

Name of Agencies: UNHCR China

JOB DESCRIPTION-INTERNSHIP

Position Information:

Duration: February 2019 – August 2019, 6 months

Reports To: ICT/Administrative Associate

Team: Admin/Programme

Job Description:

Background

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The UN Refugee Agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.

For over 65 years, UNHCR has helped millions of people to restart their lives. They include refugees, returnees, stateless people, internally displaced and asylum-seekers. Its interventions in the areas of protection, shelter, health and education have been crucial, healing broken pasts and building brighter futures.

The UNHCR Office in China was established in 1979. China has been party to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol since 1982, but the Government has not yet developed domestic asylum legislation. Therefore UNHCR registers asylum seekers, conducts individual refugee status determination under its mandate and seeks durable solutions for refugees. UNHCR also strives to provide direct assistance to the refugee population in mainland China notably because refugees do not have access to Government subsidized services for health and social services. However the assistance budget is limited and can only partially cover basic needs such as food, shelter, and prioritized medical care.

Recently the Government established the National Immigration Administration (NIA) under the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) to oversee all refugee-related matters. Its creation is expected to encourage the Government to consider a greater engagement in asylum and refugee protection.

Building public awareness on refugee issues and the work of UNHCR has been another core area of work for UNHCR Beijing Office, with the great contributions of the Goodwill Ambassador Ms. Yao Chen, and via the social media platform Weibo.

UNHCR will continue to endeavor working with all stakeholders in China to ensure persons of concern receive adequate protection and assistance as well as to seek durable solutions for refugees.

Key Tasks and Responsibilities

- Inform UNHCR decisions related to individual assistance based on medical and financial needs;
- Regularly check, monitor and respond to email queries from refugees regarding medical and financial assistance;
- Assist in processing emails from persons of concern (POCs) about reimbursement requests and maintaining a medical record for POCs, especially for cases with special needs;
- Summarize breakdown for medical bills sent by refugees; prepare payment request for reimbursement of medical cost to Finance for further processing;
- Analyze the medical expense to synthesize medical reports and other information directly obtained from medical contacts provided by persons of concern;
- Present special case and all findings to the Refugee Assistance and Referral Committee (RARC);
- Assist in maintaining an up-to-date list of vulnerable POCs and database on POCs' requests for in-kind donations, and in coordinating with donors for distribution;
- Filing of relevant correspondences related to individual cases;
- Perform other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Recruitment Qualifications

- A recent graduate (completed studies within 1 year of applying for this internship) or current student in a graduate/undergraduate school programme from a university;
- Completed at least two years of undergraduate studies in medical science, pharmaceutics or related fields;
- Strong interests in international humanitarian field and eager to learn;
- Good communication skills;
- Professional and detail-oriented at work with team spirits;
- Strong awareness of cultural diversity and confidentiality requirements;
- Respect for humanity and a commitment to international public service;
- Fluent in English, proficiency in other languages i.e. French or Arabic is a plus;
- Firm commitment to a long-term full-time internship.
- Interns are required to complete mandatory UNHCR trainings before commencement of the internship.