

UNHCR SPAIN VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Ref. num. SPA/2018/12

Date of advertisement: 08/10/2018

Application deadline: 16/10/2018

This is a UNOPS Local Individual Contractor Agreement (LICA) position.

Title: **Senior Protection Assistant (Child Protection)**

Type of contract: **UNOPS Local Individual Contractor Agreement – Level 5**

Location: **Madrid (Spain)**

Duration: **Initial contract 15/11/2018 - 31/12/2018. Estimated minimum length of the project is 3 months. Possible contract extension to 2019 will be confirmed in due time.**

General background

UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM have entered a partnership with Lumos Foundation to conduct research into the care arrangements provided to unaccompanied asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children in six countries in Europe, including Spain (the other countries are Bulgaria, Italy, France, Greece and the Netherlands). Lumos Foundation is an international NGO working to end the institutionalisation of children around the world by transforming education, health and social care systems for children and their families; helping children move from institutions to family-based care. The project will collect data on care arrangements for unaccompanied children in six European countries to identify and map the different models of care, from institutions to family-based care. The project intends to fill gaps in data, identify poor and good practice and to calculate the relative costs of the different forms of care. It is hoped that the outcome of the research will help to design country-level interventions, but also inform wider advocacy on the issue of unaccompanied children arriving in Europe and their specific protection needs. While UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and other partners across the six countries targeted for the research will support to collect the data required (completing a questionnaire with information from authorities and other key stakeholders), Lumos Foundation will lead the compilation, analysis and drafting of the final outcome, findings and recommendations.

In Spain, a significant increase in the number of children arrivals (including UASC) has had a negative impact on the child protection system where several improvement areas have been identified. In the light of current challenges there is a need to: strengthen disembarkation procedures from a child protection perspective by developing SOPs for formal disembarkations and spontaneous landings, develop child friendly procedures and spaces, provide child friendly information on immigration and child protection rights, establish age assessment procedures with a protection perspective and guarantee the access to effective remedies and to a reception system able to respond to their specific needs. In this context, additional staff support will be needed to meet the current demands.

Purpose and scope of assignment

The main and first assignment will be completing the questionnaire designed for the Lumos Foundation research project in relation to Spain. For that purpose, the contractor will conduct interviews and consultations with key government and organisational representatives to map child protection systems including detailed information regarding options, practice and forms of alternative care. The contractor will be provided with the data which has been gathered through desk based research and the questionnaires and will cross-reference this to ensure that missing data is captured. The Lumos Foundation research coordinator as well as the project Steering Committee (comprising UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM) will be available for support to undertake the research. At a later stage of the project, consultations with children themselves may also be required; this will be informed by standard tools and guidance through Lumos Foundation and the Steering Committee.

Additionally and taking into account the context described above, the contractor will assist and contribute to the achievement of the following activities for UNHCR Country Office in Spain under the direct supervision of the local children/UASC focal point:

- Mapping of main actors and stakeholders dealing with children at central and local level, with a view to: a) identify potential partners for UNHCR activities in favour of child rights, b) facilitate coordination and networking among the main actors and c) follow up the distribution scheme for UASC promoted by the central government.
- Collecting relevant data and information to support adequate planning and analysis.
- Assessing training needs to develop targeted capacity building activities to enhance the set of competencies and skills of the reception centers staff, authorities involved in disembarkation procedures, lawyers and NGOs.
- Developing and facilitating the use of child-friendly information materials to ensure that all children receive adequate information and counselling in a child-friendly way and in a language the child can understand in particular with regard to the right to apply for asylum and the international protection procedure to be able to make an informed and participated choice (flyer, video, etc.).
- In coordination with other relevant actors, contribute to produce and disseminate SOPs for formal disembarkation procedures and spontaneous landings in order to adequately respond to main child protection risks identified by UNHCR Spain.
- Monitoring and providing support, guidance and advice in relation to the activities concerning identification, age assessment, guardianship, family tracing and referral, as appropriate being proactive in analyzing situations, making viable proposals, participating in discussions and taking consideration, inter alia, of existing conditions, constraints and needs.
- Upon request, visiting children reception centers and documenting the findings.
- Engaging as needed on high risk cases in need of child protection intervention.
- Providing general support to the local children/UASC focal point in her children related functions as required and depending on changing needs.

Monitoring and progress controls

The contractor will be required to complete the questionnaire to inform the Lumos Foundation research project within one month of commencing the contract.

For all the other activities described in the scope of assignment section, the contractor will be required to:

- Provide regular progress reports on the specific activities undertaken and any additional achievement report upon request.
- Participate in activities, events and meetings, as required.
- Pay special attention to ensure an age, gender and diversity approach in compliance with relevant legislation and in accordance with applicable standards.

In particular, the contractor will assist and contribute to produce the following concrete outputs:

- A key stakeholders mapping at national and local level including a research on the distribution of unaccompanied foreign children in different regions following the central government request and the assessment of capacity building needs.
- A follow up document compiling data on the distribution of unaccompanied foreign children in different regions following the central government request and an initial assessment of capacity building needs on asylum.
- SOP for formal disembarkation procedures and spontaneous landings in order to adequately respond to main child protection risks and develop a training strategy for main actors involved.
- An information kit of child-friendly materials on asylum to be distributed upon disembarkation and in child protection centers. The tools should be developed using a participatory methodology with children (flyers, video, etc.)
- A training plan for capacity building on asylum, including the preparation of contents and materials.
- Support UNHCR's Spain ongoing activities to develop a specific SOP to child protection rights in Melilla, particularly linked to the right of family unity.

Qualifications and experience

Education

- Completion of secondary school. Additional Training courses in protection related issues (required).
- University degree in Social Sciences, Law, Development studies, International Relations, Political Science or other relevant areas to human development (desirable).
- Excellent command of Spanish and English (required); French (desirable).
- Computer literacy (required).

Work experience

- At least four years of relevant work experience (required); some specific experience in the field of asylum and/or migration, children protection or related fields (desirable).
- Good knowledge and practical experience with AGDM methodologies (desirable).

Key competencies

- Good knowledge of international human rights and refugee law and of the Spanish asylum and migration system, with a particular focus on child protection related aspects (desirable).
- Excellent skills to manage relations with external partners (required).
- Strong interpersonal and cross cultural skills and flexibility (required).
- Capability for change and to adapt to different situations (required).
- Excellent drafting skills both in Spanish and English (required).
- Driving license (desirable).

How to apply - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

Please submit your **signed Personal History Form (PHF and PHF supplementary sheet)** in English by e-mail with the vacancy title "Senior Protection Assistant (Child Protection) Ref. num. SPA/2018/12" in the subject line to spamavac@unhcr.org **no later than 16/10/2018, 23:59 CET.**

Please be aware that this will be a local contract for which **having a valid working permit in Spain is required.**

Only complete applications submitted by e-mail with a signed PHF form will be considered.

E-mails without vacancy title "Senior Protection Assistant (Child Protection) Ref. num. SPA/2018/12" in the subject line will not be considered.

No late applications will be considered.

Shortlisted candidates will be required to sit a written test.

Only applications from candidates who are short-listed will be acknowledged.