



Description of Assignment

Viatores Christi (VC) works in the area of development cooperation in the faith based development sector. We specialise in the recruitment, training and placement of skilled volunteers on projects identified by a mission partner which meets the needs of the beneficiaries. We also specialise in the monitoring and implementation of projects as well as in the provision of experts in developing countries for targeted consultancy. Since 1960 we have recruited, trained and placed over 2000 volunteers in 48 different countries. Today we have volunteers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean

Assignment Title: Field Officer

Type of Assignment: International Development Worker

Project Title: Early Childhood Education Project

Duration: 24 months

Location, Country: Chimbote, Peru

Expected Starting Date: July 2015

Brief Project Description: This project, principally for **Early Childhood Educators in Chimbote**, Peru aims to increase capacity, in a sustainable manner, among both preschool teachers and their Government Ministry of Education appointed coordinators. Secondly it aims at effectively working with the community, specifically parents, on learning methods and teaching techniques for their children through workshops. Moreover, it aims to identify various learning styles among children in the target community and address these and mental health issues in a sustainable way with the aid of a psychologist. Each project developed by WGC is based on three principles: 1. Local ownership, 2. Local empowerment, and 3. Sustainability. The implementation process for each project includes collaboration and networking with area partners. Stakeholder participation and local ownership is very much encouraged.

Chimbote is located on the Pacific coast in the Ancash Region north of Lima, the capital city. Chimbote has a population of about 400,000; 54% live at poverty level. However, disparities across the country remain high, particularly between rural and urban areas. While just 1.4% of the urban population lives below the poverty line (2012), this figure increases to 19.7% for the rural population. Chimbote is noted for its desert conditions with less than an inch of rain

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annually and is one of the most impoverished regions in Peru. While fishing is the largest industry in the region, during the 1970s, an earthquake and overfishing drastically affected the fishing industry, which left the area with tremendous unemployment and poverty in the area, still existing in the present.

Chimbote is an area of extreme poverty, particularly among mothers who re-settle from mountain regions in order to find some kind of work to sustain their families. Among those most greatly affected are young children, who have minimal care and little opportunity for healthy development. These communities settle in areas called “invasion zones”, which are on the outskirts of the city, where services are lacking and basic human rights are not being addressed. For example, there is no running water, sewage system and only some zones have fully functioning electricity. Furthermore, in these zones health and social services are absent. The area of intervention has been identified as a high-need area as it incorporates four newly formed “invasion zones”. “Sembrando Infancia”, the local nutritional programme, which is part of the project, works in this specific area for the past year. Their findings and experience have helped to formalize the current proposed intervention.

Organisational Context: The Volunteer **Field Officer** will report to the Project Co-Ordinator.

Type of Assignment Place: assignment without family

Description of tasks:

The VC Volunteer Field Officer will undertake the key activities of the project:

- The provision of 6 workshops for the training of preschool teachers, Ministry of Education coordinators and community members in the first year, with mentoring and support from the host organisation. These workshops will be planned over a year timeline, with at least one workshop every two months.
- The development of a training manual of the workshops presented. Workshops will be created specific to the population and local resources and needs expressed by classroom teachers. Following each workshop a train-the-trainer module will be posted online. This will be developed on an on-going basis throughout the year.
- The final manual will be printed and provided to preschool teachers in the partnering districts. It will also be made available online in English and Spanish. It is expected that the manuals will be distributed within two months following the final workshop.
- Support of a local psychologist who will assess preschool children for learning disabilities and conduct remedial workshops for these children, mentor teachers and parents on strategies for dealing with these issues and offer psychological counselling.

Evaluation from workshop evaluations, surveys, and sign-in sheets; continuous needs assessment, mentoring and observation of classroom teaching strategies; specifically, attendance of workshop participants and number involved in attending workshops and number of additional workshops by trainers.

Data to be collected and reported will include: numbers trained, narrative assessment/observation of how the training is being used in the classroom and to train others; specific changes in behaviour observed from usefulness of learning in the classroom and trainees training others.

Results/Expected Output:

- Six community workshops per year on early childhood Education, health and wellness and related topics for women from the community and women’s groups, early childhood teachers, their coordinators and parents will have been conducted in a train-the-trainer style resulting in dissemination of the information to a greater population, especially by

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the Ministry of Education coordinators. Approximately 80 preschool teachers and 22 coordinators will have been trained. They will receive certificates of participation from these workshops.

- A Training Manual will have been developed during the workshops (using program planning principles and templates, and adult learning concepts, along with creating a standardized process for workshop development), will have been printed in English and Spanish and posted online.
- All 80 preschool the teachers, in partnering districts will have their own copy of the Training Manual, which will be available for use on a regular basis in their classroom planning and in the organization of future training workshops. This Manual will also be available online in English and Spanish.
- Early detection and intervention will minimize or completely remediate the negative outcome of learning disabilities in children identified as being at risk in the target zone.
- A report will be prepared and available on each child's progress and current situation.

Qualifications/Requirements:

Degree level qualification or equivalent in a relevant discipline

Fluency in Spanish

Excellent interpersonal and communication skills

Ability to work with a wide range of people in a respectful and collaborative manner

Good analytical skills

Good understanding of development issues

Willingness to work with people with children

Living Conditions:

Modest with all facilities

Conditions of Service

A 12 month contract; monthly volunteer living allowance (VLA), housing, basic needs all provided.