

MCC SALT/YAMEN Service Opportunity

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

Assignment Title & Partner Organization: SALT/YAMEN: Teacher – Operation Hope Foundation

Term: August 16, 2022 – July 15, 2023

Date Required: August 16, 2022

Location: Prey Veng, Cambodia

Project Theme: ES Education Salt/Yamen

Job Synopsis:

The SALT/YAMENER will serve alongside Hope Village (HVPV) as a multi-disciplinary teacher in English, sciences, and computers. The participant will provide support to individuals living in children's homes and a program to encourage kids to stay in school.

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.

- Post-secondary degree or student, preferably in education.
- Teaching certificate or background in subject matter for learning English, science, and computers is preferred.
- Training or knowledge to teach basic computer and sciences.
- Fluent in English, both written and oral.
- Experience working with children.
- Passion and experience in sports and [Scouts](#) activities.
- Self-starter who is flexible.
- Patience and kindness.
- Committed to the development of students.
- Strong self-care skills and ability to work independently.
- Khmer language skills preferred, must be willing to learn.
- Able and willing to use a bicycle for local transportation as well as utilize other forms of public transportation for travel.

Key Responsibilities:

Primary Duties:

- Work as a multi-disciplinary teacher, leading instruction for English, science, and computers.
- Establish a teaching schedule and plan for all children, divided by appropriate ages and abilities.
- Plan children's programs i.e., use tutorial videos on dance, musical instruments, arts and crafts, etc.

- Support children with online remote learning.

Secondary Duties:

- Attend MCC Cambodia team meetings and staff events.
- Contribute stories of impact and experience for the MCC Cambodia Blog.
- Be a contributing member of the MCC team that supports and cares for one another.
- Maintain a cooperative spirit and commitment to becoming involved both at OHF and at MCC Cambodia.

Assignment Narrative:

An important component of the MCC SALT/YAMEN program in Cambodia is life with a host family. While in Cambodia, the participant will be expected to assimilate into the life of the host family. This includes engaging with their church, home, and social life. The participant will be living as an “adult son or daughter” and the goal is for the SALT/YAMENER to be considered as a member of the host family for the assignment.

Operation Hope Foundation’s (OHF) vision is to make hope real for people trapped in poverty. OHF has been working in Cambodia and Nepal to support the poor to better themselves for twenty years. OHF trains rural youth on job skills and teaches families income-producing trades like tailoring. The organization also builds houses, toilets, wells, and UV water systems - benefitting thousands of people. OHF runs two children’s homes and a program to encourage kids to stay in school.

The SALT/YAMENER will provide support to the Hope Village (HVPV) children’s home in Prey Veng province, Cambodia. The children’s home began in 2004 and has supported over 250 children since the beginning. There are 111 children currently and the facility 80,000 sq ft (multiple buildings, sports fields, etc.). They range in age from 5-21. There is capacity to support 120 children maximum and there is a full time, engaging and loving staff team. The children attend local schools.

OHF is a unique, small organization striving to do more with less. OHF is stringent about fraud prevention and have direct control over its programs. OHF is proud of what the people that have been helped can accomplish.

Holidays for this position will follow the OHF calendar (please note this calendar allowance might differ from the MCC Cambodia calendar). In addition to existing vacation days, the SALT/YAMENER may take MCC’s Christian holidays (Christmas Day and Good Friday), if desired.

Location Description:

Cambodia is located in Southeast Asia between Vietnam and Thailand and bordered on the north by Laos. The population is about 15 million, with about 80% living in rural areas.

The country is still emerging from the genocide era of the Khmer Rouge that killed nearly 1.7 million people. The educational, health, and legal systems were all destroyed, along with the general infrastructure within the country. This conflict created an atmosphere of mistrust, fear, and hopelessness. Open conflict with the last remaining Khmer Rouge faction ended well over a decade ago and Cambodians are thankful for the peace and stability that has reigned throughout the 2000s.

The SALT/YAMENER will be based in Prey Veng town, the provincial capital that is a 2-3-hour van or bus ride to Phnom Penh city where the MCC office and MCC Representatives are located. The town has a local market, a bank, and a few small shops and places to eat (Khmer food mostly).

The location is rural, although most households in town now have electricity and some form of running water. Homes in the rural are often made of wood. SALT/YAMENERS in Prey Veng live with host families. Electricity in the town is widely prevalent and usually consistent; however, power outages do occur somewhat regularly during the hot season (March-May), though, these usually only last for a few hours at a time. Most homes do not have phone lines; however, MCCers have cell phones.

The Cambodian diet consists primarily of rice, soup, vegetables, fish, meat, and fruit. It can be challenging to find vegan/vegetarian dishes, as almost all dishes contain meat or fish in some form or another. A well-balanced diet will ensure SALT/YAMEN participants stay healthy and strong throughout their MCC terms in Cambodia. Particularly while living with a host family, the expectation is that the SALT/YAMENER will eat the meals that have been provided. Keeping an open-mind and an open-palate while trying new Cambodian dishes and delicacies is advisable.

