Community Engagement Coordinator (National Volunteer)

Country: Myanmar

Employer: VSO Myanmar

Duration: 12 months with possible extension

Job purpose:
The purpose of this role is to support the implementation of the pilot phase of DRR in education. The volunteer will work with VSO’s resilience team under Education Programme support in delivering DRR in education at community and school level. The objective of the pilot is to create opportunities for the communities and schools to enhance education resilience for children in fragile states and spaces. The community engagement coordinator will work closely with education officer and a team of youth/community volunteers to coordinate activities at township level.

The volunteers will be based in Mawlamyine in Mon State, with frequent travel to schools and communities in the selected townships.

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Responsibilities

Working with VSO staff, the international volunteer, youth volunteers and other stakeholders, the community engagement coordinator will coordinate activities in schools and communities in selected townships in Mon State. S/he will:

1. **Coordination and awareness**: liaise with Department of Disaster Management, State/Township Education Office, General Administration Office, Community leaders, Parents, Students and other stakeholders to ensure successful implementation of the initiative in target schools and communities on disaster preparedness and resilience.

2. **Mobilize youth volunteers**: work with VSO’s education and resilience team and key stakeholder to identify youth/community volunteers aged from local communities to be trained as youth/community volunteers. Ensure VSO minimum standards during the selection of volunteers.

3. **Orientation and training of youth volunteers**: work with the education and resilience team to train the youth volunteers on understanding of the initiative, basic participatory methodologies, mobilizing students, safeguarding and child protection, student and community engagements, developing and implementing initiative, monitoring and reporting.

4. **Youth volunteer welfare and management**: take overall responsibility for leading teams of 20 youth/community volunteers including: mentoring of volunteers; operational and technical support; volunteer safety and welfare; volunteer travel and logistics; other support as required.

5. **School Risk Assessment, action planning and training**: work with the team of education and resilience, youth volunteers to facilitate the identification of target schools to carry out school risk, vulnerability and capacity assessment as well as in the action planning process through participatory approach with the involvement students, teachers, parents, community leaders and township education officers. Take overall responsibility of leading the implementation of the assessment, and review of data from the assessments under the technical supervision of the team of education and resilience advisor.

6. **Development of IEC materials**: work with Education Department, Department of Disaster Management and the VSO’s education and resilience team, contribute to the contextualization, design, and translation of materials regarding assessments and concepts of DRR for the awareness raising to schools and communities.

Skills and Knowledge

**Essential**:
- University graduate with professional experience in a related sector or context (e.g., Education in emergency, DRR, Resilience etc.)
- Proficiency in English and Myanmar or Local language skills
- Previous experience of working in Mon State
- Experience of managing projects at community level
- Experience of leading initiatives of DRR and resilience in education at community and school level
- Ability to liaise and coordinate with a range of stakeholders
- Ability to work independently as well as with multiple stakeholders in a time-pressured environment.
- Ability to mentor and support young people

**Desirable**:
- Demonstrated success in engaging with and mobilizing communities related to education and resilience.
- Experience of cross-sectoral model
- Experience in capacity strengthening, training and advisory work.
- Proven ability to create and maintain effective working relationships with high level stakeholders.
7. **Monitoring**: through regular visits to target schools and communities, work closely with the youth/community volunteers to monitor activities and the implementation of the initiative.

8. **Other activities as required**
1. Personal considerations

In addition to the job description, the following information should be used when considering whether a placement is suitable for you.

**Personal health considerations**

The volunteer will need to be physically fit and healthy as the work will be stressful and there will be limited opportunity for relaxation.

Conditions in the district towns in affected areas may be fairly basic, and it will require a willingness to tolerate the conditions – which in some cases could include having to live in a tent, and may require working long hours.

It will be difficult to cater for specialized diets and the variety of food will be limited.

If you have a significant current or past medical condition and/or you have general concerns about staying healthy as a volunteer, please use this information to assess whether this placement will be suitable for you. All volunteers require medical clearance from a VSO medical adviser before they are able to take up a placement with VSO. Occasionally, VSO may consider that this placement is too great a risk for you in terms of your personal health and you would be advised to consider a different placement. For further guidance about medical assessment and volunteering with a medical condition please see the [frequently asked questions on VSO website](#).

**Access to medical care and support**

The standard and quality of local medical care and support available at this placement will depend on its location within the country. Health facilities are likely to be more poorly resourced in rural areas in terms of medical expertise, equipment, infrastructure and regular supplies of medication. However, this may not be the case in the capital city or in a larger town.

If you wish to discuss your personal circumstances or health concerns in confidence with VSO’s medical team before you apply for this placement please contact [medical@vsoint.org](mailto:medical@vsoint.org).

**Accompanying partner or family**: If you have a partner or children who are planning to accompany you to your placement, please use this section to assess whether this placement will be suitable for you.

This placement does not have provision for accompanying partners.

**Motorcycle requirements**

Volunteers wishing to ride a motorbike will need to bring helmets, and show proof of valid driver’s licence. This placement is in rough terrain, and as such transport issues are anticipated.
1. **Background and contextual information**

   VSO is an international development organization with over 58 years of experience working with volunteers to eliminate poverty. VSO has been in Myanmar for just over two years but our work is still in its initial phase. This post will enable us to significantly extend our work in core approach development, particularly around capacity building in gender and social inclusion, advocacy and will be of significant reputational value to VSO’s programming in all sectors.

   Further information on VSO’s work in each of the countries we work in can be found on the [VSO website](https://www.vso.org.uk/).