

VACATURE VOOR STAGEPLAATS

Per augustus 2018 heeft VNG International plaats voor een stagiair voor het Local Government Resilience Programme (LOGOReP), voor een periode van minimaal 3 maanden, voor 2 dagen per week.

Bedrijfsinformatie

VNG International is een dochterorganisatie van de Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten (VNG). Ons doel is het ontwikkelen van een krachtig en democratisch lokaal bestuur wereldwijd. Europese en internationale samenwerking tussen lokale overheden behoort nadrukkelijk tot ons werkkterrein. VNG International is een bedrijf dat internationaal diensten aanbiedt aan de publieke sector veelal in opdracht van de EU, Nederlandse Ministeries, de Wereldbank en andere nationale en multilaterale instellingen. Het hoofdkantoor is gevestigd in Den Haag, waar ongeveer 50 mensen werkzaam zijn (jaaromzet gemiddeld € 20 miljoen), met dochterbedrijven in Tsjechië, Tunesië en Zuid Afrika. Voor het uitvoeren van de werkzaamheden binnen de projecten (op locatie) maken we gebruik van een groot netwerk van experts op relevante vakgebieden.

Kort samengevat valt ons werk te verdelen in de volgende activiteiten:

- Managen van internationale projecten in opdracht van het Nederlandse Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, de EU en de Wereldbank ter versterking van het lokaal bestuur wereldwijd.
- Ondersteunen van Nederlandse gemeenten bij de ontwikkeling van hun Europese en internationale beleid, en de manier waarop zij optimaal gebruik kunnen maken van Europese fondsen en kennisnetwerken.
- Acquireren van internationale projecten.

VNG International is onderverdeeld in 2 bedrijfsgroepen: de bedrijfsgroep **Europe, Middle East & North Africa** (EMENA) en de bedrijfsgroep **Asia, Sub Sahara Africa & Latin America** (ASSAL).

Inhoud stage LOGOReP (Bedrijfsgroep EMENA)

Zie bijgevoegde factsheet en de website logorep.nl voor meer info over het LOGOReP programma.

De stage betreft een onderzoeksstage ter ondersteuning van het schrijven van een voorstel voor een vervolgprogramma op het huidige LOGOReP programma, dat eind 2018 afloopt. VNG International is op zoek naar iemand met sterke interesse in en affiniteit met de politiek, geschiedenis en cultuur van de Arabische wereld, zich graag in de inhoud verdiept, over sterke analytische vaardigheden beschikt en een goede beheersing heeft van de Nederlandse en Engelse taal (beheersing van het Arabisch is een pré).

Taken:

- Inventariseren van relevante wetenschappelijke literatuur aangaande de positie van vluchtelingen in Jordanië, Libanon en de rest van de MENA-regio, decentralisatie, economische ontwikkelingen en overige relevante achtergrondinformatie;
- Op basis van bovenstaande inventarisatie, het schrijven van korte samenvattingen en analyses;

Belangrijke informatie:

- Duur en invulling: Voor minimaal 3 maanden, 2 dagen per week
- Ingangsdatum: 1 augustus 2018
- Reageren via: Reageren tot en met uiterlijk 22 juli 2018 [via deze link](#)
- Stagevergoeding: € 150,00 bruto per maand obv 2 dagen per week
- Contactpersoon: Anouk de Boer, HR Business Partner. Tel: +31 6 2296 1472
- Homepage: www.vng-international.nl
- Website LOGOReP: www.logorep.nl

LOCAL GOVERNMENT **RESILIENCE** PROGRAMME



Local Government Resilience Programme for the Middle East and North Africa (LOGOReP)

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Who are we?

The Local Government Resilience Programme, or LOGOReP, is a three years programme, financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by the Association of Dutch Municipalities International (VNG I) in partnership with the municipalities of Almere, Amsterdam and The Hague.

LOGOReP builds on the experience working with refugees and their home communities from our *International Municipal Assistance to Al Za'atari Refugee Camp and Local Governments in Al Mafraq Governorate (2014-2016)*.

Background

Since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011, millions have fled the war zone. UNHCR alone registered more than 4.5 million refugees who have fled abroad. In Lebanon alone an estimated between 1.2 and 1.5 million refugees settled, roughly 37.5% of Lebanon's pre-conflict population.¹ In Jordan the Zaa'tari refugee camp grew from an empty space of desert to Jordan's fourth largest city by 2014, then home to over 200.000 refugees. In both countries, as well as in Turkey to the north and Iraq to the east the sudden and huge influx of Syrian refugees causes huge stresses on the life needs of both host communities and refugees.

Whereas many international organizations are working hard trying to alleviate the worst of the suffering of refugees, many Lebanese communities and especially municipalities have been increasingly feeling that they have to fend for themselves. This development can be seen in all neighbouring countries of Syria.

In Lebanon for instance, garbage collection falters within the illegally and largely unplanned tented settlements. The quantity of collected waste has skyrocketed nevertheless together with the population increase, leaving local municipal staff despaired and frustrated, while both Lebanese and Syrians live in increasingly toxic environments.

