Act2Aid, EU Aid Volunteers for East Africa

Junior EU Aid Volunteer - Communication and Visibility in Uganda

Junior
— 1 positions

Deployment dates:
01/07/2020 - 30/06/2021

Uganda

Lead organisation: ICCO

Closing date: 18/03/2020

The EU Aid Volunteers is an initiative of the European Union. It brings together volunteers and organisations from different countries, providing practical support to humanitarian aid projects and contributing to strengthening the local capacity and resilience of disaster-affected communities. Participants in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative must be over 18 years of age and be a citizen of an EU Member State or a long-term resident in the EU.

DESCRIPTION

This Communication and Visibility Role includes an apprenticeship opportunity of 1 month in Europe followed by a direct 1 year deployment in Uganda, at ICCO premises. ICCO is an independent non-governmental organization with business features. Our aim is to secure the livelihoods and rights of farmers and small businesses in low and middle-income countries. ICCO consists of a cooperative (2012), a foundation (1964) and the ICCO Group B.V. (2008), all established under Dutch law. ICCO has a decentralized organizational structure in 5 regions in Africa, Asia and Latin America with (sub)regional offices. We are present in 25 countries and run programs in 76 countries.

The High Flyers programme of ICCO Cooperation is a three-year programme implemented in Nebbi district and Lango sub region of rural Northern Uganda. The project aims to support 1,000 young entrepreneurs in agribusiness to sustain and grow their business through different business development services (training, coaching, mentoring, market linkage and access to finance support).

Development of communication materials and impact stories is crucial in making ICCO’s work more visible and raising more funds, which will enable ICCO to support more young agri-entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers in
Uganda with business development services and capacity building.

The volunteer starts his/her deployment with a one-month apprenticeship at ICCOs global office (GO) in Utrecht, in The Netherlands. During this apprenticeship period the volunteer will be part of the Marketing Communication Unit, and offers support to the team, learning and growing as part of the team. The apprenticeship period will also serve as an introduction phase for the subsequent deployment of 12 months to Uganda at the regional office of ICCO.

**Operational details & security context:**
ICCO Cooperation as part of the ACT has been active in Uganda for 30 years in both humanitarian and development sectors responding to the refugee crisis and supporting local communities in rural areas including promoting youth entrepreneurs to provide market for the farmers.

Uganda has a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic population of 42.9 million people according to the 2017 census. With a population growth rate of 3.3%, Uganda has one of the highest fertility rates in the world. More than half of this population is below 15 years. The rapid population growth puts a significant stress on access to basic services and natural resources in the near and further future. Various reports indicate persistent degradation of the country’s natural resources. This degradation impacts heavily on livelihoods of the poor by constraining their ability to increase incomes, and making them more vulnerable.

Across the country, natural disasters continued to pose serious threats to life and livelihood, tragically demonstrated by regular prolonged droughts, landslides and floods in different parts of the country.

By February 2019, Uganda hosted 801,555 refugees from South Sudan, in addition to some 420,000 refugees from DRC and Burundi, as well as Rwanda and Somalia. The majority of the South Sudanese refugees arrived after July 2016 and are hosted in a series of new settlements in northwestern Uganda. So far, the influx has not resulted in major clashes between the host and refugee communities, though scarcity of land, food and limited access to water could all result in increased tension with potential security implications. However, there is occasional crime and unrest, eg. during food distribution.

Security Conditions:
Although Uganda is relatively safe, there are a number of general threats to travellers. It is important that visitors and staff do not become complacent to the security risks.

Crime rates in Uganda are not high, but you should take sensible precautions particularly in Kampala. Risks include pick pocketing, and sometimes violent street crime. Visitors should avoid carrying valuables in public and restrict the amount of money that needs to be carried. Credit cards are increasingly
accepted in shops and restaurants, limiting the amount of cash necessary. Avoid travelling/walking alone early in the morning. Visitors should be vigilant when withdrawing cash from ATMs. Due to high inflation and large scale unemployment many people are experiencing economic problems. There are indications that crime is on the rise, in particular just before the Christmas holidays in December.

**TASKS**

**Visibility and Communication Officer** To make ICCO’s work and its impact on smallholder farmers, agripreneurs and youth in Uganda more visible by the development of communication and visibility materials for the High Flyers programme.

- Design and development of content for communication channels, such as flyers, posters, social media and webpages.
- Writing impact/success stories about the communities of ICCO’s programme in Uganda.
- Supporting ICCO’s communication staff in the region.
- Support in design and implementation of advocacy messages and materials, and support and develop materials for conferences, training and meetings.
- Co-writing and/or providing input for Monitoring & Evaluation reports for ICCO programs in the region including case studies and stories of change.
- Support in building the capacity of local partners in communication and the use of media in advocacy.
- Deliver quality information and communication material serving public support activities by the ICCO regional office (including fundraising), targeting the general public, congregations, private funds, equity funds and other (institutional) target groups.
- Support in writing program development documents to donors and partners.
- Contribute to the development of quality funding proposals to be submitted to potential.

