



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:	Technical Field Officer
UN Host Entity:	FAO
Country of assignment:	Pakistan
Duty station:	Multan
Volunteer category:	International UN Volunteer
Duration:	24 months
Expected starting date:	1 October 2024
Sustainable Development Goal:	2. Zero Hunger

Details

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We are inspiration in action



The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

Our goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With 195 members - 194 countries and the European Union, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.

The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 places the 2030 Agenda at its centre and will use key SDGs and their indicators to promote focus and track progress. FAO's contributions span all SDGs, and are guided by the lens of SDG 1, SDG 2, and SDG 10. FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 embraces the five basic principles that feed into all SDGs – the 'five Ps': people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership.

FAO is the 'custodian' UN agency for 21 indicators and is a contributing agency to five more spanning SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15.

Assignment context

Over the last decade, Pakistan's progress in child malnutrition has not been encouraging. The last National Nutrition Survey (NNS) conducted in 2018 has revealed an alarming situation of malnutrition. According to the results, the prevalence of acute malnutrition (wasting) is 17.7 percent which is higher than the 2011 NNS and also higher than the WHO threshold, indicating a public health emergency. Nearly 30 percent of children less than 5 years of age are underweight; and 40 percent are stunted, meaning they are chronically malnourished. In terms of micronutrient malnutrition, around 30 percent of children under the age of five are anaemic, and 18.6 percent of children are zinc deficient at national level, with remarkable provincial disparities which are much more alarming than national level. Only 38 per cent of children are exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life while 8 out of 10 children in Pakistan do not eat right type and quantity of food. Among women in reproductive age (15-49 years), the anaemia prevalence is very high (above 40%) which increases the risk of premature birth, low birth weight and abnormal bleeding during childbirth, leading to high maternal and child mortality rates.

Regarding food security in Pakistan on a "per capita" basis, the nutrient supply through food/person/day in Pakistan, is sufficient to meet the required intake (FAOSTAT 2018). On the other hand, per capita consumption of high-value-added agricultural products (beef, chicken, fish, milk, vegetables, and fruits) is only about 1/6 to 1/10 of the consumption in developed countries. While Pakistan is supplied with sufficient food, there is an imbalance in food distribution among the people. Indeed, two-thirds of Pakistanis do not have a nutritious diet. It has been pointed out that it is necessary to improve nutrition through food diversification (National Food Security Policy 2018).

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To respond to the crisis, the Government of Pakistan, in its National Health Vision (2016-2025), advocated the strengthening of policies to improve nutrition through maternal and child health. Besides, the Pakistan Multi-sectoral Nutrition Strategy (2018-2025) aims to sustainably reduce the burden of malnutrition in the country with a focus on the most marginalized and disadvantaged segments of the populations. Nutrition sensitive interventions include boosting agricultural production and distribution, adopting crops with improved nutrient content and other interventions increase household incomes and enhances access to diverse diets and can improve food security.

To assist implementation of Government policies and strategies, development partners including FAO and JICA have been implementing projects to promote food security and diversification for mothers and children in Pakistan. However, the nutrition indicators are not improving as expected, with nutrition related contributing to the high prevalence.

In South Punjab (Multan, Khanewal, Lodhran, Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan), FAO has been implementing “Transforming the Indus Basin with Climate Resilient Agriculture and Water Management” in 2020- 2026, which includes the component of Women Open School activities. It aims to empower farmers’ wives by teaching and supporting their kitchen garden and backyard poultry, although it was rather designed to promote increasing production for value-chain system. On the other hand, JICA has been implementing MULTISECTORAL NUTRITION ADVISORY PROJECT in 2023-2024, which includes the pilot activities of kitchen garden and backyard poultry in primary schools and basic health units in Multan, Muzaffargarh and Faisalabad. It showcases the hybrid focus of production and nutritional consumption, however, the pilot size is relatively small.

Therefore, JICA Pakistan office considered dispatching a technical field officer UNV (for ex JOCV) in FAO project office in Multan, to reinforce kitchen garden and backyard poultry activities with the focus of nutritional diets and food diversification especially for women and children.

Task description

Under the direct supervision of Technical Advisor, Emelda Berejena, the UN Volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

1. Conduct needs assessments within FAO and other stakeholders including JICA, with a focus on kitchen garden and backyard poultry to improve maternal and child nutrition.
2. Conduct an analysis of good practices in nutrition related kitchen garden and backyard poultry activities in Pakistan and other countries.

3. Support development of strategy and plan to enhance Women Open School activities with nutritional focus.
4. Support implementation and monitoring of Women Open School activities with nutritional focus.
5. Coordinate among nutrition related stake-holders including Punjab government, FAO, JICA, WFP and NGOs on the various nutrition related activities and education materials to ensure synchronization of projects and harmonization of materials and messaging.
6. Other tasks as required.

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

Education: Bachelor's degree in a, livestock, nutrition or other fields relevant.

Minimum experience: **Minimum 2 years** of experience in relevant field .

Skills and experience description

- Experience in field work related with agriculture, livestock or nutrition.
- Experience in interacting with community-level stakeholders.
- Experience in fostering open dialogue, building trust, and engaging key stakeholders.
- Excellent command of the English language (listening, writing, speaking).
- A minimum 2 years of JOCV completed, and experience in implementing and assessing innovative approaches and techniques on demand generation.
- Female is preferred but male candidates with experience to work with women group can be also considered.

Language skills

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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
- 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

Pakistan, officially known as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, is situated in South Asia. With a population exceeding 241 million, it ranks as the world's fifth-most populous country. Spanning 881,913 square kilometers (340,509 square miles), it is the 33rd-largest nation by area. It has sharing borders with India to the east, Afghanistan to the west, Iran to the southwest, and China to the northeast.

Pakistan is known for its low cost of living, favourable weather conditions, and provision of acceptable healthcare and educational facilities. The cost of living in Pakistan is generally

lower compared to many Western countries, making it an attractive destination for expats. Pakistan is a largely developing country with economic recession last year that devalued the currency. However, the positive trend has been seen since the recent general elections having developments in terms of stable Rupees rate against Dollars from last few months.

Except Islamabad and Lahore, all other locations are marked as non-family duty station with 06 or 08 weeks' rest and recuperation (R&R) cycle. The security situation in Pakistan remains volatile especially those areas bordering with India and Afghanistan. However, the UN is not a direct target.

Multan is located in the southern part of Punjab province. It is the 4th largest city of Pakistan, and is one of the oldest cities in South Asia. It is rich in history and is called as a "city of saints". Good medical, infrastructure and other necessary facilities are readily available. FAO has a its main provincial office in Multan, which is headed by an international staff. It has offices in the a few districts- DG Khan, Khanewal, Lodhran, Muzaffargarh- co-located with the government departments. Multan is a non-family duty station (C category) with 08 weeks' of R&R. Due to its security level 2 (SL2), additional protective security measures are put in place mainly the police escort is mandatory to accompany all international staff for their movements. Currently, one international staff is based in Multan who is provided with all necessary security protocols. The police authorities and UNDSS are informed regarding her movement in the province, and also require intimation to ministry of foreign affairs (MOFA) and NOC for some locations.