Although the central streets of the Prey Veng town are paved, travel to some areas around may be on dirt roads alongside beautiful rice paddies. Daily vans and small buses travel between Phnom Penh and Prey Veng town. Bicycles are the main mode of transport at the disposal of SALT/YAMEN participants. On occasion, participants may need to ride in a tuktuk or on a motodop, both of which are readily available.

Ninety-five percent of Cambodians are Buddhist, 4% are Muslim, and about 1% is Christian. In Phnom Penh, there are a wide variety of Cambodian churches, as well as four major English-language international churches. SALT/YAMENERS are expected to go with their host family to church or connect with an alternative Cambodian church. If the host family is not Christian, the understanding will be that the SALT/YAMENER will regularly attend a local Christian church.

Medical care is continually improving in Phnom Penh. Recently, two hospitals affiliated with Bangkok Hospital Medical Center have opened in Cambodia. Both branches provide reputable, basic care: one in Phnom Penh and one in Siem Reap. Additionally, there are several clinics with expat doctors. In the past, MCC workers have traveled to Thailand for more extensive and specialized treatments. Major health concerns in Cambodia are malaria, dengue fever, typhoid fever, and Japanese encephalitis. However, the most common illnesses are from food and water. Bouts of diarrhea may occur occasionally throughout the MCC term. Most prescriptions can be filled in country.

There are many national holidays, which provide plenty of opportunities for visiting and exploring Cambodia. The Temples of Angkor near Siem Reap are a must-see and will give some perspective on the great history of art and culture of Cambodia.

Challenges:

- COVID-19 remains unpredictable both at home, and around the world. MCC strongly recommends vaccination against COVID-19. Safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19 are a vital part of prevention, by reducing individual risk of disease and risk of transmission to others. Vaccination is particularly important for those who are interacting closely with members of the community, those staying with host families, who

are traveling, who live in contexts with limited healthcare resources, or who are at higher risk of serious disease. Proof of vaccination may be required in individual cases to fulfill job expectations, for example, if it is required for travel by an airline, a government requirement to enter a country, required by a local partner organization, etc.

- To prioritize wellness and limit risk to our participants and the local community from COVID-19, assessments of each task will continue on a regular basis. If an assignment is found to be no longer viable, we will do our best to help you secure an alternative assignment.
- Living with a host family can be challenging for young adults who have experienced independence. Most host families are very protective of both their biological and host children, particularly daughters. (For example, many host families do not feel comfortable if their host child is out past 8pm.) Patience, understanding, and mutual respect are needed as the participant navigates life within a Cambodian family.
- Professional counseling and mental health services are available, though only in Phnom Penh. Professional physiotherapy is limited, and reputable chiropractic services are not available. Medical facilities outside of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap are well below international standards and are absolutely not recommended.
- Finding appropriate spiritual support may be a challenge living within a Buddhist community and host family.
- MCC service workers have been able to form meaningful relationships with MCC national staff, Cambodian staff at partner organizations, and other Cambodians in general. But these relationships can take time to develop, and—in the meantime—you may experience significant periods of time alone. Learning Khmer will help to enhance relationships with Cambodian people and is important for building these relationships. MCC provides 60 hours of language study at the beginning of your term, and continued study after this is encouraged.
- Significant cultural/religious differences exist regarding gender roles, interfaith relations, stereotypes, etc.
- Developing strong bicycle-riding skills will be imperative to the safety of the SALT/YAMENER, as a bicycle will be the main mode of transport provided for navigating the hectic traffic.
- Corruption is rampant, and can be seen in daily life, but violence in Cambodia is rarely a problem and usually easy to avoid. Within Phnom Penh, there is the occasional mugging or theft, but these are not usually violent. Participants should be diligent in keeping wallets, cameras, purses, backpacks, etc. under personal control; and, if possible, should avoid carrying these items after dark. Even in an office or house, participants should secure their valuable items. (MCC can provide a locked cabinet, if needed, to store valuables).
- Generally, perceptions of LGBTQ+ individuals are negative and more so in Christian communities. An LGBTQ+ Christian may face challenges in feeling supported in this context.
- 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 giftings 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".

Benefits:

For all SALT/YAMEN assignments, MCC provides:

- All basic needs related to assignment i.e., travel to and from assignment, food & household costs, housing, in-country transportation, etc.
- Modest monthly personal allowance
- Modest monthly worker care allowance
- Full medical coverage—no co-pay
- Educational loan reimbursement
- Vacation days
- Orientation and Re-entry Retreat costs
- MCC in-country meetings and retreat costs
- End-of-term benefits

For more information, see mcc.org/salt or mcc.org/yamen