

UNHCR SPAIN VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Ref. num. SPA/2018/11

Date of advertisement: 18/09/2018

Application deadline: 24/09/2018

This is a UNOPS Local Individual Contractor Agreement (LICA) position.

Title: **Protection Assistant**

Type of contract: **UNOPS Local Individual Contractor Agreement – Level 4**

Location: **Málaga (Spain)**

Duration: **Until 31/12/2018. Possible extension to 2019**

General background

Whilst the overall number of arrivals in the Mediterranean situation continues to decrease, the number of arrivals by land and sea to Spain through the Western Mediterranean route has, on the other hand, substantially increased in respect of previous years. As of end of August 2018, a total of 33,902 arrivals took place in Spain, of which over 4,500 arrived by land. These figures represent a 125% increase in respect of the same figures reported in 2017, and shows no sign to change in the near future. Guineans, Malians, Moroccans, and a number of other sub-sub-Saharan, West African nationalities comprised the bulk of the arrivals. Melilla asylum post has facilitated access to territory for persons of Arab origin, mainly Syrians. Sub-Saharan women, young children and persons with specific needs are particularly placed at risk by this situation, including heightened risk of SGBV.

UNHCR has for years been systematically advocating to build awareness among the Spanish authorities on international protection, and promote sustainable structures for the authorities to get engaged and lead this line of work. In addition and to complement such advocacy efforts, since 2016 UNHCR has gradually increased its presence throughout the South Coast of the country, in order to carry out protection monitoring, conduct capacity building initiatives among local stakeholders and provide information on asylum procedures to sea arrivals in the main disembarkation points in the provinces of Cádiz, Málaga, Granada and Almería. These activities have been strengthened as of 16 July 2018, through a partnership with CEAR which will allow for the deployment of three teams comprised of a lawyer and a cultural mediator each, in order to expand UNHCR presence and reinforce the systematic provision of asylum information to all sea arrivals.

Purpose and scope of assignment

Under the guidance of the Senior Protection Associate based in Madrid, in close consultation with the Protection Officer and under the overall guidance from the Representative in Spain, and applying a strong AGD focus on all activities, particularly with regard to access to territory, identification of international protection needs and reception conditions, the Protection Assistant will assist the Senior Protection Assistant in the following:

- Monitor and provide feedback to CO Spain on access to territory and access to the asylum procedure, with focus on advocacy for the establishment of and participation in an identification and referral mechanism for sea arrivals.
- Identify protection needs as well as specific and AGD based needs among arrivals and channel them to adequate response mechanisms, and promote adequate referrals to specific channels, in the context of UNHCR's implementing partner's activities in the disembarkation points.

- Document practices carried out by border guards and other actors involved at sea entry points as regards registration, interviews and assessment of profiles, identification of specific needs and available responses to each group.
- Advocate for prevention of detention in Aliens Internment Centres, from the outset, for those who express their intention to apply for asylum.
- Monitor local authorities' practice with regard to formalization of asylum applications and the implementation of the asylum procedure in Málaga and Almería, identifying good and bad practices and, jointly with the CO Spain, formulating recommendations.
- Conduct interviews and relevant data gathering on protection needs/gaps, AGD implications and ways to address them, trends, routes and, most importantly evolving profiles of arrivals of persons of concern transferred from the enclaves, to better plan and prepare response activities. Keep record of arrivals applying an AGD focus in fact sheets.
- Monitor standards and practice in reception facilities and the impact of increased arrivals on the reception system in the mainland, against the standards of the EU Reception Conditions Directive in force since 20 July 2015, applying AGD and community based analysis. Feed into development of recommendations by CO Spain for improvement of reception conditions jointly with women, men and children of concern.
- Carry out as identified, if possible on a monthly basis, participatory assessment exercises among groups of women, children and men, on issues pertaining to access to protection, living conditions, specific needs.
- Provide relevant information on asylum to persons of concern, complementing as relevant the activities of UNHCR's implementing partner.
- Build and enhance capacity of local actors involved in identification and reception of asylum seekers at the border (mainly border police and Guardia Civil, but also lawyers and interpreters, child protection authorities) and work with local civil society organizations to strengthen partnerships and their role in protection activities in Málaga and Almería provinces as well as to identify possible new stakeholders.
- Provide regular oversight, support and assistance at a local level to the partner team deployed in the area under UNHCR's partnership.
- Organise meetings and public events with stakeholders as required.
- Establish and maintain contacts with local authorities as required.
- Promote the use of legal international instruments such as the ECHR and the EU legislation and identify possible cases for litigation on access to territory, access to asylum and non-refoulement.
- Support CO Spain in participating in relevant fora and in meetings as required.
- Support CO Spain's communication strategy on access to territory and protection in the enclaves and at the Andalusian coast.
- Travel: regular trips to Motril and Almería, and other cities/arrival points in the region as required for operational reasons; meetings in CO Madrid for coordination and reporting purposes, if applicable.

Monitoring and progress controls

The Protection Assistant will work under the coordination of the Senior Protection Assistant in Málaga and the Senior Protection Associate in Madrid and the overall supervision of the Protection Officer and the Representative.

Expected outputs:

- Assist to issue periodic and timely information on the protection situation in Málaga, Granada (Motril) and Almería, access to territory (arrivals, activities and practices), and population details including separate AGD details and identification of developments in terms of practices and trends reflected in short progress reports.
- Assist to issue progress reports of the reception conditions at the different reception centers in the area, including participatory assessment results and analyses.
- Assist to mapping and up-dating of stakeholders in the area.
- Directly or in support of the Senior Protection Assistant conduct interviews with all stakeholders on identified practices. Assessment of stakeholder capacities and identification of new stakeholders.

Qualifications and experience

Education

- Completion of secondary school. Additional training courses in protection related issues (required).
- University Degree in Law or related field (desirable).
- Excellent command of Spanish and very good English and French (required).
- Arabic and/or one or more West and Central African languages (Pulaar, Bambara, Mandingue, Susu, Soninke, Wolof, Mandinga, Dioula) (desirable).
- Computer literacy (required).

Work experience

- Relevant to the function job experience (minimum 2 years required).
- Experience in border monitoring projects (desirable).
- Experience in refugee status determination procedures and quality assurance mechanisms (desirable).
- Experience in capacity building to external partners (desirable).

Key competencies

- Excellent skills to manage relations with external partners (required).
- Strong interpersonal and cross cultural skills and flexibility (required).
- Capability for change and to adapt to different situations (required).
- Excellent drafting skills in Spanish and very good English drafting (required).
- Good knowledge of international human rights law and refugee law, including EU asylum law and institutions, Spanish asylum and migration legal framework, trafficking in human beings legal framework and protection mechanisms and child protection mechanisms including BID procedures (desirable).
- Good knowledge of AGDM methodologies (desirable).

Other requirements

- Valid driving licence in Spain and private car available.

How to apply - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

Please submit your **signed Personal History Form (PHF and PHF supplementary sheet)** in English by e-mail with the vacancy title “Protection Assistant Málaga Ref. num. SPA/2018/11” in the subject line to spamavac@unhcr.org **no later than 24/09/2018, 23:59 CET.**

Please be aware that this will be a local contract for which **having a valid working permit in Spain is required.**

Only complete applications submitted by e-mail with a signed PHF form will be considered.

E-mails without vacancy title “Protection Assistant Málaga Ref. num. SPA/2018/11” in the subject line will not be considered.

No late applications will be considered.

Shortlisted candidates will be required to sit a written test.

Only applications from candidates who are short-listed will be acknowledged.