

Australian Volunteers

for International Development

Assignment description

Information contained in this Assignment Description is subject to change, as host organisations' needs evolve. Australian Red Cross will work closely with host organisations and volunteers to ensure that key outcomes of roles are updated as regularly as possible.

1. General details	
Position title	Water Lifesaving Officer
Advertising title (if different from above)	Drowning Prevention Officer
Host organisation	Provincial Government of Antique – Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
Country	Philippines
Location	San Jose, Antique
Duration	9 months
Proposed start date	September 2015
Pre-departure training date	July 2015
Assignment code	PH67

2. Overview of program
<p>The ARC AVID program in the Philippines focuses on increasing resilience to disasters, strengthening health care providers and staff and strengthening community services.</p> <p>This assignment contributes towards disaster preparedness and recovery outcomes by ensuring people are better prepared for disasters and more able to cope when they strike. ARC AVID does this by resourcing local governments to create community-based disaster management plans, strengthening logistics and warehousing, and supporting Philippine Red Cross chapters as they help communities prepare for and recover from disasters.</p>

3. Overview of organisation & assignment
<p>The office of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council of Antique is responsible for the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of disaster risk reduction programs, plans, projects and activities of the province. The office is composed of three permanent staff and several volunteers from the community and government agencies.</p> <p>Under a new mandate for local government units through the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act, provinces, cities, and municipalities now play a greater role in building the disaster resilience of communities and in institutionalising measures for reducing disaster risks, enhancing disaster preparedness and response capabilities.</p> <p>The new act places particular emphasis on local government units to develop a pro-active approach on disaster preparedness and mitigation. They are required to develop the knowledge, capacity, and systems to manage</p>

potential disasters in their areas.

<http://www.antique.gov.ph/>

Overview of the challenge

The primary purpose of the organisation is to formulate and implement a comprehensive and integrated Disaster Risk Reduction Plan and to be responsible for the command, coordination and implementation of disaster management, in the planning, incident and recovery phases. Drowning prevention, both during large-scale disasters and small-scale emergencies is an important part of this plan.

It is critical for the organisation to develop a strategic response mechanism to address natural calamities and other manmade disasters that may impact the province. There is an urgent need to direct, control and coordinate the entire provincial government machinery – manpower and materials – to efficiently respond to all types of manmade and natural disasters.

Antique is surrounded by long stretches of coastal areas. There are many drownings each year in the province, but there are no drowning prevention or lifesaving services.

Overview of the AVID assignment

The AVID volunteer will work with the provincial government and their stakeholders to build capacity in the development and delivery of water safety, lifesaving and drowning prevention education and training programs in the province. It is hoped the increased skills of staff and volunteers will eventually be shared and rolled out to different local government units and communities.

The volunteer will work with their colleagues to develop and pilot water safety awareness and education programs and activities to engage local communities and raise awareness of safe water use practices.

4. Expected Outputs and Key Relationships

Expected outputs of this assignment:

1. Training modules for water safety developed, implemented, trialled and used
2. Water safety program for the organisation established
3. Resources developed for strengthened disaster response and management in local government units and communities

Volunteer's supervisor	Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Officer
Counterpart / other staff	Staff

5. Volunteer requirements

Essential: Personal attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self awareness and cross-cultural sensitivity • Commitment to sharing knowledge and skills • Flexibility and adaptability • Resilience and ability to manage stress
Essential: Skills or experience relevant to assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifeguarding, lifesaving or beach safety experience, preferably with some experience in a leadership role • Experience delivering and/or developing training programs, particularly in drowning prevention
Qualifications	Relevant lifeguarding qualifications
Language skills and level required	Willingness to learn local language
Desirable: Further attributes, experience, skills or qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working with Red Cross Red Crescent or other humanitarian aid organisations • Experience developing basic water safety campaigns and

	promotions
First Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to mobilising all Australian volunteers are required to complete Australian Standard HLTA311A – Apply First Aid

6. Location and facilities

The volunteer will be based in San Jose, the capital of Antique, which has a population of 48,261 in 9,639 households. Antique is renowned for its mountains, waterfalls, white beaches and hot springs. It is known as the place where the mountains meet the sea.

The office is located within the provincial government centre site, a site where several government offices are located. These offices were clustered in one site to facilitate transactions to each office and provide easy access to the public.

The office is equipped with workstations with access to internet, fax and telecommunications. Each personnel with duties requiring the use of computer is provided with the required equipment. Field offices are likewise provided with the same facilities and equipment.

7. Assignment support

All AVID volunteers are provided with the following:

- Return airfares to country of assignment
- Fortnightly living allowance (based on cost of living, adjusted for urban and rural areas)
- Accommodation allowance
- Pre-departure training and in-country orientation (including language training where necessary)
- Travel and life insurance
- Health & security support (including 24-hour emergency contact)
- In-country contact point

For more information visit www.redcross.org.au/support-and-preparation.aspx

Other support mechanisms

- Quarterly review with the Country Manager
- Will be invited to attend team meetings with office staff
- Will function as a part of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office

8. Local culture and language

General advice for the Philippines

- Filipinos have a reputation for tolerance. However, visitors should be sensitive to their often highly developed sense of personal pride and honour, and seek to avoid giving offence.
- The best way to behave at both business meetings and at street level is with good humour, courtesy and a willingness to smile, and by generally demonstrating a calm and relaxed attitude.
- Pointing is considered rude. People often indicate objects or directions with a glance or a pursing of their lips.
- Be aware that Filipinos smile constantly, and may smile or laugh at times that Westerners find inappropriate. Smiles hide embarrassment and discord.
- There is little anti-foreign sentiment, despite the country's ambiguous attitude towards its colonial past and relations with the US and Europe. Nevertheless, nationalist sentiment remains, and visitors should be careful to respect local sensitivities over their country's history and actions.

Main language(s) spoken in the community	Kinaray-a (local dialect), Tagalog
Main language(s) spoken in the workplace	Kinaray-a (local dialect), Tagalog and English

9. Health and safety

Many developing country contexts are challenging. You will face different, usually higher, physical and mental health risks than at home. As an Australian Volunteer for International Development, you will be required to have a good level of fitness, health and resilience.

You may be required to live and work in basic facilities and use local public transport. You may not be able to access the range or high quality of health services and facilities you are used to, and may not have ready access to a tertiary hospital, specialist doctors, or reliable supplies of your usual medication.

If you have a pre-existing health condition which requires ongoing treatment and regular medical checks, especially if it involves a risk of a medical emergency, consider carefully whether this type of work is appropriate for you. Seek early advice from your own treating doctor, ensure your condition is optimally controlled, and update your health management plan with your doctor prior to starting the Australian Red Cross health clearance process. For many pre-existing conditions, we will require a detailed medical report from your treating doctor. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Australian Red Cross maintains strong policies on the use of vehicles, including motorbikes requiring at a minimum that users have a full Australian or New Zealand (not learners or provisional) license for the type of vehicle being operated, and in some locations and situations vehicles cannot be operated. Consideration should be given to this if volunteers intend to operate any vehicle or motorbike on assignment.

For further information refer to www.smarttraveller.gov.au.

10. Child protection

Australian Red Cross is a child-safe organisation and is committed to the prevention of abuse and neglect of children and young people. As part of the recruitment process, all candidates will be screened and assessed for suitability to work with children. Volunteers must make themselves aware of Section 6.9 of the AVID Code of Conduct and associated policies and documents for Child Protection.