

Position: Project Manager Construction Netherlands Red Cross
Country, location Sri Lanka, Balapitiya and Hambantota
Mission period 12 months with the possibility to extend till the end of 2007

Background and Context

On 26 December 2004, an earthquake measuring 9.0 on Richter scale struck the area off the western coast of Northern Sumatra. The earthquake caused tsunamis and flooded coastal areas of countries around the Indian Ocean rim from Indonesia to Somalia. Three successive massive and enormous waves hit all coastal areas of Sri Lanka, with the exception of the northwest region. With a death toll of more than 30,000 people, Sri Lanka is the second hardest hit country in the region after Indonesia. As a result of the disaster more than 440,000 people have been displaced and the homes and livelihoods of large numbers of people are destroyed. The situation on the east coast was worsened by the floods due to heavy rains that hit after the tsunami.

The Netherlands Red Cross has established physical presence in Sri Lanka starting from 27 December 2004, focusing on the Galle and Hambantota districts in the south, which were among the heaviest hit locations. In close cooperation with the local Sri Lankan Red Cross branches, NLRC has distributed food and non-food emergency help items to 18,842 families (approximately 85,000 individual beneficiaries). Currently, NLRC is active in Sri Lanka in the same two locations and represented by a team of professionals consisting of one Country Coordinator (Colombo), one Finance and Administration Delegate (Colombo), one Program Coordinator Construction/Livelihood, one Program Manager Beneficiary Relations, one Construction Delegate (all three based in Balapitiya, Galle District) and about 40 national staff-members.

In Sri Lanka NLRC is active in the (re)construction, livelihood and branch development. Housing reconstruction programs have started in Hambantota District (about 100 houses) and Balapitiya (about 400 houses) mainly by supporting beneficiaries who want to rebuild their own house by themselves. The NLRC supports a Belgium Red Cross construction program in Matara as well as a Solid Housing construction program in Ampara. The coordination and budget support for both these programs are managed directly by the NLRC HQ in The Hague. The NLRC delegation Sri Lanka only monitors on a regular basis. The NLRC intends to end its projects in Sri Lanka by the end of 2007.

Specific tasks and responsibilities

The Program Manager will:

- Be responsible for the overall project-management of the NLRC Housing Projects in Hambantota, Tangalle and Balapitiya. Develop standards and systems to steer, monitor and evaluate the implementation process.
- Line manage, support, develop and train seven national staff (civil engineer, quality assurance officer and technical field officers). Monitor the HR situation of the technical staff, provide regular appraisals and make recommendations to the program coordinator.
- Maintain contacts with external consultants, contractors and other service providers including preparation of contracts with them.
- Develop new construction activities/projects focusing on the most vulnerable people.
- Produce accurate, regular and timely narrative and financial reports and forecasts for the program coordinator.
- Represent the NLRC in reconstruction Technical Committee Meetings, external (coordination) meetings, workshops and seminars.
- Represent the NLRC in contacts with international, government and non-government agencies regarding construction programs in the field. Collaborate with them where appropriate
- Advise and keep the Program Coordinator and Country Coordinator informed on developments in the Reconstruction sector within the Movement and Sri Lanka in general
- Participate actively in the Construction Management team and other internal NLRC meetings.
- Perform any other duties as requested

Duties applicable to all staff

- To work towards the achievement of the RC Movement Platform's goals in the country/region of operation through effective managerial and lateral relations and teamwork.
- To ensure understanding of roles, responsibilities, lateral relationships and accountabilities.
- To ensure working within the framework of both NLRC bilateral cooperation/relation with Sri Lankan Red Cross and the RC Movement Platform.
- To adhere to the prevailing security regulations as set by the RC Movement Platform and NLRC.

Requirements

- University degree in a related technical field (civil engineering, architecture, technical engineering, etc.)
- Minimum 5 years of experience in the management and planning of construction projects
- Proficient in project management tools and methods
- Work experience within the RC/RC Movement
- Minimum 3 years of experience in working and living in developing countries and within multi-cultural settings
- Basic Delegates Training Course or equivalent knowledge
- Experience in training and transfer of skills
- Experience in team management, managing and supporting (local) staff
- Excellent knowledge of English (oral and verbal), good planning and reporting (narrative and financial) skills
- Self-supporting in computer applications

How to apply?

Please send your letter of motivation and CV to: ericselis@fcs.be and asf@architectenhuis.be

Closingdate : 25.08.2006

Fee and costs ASF-International Network : 2 % of the contract value.