



JOB FRAMEWORK

Title: Legal Aid/Gender Advisor – Gender/VAWG and Human Rights

Program: VAWG Country Program

Duration: 2 years (extension based on funding availability)

Location: Suva, with travel in Fiji

Reports To: Executive Director

ABOUT MSP

Medical Services in the Pacific (MSP) was established as an NGO in 2010 to provide communities in the Pacific with improved access to health care, information and clinical services, specifically in the sectors of reproductive health care, family planning, maternal and child health care and adolescent health.

MSP exists to:

- enable Pacific women and adolescents to have greater access to quality health care services and useful knowledge for successful family planning; and to
- assist governments to manage the interactions between vulnerable populations and island resources.

MSP teams work in partnership with key stakeholders and local government under formal protocols which maximise resources and enhance multi stakeholder coordination mechanisms. MSP is a pro-choice and rights based local organisation supporting women and youth in the Pacific to have the right to choose the number and spacing of their children.

PURPOSE OF POSITION

To lead the Gender Empowerment and Legal Aid program including providing legal advice to clients to ensure a holistic support services is available for women, youth and children at risk.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide technical support and leadership for the MSP Program in the sectors of gender, human rights, child protection and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Develop and update the strategy and the rights-based approach in the Gender and Human Rights Components of the MSP program
- Monitor Gender and Child Protection Policy

- Support and train staff, partners or groups including community members in legal procedures relating to VAWG
- Train community gender mentors and other peer leaders as required in human rights (child protection, gender empowerment, human rights, reproductive rights, et al.)
- Produce assessments and situational reports as needed
- Assist staff in the implementation of the gender- and human-rights approaches
- Undertake awareness with the Outreach Team as needed
- Assist the managers and clients in identifying and responding to existing and potential protection threats to human rights
- Provide support and escort to court, social welfare and legal aid officers for survivors of VAWG as required
- Assist the education officer, communications officer and project manager(s) to integrate gender and advocacy into their materials
- Network with local government authorities and advocate for our clients
- Represent MSP in networks and on VAWG issues, and take part in the relevant task forces
- Provide and assist reporting (e.g. systematic program monitoring, reporting on participatory impact in gender, empowerment, human rights etc)
- Maintain up-to-date knowledge in the sector; understand the key positions of the UN, Red Cross/ICRC and major NGOs working in gender, empowerment and protection of vulnerable groups
- Assist MSP with legal advice when needed
- Provide monthly narrative reports
- Provide administration support and assistance as needed to key managers
- Implement specific tasks according to diversification and emerging special protection focus of program

QUALIFICATIONS (Strongly Preferred/Preferred)

Education/Credentials

Experience

Critical Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- University degree in law or related field. A combination of academic studies and work experience may be accepted
- At least 3 years of work experience in land rights, human rights or related field
- Requires knowledge of:
 - Fiji Law, including Family law
 - Crimes Decree; Social Welfare Decree; HIV Aids Decree
 - Human Rights; relevant chapters of International Humanitarian Law; Refugee Law; the Convention of the Rights of the Child
- Knowledge of The Humanitarian Codes of Conduct, the Humanitarian Charter, The Sphere Project
- Knowledge around International Conventions relating to Humanitarian Aid/Emergency Response
- Requires skill of communication, negotiation, mediation and coordination, both verbal and written
- Spotless police record and in good standing with the law and legal bodies
- Knowledge of the instruments of law that apply in environmental protection would be useful but not essential
- Requires demonstrated well-developed knowledge and sensitivity of cross-cultural communication and dynamics
- Good command in English, oral and written
- Ability to maintain an affective working relationship

PERIOD OF CONTRACT

The contract for this role is for a fixed term of 24 months from the date of signing. Renewal of this contract, beyond the prescribed term, will be considered in the context of the future needs of MSP.

CONTACT

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