



Nou Rasinn: Look Forward, Give Back Pilot Youth Volunteering Project - Mauritius

Project brief

1. CONTEXT

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and concerned stakeholders, is implementing the “Mauritius Pilot Youth Diaspora Volunteering” project, also entitled ‘NOU RASINN’ to better support Mauritius to engage with its diaspora and harness its valuable potential.

2. OBJECTIVES

- NOU RASINN aims to facilitate the diaspora contributions to the socio-economic development of the country with the objective to mobilize, leverage, and harness the diaspora’s intellectual, cultural and social potential, and also its human capital and skills.
- It also aims to inform and guide the design of a sustainable national diaspora engagement programme with the youth to build trust and dialogue between the GoM and diaspora communities.
- The project also intends to strengthen cultural and emotional ties of youth Mauritian volunteers with their country of origin and contribute to local/national development.

3. ACTIVITIES

NOU RASINN is being implemented in close collaboration with Government of Mauritius, and more specifically in coordination with the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Diaspora Engagement. The volunteering activities shall run over a short-term period of time of about 3 months. Priority sectors were determined through a consultative process involving the TWG and the Diaspora. Private sector and civil society organizations from the selected sectors, interested to host a volunteer are invited through a public call to apply. A Selection Committee will be set up to review the applications, which will be reviewed by a Selection Committee transparently using pre-established criteria and a due diligence process. Once host organizations are selected, a request call for applications to recruit volunteers will be developed and disseminated, in coordination with the selected host organizations. Similar to the selection of



host organizations, calls for applications will be advertised, and applications received will be reviewed by IOM with the respective host organizations.

Following the selection of host organizations, and Volunteers, an agreement will be signed with all parties.

IOM shall facilitate the logistical arrangements for the arrival, stay and return of the volunteers including a roundtrip flight ticket (in economic class), insurance, airport transfers, and monthly stipend to cover the cost of accommodation in Mauritius and local transportation. A successful volunteering experience relies on the good preparation of the volunteers.

IOM will also facilitate an induction session for host organizations, virtual pre-departure sessions for volunteers as well as induction sessions for volunteers upon their arrival in Mauritius, to support the effective integration of the volunteers. During their stay in Mauritius, IOM will conduct monitoring visits and be guided by a focal person at IOM throughout their stay. Cultural activities will also be organized by IOM. At the end of the volunteers' assignments, debriefing sessions will be organized by IOM to obtain feedback on the experience of volunteers, such that future editions of the NOU RASINN programme may be improved. Finally, IOM will facilitate the departure of volunteers.

Volunteer assignments are expected to start in July 2023 and end no later than October 2023.

4. DEFINITIONS

The definition of “Youth”, “Diaspora” and “volunteering” differs between and within countries and organizations. However, for the purpose of the project, the following definitions will be used: YOUTH - The age range selected for the pilot project is from 18 to 35 years old.

DIASPORA – While there is currently no official definition of the Mauritian diaspora, for the purpose of the pilot project the following definition will be used: “Diaspora members’ means a member of the Mauritian Diaspora who is / was a citizen of Mauritius holding a valid Mauritian passport or not, as well as descendant(s) of that citizen, living/residing abroad, whether the descendant(s) hold a valid Mauritian passport or not”. Selected candidates will be required to submit documentation to prove they fit the abovementioned definition.

VOLUNTEER – The United Nations General Assembly defines volunteerism, volunteering and voluntary activities as a wide range of activities undertaken of free will, for the general public good, for which monetary reward is not the principal motivating factor’.¹ The pilot project will therefore align with the United Nations definition of volunteering.

¹ UNV, 101



5. HOST ORGANIZATIONS

5.1 Entity eligible to apply

Organizations eligible to apply as Host Organizations are private sector organizations and civil society's organizations with legal status in Mauritius. Private sector organizations should be duly registered with the Registrar of Companies and civil society's organizations should be registered either with the Registrar of Companies or Registrar of Associations.

