

UN ENVIRONMENT JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REQUEST

General Information

Post Title: Programme Associate
Office/division: Ecosystems Division
Unit: Disasters and Conflicts Branch
Location: Geneva, Switzerland
Duration: 24 months

Background information on UN Environment and the requesting Unit

This position is with the Disasters and Conflicts Branch (DCB) of the UN Environment Programme based in Geneva, Switzerland. DCB is the main mechanism for channeling UNEP's support to areas of the world where the natural and human environment have been damaged by conflicts and disasters. Specialized environmental expertise is provided to rapidly identify risks to health, livelihoods and ecosystem services and to integrate environmental needs within the recovery process.

The Disasters and Conflicts Branch promotes sustainable management of natural resources in conflict and disaster affected countries. Its services may be categorized in three main areas:

- Environmental Security
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Response and Recovery

This position falls under the 'response and recovery' work area and may also include tasks related to disaster risk reduction and environmental security. This may also entail liaising and supporting the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit in mobilizing rapid environmental assistance.

The Branch's work demonstrates to decision makers the importance of natural resources management as a precondition for sustainable recovery and development in crisis-affected contexts and as an instrument for peace-building and disaster risk reduction. Since 1999, the team has provided technical assistance and conducted field operations in over 50 crisis-affected countries and works in close cooperation with the humanitarian, development and peace-building frameworks of the UN system.

Why is the Junior Professional Officer requested/needed?

The JPO is primarily required to assist in the implementation and coordination of DCB environmental recovery projects in conflict-affected countries. Main areas of work include: i) monitoring and assessment of conflict and disaster induced environmental impacts; ii) sustainable management of disaster waste and clean-up of contaminated sites; iii) promoting ecosystem restoration and adaptation measures to support vulnerable communities in crisis-affected contexts; and iv) integrating environmental aspects in recovery and reconstruction plans and programs. The candidate would play a key role in

liaising with donors and UN partners and in the design and submission of new project proposals.

The JPO would also lead the development of a visibility plan and disseminate project results through conventional and innovative approaches. In addition, the JPO would substantively contribute to regular monitoring and evaluation of project activities, including documentation of lessons learned.

The optimal duration for this JPO assignment is 24 months to ensure sustained support to planned and ongoing DCB projects.

Supervision

Direct supervision by: Mr. Hassan Partow

Title supervisor: Programme Manager

Branch Director: Ms. Cecilia Aipira

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Content and methodology of the supervision

The requested JPO will be an integral member of the Disasters and Conflicts Branch and would specifically enhance its efforts in the area of environmental response and recovery from disaster events and in conflict-affected contexts. The candidate would also be instrumental in the implementation of DCB's results oriented annual work plan which contributes directly to the objectives of UNEP's Programme of Work and Medium-Term Strategy. At the same time, the JPO would also liaise and coordinate with relevant UNEP regional offices and technical divisions to align project aims with wider organisational policy level objectives.

The standard UN e-PAS system will be applied for goals and performance indicator setting and appraisal. An orientation period of up to 6 weeks will be carried out to make the JPO familiar with the UN, UNEP and DCB's work. A work plan for the JPO will be developed in consultative manner and which will be informed by DCB's workplan and the relevant project outcomes to ensure both maximum learning and benefits for the JPO while advancing DCB's goals and impact. Adequate project responsibilities will be delegated to the JPO to enhance confidence and learning by doing. Guidance will be provided on the specific environmental impacts of conflicts and disasters, and development of solutions that are applicable in the challenging operational context of crisis-affected countries. Regular meetings will be held with the JPO to review work progress, to mentor and obtain feedback on difficulties encountered including job-satisfaction.

First appraising officer: Mr. Hassan Partow

Title first appraising officer: Programme Manager

Unit first appraising officer: Disasters and Conflicts Branch

Location first appraising officer: Geneva, Switzerland

Second appraising officer: Ms. Cecilia Aipira

Title second appraising officer: Head

Unit second appraising officer: Disasters and Conflicts Branch

Location second appraising officer: Nairobi, Kenya

Duties, responsibilities and output expectations

Terms of reference

The JPO will assist the Disaster and Conflicts Branch in the following tasks:

