

VACANCY FOR VOLUNTEERS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Title of the vacancy:

Civil Engineer volunteer

Region:

Districts of Koinadugu and Falaba, Sierra Leone.

Volunteer Profile

- Junior Volunteer
 Senior Volunteer

Deployment dates (approximately):

November 2nd, 2021 – April 30th, 2022 (6 moths)

Sectors:

Health and Sanitation

Sending Organisation:

Médicos del Mundo Spain

Hosting Organisation:

Médicos del Mundo Sierra Leone

DESCRIPTION

Project description:

MdM started working in Sierra Leone in 2003 (in Koinadugu District since 2006). Since then, more than 40 projects have been developed with over 10-million-euro financial support from various donors.

Our projects in Sierra Leone aim at improving sexual and reproductive health related problems and gender equality in the districts of Koinadugu and Falaba by:

- 1) Strengthening the public health system to improve healthcare quality and access in relation to SRH, with a gender approach, and a better response to Gender based Violence.
- 2) Raising community awareness on sexual and reproductive rights and enhancing involvement in the promotion of healthy SRH habits and gender equality.
- 3) Advocating and improving governance for a positive impact on SRR and reduce main problems identified: maternal mortality, under-five mortality, teenage pregnancy, STIs and GbV.

The objective of our interventions focusses on triggering an integral impact, through the reinforcement of the capacities of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, training health personnel to better manage main SRH problems and to respond to gender-based violence and improving available health facilities. MdM, also, works at community level, raising awareness and mobilising civil society around the right to health; but also, advocating and networking for the promotion of health, with special emphasis on the improvement of the conditions that affect women's health and well-being.

The quality of health services available for the population in the intervention area is a key factor. In consequence, various activities included in our projects aim at improving and rehabilitating health facilities and WASH.

Operational and security context:

MdM avails of sufficient resources to work safely and effectively:

1. **Logistic resources:** An office and a guest house in Kabala, capital of the district of Koinadugu. These spaces are fully equipped, including water and electricity supply, and internet connection. There are also vehicles available for the mission.
2. **Human resources:** A permanent MdM team is based in Kabala with national and expat personnel (1 expatriate country coordinator and 12 national staff). The mission works closely with headquarters in Madrid.
3. **Local partners:** MdM partners with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MBSSE), the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Child Affairs (MSWGCA); and, with local networks and civil organizations.
4. **Security context:** Koinadugu and Falaba are relatively safe districts, but not without risks.

a. **Citizen security and criminality:** It is recommended to maintain vigilance and prudence during any trips, to avoid carrying out large amounts of money, to carry out day trips, to avoid public gatherings and high concentrations of people (especially places of worship and sports events) or to stay alone at isolated areas. It is also necessary to be particularly alert to scams, under the pretext of making friends, selling items, or working as a guide. It is recommended not to wear expensive jewellery or clothes, and to look after your passport, identity documents, money, credit cards and airline tickets. In Freetown, it is advised to be cautious when it comes to walking in Lumley Beach area and never do it at night. Due to the poor condition of some roads and some means of transport, public or private, extra care must be taken when traveling. Road accidents are relatively frequent. In the mining areas, security measures must be stepped up, due to the frequent acts of banditry that affect gold or diamond traders. Although the level of risk is low, in response to the security threats that affect other countries in Africa, prudence and caution are recommended. Internal instability, a fragile economy and the increase purchase of sophisticated weapons can be factors that contribute to increase this level of risk.

b. **Health:** It's recommended to take proper measures to minimize the exposure to epidemic diseases in the area (malaria, lassa fever, ebola, polio...). There is only one hospital in Kabala, and not all the services are available, so a trip to Freetown will be necessary in case of emergency.