As per the Small and Medium Enterprises Act 2017, as amended by the Finance Act 2022, the private sector organizations should be among the 3 types of enterprises described below. Larger businesses will not be considered for the purpose of this pilot project, as the aim is to support organizations with limited resources.

Enterprise	Annual Turnover (MUR)
Microenterprise	Not more than 10 million
Small Enterprise	More than 10 million but not more than 30 million
Medium Enterprise	More than 30 million but not more than 100 million

The organization should be based in Mauritius, on the main island of Mauritius or in the Outer Islands of Mauritius.

The organization, either private sector or civil society, are required to be an active organization registered and operating for at least 3 years in Mauritius.

5.2 Due Diligence process

In line with IOM Private Sector Partnership Strategy IOM Guide on implementing partners' selection, the pilot project seeks to work with host organizations that are committed to meeting or exceeding internationally recognized principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. A due diligence exercise will be conducted as part of the selection process, to examine whether a potential partner adheres to internationally recognized principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption, and meets relevant obligations or responsibilities required by the United Nations.

5.3. Sectors

Host organizations should operate in the following priority sectors requiring expertise, as identified by the Diaspora TWG:

- Environment and climate change



- Conservation
- Renewable energy and circular economy
- Education
- Agriculture and agro industry
- Maritime services
- Aged, disability and social care
- Health and medical
- Banking and Financial Sectors

5.4 Volunteering Tasks/ Volunteer profile

Through the standard application form, organizations applying to become host will be requested to detail the volunteer's tasks, specific outcomes and goals for the volunteer in the organization the desired volunteer profile (skills and qualifications).

The selection committee will assess whether the skills required, and the description of the volunteer tasks is clear and concise.

5.5 Organizational Capacity

Host organizations should demonstrate their capacities and resources to host the volunteers against the below factors:

- Space for the volunteer to work
- Equipment provided to the volunteer to undertake the tasks required
- Monitoring and appropriate supervision of the volunteer

5.6 Selection

A Selection Committee will be established to review and assess applications' suitability against the requirements outlined in the pre-established criteria. The Selection Committee ensures the below principles are abided by throughout the selection process:

- Transparency – The assessment process must be clear and transparent
- Impartiality- The Committee must be impartial and free of any conflict of interest. Decisions shall be based on the applications' information against the selection criteria.
- Fairness – The assessment process must be reasonable, applied fairly and consistently to all applicants.
- Confidentiality – The Committee members must not discuss of the applications received or selection process with anyone during the selection process.



The Chair of the Selection Committee will inform the host organizations individually by email of the outcome of their applications, including to those not selected. Call for applications for positions of selected host organizations will then be published. Should the selected organizations identify a suitable volunteer, an agreement will be signed between the organization and IOM, including their roles and responsibilities as Host Organization.

6. VOLUNTEERS

A public call for applications for volunteers will be published. In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria of age and being a member of the Mauritian diaspora as defined in section 4 above. Specific criteria for each position will be defined, based on the skills, qualifications and experience required. Applications be assessed against the following criteria:

- Relevant academic and personal background for the volunteering position applied to
- Understanding of the project objectives and volunteering tasks
- Motivation for the assignment
- Motivation to volunteer in Mauritius and ties with Mauritius
- Language required for the volunteering position

In an effort to promote and encourage diversity & inclusion, applications from qualified candidates, irrespective of their race, religion, skin colour, nationality, disability status, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, family structure, mental health status, or any other characteristic will be given equal consideration, free from discrimination.

A Selection Committee will be established to review and assess all applications' suitability against the requirements outlined in the pre-established criteria. The Selection Committee will ensure transparency, impartiality, fairness, and confidentiality throughout the process. Host organizations and volunteers will be informed individually by email of the outcome of their applications, including to those not selected. An agreement will be signed between selection organizations, volunteers and IOM.