and well-being and keeping mothers and babies safe.

The purpose of this JICA-funded UNV position is to mentor the national midwives, midwife coordinators, midwife supervisors as well as work with the doctors, facility managers and clinical coordinators. This position will enhance capacity building and evidence-based respectful midwifery-led care within an interdisciplinary team. They will contribute to provide high-quality health services for the refugee and host community girls and women, with a focus on maternal health.

Task description

Capacity development

- Provide midwives, clinical coordinators and involved doctors with relevant training, bedside/hands-on teaching, and mentorship.
- Build capacity of midwives to provide initial stabilization of emergencies when needed, and evidence-based routine maternity care, including respectful adolescent friendly ANC, delivery, and PNC services.
- Build capacity of midwives to provide comprehensive and quality SRH services including family planning, cervical cancer screening, MR/PAC, clinical management of rape, health response to sexual violence and prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- Develop and support the implementation of systems to strengthen the quality of SRHR service delivery.
- Build capacity of midwives to provide the needed data for monitoring and evaluation.
- Assess and respond to challenges in midwives' enabling environment, including logistics and commodities and capacity or communicate to relevant support systems.
- Conduct regular field visits to provide oversight and support to health facility managers and clinical coordinators to enable national midwives to provide quality comprehensive SRH services with a focus on maternal health.
- Coordinate training and mentoring sessions on all aspects of comprehensive SRHR. Support an effective response that integrates SRH (including Adolescent and Sexual

Reproductive Health), gender-based violence (GBV) and data interventions.

Advocacy and Partnership

- Advocate within facilities for evidence-based respectful (adolescent-)friendly midwifery led SRH services.
- Coordinate with other partners at the facility level to synergize SRH care provision.
- Participate in the SRH working group, as needed. Develop guidelines for provision of SRH care to refugees and host communities, as needed.
- Support coordination with donors, governments, including JICA/Embassy of Japan, and non-government actors to monitor the project and enhance existing partnership and generate where possible new ones.
- Provide input for situational reports, donor reports, background briefs, and other communication/advocacy products as required.

Project/programme Management Support

- Support SRH unit programme implementation with implementing partners.
- Provide support to assessments of SRH needs of the affected population particularly as it relates to midwifery services, as needed.
- Support the development of a Midwifery leadership programme.
- Support the documentation, organisation and visibility of the Midwifery programme.
- Assist in developing/adapting protocols for selected areas in programme coordination (such as syndromic case management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), referral for emergency obstetric care, midwifery, fistula repair, medical response to survivors of rape, counselling and family planning services, etc.).
- Conduct monitoring/mentoring visits and ensure a systematic approach for tracking barriers, challenges, and progress within facilities.
- Carry out any other duties as required.

Furthermore, UN Volunteers are required to:

- Strengthen his/her 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

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Education: Bachelor's degree in Midwifery

A midwifery degree recognized by the International Confederation Midwives (ICM) i.e. bachelor's degree in Midwifery (3 years) or a post Bachelor of Nursing Diploma in Midwifery (12-18 months). A degree in midwifery, nursing, medicine/public health is desirable but clinical experience of four years in combination with a relevant BA degree in related field may be considered in lieu of an advanced degree.

Development oriented background is preferable so that effective collaboration with development actors such as JICA can be sought.

Minimum experience: 3 years in **Midwifery**

At least three year's full scope clinical midwifery experience. Experience with mentoring and training.

Skills and experience description

- Technical knowledge of current developments in sexual and reproductive health care; Strong expertise in capacity development.
- Knowledge and understanding of health care in low resource settings, particularly in the areas of reproductive health.
- Exceptional interpersonal, communication, networking, and negotiation skills.
- Ability to express clearly and concisely ideas and concepts in written and oral forms. Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages (MS word, Excel, etc.), experience in handling web-based management systems.

Language skills

English mandatory ☒ optional ☐
 basic ☐ fair ☐ working knowledge ☐ fluent ☒ mother tongue ☐

Competencies and Values

- ☒ Accountability
- ☒ Adaptability and Flexibility
- ☒ Building Trust
- ☒ Client Orientation
- ☒ Commitment and Motivation
- ☒ Commitment to Continuous Learning
- ☒ Communication
- ☒ Creativity
- ☒ Empowering Others

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- ☒ 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

Cox's Bazar is a district of Bangladesh, and it is famous for fishing port and tourism. It is one of the most-visited tourist destinations in Bangladesh. The beach in Cox's Bazar is an unbroken 120 km (75 miles) sandy sea beach with a gentle slope, making it the second longest sea beach in the world. The climate of Cox's bazar is similar to the rest of the country. The climate of Bangladesh is generally determined by its location in the tropical monsoon region: high temperature, heavy rainfall, generally excessive humidity, and distinct seasonal variations. It is further characterized by the location in the coastal area. Historically Cox's Bazar, like other parts of Bangladesh, is a safe place to live. Since August 2017, with the large scale Rohingya influx from Myanmar, Cox's Bazar is seen as a district with a humanitarian crisis. Culturally Cox's Bazar is very diverse and well-known for its traditional heritage. The communications systems in Cox's Bazar is well developed and the district is well-connected with other cities. All the national mobile networks are operational in Cox's Bazar. Walking within Cox's Bazar city is only allowed during daytime. Travel by rickshaw is also permitted within Cox's Bazar only during daytime. Cox's Bazar has a domestic airport and is currently classified as a family duty station (Security Level 3- moderate; Hardship category-D).