

UNHCR SPAIN VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Ref. num. SPA/2018/09

Date of advertisement: 09/08/2018

Application deadline: 16/08/2018

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

Title: **Senior Protection Assistant**

Type of contract: **UNOPS Local Individual Contractor Agreement – Level 5**

Location: **Málaga (Spain)**

Duration: **17/09-31/12/2018**

General background

Whilst the overall number of arrivals in the Mediterranean situation has continued to decrease, as of the end of June 2018 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 30 June 2018, a total of 18,000 arrivals took place in Spain, of which 15,000 arrived by sea and the remaining 3,000 by land. These figures represent more than double in respect of the same figures reported for the first semester in 2017, and shows no sign to change in the near future. Guineans, Moroccans, and number of other 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, whereas persons originating from sub-Saharan countries who could be in need of international protection seem to have no possibility of accessing legally and regularly the Spanish territory, and therefore depend on either jumping the fences, or seeking the services of smugglers to cross the border post irregularly or to cross the Strait of Gibraltar and Mediterranean Sea to Andalusia on small/inflatable boats putting their lives at risk. Sub-Saharan women, young children and persons with specific needs are particularly placed at risk by this situation, including heightened risk of SGBV.

In this context of increased arrivals, the number of asylum applications continue to amount for a small percentage, and contribute to the portrait of Spain as a transit country for all arrivals, rather than a final destination one. 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 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 Field Coordinator in Madrid, in close consultation with the Protection Officer, and under the overall guidance of the Representative in Spain, and mainstreaming a strong AGD focus into all activities, particularly with regard to access to territory, identification of international protection needs and access to asylum procedures, and reception conditions, the Senior Protection Assistant will:

- 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, particularly upon entry in force of the EU Reception Conditions Directive from 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 Senior Protection Assistant will work under the coordination of the Field Coordinator in Madrid and the overall supervision of the Protection Officer in Madrid, and the Representative.

Expected outputs:

- Issue periodic and timely information on the protection situation in Málaga, Granada (Motril) and Almería provinces, 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.
- Issue progress reports of the reception conditions, including participatory assessment results and analyses, focusing inter alia on registration practices, access to information, material reception conditions, humanitarian transfers, trafficking in human beings, child protection mechanisms and other AGDM based relevant issues.
- Mapping and up-dating of stakeholder maps.
- Consultations with stakeholders on identified practices. Assessment and strengthening 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, written and oral (required); French and/or Arabic (desirable).
- Computer literacy (required).

Work experience

- 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 (required).
- Relevant job experience (minimum 4 years required).
- Good knowledge of AGDM methodologies (required).
- Experience in the Spanish asylum/migration system (desirable).
- Experience in border monitoring projects (desirable).
- Experience in refugee status determination procedures and quality assurance mechanisms (desirable).
- Experience in capacity building to external partners (highly 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).

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 “Senior Protection Assistant Málaga Ref. num. SPA/2018/09” in the subject line to spamavac@unhcr.org **no later than 16/08/2018, 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 “Senior Protection Assistant Málaga Ref. num. SPA/2018/09” 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.