



Inclusive Programming Officer

ONSITE

TAJIKISTAN

GENERAL INFORMATION

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| Host Entity: | UNICEF |
| Country of Assignment: | Tajikistan |
| Duty station: | Dushanbe |
| Volunteer Category: | International UN Volunteer Specialist |
| Number of Assignment(s): | 1 |
| Expected Start Date: | 01/10/2025 |
| Duration: | 18 month(s) |
| Possibility of Extension: | No |
| Sustainable Development Goal: | 3. Good health and well-being |
| DoA ID: | 1784888021260238 |

DETAILS

ORGANISATION MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The fundamental mission of UNICEF is to promote the rights of every child, everywhere, in everything the organization does — in programmes, in advocacy and in operations. The equity strategy, emphasizing the most disadvantaged and excluded children and families, translates this commitment to children's rights into action. For UNICEF, equity means that all children have an opportunity to survive, develop and reach their full potential, without discrimination, bias or favoritism. To the degree that any child has an unequal chance in life — in its social, political, economic, civic and cultural dimensions — her or his rights are violated. There is growing evidence that investing in the health, education and protection of a society's most disadvantaged citizens — addressing inequity — not only will give all children the opportunity to fulfill their potential but also will lead to sustained growth and stability of countries. This is why the focus on equity is so vital. It accelerates progress towards realizing the human rights of all children, which is the universal mandate of UNICEF, as outlined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, while also supporting the equitable development of nations.

ASSIGNMENT CONTEXT

UNICEF Tajikistan is supporting the Government of Tajikistan on early childhood development, which includes early detection and intervention for children with disabilities (CwD) and children with developmental delays. This

support is critical as ever now, as Tajikistan Government is nearing the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD) in 2025. UNICEF plans to double-down on strengthening policy reforms and services relating to the rights of CwD. In addition, UNICEF Tajikistan has been the lead agency, alongside the World Bank, in supporting the government in strengthening social protection. With UNICEF's technical capacity as well as advocacy support, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population (MoHSPP) has established a vision for a government-led inclusive social protection system through the adoption of the National Social Protection Strategy in 2022. The strategy aims to address vulnerabilities around the life cycle in a risk-informed and shock-responsive manner. The key priorities under the strategy are further translated into a three-year Plan of Action 2024-26. JICA Global Agenda (JGA) for Social Protection identifies child protection as one of the sector's key priorities and recommends focusing on the professionalization of the social workforce as the agenda's main engagement to tackle issues related to social protection of children.

JICA is exploring a potential future project in the social protection sector for the first time in Tajikistan and seeks sending a JOCV on inclusive social protection aligned to Strategy of the Development of Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan 2040 to protect the most vulnerable children and families.

UNICEF is the partner of choice for the MoHSPP as well as the Ministry of Education and Science in establishing a comprehensive ECI system and services, including creating an enabling environment through high-level advocacy and policy change, capacity building and provision of essential equipment. For JICA to better understand the activities of early childhood intervention in Tajikistan, a joint field mission is planned for March to visit the early childhood intervention (ECI) center in a polyclinic.

Against this backdrop, UNICEF is looking for a JICA-sponsored Inclusive Programming Officer (Social protection and early childhood development), UNV, to enhance the governance and cross-sectoral coordination mechanism to realize improved access to early childhood intervention services and to community and family-based care, including for families with CwD, to build a foundation of future project formulation in Tajikistan's child and family welfare sector.

Inclusive programming in social protection and early childhood development/intervention involves implementing policies and interventions that cater to the diverse needs of all children, including vulnerable and marginalized groups. The aim is to ensure equitable access to social protection measures and quality early inclusive childhood development/intervention for every child, regardless of their background or abilities.

TASK DESCRIPTION

Under the supervision of Deputy Representative, in close coordination with the ECD Specialist, the Chief Child Protection and the Chief Social Protection, the Inclusive Programming Officer will undertake:

Work with the UNICEF inter-sectoral team (health/child protection/social protection) to coordinate with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MoHSPP) and NGOs to implement the early childhood intervention and inclusive social protection programme.

Support development and implementation of the efficient local referral mechanism(s) for the most disadvantaged children to strengthen coordination between the social, health and education providers at the community level. Support the development of tools and protocols to institutionalize the referral mechanism.

Support the policy discussion on education and protection of the most disadvantaged children under the umbrella of the SDSPP2040. contribute to strengthening the linkages between education, child protection and social protection from the perspective of ensuring social welfare for the most vulnerable families and children.

