Initiative of the European Union, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (DG ECHO)

Act2Aid, EU Aid Volunteers for East Africa

Junior EU Aid Volunteer - Disaster Risk Management (Climate Smart Agriculture) in Uganda

Junior
— 1 positions

Deployment dates:
20/05/2020 - 20/08/2021

Uganda

Lead organisation:

ICCO

Closing date:
14/03/2020

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 Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)/ Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Role includes an apprenticeship opportunity of 3 months in Europe followed by a direct 1 year deployment by ICCO 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) and a foundation (1964), 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). Climate change is one of the main challenges faced by agripreneurs in Uganda. Farmers often lack knowledge and skills to mitigate/avoid the effects of changes in weather and climate. That results in low productivity, low income/poverty and reduced food security for
communities in Uganda.

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

**Operational details & security context:**

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 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 North western 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.

**Society and Culture:**

Uganda is a conservative and deeply religious country. Although modern and progressive attitudes also prevail, respect must be shown for traditional values and morals. Beachwear should be confined to the beach, and wearing immodest clothing in public is likely to cause offence or attract unwanted attention. It is less common for women to wear trousers especially in rural areas, although this is more accepted from non-Ugandans.

**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 and after dark. Visitors should be vigilant when withdrawing cash from ATMs. Due to high inflation and large scale unemployment many people are experiencing economic problems.

**TASKS**

Development and provision of training and coaching support to young Ugandan agripreneurs of the High Flyers programme in the fields of Climate Smart Agriculture and Disaster Risk Management.

- Support to development of training and coaching materials for the High Flyers programme, and eventually other ICCO programmes. The volunteer is expected to provide content input for the materials in the field of climate smart agriculture and disaster risk management (and disaster preparedness).
- Participation in provision of training (agribusiness development training, agri-marketing training, Disaster Risk Reduction) to young agripreneurs of the High Flyers programme.
- Provision of coaching sessions for young entrepreneurs of the programme, in most cases conducted in-country on location in the garden of some of the entrepreneurs.

Support the Disaster Management Unit with programme management and programme development and desk research on linking Climate Smart Agriculture and Disaster Risk Reduction Uganda.

- Support the Disaster Management Unit with programme management and programme development.
- Co-organize yearly learning days of the Dutch Relief Alliance.
- Desk Research on Climate Resilient Agriculture and DRR in Uganda (and if possible, other countries in the region).

**Apprenticeship:**

An apprenticeship period of 3-months is part of this deployment. During the apprenticeship the volunteer is part of the Disaster Management Unit (DMU) of ICCO at its Global Office in Utrecht, The Netherlands. During the 3-months apprenticeship the volunteer will support the DMU staff with programme management of different humanitarian projects, such as the Dutch Relief Alliance Joint Response programme in Nigeria and Sudan. Additionally, the volunteer will conduct a desk review on climate resilient agriculture practices and Disaster Risk Reduction in Uganda and its surrounding countries.

**Required competences:**

- A degree/completed study in a relevant subject matter with an
orientation towards agricultural development (e.g. agribusiness, international land- and water management);

-Familiarity with Disaster Preparedness, Response and Disaster Risk Reduction (DP-DRR) concepts and practices;

-Self-motivated, pro-active and result driven;

-Being an open and reliable person with high integrity;

-Ability to work independently but at the same time being a team player;

-Ability to connect with people of different backgrounds;

-Ability to transfer skills and advise in an appropriate manner;

-Ability and willing to reside and work regularly in rural settings;

-Good communication and reporting skills;

-Affinity with the Christian character of ICCO and ICCO’s values and operating principles;

-Entrepreneurial abilities; experience in agri-enterprise development and / or running an agribusiness enterprise is a plus;

-Experience in working with rural communities and/or youth, or motivated to do this;

-Excellent planning, organizational, interpersonal and communication skills; experience as a trainer or coach is a plus;

-Fluent in English.

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:
- 12 days Central Training Brussels April 2020.
- Apprenticeship/ 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:
- Access to different (online) e-trainings, e.g. Disaster Management, Disaster Risk Reduction, communication.
- Security training of ICCO in The Netherlands.
- Participation in staff meetings and close cooperation with project staff will result in knowledge sharing.
- Opportunity to acquire experience of working at an international NGO in a developing country.

Working and Living Conditions:

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.
- 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 house 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:
14/03/2020 - 20/03/2020

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:
20/05/2020

Pre-deployment preparation and induction:
Beginning of May 2020

Deployment:
20/05/2020 - 20/08/2021

Post-deployment activities:
Debriefing and Follow-up

Sectors:
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Food And Nutrition
- Linking Relief, Rehabilitation And Development (Lrrd)