1. Supports project implementation and development of an action plan; monitors and evaluates project results; reviews relevant project documents and progress reports; assists in planning and delivery of trainings and consultation meetings including through online platforms; identifies challenges to be addressed and recommends corrective actions; liaises with project implementing partners; identifies and tracks follow-up actions.
2. Provide technical inputs and advise on solutions in remediating the environmental problems encountered (e.g. waste management, containment/clean-up of polluted sites; ecosystem restoration and Nature-based Solutions)
3. Participates in field missions and surveys; assists in the design of field data collection tools; and analyzes data collected.
Actively networks with key donors and responds to their requests in a timely and comprehensive manner. Researches and identifies opportunities for new project proposals in conflict and disaster affected countries and contributes to project design and preparation.
4. Liaises and backstops the activities of the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit including rapid environmental assistance deployments, trainings and support to humanitarian actors on a case-by-case basis.
5. Develops a visibility plan for environmental response recovery projects (e.g. sustainable debris management, assessment and clean-up of conflict related pollution, ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk reduction) in consultation with partners and donors. Disseminates project results through conventional and innovative communication products (e.g. websites, press releases, web stories, video films, and social media networks, etc.) and advocates and communicates key project messages promoting sustainable debris management, circular economy principles and nature based solutions.
6. Contributes to the preparation of various written outputs, e.g. draft background papers, project progress reports, project lessons learned, analytical notes, sections of reports and studies, inputs to publications and financial statements.
7. Performs other duties as required.

Output expectations

1. Environmental response and recovery projects supporting monitoring, assessment and mitigation of environmental impacts of conflicts, containment and clean-up of

contaminated sites, sustainable debris management, and nature-based solutions in conflict and disaster affected countries successfully implemented.

2. Enhanced visibility and advocacy for environmental recovery interventions in conflict-affected situations with specific focus on Iraq, Ukraine and Azerbaijan.
3. Strengthened partnerships with donors and UN agencies in crisis-affected countries.
4. Development and submission of new project proposals to key donors.
5. Projects reports (progress reports, M&E reviews, lessons learned documents, etc.).
6. Workshops and meetings effectively conducted, reported and communicated.

Travel

Missions and costs of travel envisaged during the 24-month assignment: US \$ 10,000

It is envisaged that at least 4-5 missions will be conducted during this 2-year assignment. These missions will provide exposure to the incumbent on the specific operational realities of crisis-affected and humanitarian situations. It will give the incumbent an opportunity to better understand field conditions and challenges faced by local communities and authorities, engage with international and government partners in developing pragmatic solutions, and network with donors. Part of these missions will be funded by the project budget.

Training and Learning Elements

Training

A learning by doing approach will be followed to provide hands-on training to the JPO. In addition, the JPO will have the opportunity to be trained within the context of the delivery of project activities which include the following training aspects:

- Project activity planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation based on results-based framework;
- Disaster waste management including application of circular economy principles to promote longer-term recovery and ‘building back better’;
- Approaches to monitor and assess the environmental impacts of conflicts and disasters;
- Application of nature-based solutions and ecosystem approaches to reduce disaster risks;
- Operational modalities and delivery mechanisms under the specific conditions of crisis-affected countries and humanitarian operations;
- Project formulation and design;
- UN mandatory and language training (security, ethics, gender, etc.).

Learning elements:

At the end of the 24-month assignment the Junior Professional Officer is able to have:

- Better understanding of project delivery mechanisms and operational realities in crisis and humanitarian situations;
- Experience in monitoring and assessing the environmental impacts of conflicts and disasters;

- Practical knowledge of disaster waste management and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction approaches to environmental management;
- Improved resource mobilization skills;
- Improved outreach and advocacy skills;
- Undertake monitoring and evaluation of project progress and formulation of related remedial actions.

Qualifications and experience

Qualifications

Skills

Working experience

Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in environmental management, waste and pollution management, natural resource management, sustainable development or related fields. A first-level university degree in combination with qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

A minimum of three years of practical experience at the national, regional or the international levels in sustainable development and environmental related programmes, projects and activities.

Fluency in English is essential. Working knowledge of other UN languages is an asset. The incumbent must possess computer skills, good drafting skills and able to establish and maintain effective working relations within multicultural working environment.

Competencies

Good planning and organization skills

Team work and adherence to UN values and ethics

Ability to communicate clearly orally and in writing

Living conditions at duty station

Geneva is classified as an H category duty station and serves as one of the main UN headquarters.