**Apprenticeship:**
1-month apprenticeship in communication cluster in the global office of ICCO in Utrecht, The Netherlands

**Required competences:**

- A degree/ completed study in a relevant subject, e.g. journalism and/or a video & photography course.
- Good English speaking and writing skills.
- Self motivated, proactive and result driven.
- Ability to work independently and as a team player.
- Ability to connect with people of different background.
- Ability and willingness to visit rural project areas and to stay there for a few days.
- Good communication and reporting skills.
- Affinity with the protestant character of ICCO and ICCO’s
values and operating principles.
- Motivated to work with youth and rural smallholder farmers and communities.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications are made directly within the sending organisation, please check out the how to apply section.

Eligibility and exception criteria:
The candidate for EU Aid Volunteers must be a citizen of the EU or a third country national who is a long-term resident in an EU Member State, and must have a minimum age of 18 years.

Availability for the following activities:
- ECHO Central Training April - May 2020.
- Pre-deployment induction in ICCO Cooperation HQ in Utrecht, The Netherlands in May 2020
- Deployment starting from the data specified in the vacancy.

Minimum Requirements:
ICCO Cooperation applies a policy of equal opportunities and accepts applications without distinction on the grounds of sex, race, color, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation.

CONDITION OF SERVICE

Learning Opportunities:
- Central training of ECHO.
- Security /pre-deployment training of ICCO.
- Participation in staff meetings and close cooperation with project staff will result in knowledge sharing and learning.
- Opportunity to acquire experience of working at an international NGO in a developing country.

Working and Living Conditions:
Working and living conditions

All costs associated with the apprenticeship and subsequent Ugandan deployment are fully covered providing a subsistence allowance, medical, travel and accommodation as well as insurance coverage. After an apprenticeship at the GO of ICCO in Utrecht, the volunteer will move to Uganda for the placement at ICCO Office in Kampala. The volunteer will work from there, and travel approx. 1-2 times per month to the project area. In the project area (Nebbi district and Lango sub region) the volunteer will use a designated safe hotel for accommodation.
Living conditions:
The volunteer will be based at ICCO office in Uganda, in a safe area in Kampala. The volunteer will work from there, but travel approx. 1 time per 2-3 months to the project area. In the project areas (in northern Uganda) the volunteer will use a well-known hotel for accommodation and will travel with transport arranged/recommended by the hosting organization.

- Accommodation in the cities where deployed will be provided.
- The EU Volunteer shall have a clean lockable room with access to clean water and sanitation facilities. The room shall be located at a reasonable distance from the EU Aid Volunteers main working location.
- To the extent possible, the communication shall facilitate integration of the EU Aid Volunteer into the community and it will enable the volunteer to interact with the expatriate community.
- The EU Aid Volunteers shall have access to means of communication enabling contact to the hosting and sending organisations as well as the volunteer’s relatives.
- When travelling in-country in other (rural) areas for work, accommodation in local hotels or guest houses will be provided for.

Working conditions
- Regular working hours shall not exceed 40 hours per week on average, calculated over a four-month period.
- The volunteer shall have access to a dedicated working space in accordance with their task assignment and with agreed-upon safe, secure and healthy working conditions.
- All costs will be covered for the volunteer during deployment, and this includes accommodation in-country for the entire period of deployment, travel, and monthly subsistence payments per month (317,93 Euros per month).

Travel:
- A roundtrip flight from/to the home country will be provided.
- The cost of pre-departure preparations, including medical checks, vaccinations, visas, etc., will be provided.
- The volunteer will be covered by a travel insurance plan provided by the sending organization.

Post-deployment:
A resettlement package will be provided to the volunteer in which a standard of 100 Euros will be provided for every single month spent in-country upon return to Europe, as well as a group debriefing.

SELECTION PROCESS

Shortlisting and Interviews:
18/03/2020 - 23/03/2020

Interview Process:
The interviews will be held face-to-face or by an online interviewing process.

**Expected date decision on outcome:**
23/03/2020

**TIMETABLE**

**Date of training:**
May/April 2020

**Apprenticeship Placement:**
01/06/2020 - 30/06/2020

**Pre-deployment preparation and induction:**
25/05/2020 - 27/05/2020

**Deployment:**
01/07/2020 - 30/06/2021

**Post-deployment activities:**
Debriefing and follow up at ICCO in The Netherlands

**Sectors:**
- Food And Nutrition
- Gender
- Linking Relief, Rehabilitation And Development (Lrrd)
- Livelihoods
- Refugees And Idps
- Resilience

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