MCC SALT/YAMEN Service Opportunity

Assignment Title & Partner Organization: SALT/YAMEN: Planning and Reporting Assistant – EPRT/JDPC

Term: August 17, 2021 – July 21, 2022
FTE: 1.0
Location: Jos, Nigeria
Date Required: August 17, 2021 to July 2022

Program information and policies can be found at mcc.org/salt or mcc.org/yamen

MCC is an equal opportunity employer, committed to employment equity. MCC values diversity and invites all qualified candidates to apply.

Synopsis:

The SALT/YAMENer will assist Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EPRT) with report writing, documentation and publication of peace activities. The participant will also assist with similar duties assigned by Social Justice and Human Development for Peace Initiative (JDPC).

Qualifications:

All MCC workers are expected to exhibit a commitment to a personal Christian faith and discipleship; active church membership; and nonviolent peacemaking.

An invitation to an assignment is contingent on the successful completion of a criminal background check.

- Degree/certificate in peace studies, international development, or another related field is an asset.
- Strong English language ability, both verbal and written.
- Strong computer skills, knowledge in publication software an asset.
- Knowledge in program monitoring and evaluation and report/grant writing is an asset.
- Lively, energetic, and sociable.
- Tolerant and open to interfaith peace building.
- Creative spirit and willing to engage with anyone in conversation.
- Basic knowledge on peace building is an asset.
- Willingness to work and live in some unpredictable circumstances.
- Ability to take initiative and be a self-starter.
- Willingness to travel to remote communities and difficult terrains for work.
- Able and willing to walk or bike long distances.

Assignment Narrative:

Justice and Human Development for Peace (JDPT) works to build and promote sustainable peace resulting in the reduction of emergencies/crisis in Plateau State through their Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EPRT). They also work on civic education, women in peacebuilding, and income generation activities for women.
Goal of EPRT is to build and promote sustainable peace, resulting in the reduction of emergencies/crises in Plateau state.

Objectives of EPRT:
- Improve knowledge and skills of collaborating organizations at state and local levels in peace building.
- Wider coverage and increased participation of local communities in EPRT activities at state and local community levels.
- Reduced incidences of bullying, conflicts and ethno-religious motivated riots in schools in Plateau State.

Departmental Activities include:
- Management Advisory Committee (MAC) and State Coordinating Committee (SCC) meetings.
- Local EPRT meetings.
- Training of Trainers for schoolteachers and supervisors.
- Step Down Training of Peace Clubs in schools.
- Humanitarian response and coordination.
- Advocacy.
- Publication of program activities.
- Production of informational and educational communication (IEC) materials.
- Monitoring and evaluation.
- Concept note and proposal development.
- Report writing.

Duties:
- Develop a data bank where all reports and project document can be stored/retrieved with ease.
- Support in writing project/program concept notes and grant proposals.
- Support in report writing.
- Help in design and production of journals, newsletters and IEC materials.
- Readiness to learn and share experience/learning
- Monitor and evaluate program activities.
- Provide capacity building for the growth of JDPC, as identified.
- Support other departments within JDPC if and when the need arises.
- Enhance and support the mainstreaming of peacebuilding in other projects of the organization.

Location Description:

Economically, Nigeria has experienced great fluctuations; the trend in the last 35 years has been downward. Boosted by the oil boom of the 1970's, the economy prospered – only to plunge as the price of oil bottomed out. Widespread corruption drained off millions of Naira. Nigeria remains almost totally economically dependent on oil, despite its numerous natural and human resources.

While the average Nigerian still holds out hope for things to ultimately improve in their country – serious problems continue. "The government faces the daunting task of reforming a petroleum-
based economy, whose revenues have been squandered through corruption and mismanagement, and institutionalizing democracy. In addition, defusing longstanding ethnic and religious tensions are a priority if Nigeria is to build a sound foundation for economic growth and political stability” (CIA World Fact Book).

Nigerian currency comes in Naira. There are Naira notes in denominations of five, ten, twenty, fifty, one hundred, two hundred, five hundred and one thousand Naira. The Naira fluctuates in value.

The largest language groups are Hausa in the north, Yoruba in the west, and Ibo in the east. Hausa is the common trade language throughout northern and central Nigeria, which includes areas with many smaller groups. Members of these smaller groups speak their own language and learn Hausa as a second language to get along socially and commercially. English is the official language in Nigeria. People with a secondary school education know English, whereas less educated and rural people speak only their tribal language and/or Hausa, Yoruba or Ibo.

Nigeria is a tropical country in the northern hemisphere, between four and fourteen degrees north of the equator. In Plateau State there are two distinct seasons: a dry season from October to April, and a rainy season from May to September. During the dry season, harmattan dust fills the air and obscures the sun, lowering temperatures considerably. March and April are the hottest months. The rains bring cooler weather. In Central Nigeria the rainfall is about 40 inches annually. The North receives 10-15 inches annually. With an elevation of 4000 feet, the Plateau has a temperature range of 55-95°F or 12-36°C.

Religions practiced in Nigeria tend to be regionally and ethnically based. This situation accentuates regional and ethnic distinctions and has often been seen as a source of sectarian conflict among the population. Many conflicts termed “religious conflicts” are in reality political or tribal issues. Christians and Muslims are almost equally divided, together making up about 90% of the total population.

Electricity is often sporadic with lengthy blackouts. Electricity is 220 volts, 50 cycle. Rural areas may have no electricity or a generated supply for certain hours of the day.

**Challenges:**

- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect countries around the world. While we remain hopeful that the pandemic will have stabilized by August 2021, to prioritize the well-being and limit risk to our participants and the local community, assessments of each assignment will continue on a regular basis. If it is deemed that an assignment is no longer viable, we will do our best to help you secure an alternative assignment.
- Jos will be cold and dusty from October to February.
- The local diet would include fish/seafood and, in many homes, there is a heavy use of peanut products in daily food preparation.
- High levels of pollution (from automobiles, burning trash)
- Outside of Jos, there would be long distances to emergency medical care; Canada/U.S. standard dental care is not available. Professional counseling and mental health services are extremely limited.
- Long distance walking/biking may be required.
• There is political instability & security issue are high, though Jos is very calm now and conditions are improving. The participant must abide by security guidelines provided by MCC and the partner organization.

• The local area and churches are not supportive to LGBTQ+ persons. LGBTQ+ lifestyles are considered illegal. Support of or participation in such lifestyles can be dangerous.

• Managing frustration when things don’t turn out as expected can be hard. While we do our best to determine and outline job responsibilities with our local partners, assignments really come alive based on the passions, skills, and gittings of an individual. Responsibilities may change or be refined over time in communication with supervisors to meet the ongoing changes and needs within a local context. As such, the greatest characteristics a participant can bring to an assignment are adaptability, flexibility, patience, a willingness to get your hands dirty, and humility to complete even mundane tasks.

• For those who are very task oriented, it can be a challenge to recognize the importance of "being" instead of always "doing" as building healthy relationships and mutually transformative learning is an important part of the participant experience. We hope participants will come with a desire to walk alongside our local partners, rather than see the assignment solely as a way to "get things done".