

Job Title: Roving Protection Consultant for the Pacific

Location: Based initially in Canberra, Australia, but frequent travel to the Pacific region

Duration: 12 - 24 months (subject to funding)

Organisation: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Salary/Remuneration: On application and interview.

Final date for application: 17 June 2008

Functions

Under the direction and supervision on the UNHCR's Regional Representative, the Consultant will be responsible for the following:

- Monitoring main refugee protection developments in Pacific Island States covered by the UNHCR Regional Representation in Canberra and keeping the Regional Representative regularly apprised of any significant developments that might impact on UNHCR's strategy in the region;
- Updating UNHCR's 'protection gaps' analysis of Pacific Island States covered by the UNHCR Regional Representation;
- In the context of UNHCR's 10 Point Plan and its strategy for protection capacity-building in the Pacific region the Consultant will give practical support for UNHCR's strategy to provide:
 - Regular analysis of patterns and trends of asylum-seekers and refugees moving through the region, including movements of individuals or groups likely to be in need of international protection. This analysis will contribute to studies and activities carried out by the Pacific Immigration Directors Conference (PIDC), the Asia Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Migrants and Displaced People (APC) and other related regional fora in order to provide a deeper understanding of the causes and profiles of people movement in the region;
 - Cooperation/liaison, and building partnerships, with other regional bodies such as PIDC, IOM and agencies of the United Nations that may be concerned with the unauthorised or irregular movement of people into and through the PI region;
 - Support to UNHCR's efforts to provide regular advice, guidance and support to individual Pacific Islands governments on policy and operational dimensions of international refugee protection.

- Practical training and technical advice to relevant Government officials on how to integrate ‘good practices’ and standards of asylum/refugee protection into relevant immigration laws, regulations and operational guidelines;
- Technical advice to those states considering ratification of relevant international instruments such as the 1951 Refugee Convention and the two Conventions on Statelessness and, where appropriate, human rights instruments (CAT, ICCPR)
- Induction training, mentoring and supervision to new immigration and border-control officials, police and detention/prison officials and judiciary on basic principles and good practices for refugee protection and migration management;
- A practical network between UNHCR and interested Pacific Island states whereby designated government officials (focal points) would be able to contact UNHCR (through its Regional Office in Canberra and Country Office in Port Moresby) in a ‘24/7 hotline’ to obtain technical advice, practical guidance and operational support as to how to manage individual cases that have indicated protection needs in the Pacific Islands sovereign territories. In particular, the Consultant will:
 - Providing timely and high quality refugee status determination for individual asylum-seekers identified in the region;
 - In close cooperation with relevant government and non-governmental actors, identifying and put in place adequate arrangements for the care and maintenance of asylum-seekers and refugees;
 - Providing timely and quality advice and practical guidance on options for durable solutions individual cases.

Competencies

- Sound knowledge of immigration and refugee principles, ideally with knowledge of legislative drafting process, particularly in the Pacific Islands context;
- Practical experience in refugee status determination procedures and individual case assessment;
- Proven negotiating skills and strong ability to take initiatives and ability to work and act under pressure in a politically diverse and complex environment;
- Sound political judgment, impartiality, diplomacy and discretion;
- Ability to relate immigration and refugee issues and perspectives, including gender issues, to political, social, economic and humanitarian programmes in affected countries and areas.
- Proven ability to provide transfer advice and knowledge to external partners, stakeholders, senior officials and staff at different levels;

- Strong drafting skills and proven ability to plan and organise a work plan;
- Excellent interpersonal, representational and communication skills. Ability to present positions to external partners, stakeholders and officials, and to present information in a concise, persuasive and accurate manner.
- Good computer skills, including proficiency in word processing, spreadsheets, databases and relevant software packages.

Qualifications

Education: University degree in law, political sciences, social sciences or international relations. Post-graduate level an asset.

Work Experience: At least 5 years related experience at national or regional levels in the refugee/immigration or human rights field, preferably with legislative drafting experience in, and knowledge of, the Pacific Islands region

Languages: Fluency in written and spoken English is required. Competence in a Pacific Islands language and/or French would be an additional asset.

Other skills: Knowledge of, and experience working in, the context of the Pacific Islands and a cross-cultural environment are an advantage.

How to apply: Applications in writing, on or before **17 June 2008**, to be submitted to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 3 Lyons Place, Lyons, ACT, 2606 Canberra, Australia (for attention Reika Cunningham). Further enquiries concerning the position can be directed to aulca@unhcr.org.