In Jordan, The pressure on service delivery in the regions dealing with Syrian refugees, especially the Mafraq region in the north of the country, is enormous. Waste and waste water pollute environments already under threat. Primary schools are forced into double shifts. Demands for drinking water and electricity have soared while spillages are higher than ever, because of weak infrastructure and service providers unable to cope with the influx.

The municipal angle

Our goal with LOGOReP is to alleviate pressures on both the host and Syrian refugee communities in the region by strengthening the resilience of the municipalities serving them.

Our experience from the earlier Zaa'tari and Mafraq Governorate programme is that no one relates better to the unique context of working in a municipal environment than other municipal staff. Therefore, our angle is to bring knowledge and experience of Dutch, Jordanian and Lebanese municipal staff together and, following the specific needs on the ground, complement it with national and international experts. This large pool of expertise and experience can be quickly applied to respond flexibly to almost every need and request in the targeted areas. We compliment

¹ Based on the latest population estimation in 1997 of around four million persons.

this approach with training courses and exchange programmes between municipalities. At the same we recognize that short term improvements are an absolute necessity to defuse tensions and lower the burden. Therefore we also kick-start development with facilitating investments in infrastructure and service delivery.

Scope of our work and design of the programme

LOGOReP is currently active in two countries: Lebanon and Jordan. At the same time we are able to respond to sudden needs of communities burdened by the Syrian crisis in other countries in the region, like Turkey and Iraq.

Furthermore, LOGOReP has the ambition to further assist in exploring the possibilities of municipal assistance as part of community resilience building. As such LOGOReP develops standardized products that will assist municipalities worldwide when faced with sudden crises, such as natural disasters or outbreak of violence.

Field offices in the Zaa'tari refugee camp in and Lebanon and dedicated full-time local staff ensure that the two current country programmes are well embedded in the respective countries. Dutch municipal staff and their Jordanian and Lebanese counterparts cooperate directly in the fields of economic development, waste disposal and waste water treatment, planning, transport, and finally on good and effective governance.

VNG International is lead in the Local Government Resilience Programme, implemented in refugee affected areas surrounding Syria, including Lebanon. The programme is implemented in close cooperation with the municipalities of The Hague and Almere and our local implementation partner DMI.



This programme is financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

LOCAL
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PROGRAMME
Lebanon



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Background

Since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011, Lebanon has witnessed a massive influx of refugees, estimated between 1.2 and 1.5 million, roughly 37.5% of Lebanon's pre-conflict population, putting a significant burden on the local host communities and the infrastructure of the country. Whereas many international organizations are working hard trying to alleviate the worst of the suffering of refugees, many Lebanese communities and especially municipalities have been increasingly feeling that they have to fend for themselves. A telling example is the current waste crisis.

While garbage collection falters within the illegally and largely unplanned tented settlements, the quantity of collected waste has skyrocketed nevertheless together with the population increase. Waste disposal is mostly done through dumping and burning techniques, polluting both ground and air of the densely populated country. Waste water, especially that stemming from the tented settlement but also from the fast growing estab-

lished population centres, is often untreated and directed to the nearest river. In the Beqaa' valley for instance, where half a million refugees and half a million Lebanese are finding ways to live together, the Litani-river has become both the region's biggest source of water supply as well as an open sewer.

A sudden change in government policy late 2015 has meant that municipalities have to organize waste collection and disposal as well as drainage and treatment for themselves. Something for which the often small and financially strained units (Lebanon has about 1.100 municipalities) are not equipped, nor own enough capacity, leaving local municipal staff despaired and frustrated.

The municipal angle

Our goal with LOGOReP is to alleviate pressures on both the Lebanese host and Syrian refugee communities by strengthening the resilience of the municipalities serving them.

Our experience from the earlier Zaa'tari and Mafraq Governorate programme is that no one relates better to the unique context of working in a municipal environment than other municipal staff. Therefore, our angle is to bring knowledge and experience of Dutch, Jordanian and Lebanese municipal staff together and, following the specific needs on the ground, complement it with national and international experts. This large pool of expertise and experience can be quickly applied to respond flexibly to almost every need and request in the targeted areas. We compliment this approach with training courses and exchange programmes between municipalities.

At the same we recognize that short term improvements are an absolute necessity to defuse tensions and lower the burden. Therefore we also kick-start development with facilitating investments in infrastructure and service delivery.

Scope of our work

LOGOREP will be working on **three interconnected levels**

- 1 The local level**, namely the West Beqaa area, and more particularly the endemic solid waste problem which needs to be addressed very urgently as it represents a very significant hazard to public safety.
- 2 The regional level**, using the West Beqaa as a showcase, but expanding when possible the interventions to the Beqaa valley at large (mainly North and Central Beqaa in addition to West Beqaa). Interventions would certainly revolve around waste, but also agriculture, urban planning, and whatever topics that might emerge from the needs assessment which will be conducted at the onset of the program.
- 3 The national level**, by liaising mainly with the Federation of Unions of Municipalities which is currently an informal platform bringing together most Unions of Municipalities to discuss development away from politics, but also the Ministry of Interior of Lebanon who is the custodian of municipalities under the Lebanese law.

