



UNV 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, UNV 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, UNV 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 UNV volunteers even more rewarding and productive.

- 1. UNV Assignment Title:** **UNV Protection Assistant**
- 2. Type of Assignment:**
International UNV volunteer / ___ /
National UNV volunteer / X /
- 3. Project Title:** **09/AP/BRA/LS/401** Assistência para a integração local de refugiados no Brasil
- 4. Duration:** **3 ½ months, with possibility of extension**
- 5. Location, Country:** **Brasília, Brazil**
- 6. Expected Starting Date:** **15th September 2010**

7. Brief Project Description:

Within the Mexico Plan of Action framework, especially its components of Research and Doctrinal Development, Training and Institutional Capacity-building, "Solidarity Cities", "Borders of Solidarity" and "Solidarity Resettlement", the objectives for 2010/2011 are as follows:

- Affirming and developing an international protection regime
- Realizing the social and economic well being of refugees and other persons of concern
- Attaining durable solutions guaranteeing age, gender and diversity perspective in all actions and programs.

8. Host Agency/Host Institute: **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR**

9. Organizational Context:

Brazil is a signatory of the main international human rights instruments¹. Since 16/11/1960, when it was ratified, Brazil is part of 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, further ratifying the 1967 Protocol in 1972 and removing the geographical reservation on 09/12/1989. Brazil enacted the refugee act *Law*

¹ ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CAT, CERD, CRC and the Rome Statute of the ICC. In the regional level, Brazil has also ratified the most important Regional human rights instruments like the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights; the Belém do Pará Convention on Violence Against Women, (November 25th 1995), San Salvador Protocol on Social and Economic Rights, (August 21st 1996); Asunción Protocol on the Abolition of Death Penalty, (August 13th 1996); Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Abolish Torture, (July 20th 1989); Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Disabled Persons, (August 15th 2001). Brazil has also accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

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number 9.474/97, in effect since 23rd July 1997. The law contains the protection mechanism of the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol and incorporates the broader definition of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration the formulation “*generalized violation of human rights*” which applies to situations of generalized violence and armed conflict.

The majority of refugees in Brazil have an urban profile and are formally granted access to social and economic rights such as health care, education and work, which remains the main challenge to refugee’s self-reliance.

10. Type of Assignment Place: family duty station

11. Description of tasks:

Under the direct supervision of the Protection Officer the UNV volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

- Perform Refugee Status Determination (RSD) activities, including interview of asylum-seekers, Country of Origin Information research and preparation for CONARE (Comitê Nacional para os Refugiados) meetings;
- Assist and follow-up cases of family reunification and voluntary repatriation;
- Assist and follow-up individual needs of refugees and asylum-seekers;
- Assess and address legal issues concerning refugees’ integration;
- Follow-up and up-date Protection files;
- Compile monthly statistics on asylum claims and refugees in the country;
- Act as interpreter and translator when needed;
- Perform other duties as required.

Furthermore, UNV 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 UNV 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.

12. Results/Expected Output:

- 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.

13. Qualifications/Requirements:

- University degree in Law, International Relations, or other related fields;
- 2 years of relevant work experience;
- Fluency in Portuguese and English (oral and written). Advanced Spanish knowledge is a strong asset;
- Excellent computer skills (MS office, including Excel, Word and PowerPoint);
- Flexibility and adaptability;
- Excellent interpersonal skills. Demonstrated ability to work with others in a team environment.
- Brazilian nationality.

United Nations Volunteers

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14. Living Conditions:

The nation's capital, Brasilia, was founded in 1960. It is considered as one of the major examples of the modernistic movement in architecture and urban planning in the 20th century, and was added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

The average temperature is 22°C, rising to over 30°C during the hottest period. The hottest month in Brasilia is September and the coolest month is July. Planned for only 500,000 inhabitants, Brasilia has seen its population grow much more than expected. Several satellite towns have been created over the years to house the extra inhabitants.

Brasilia's total population (including the satellite cities) is now over 2,000,000 inhabitants. Outdoor recreational activities include basketball, golf, Hash House Harriers, horse-back riding, picnicking, riding, sailing, soccer, sunbathing, swimming, tennis and volleyball. Inexpensive lessons in many sports are available at the clubs to members and non-members alike.

15. Conditions of Service

A 3 ½ months contract with the possibility of extension; monthly volunteer living allowance (VLA) intended to cover housing, basic needs and utilities, equivalent to R\$ 1.990,00; settling-in-grant (if applicable); life, health, and permanent disability insurance; return airfares (if applicable); resettlement allowance for satisfactory service.

16. Application

Detailed *curriculum vitae* including two referees and application letter should be sent to brabr@unhcr.org, up to 8th September, quoting reference "Protection Assistant".

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