



the Jane Goodall Institute Italia

Volunteer position for an Agronomist - Horticulture

CONTEXT

The orphanage "Sanganigwa Children's Home" is based at Kigoma, in proximity of the Gombe National Park. The orphanage is owned by the Tanzanian Government and is run under the jurisdiction of the Kigoma Diocese, but it is funded and co-managed by JGI-Italia.

In Tanzania approximately 46% of the population is younger than fifteen. Starting from the early nineties there has been in the country an increase in the number of homeless children living on the streets because of the strong impact of poverty on families and because of the effects of AIDS.

Children aged 0 to 17 and orphaned because of AIDS are estimated to be 1,200,000 - 1,400,000 (source: UNAIDS 2011). Kigoma is one of the most isolated and deprived regions in Tanzania. Sanganigwa has been since 1995 the only orphanage in the area and, so far, a home for 95 orphans of different ethnic groups and religions.

The JGI-Italy 'Sanganigwa Support Project' has the specific aim of creating in the Kigoma region an eco-sustainable pilot structure able to handle the problem of orphans because of AIDS and contributing at the same time to the community social and economic development as well as to the territory environmental education and protection.

The project is being developed through the following components:

- basic support for food, medical assistance, primary education, psycho-pedagogic support and environmental education;
- educational program including secondary level education, vocational training, university and introduction to a profession;

- housing of children in family houses rather than in dormitories;
- progressive self sufficiency of the Centre through income generating activities.



The project emphasis at this moment is to address the development of those elements that will allow turning Sanganigwa Children's Home into the Kigoma Children Eco-Village and a permanent and self-sustaining entity. This requires completing infrastructures with two additional family houses, solving the persistent problems of water, electricity and erosion, and providing the means to initiate and/or stimulate income generating activities.

The above effort is vital for the project to attain its final goal which is to ensure the continued protection and defence of the right to exist of those most vulnerable and deprived, the orphans because of AIDS, as well as their right to health, education and hope in a future of dignity.



JGI-Italy has through the years always acted avoiding imparting and imposing western standards and trying to ascertain what is actually suitable to local conditions and feasible in Kigoma. In so doing, a close link has been established with social, regional and municipality offices and with the district agriculture and extension officers.

Activities include regular workshops on basic themes such as hygiene and prevention of malaria, on children rights and sexual behaviour for protection against AIDS and to protect young girls from early pregnancies. These activities are carried out with the direct involvement of the local NGO 'Kigoma to Kigoma Children' (KKC) and a network is slowly being developed among local organizations and institutions. They are also regularly carrying out monitoring and evaluation visits to Sanganiwa. JGI-Italy is promoting as much as possible such community-based interventions with the intent of establishing a basis for Sanganiwa to become a sustainable demonstration village model rooted in social, ecological and economic well being.



POSITION DESCRIPTION

We are currently searching for a volunteer AGRONOMIST to develop the Sanganiwa Children's Home horticulture scheme.

This person will be responsible for:

- Providing technical support in the selection of agricultural production systems most appropriate for development of subsistence farming at Sanganiwa, both for internal use and sale;
- Assisting in growing horticultural crops with specific attention to methods with low negative environmental impacts and due attention to crop rotation, soil erosion and soil fertility.
- Provide technical support and ensure use of natural pesticides for bio cultivations and for mosquito control (malaria repellents).
- Liaising with the Sanganiwa Coordinator and JGI-Italy to analyze financial and economic considerations and management and monitoring aspects.
- Coordinating with members of the local Institutions departments for the optimum development of the orphanage agro forestry potential and interventions for soil erosion control.
- Taking the initiative of exploring work and research synergies as applicable.

Qualifications/Experience

- Agricultural engineer, agronomist, agriculture technician or similar training.
- Experience in projects of agricultural cooperation, cooperatives of small farmers, in the field preferably in Africa.
- At least basic level of spoken English; higher levels will be preferred. Willingness to learn basic *Kiswahili*, the local language, as this will significantly improve the integration process at work and with the local community.
- Be physically fit and mentally strong.
- Able to adapt easily to changing tasks/schedules and to basic living conditions (frequent lack of electricity, running water...) in an isolated setting.
- Able to work independently and as part of an international team.
- Able to adjust to difficult climate conditions and have no (or little) fear of insects, snakes, etc.
- Be emotionally mature, friendly, energetic, positive and very patient.
- Be proactive.
- Have cultural sensitivity, ability to build and maintain good relationships with the local staff (previous experience working in a foreign environment is preferred)

Documents required

The following documents are required from all volunteers prior to departure:

- Proof of vaccinations
- Medical form
- Signed volunteer contract

Term of appointment

A minimum commitment of **six weeks** is necessary; volunteers who can commit to longer periods will be preferred. Early availability required.

Applications

Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.



If you want to apply, please, send your CV and a motivation letter to the Jane Goodall Institute Italia at the following contact:

Jane Goodall Institute Italia ONLUS

Tel/fax: +39 0636001799

Email: info@janegoodall-italia.org

daniela.dedonno@janegoodall-italia.org