Design of the Lebanon Programme

The design of the programme is built around four pillars:

- 1 Local Economic Development** of the areas that are most affected by the Syrian Crisis
- 2 Improving Municipal Services** in areas that are most affected by the Syrian Crisis
- 3 Local Governance**, particularly in support to the Municipal Unions of Lebanon
- 4 Support to the Unions of Municipalities** of Lebanon at large.

The design also includes some cross-cutting activities such as contributing to sector-wide debates and most notably the on-going national debate around waste, seeking additional opportunities and synergies with ongoing and future programs targeting municipalities and their unions and identifying additional priority areas for later stages of the programme, along the intervention framework below

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*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

*This programme is financed
by the Netherlands Ministry
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LOCAL
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PROGRAMME
Jordan



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Who are we?

VNG International and the city of Amsterdam are jointly implementing the Jordan country programme in the context of the 'Local Government Resilience Programme' (LOGOReP).

Background

While figures on Syrian refugees currently present in Jordan vary, UNHCR (the UN refugee agency) estimates that the number of registered Syrian refugees in Jordan exceeds 635.000 (as of February 2016). The great majority of these refugees live in host communities, in cities and rural areas amidst the Jordanian population, whereas around 20% of the refugees are hosted in refugee camps. Both the Jordanian authorities as well as UNHCR, one of the primary organisations responsible for refugee camp management, face huge pressure on their resources.

50% percent of all registered refugees live in Jordan's northern governorates, which leads to huge strains on local resources and service delivery capacities. The municipalities in the northern governorate of Mafraq, for example, face many difficulties in providing for services like solid waste collection and processing and ensuring proper drinking water supply to both the local population and Syrian refugees. At the same time, the Za'atari refugee camp (the largest refugee camp in Jordan) has grown into Jordan's fourth largest city, having hosted over 150.000 refugees at its peak in 2014 and currently hosting 80.000 Syrians). This poses many challenges for UNHCR related not only to emergency assistance to refugees, but also in areas such as spatial

planning and development, basic service delivery and infrastructure development.

Scope of the Programme

The LOGOReP Jordan country programme builds on a previous project, 'International Municipal Assistance to Al Za'atari Refugee Camp and Local Governments in Al Mafraq Governorate', which sought to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions for the inhabitants of Al Za'atari camp and the Mafraq region through improved planning and operational capacity. This was mainly achieved through helping Jordan's institutions to provide a favourable (local) governance context to the refugees and host communities on one hand and through putting international municipal expertise at the service of UNHCR and the national and local Jordanian authorities to address the challenges of managing service delivery to refugees in Al Zaa'tari camp and the host communities in the Mafraq region. The project provided assistance in areas such as spatial planning, municipal service delivery, local economic development and governance. The project applied an integrated and holistic approach, seeking to connect short-term solutions with longer-term strategy development, introducing various scenarios for regional development in Mafraq, linking our work in host communities and the Za'atari refugee camp and connecting short-term humanitarian assistance to longer term development. Under the Jordan LOGOReP country programme, VNG International and the city of Amsterdam will continue to work on the basis of this integrated approach and follow-up on our previous project in the coming three years.

PROGRAMME DESIGN AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The LOGOReP Jordan country programme is built around the following four components:

1 Local economic development and spatial planning

- An integrated spatial development plan for the Al Za'atari refugee camp is developed, which is aligned with UNHCR's existing planning and which tackles specifically the streamlining and alignment of issues such as water and sanitation (WASH), solid waste, transport and governance;
- A front office is operational within Za'atari refugee camp, responsible for identifying current planning and municipal services questions in the camp, linking these issues with the wider network and support team in the Netherlands (back office) and translating ideas or solutions proposed to the practical realities on the ground;
- Local authorities in the Mafraq region (both at governorate and municipal level) are engaged in a participatory local economic development (LED) process which can assist in the mitigation of the burden of the Syrian (refugee) crisis and allow for longer term recovery and development of the region;

2 Municipal services

- Win-win development planning and priority interventions in the Mafraq region are identified, particularly in priority sectors of intervention identified for Al Za'atari camp (water, sanitation, solid waste management, transport and infrastructure) alongside the overarching spatial development model championed in Al Za'atari;
- Short-term interventions are identified and implemented in both Al Za'atari camp and the Al Mafraq governorate in support of the work under LED and spatial planning and to provide technical backstopping with modest but concrete realisations having high visibility and impact;

3 Governance

- Advice and coaching is provided in areas related to decentralisation, strengthening municipal organisations and facilitating inter-municipal cooperation;

4 Establishment of a good governance Training Institute

- Assistance is provided in setting up a local government training institute to allow for continuous capacity building support to Jordanian authorities at municipal and governorate level and a central knowledge and expertise centre.

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