

VSA E-Volunteer Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Strategic Communications Specialist: Climate Change
Country	Fiji
Location	Suva
Partner Organisation	World Health Organization – Division of Pacific Technical Support (DPS)
Duration	12 months (part time)

Sustainable Development Goals



41486

1. Partner organisation overview

World Health Organization – Division of Pacific Technical Support (DPS)

Pacific island countries and areas face a triple disease burden: a rapidly rising epidemic of non-communicable diseases; outbreak-prone diseases which remain prevalent, as well as emerging infectious diseases which threaten national and regional health security; and the health impacts of climate change. These challenges not only impact human health, they also threaten the overall sustainable development of Pacific island communities.

To coordinate and provide timely, tailored support to 21 Pacific island countries and areas, in 2010 the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office established the Division of Pacific Technical Support (DPS) in Suva, Fiji. The Division also includes six other offices in the Pacific; the Country Offices in Samoa and the Solomon Islands and Country Liaison Offices in Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga and Vanuatu. Working together as a Division, these offices provide support to: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

The [Division](#) works to deliver [For the Future](#), in close collaboration with Pacific governments, other UN agencies, development partners, donors, and non-governmental organisations to achieve better health outcomes for Pacific island communities.

2. Assignment overview

Climate change has both direct, and indirect impacts on health and health systems. In support of its mandate as the UN specialized agency responsible for directing and coordinating health, addressing and mitigating these impacts is a priority for WHO at a global, regional and country level.

The health sector is dealing with the health impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, with limited control over the factors causing the problems. The health sector is uniquely positioned – and has a responsibility – to join the advocacy for actions outside of the health sector that will also benefit health. Amid the shock of COVID-19, people are realizing the link between health and the environment and the importance of protecting both.



As countries invest to rebuild economies, it is crucial to promote a healthier, fairer and greener Region by encouraging policy-makers to make decisions that safeguard people's livelihoods while protecting and promoting health.

WHO therefore seeks an experienced communications and/or climate change professional, able to support DPS, working alongside the technical team on climate change and environment and existing communications staff based in Suva, Manila, and WHO's new Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health in Seoul – as well as with global experts and country representatives from across the Region

3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

WHO's Division of Pacific Technical Support can successfully implement advocacy and communications regarding the health impacts of a changing climate and environmental threats in the Western Pacific Region.

Outcome 1

Support the draft of the CCE and health advocacy plan for the WHO Western Pacific Region, in close coordination with the lead of the Advocacy pillar to:

- Map out existing resources and stakeholders in the region
- Map out opportunities and plans for advocacy campaigns
- Develop key messages and narratives
- Collaborate with the leads of other pillars, to ensure the efforts of the advocacy pillar support and are consistent with the work of other pillars.

Outcome 2

Contribute to the implementation of the action plans for the four pillars of work, especially in relation to communications/advocacy

In consultation with WHO staff in Suva, Manila and Seoul, support:

- Research and development of impact stories
- Develop communications materials – media briefings, talking points, advocacy materials
- Media and stakeholder engagement activities
- Provide on the job training and mentoring to ensure DPS staff can maintain the communications and advocacy work related to the new strategy

Outcome 3

Support the development of the digital arm of the CCE platform to support effective advocacy, including:

- Research around the and content, design and operations for a digital arm of the CCE platform
- Produce content for the digital platform
- Support communications that will support optimal use of the platform.



4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

This is an e-volunteer (e-vol) position. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the volunteer will work remotely on a part time basis (to a maximum of 20 hours per week) for the duration of the contracted period. The aim is for an in-country assignment to be developed and delivered, once practicable, that complements the outcomes achieved by this e-volunteer assignment.

The volunteer will report to and work closely with two WHO staff within the same office:

1. On technical matters related to climate change and environment: Dr Nasir Hassan, Team Coordinator, Pacific Climate Change and Environment
2. On matters related to communication and external relations: Benedicte Galichet/Technical Officer, Communications, Resource Mobilization & External Relations

The volunteer will be accountable to the WHO Representative South Pacific & Director, Division of Pacific Technical Support

The VSA volunteer will work directly with WHO staff, CCE-TAG members and officials from WHO's Member States. By nature of their work, and the fact that this is an area where WHO is reorienting its work/shifting the focus of its work, the volunteer's contribution will enhance capabilities among individuals and the wider organization. The volunteer will collaborate closely with the technical team working on climate change and the environment (including WASH) and the communications team, and support this team, the climate change and health technical specialists, and DPS Director. It is anticipated that the volunteer will help everyone in the office to improve their ability to communicate climate health in layman's terms, and to engage desired audiences with critical issues.

Capability development will be through participation in planning and workshops, supporting planning for and the implementation of CCE TAG and related meetings, and bringing a strategic and advocacy lens to the team's thinking.

There will be opportunities to build the capacity of both staff and officials from Member States, through all aspects of this assignment. WHO member states will nominate officials to take part in the platform, and these are likely to be policy and technical experts.

The volunteer and World Health Organization – Division of Pacific Technical Support (DPS) will have an ongoing relationship with the VSA Programme Manager in terms of assignment monitoring, reporting, professional advice and personal support.

As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the Assignment Description in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA Programme Manager. By their very nature, development situations can involve significant change, so it is advisable that the volunteer periodically review and reflect on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.



5. Selection criteria/position requirements

Education and Experience

Essential

- A tertiary level degree such as communications, health, environmental science, development, international relations, politics or other related field
- Strong strategic communications and/or advocacy experience, preferably working with government, NGOs and/or international NGOs.

Desirable

- Experience providing communications and/or advocacy support relating to climate change
- Experience in successfully managing health communications activities and programmes, including social media
- Experience in multimedia content production (i.e. video, photography/editing, Adobe Suite)
- Familiarity with Pacific issues, international and development organisations and the UN system.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge of communication strategies, tools and channels, including digital platforms
- An understanding of climate change and the ability to communicate this in a clear and concise way.

6. VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation
- Cross cultural awareness
- Adaptability and a willingness to approach change or newness positively
- Able to form good relationships, both personally and professionally, with work colleagues and in the community
- Resilience and an ability to manage setbacks
- Initiative and resourcefulness
- An ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange

Additional information

Residency status

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status, and currently living in NZ.

Final appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory VSA clearances, and partner organisation acceptance.

Children's Act

VSA is committed to the protection of vulnerable children and adults, which also includes meeting our commitment under the Children's Act 2014.



The information requested during the application process is necessary to assist VSA to determine applicant suitability to work and/or interact regularly with children and is part of a series of pre-selection checks undertaken on all applicants for VSA assignments.

E-Volunteer package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

Reimbursements

Volunteers will receive a monthly honorarium of NZ\$90 for a part-time assignment. This amount is expected to reimburse the volunteer for costs associated with undertaking the assignment.

Final terms and conditions relating to the specific volunteer assignment will be confirmed in a personalised volunteer contract.

