## Job pack: Social Cohesion Support Officer (National Role)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Name</th>
<th>Social Cohesion Support Officer (National)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employer</td>
<td>VSO International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>12 Months with start date May 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Job purpose**   | The volunteer will work with VSO Social Cohesion Programme providing relevant support in delivering social cohesion programmes at community level. S/he will mobilize community, partners and various stakeholders to participate in context analysis, action research, and design and implement pilot projects on social cohesion in promoting cohesive society through addressing different social conflict driving factors. The volunteer will work as a liaison person to enhance communications between community, partners and VSO. The Volunteer will support in reviewing social cohesion tools to ensure that they are conflict-sensitive, culturally and language appropriate, and support in delivering of community initiatives of VSO Social Cohesion Programme. S/he will take full responsibilities for documenting and sharing learnings on social cohesion work with technical support from the Social Cohesion Programme Team.  

The Volunteer will be based in VSO Mon (home-based, potentially with office) and travels to program areas in Mon and Kayin State. |

## Contents:

1. Job Description
2. Personal Considerations
3. Background and contextual Information
## 1. Job Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
<th>Skills and Knowledge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Social Cohesion Programme Development:** The Volunteer will participate in processes for developing Social Cohesion programme working with the Programme Manager, Programme Officer and Social Cohesion Advisor. S/he will provide necessary support in background review, country context analysis, mobilize stakeholders in action research and programme design including conceptualizing social S/he will work and provide facilitation of social cohesion with other core approach advisors to ensure gender and social inclusion, social accountability and resilience.  | Essential:  
  - A University degree in Social Sciences, Public Policy, Public Administration, Peace building, International Development, or related field.  
  - A minimum of more than three years professional experience in a related sector or context (e.g., Good Governance, Conflict sensitivity, Gender, Peace building, Inclusion, Women Empowerment and Development etc)  
  - Experience and demonstrated results in social cohesion in programming, in a developing country context  
  - Demonstrated understanding of issues and challenges related to conflict, women, ethnic and religious minority.  
  - Experience in advocacy and/or influencing a range of decision-makers e.g. national governments, intergovernmental organisations, UN organisations, Ethnic Organizations, Ethnic Armed Groups  
  - Excellent communication and social skills, the ability to work closely with a variety of stakeholders.  
  - Ability to work independently as well as with multiple stakeholders in a time-pressed environment.  |
| **Testing of Social Cohesion Tools & Resources:** The volunteer will work with Social Cohesion Advisor to pilot the testing of social cohesion tools and resource in community. S/he will take stock of already existing tools with partners and at use in communities to support the Social Cohesion Advisor to develop conflict-sensitive, people-centred & gender responsive tools, frameworks and resources for social cohesion and building community, ethnic and religious tolerance S/he will work with communities and potential partners to document evidence using case studies and other innovative use of tools and resources at community levels. |  |
| **Capacity Building and Establishing Community-Based Systems for Promoting Social Cohesion and Tolerance:** The Volunteer with technical support from Social Cohesion Advisor will promote awareness in community and facilitate the establishment of sustained community-based systems for promoting social cohesion. S/he will identify existing community-based systems to promoting awareness and building capacities of communities |  |
| **Evidence Gathering and Documentation:** The Volunteer will take responsibilities for gathering evidence, linking with the resilience team and drawing learning from direct programmes to support social cohesion work. S/he will identify areas of work that should be documented and work with VSO gather information, document and share learning. | Desirable:  
  - Demonstrated success in engaging with and mobilizing communities related to social cohesion  
  - Ability to work both as team member and independently.  
  - Proven ability to create and maintain effective working relationships with high level stakeholders  
  - Experience in capacity strengthening. Training and advisory work  
  - Experience of Monitoring and evaluation, particularly of advocacy projects |
2. 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.

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](https://www.vso.org.uk).

### 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@vso.int.org](mailto:medical@vso.int.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.

### Security information
Parts of Myanmar are safe, but conflict and threat of conflict does exist. Volunteers will be given relevant medical (including vaccines and the need for other preventive medication) and general security advice upon deployment.
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.