DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

**Country of Assignment:** Ecuador

**Agency Name:** World Food Programme

**General**

**Assignment title:**  Programme Assistant

**UN Host Entity:** World Food Programme

**Country of assignment:** Ecuador

**Duty station:** Quito

**Family / non-family duty station:** Family Duty Station

**Volunteer category:** Intern

**Duration:** 08 months

**Expected starting date:** July 2022

**Sustainable** **Development** **Goal:** 2. Zero Hunger

**Organizational Context & Objectives**

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. We use food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

WFP’s efforts focus on emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development aid and special operations. Two-thirds of our work is in conflict-affected countries where people are three times more likely to be undernourished than those living in countries without conflict.

Our support to over 80 countries spans a broad range of activities to save and change lives, with the ultimate goal of a world with zero hunger.

Some indicators of the context of Ecuador for WFP assistance, are the following:

* Ecuador is an upper middle- income country where 63 percent of the population lives in urban areas. Income inequality is high as evidenced by its Gini coefficient of 0.46 (INEC 2017). Gender- based violence affects six out of ten women (UN Women, 2015). The country has the second highest stunting rate (24%) within the Latin and Caribbean countries.
* Due to its geographical location and rugged topography, Ecuador is prone to natural disasters including droughts, floods, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. WFP 1964, assisting vulnerable populations in priority areas of the country.

WFP´s goal in Ecuador is to be an innovative partner, aligned with public policies and government resolutions, supporting the National Government on the road to meet the objectives set out in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. This is done with the objective of achieving food and nutritional security and promoting gender equality among those in greatest need.

The Country Strategic Plan 2017-2022 for WFP Ecuador focuses on five strategic objectives:

* Strategic objective #1: Refugees, displaced person and vulnerable people in Ecuador are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements all year long
* Strategic objective #2: Smallholder farmers, especially women, in targeted areas, durably increase their incomes and improve their productivity;
* Strategic objective #3: Food-insecure communities and individuals in areas that are highly vulnerable to climate change, and government institutions have strengthened capacity for adaptation to climate change;
* Strategic objective #4: National institutions and programmes in Ecuador, including social protection programmes, are supported to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition; and
* Strategic objective #5: Humanitarian and development partners in Ecuador have access to reliable services throughout the crisis.

**Assignment context**

1. Among Strategic Objective 2 activities, since 2019 the China/Ecuador/WFP South-South and Triangular Cooperation Project has been executed, with an emphasis on capacity building, through two components:

* Strengthening the capacities of technicians from Ministry of Agriculture and Livelihood, small and family farmers to (1) be more productive; (2) diversify their crops; (3) become more competitive and (4) expand their access to different markets.
* Strengthening the capacities of rural women's organizations to contribute to the design of agricultural public policy with a differential approach.

This project includes an initiative on integrated rice-duck farming.

2. WFP Ecuador and other UN agencies participate in the “Joint Program on gender-transformative approaches (JP-GTA) for of food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture”. The general objective of the Joint Program is to contribute to the achievement of SDG 2 in order to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agricultural development by attacking the root causes of gender inequalities and triggering processes of changeover transformer. In Ecuador, its execution has focused in participative and inclusive approaches with rural women, small holder communities, local and government stakeholders, enhancing the intervention and outputs in WFP Ecuador’s Strategic Objective 2.

**Task description**

Under the direct supervision of the Programme Officer in charge of Strategic Objective 2, and the overall supervision of the Deputy Country Director, the UN Volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

1. Support in processes and technical activities under strategic objective 2 (Smallholder farmers, with an emphasis on women, in the selected areas, increase their income durably and improve their productivity)
2. Support to the internal work to be done by WFP to guarantee concrete results related to support to smallholder farmers in marketing mechanisms, capacity building of small associations, food security.
3. Conduct information gathering analysis and propose marketing alternatives for smallholder farmers.
4. Prepare quarterly project reports: Integrated rice-duck farming system management and Gender transformative approaches.
5. Support in the elaboration of proposals or projects for possible donors.
6. Contribute to liaise with public and private stakeholders.
7. Participate in events and meetings.
8. Support in written and simultaneous translations from Mandarin to Spanish and vice versa.
9. Other tasks assigned by his/her supervisor.

**Results/Expected Outputs**

* A marketing mechanism designed for smallholder farmers.
* Three donor visibility reports developed.
* An integrated rice-duck farming system management guide/manual developed.

**Requirements**

**Education**

* Bachelor's degree in Political Science, International Development, Development Economics, or another relevant field.
* Training in gender would be highly regarded.

**Minimum experience:**

* Demonstrated interest and/or experience (up to 2 years) in small farmers development, rural family agriculture, rural women development and/ or gender studies/activities.
* Previous experience as a volunteer and/or experience of another culture, (i.e. studies, volunteer work, internship) would be highly regarded;
* Preferably, knowledge and/or experience in community work.

**Language Skills:**

Englishmandatory  optional

basic  fair  working knowledge  fluent  mother tongue

Spanishmandatory  optional

basic  fair  working knowledge  fluent  mother tongue

Chinese (mandarin)mandatory  optional

basic  fair  working knowledge  fluent  mother tongue

**Need Driving License: No**

**Competencies and Values:**

Accountability

Adaptability and Flexibility

Building Trust

Client Orientation

Commitment and Motivation

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Communication

Creativity

Empowering Others

Ethics and Values

Integrity

Judgement and Decision-making

Knowledge Sharing

Leadership

Managing Performance

Planning and Organizing

Professionalism

Respect for Diversity

Self-Management

Technological Awareness

Vision

Working in Teams

**Living Conditions:**

Quito is located 2,800 meters above sea level. The weather is consistent with that of a subtropical highland climate. The city has a constant cool climate due to its elevation and proximity to the equator.

Quito is rated as an “A” category family duty station and at general security level SLS 2. The WFP premises are located the central-north zone of the city, around 20 minutes by car from the commercial and business area. There are not specific residential areas for expatriates, but some mid/high-class neighborhoods are in commuting distance from WFP’s offices.

Local services are very good in Quito. Although a private car is not mandatory for security reasons, is recommended that foreign staff and visitors use taxi services, at least until they get familiar with the addresses and context. There are several taxi companies that provide safe door-to-door services. These companies have also implemented distancing devices and barriers inside the vehicles to reduce contact and exposure since the COVID-19 outbreak. There is public transportation (bus, trolleybus) in the main avenues and in the most populated neighbourhoods. There are some dedicated lanes for bicycles, but it is important to consider Quito’s height (2850 MASL) and hills.

Ecuador, as a country, offers the possibility to know in a relatively short travel time and distance different environments and regions (i.e., highlands and volcanoes, the Amazonian jungle, the Galapagos Islands, the coast region and beaches, etc.), which is an opportunity for Un Volunteers to enhance their personal experience during their assignment.

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