Support the evidence generation on parenting study. Develop advocacy and fundraising materials for ensuring social protection and access to ECI services for the most disadvantaged children.

Contribute to drafting of programme progress and donor reports. Analyse collected data and prepare progress reports including monitoring and reporting indicators, disaggregated by age and gender.

Support the UNICEF's coordination with relevant development partners including World Bank, JICA and the government stakeholders.

Contribute to design of the activities focusing on integrating community based ECI services with parenting programmes.

Strengthen the strategic partnership between UNICEF and JICA to protect the rights of children and families.

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.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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| Age: | 18-80 |
| Nationality: | Candidate must be a national of a country other than the country of assignment. |
| Required experience: | 3 year(s) |

ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

1 year(s)

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Project coordination and management, social protection or early childhood development.

Previous experience as a volunteer and/or experience of another culture, (i.e. studies, volunteer work, internship) would be highly regarded;

REQUIRED EDUCATION LEVEL

Bachelor's degree in Project coordination and management, social protection or early childhood development

LANGUAGE

| Language | Proficiency | Required |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| English | Fluent | Yes |
| Russian | Working knowledge | No |

COMPETENCIES AND VALUES

- Accountability
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Building Trust
- Client Orientation
- Commitment and Motivation
- Commitment to Continuous Learning
- Communication
- Creativity
- Ethics and Values
- Integrity
- Knowledge Sharing
- Planning and Organizing
- Respect for Diversity
- Working in Teams

OTHER INFORMATION

Volunteerism is understood as a wide range of activities undertaken of free will, for the general public good, for which monetary reward is not the principal motivating factor.

LIVING CONDITIONS AND OTHER REMARKS

The Republic of Tajikistan is located in the south-east of Central Asia. The total territory is 143.1 thousand square kilometres. The population is around 10 million people. The currency unit is Somoni introduced in October 2000. The geography of the Republic of Tajikistan is mountainous with heights above sea level varying between 300 and 7495 meters. Mountains belonging to the highest ranges of Central Asia make up 93% of the total area of the country. UNICEF operates from Dushanbe, the national capital of Tajikistan, located along the Varzob River in the Gissar valley, in the southwest of the country. Dushanbe has a population of about 1 million inhabitants. It is a family friendly duty station. Official language is Tajik (a variant of Persian; Farsi), while Russian is widely used. Dushanbe is a clean, European-style city. The city is located at 820 meters above sea level and has wide tree-lined streets with plenty of cafés to enjoy coffee or tea with local sweets. Dushanbe is the financial, political, administrative, and cultural capital of Tajikistan. All Government offices and Embassies are located in Dushanbe. The overall Security Level for Tajikistan, including Dushanbe where UN personnel resided is low. The threat rating of the Crime category is moderate. The general crime situation is assessed as moderate and is under control by law enforcement

agencies. The number of registered crimes in Tajikistan during the current year decreased by 6.8% from the corresponding period of the previous year (2022).

<https://www.unv.org/>

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

United Nations Volunteers is an equal opportunity programme that welcomes applications from qualified professionals. We are committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, care protected characteristics. As part of their adherence to the values of UNV, all UN Volunteers commit themselves to combat any form of discrimination, and to promoting respect for human rights and individual dignity, without distinction of a person's race, sex, gender identity, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy, age, language, social origin or other status.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

UNICEF offers reasonable accommodation for UN Volunteers with disabilities. This may include, for example, accessible software, travel assistance for missions or personal attendants. We encourage you to disclose your disability during your application in case you need reasonable accommodation during the recruitment process and afterwards in your assignment.

NOTE ON COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to duty station-specific vaccine requirements, appointments are subject to confirmation of fully-vaccinated status against SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) with a World Health Organization (WHO)-endorsed vaccine, which must be met prior to taking up the appointment. It does not apply to UN Volunteers who will work remotely and are not expected to work on or visit UNICEF premises, programme delivery locations or directly interact with communities UNICEF works with, nor to travel to perform functions for UNICEF for the duration of their contracts.

SCAM WARNING

The United Nations does not charge any application, processing, training, interviewing, testing or other fee in connection with the application or recruitment process. Should you receive a solicitation for the payment of a fee, please disregard it. Furthermore, please note that emblems, logos, names and addresses are easily copied and reproduced. Therefore, you are advised to apply particular care when submitting personal information on the web.

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