

Area of Volunteer Assistance: Research

Title: Research Assistant

Location: Phalombe, Malawi, Africa

Age Requirement: College student or professional

Mission: To empower students and communities by assessing their assets, capacities, and needs.

Need: The EKARI Foundation constantly seeks to assess and expand our programs to further empower students and communities in Malawi.

Purpose: The purpose of a Research Assistant is two-fold. A Research Assistant will support the EKARI Foundation team (1) by completing field research for the development of new programs and (2) by completing monitoring and evaluation activities for the ongoing development of existing programs.

Key Responsibilities: Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following activities depending on the specific research project.

- Mapping of key communities, markets, and services
- Meet with EKARI beneficiaries to assess assets, capacities, and needs for the development of future programs
- Meet with representatives from the local government, community based organizations, schools, health clinics, businesses, and other community organizations regarding partnership opportunities
- Observe existing programs
- Meet with EKARI beneficiaries to complete existing program evaluations
- Subsequent to research, provide reports on the above mentioned activities including observations, benefits and challenges of existing programs, recommendations on the development of future programs

Report to: Malawi In-Country Director

Qualifications:

- Research background or prior experience with nonprofit working in impact area (highly preferred, but not required)
- Ability to follow instruction
- Strong organizational abilities
- Ability to work well with others and incorporate suggestions
- Desire to approach challenges strategically and creatively
- Interest in EKARI Foundation's mission and work

Support: Cultural sensitivity training for this position will be provided. Volunteer will take direction in person from Malawi In-Country Director as well as through email from U.S. Executive Director.

Length of Appointment: Minimum 3 months

Why 3 months?

The EKARI Foundation believes that sustainable and lasting change occurs when local community members are empowered and supported to be change makers in their own communities. We believe that local community members have the potential to emerge from poverty through their own efforts and that our volunteer positions are designed for volunteers like you to come alongside communities, in humble service, to assist in harnessing that potential.

The EKARI Foundation further believes that handouts and short-term time commitments create dependency from local community members on outside support and can minimize the communities EKARI aims to serve by neglecting to account for the skill, talent, knowledge, and resources communities have to contribute. EKARI's approach is to encourage local community members to discover their potential and contribute to the development and success of their community, demonstrating that they have worth and something of value to share.

The time commitment that you pledge to as a volunteer for the EKARI Foundation sends a message to the local community that they are worth investing in; that you want to learn from them and empower them to be change makers in their community. The yield with this approach is sustainable change.

Time Commitment: Four to five days a week for six to eight hours a day depending on need. Volunteers are allowed and encouraged to take three-day weekends or one week-long holiday to tour and experience Malawi as time allows.

Documentation Requirements: Volunteer must complete a criminal background check or provide a police clearance certificate from country of origin, sign child protection policy, and sign waiver of release and liability.

Post Volunteer Expectations: The EKARI Foundation expects that our volunteers will be our biggest advocates within their communities subsequent to their volunteer experience. To spread awareness, volunteers are required to support EKARI through social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, or by blogging. Financial contributions from volunteers or from their communities are highly appreciated.

We also highly encourage volunteers to blog or post to social media outlets like Facebook and/or Twitter during their volunteer experience.