

Vacancy Announcement - Gender Specialist

I. Position Information	
Job Code Title:	Gender Specialist
No of positions:	1
Supervisor:	National Project Manager
Duty Stations:	Vavuniya
Duration:	8 months with possible extension
Salary Scale:	In compliance with UN rules & regulations

II. UN-HABITAT
<p>The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) is the United Nations agency responsible for human settlements, mandated to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities, with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all; within overall objective of the United Nations to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. The details of the Habitat Agenda, Global Programmes and the Mandate are available in the main web site at www.unhabitat.org and the local web site at www.unhabitat.lk.</p> <p>UN-HABITAT operations in Asia include activities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka, under supervision of the Regional Office for Asia and Pacific in Fukuoka Japan.</p> <p>Since its inception in 1978, UN-HABITAT has helped the development of human settlements policies in Sri Lanka and some of the major activities implemented include Sustainable Cities Programme / Urban Governance Support Project, Lunawa Lake Improvement Project, Rebuilding Communities in the North and East, Rebuilding Community Infrastructure and Shelter in Tsunami Affected Areas, Slum Upgrading Facility (Under-served Settlements Upgrading Programme).</p> <p>UN-HABITAT was the largest post-tsunami housing reconstruction Implementing Agency, and similarly in this post-conflict environment, UN-HABITAT anticipates a significant requirement for its specialist knowledge, expertise and local experience dating back to the 1970s.</p> <p>UN-HABITAT firmly believes professional & highly competent staff is integral to the success of implementation for all its programmes.</p>

III. Shelter Support to Conflict Affected IDPs in the North of Sri Lanka
<p>The recently concluded ethnic conflict in northern Sri Lanka has left 200,000 to 230,000 war-destroyed and damaged homes. The affected families have suffered from loss of permanent shelter, family assets and livelihoods and have been forced into poverty. Further they have suffered immense psychological trauma due to the conflict that has lasted over 2 decades.</p> <p>Permanent shelter is not only a family's most valuable asset, but also their main source of safety, security & dignity. It is vital that families are resettled urgently, & empowered, using a community based methodology.</p>

UN-HABITAT with financial assistance from the Government of Australia (AusAid) has formulated this project aimed at reaching over 1,000 beneficiary families in its first phase.

IV. Description of Duties (TOR)

Under the direct supervision of the Project Manager, Gender Specialist will provide technical advice for the field project support team, as well as the beneficiaries. It is envisaged after 3 decades of war, many women are left as heads of households, while others are left marginalized and are still recovering from physical / mental trauma.

In particular, he/she will undertake the following tasks:

- Advise the National project Manager as well as the district team of gender issues
- Formulate a general strategy, a documentation of tackling gender inclusive project implementation
- Technical support for the preparation of project guidelines
- Develop strategy for specifically empowering women headed households
- Advice on culturally sensitive methodology to enhance women's participation in the community based decision making & reconstruction process
- Technical & advisory support in resolution of specific field level issues
- Conduct training sessions / workshops to increase gender awareness amongst UN-HABITAT staff as well as community & other key stakeholders
- Liaise and coordination with key stakeholders in program implementation
- Provide specialist inputs to Progress reports of the project
- Ensure that monitoring and evaluation systems are in place and to oversee regular coordinated gender activities
- Ensuring the harmonization and coherence of central and local activities and programme outputs

V. Requirements / Qualifications

Education: Post graduate level qualification in related field (gender, reproductive health, development, and/or social sciences) and/or planning and management or equivalent

Experience: Minimum 10 years experience of development work in or with the public sector, local governments, Non-Governmental sector or International Organizations. Candidate will have extensive experience in developing, implementing and monitoring community development programmes. Experience with the UN-system is an added advantage

He/She must have strong commitment to the participatory process, transfer of knowledge skills, willingness to work in a team, and posses excellent coordination and communication skills.

Competencies & Excellent communication and proven leadership skills as a team leader and excellent

Skills Required: mediating and facilitating skills are a must.

Experience in community centred development programmes

Fluency in English & Tamil and excellent communication & presentation skills are a must. Knowledge of project areas will be advantageous.

In addition a high level of computer literacy is required.

Qualified Sri Lankan Nationals are requested to submit their resumes with names of two unrelated referees and a contact telephone number to employment@unhabitat.lk by 30th January 2010.

UN-HABITAT will only respond to shortlisted candidates. Qualified female candidates are encouraged to apply.