

22 June 2016

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Cultural Mediator (Special Needs)

In 2015 a number of 150.000 sea arrivals of migrants and refugees has been recorded. Similar patterns and figures of arrivals are roughly expected also for 2016. The closure of the Balkan route, combined with the volatile security situation in Lybia trigger the push towards the EU also through the Central Mediterranean route. *Overall migratory pressure will hardly subside in light of the ongoing conflicts in various regions of Africa, Asia and the Middle East. During the first five months in 2016, the main nationalities include citizens of Eritrea, who still represent the largest group, followed by Nigeria, Gambians and Somalis, indicative of a significant number of persons in need of international protection among those arriving in mixed migratory movements by sea.*

Since 2005 UNHCR has been providing information and counseling to asylum seekers and refugees arriving by sea, and monitored reception conditions in the context of the Praesidium project, which ended in June 2015 to be replaced in its main protection components by two FAMI projects, "ACCESS-Consolidating information services and referral" and "RECEPTION- Strengthening monitoring and control mechanisms". In particular, within ACCESS framework, UNHCR focuses on information activities to newly arrived third country nationals, in application of relevant Asylum Procedure Directive and domestic provisions, as well as on advocacy for the prompt overall management of vulnerable individuals, and standardization of related practices of identification, referral and take charge.

UNHCR intends to reinforce and mainstream the best practices developed in previous years through training, development and distribution of information material and other capacity-building activities directed to relevant authorities, NGOs and other actors involved, with a view to systematizing interventions.

In light of the expected continuing high numbers of sea arrivals in 2016, UNHCR plans to support the MoI, by ensuring a robust field presence in the areas affected by the landings in order to carry out activities aiming at developing and promoting practices and mechanisms concerning the identification and referral of persons with specific needs as well as assessing and monitoring their specific reception needs.

The strategy under AMIF foresees also the strengthening of systematic monitoring and quality control mechanisms, which UNHCR has prioritized in its advocacy strategy. To this end, UNHCR plans to continue carrying out regular monitoring visits to reception facilities for asylum seekers, initial reception centers for migrants and expulsion and detention centers in 2015. Field presence of teams comprised of a Legal Associate and a Cultural Mediator in areas of sea arrivals will therefore provide direct operational engagement, inform the advocacy strategy at the central level, while the Special Needs team will also contribute to institutional efforts of standardization with the overall objective of supporting competent authorities in providing an harmonized response with regard to management of persons with specific needs, also as implementation of relevant provision of D.lgs 142/2015.

Activities will be undertaken in close cooperation amongst UNHCR Teams, working under the AMIF ACCESS, RECEPTION and RELOCATION projects.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

In the context of the AMIF-ACCESS project, the Cultural Mediator (Special Needs) will carry out, in cooperation with the Special Needs Expert and project colleagues and under the supervision of Rome-based staff, the following activities:

- a) organize, directly or in support of the UNHCR Legal Associates/Special Needs Expert/other UNHCR staff, information and counseling sessions (individual and in groups) envisaged for the potential asylum seekers arriving by sea to Sicily and provide interpretation from the language of the potential asylum seekers into Italian and vice-versa;
- b) secure mutual understanding between the UNHCR Legal Associates/Special Needs Expert/other UNHCR staff and the potential asylum seekers, ensuring that main diversities as regards culture, traditions, religion, age, gender and other diversities are given adequate attention and consideration in order to build necessary trust with the beneficiaries and maximize the effect of the counseling/information activity;
- c) ensure that the overall cultural mediation activity is always carried out in close co-ordination and co-operation with the UNHCR Legal Associates/Special Needs Expert/other UNHCR staff and the competent authorities, in an appropriate manner, taking into account the multicultural environment and the fact that potential asylum seekers may have been victims of trauma/torture or might otherwise be particularly vulnerable;
- d) translate from Italian into the language of the potential asylum seekers the information prepared by UNHCR for dissemination among potential asylum seekers, as well as any other information material necessary to duly inform potential asylum seekers on their rights and obligations in Italy and the European Union;
- e) identify, directly or in support of the UNHCR Legal Associates/Special Needs Expert/other UNHCR staff, and at need also local authorities, vulnerable individuals and potential asylum seekers with special needs;
- f) ensure, directly or in support of the UNHCR Legal Associates/Special Needs Expert/other UNHCR staff, that those who intend to apply for asylum are admitted to the asylum procedure;
- h) undertake necessary UNHCR training;
- i) respect the confidentiality of any sensitive information and adhere to the UNHCR Code of Conduct;
- j) carry out any other related service, as required.

Qualifications Required:

- At least two years experience in interpretation/cultural mediation
- Relevant experience in the field of protection of persons with specific needs and asylum/refugees procedures
- Languages:
 - English and Italian
 - **Arabic or Tigrinya (mandatory)**
 - French (desirable)



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Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

- Good communication skills
- Team working skills
- **Driving licence, category B (mandatory)**

Starting Date: end of July/August 2016

Envisaged Duration: until 31 December 2016

Envisaged Duty Station: Catania, Sicily

Remuneration: UNOPS Local Individual Contractor Agreement (LICA) terms and conditions

Closing date for applications: **3 July 2016**

How to apply - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

To apply for this position **do not register online. Please download the Personal History Form (P11)** at: www.unhcr.org/recruit/P11_UNHCR.doc. Complete the P11 in English and send it, along with a motivation letter also in English, by email to: itarovacancies@unhcr.org.

Please quote position title in the subject line.

Incomplete or late applications will not be taken into account.

Acknowledgements shall only be sent to candidates short-listed for an interview.

Short-listed candidates will also have to sit a written test.