In relation to COVID19, several measures are established to limit the risks:

1. Protocols for coordination of entry into Sierra Leone from abroad and to travel between areas and conduct field visits.
2. Health insurance covers COVID19 related costs.
3. Medical evacuation procedures have been updated.
4. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for offices, personnel and travels have been established to reduce risk of transmission, including the use of EPPs, daily temperature checks, social distancing, hand washing, coughing etiquette, teleworking, and monitoring, reporting and surveillance mechanisms.

Health risks other than COVID19 are mitigated through risk awareness and prophylactic measures. Preparedness includes periodic review of healthcare services availability and insurance coverage. Confidential psychosocial support services are available, and schedule flexibility is offered to avoid burnout.

c. **Natural disasters:** No notable risks during dry seasons. Problems increase during rainy season (from June to November): blockage of roads due to rain floods, electrical discharges, landslides and high winds occurs often.

TASKS AND COMPETENCES

Tasks:

The volunteer will respond to the Regional Coordinator in HQ and the MdM Country Coordinator in Sierra Leone.

S/he must obey by the rules and regulations established in the organization, with priority to the security rules.

The functions of the position aim at the correct implementation of the processes linked to the rehabilitation of health facilities. Main tasks are as follows:

- Support with the identification, design and drawings of the rehabilitation works.
- Preparing terms of reference, contracts and administrative documents for the various rehabilitation works in health facilities.
- Carry out strict monitoring of contracts, specifically in reference to compliance with administrative technical provisions
- Help ensure knowledge and compliance with construction standards and regulations, according to national guidelines.
- Participation in the assessment of proposals and selection process of construction firms.
- Regular supervision and reporting on the rehabilitations and service contracts on-going.
- Support with the preparation of final reports related to the construction works, including the collection of Sources of Verification (photos, docs, certificates, reports, etc.).
- Help develop and strengthen skills within the MdM team and local partners.

Required competences:

- BC degree and experience as a Civil Engineer.
- Knowledge and assumption of the human rights and gender equality approaches.
- Fluent in English.
- Ability to work independently.
- Active person ready to adapt to changing situations and context.
- Teambuilding capacity.
- Experience in the international development sector.
- Identification with Medicos del Mundo's mission, values and lines of work.
- Knowledge of the context, Sierra Leone, will be highly valuable.

SELECTION CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS

Minimum requirements:

- BC Degree and experience as a Civil Engineer.
- Fluent in English.
- Autonomy, flexibility and adaptation.

- Good references.

Conditions of service:

Deployment dates (approximately):

Mid- October 2021 – Mid-March 2022 (6 moths)

Learning opportunities:

- Get to know the local culture and approach to health.
- Sierra Leone context and daily life.
- Integration with communities.
- INGOs work in Sierra Leone.
- Knowledge development related to Sierra Leone’s health situation, causes and problems; health system, structures and organization; community approach to health, vulnerable contexts and groups; strategies of intervention and projects in a developing country.

Working and living conditions:

Daily life in Koinadugu is determined by its rural context, culture and environment. Basic services are not accessible easily, for example, water is provided from a well, electricity supply is only available using generators or a solar system; and the speed of the internet connection is stable but limited.

The volunteer will regularly receive information, guidance, support and appropriate means (materials and transportation), necessary to perform the functions assigned. S/he will work in coordination with the team and may participate, on occasions, in other ongoing activities.

The period (November to March) is part of the dry season, which makes communities’ access possible and rehabilitation works easier.

A monthly subsistence lump sum of 487 euro, which should be sufficient to cover basic needs in Kabala, will be pre-paid on a monthly basis to the Volunteer in the local currency (SLL). In addition, accommodation and local transport will be provided.

For each month of voluntary activity two days of rest are foreseen, in addition to weekends and public holidays.

International flights (go and return), entry and resident visa, vaccination costs and COVID tests, health insurance, and basic equipment, including a laptop and a phone for work with credit for local calls, will be provided during the deployment period.

The contract will include the agreement of 40 hours a week dedication to MdM activities, from Monday go Friday. Any annual leave must be agreed with the Country Coordinator in advanced.