



TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN

Textiles Regional Coordinator Yangon (Hle Gu/Hmaw Bi)

Length of Contract: 6 months (renewable)
Salary: Based on salary scale and experience
Base: Yangon (preferably Hlegu township)
Working days: 4 days/week
Tentative start date: As soon as possible

Background

Turquoise Mountain is a non-profit, non-governmental organization specializing in urban regeneration, business development, and education in traditional arts and architecture. In Myanmar, since 2016, Turquoise Mountain has renovated three historic buildings in downtown Yangon, most recently the iconic Tourist Burma Building, and launched projects to preserve and promote traditional crafts such as goldsmithing, weaving, and lacquerware production. As part of these projects, we have established a gold standard jewellery workshop and textiles atelier, facilitated the sale of more than US\$ 1,000,000 of craft products into high-end international and local markets, spurred craft business education across the country through introduction of the Myanmar Artisan Toolkit (www.myanmarartisantoolkit.org), and have trained more than 700 artisans and building professionals, supporting them to secure sustainable jobs and income.

Context

In 2018 Turquoise Mountain embarked on a pilot project within Myanmar's diverse artisanal textile sector and lead the step-change for the sector to compete on international markets and drive economic growth. Our model rests on three pillars: 1) skills training, 2) market access, and 3) ethical production and social empowerment. Leveraging our relationships with weavers and producers across the country, our training expertise and international client networks, we were able to bring Myanmar textiles to international quality standards and markets. This pilot project was the first step in a market-level transformation of the Myanmar artisanal textile industry, bringing more and better quality jobs to some of the country's underserved populations.

We are now looking to scale and deepen our impact in the textiles sector, supporting more artisans, across more regions of Myanmar, and bringing a wider variety of textiles to the high-end international market.

We will also be working with displaced weavers from Rakhine and Southern Chin who are currently settled in or around Yangon.

Key Roles and Responsibilities

Reporting to the Senior Crafts Programme Officer and Textiles Production Manager, the Regional Coordinator Yangon will be responsible for coordinating all of Turquoise Mountain's programme activities in settlements for internally displaced persons in and around Yangon, for example in Hle Gu and Hmaw Bi. This includes outreach to displaced communities, setting-up and managing networks of weavers, technical, empowerment, and doing business trainings, production management and oversight, data collection, and verification of wages paid to weavers.

Scope of Work

- With support from the Senior Crafts Programme officer, map and document local textile traditions.
- Outreach: set up a network of supported weavers and local businesses and facilitate partnership agreements and contracts where required. Facilitate access to the settlements for Turquoise Mountain Staff.
- Weaver Organisation: organize weavers into Weaver Groups and work with weavers to select Weaver Representatives in each group – these will be your main Point of Contact.
- Production Management: provide day-to-day production supervision and mentoring to supported weavers; distribute orders and raw materials, negotiate pricing, perform quality control at various stages of the production process and pass on quality control reports to the Production Team.
- Training: work with the Head Office Team to receive a Training of Trainers in technical, design, doing business, and social empowerment topics; set up a training schedule for supported Weaver Groups and Weaver Representatives; implement trainings across technical, design, doing business, and social empowerment topics. Work with the Textiles Production Officer to set-up and facilitate trainings in Cut & Sew Work.
- Data Collection and Verification: work with weavers and businesses to verify wages paid to weavers; collect data to ensure proper monitoring and evaluation of the programme activities and impact.
- Finance: work with the Senior Crafts Programme Officer and Finance Team to ensure payment to weavers; ensure Purchase Orders and Invoices are in place where required; request bank transfers from the head office; pay suppliers and scan and send all required documents to the Finance Team.

Qualifications, Competencies, and Experience required

- Minimum 3 years of experience in development work/training, Bachelors in related field preferred
- Experience working with displaced persons desirable
- Experience working with textiles production will be an asset
- Proficient in English, Burmese, and local languages
- Willingness to travel daily
- A good communicator able to forge relationships with artisans, artisan business owners, and other local stakeholders
- Ability to work to deadlines, a keen eye for detail, and excellent record-keeper.
- A team player who is flexible in their role
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel and Word

How to apply

To apply for this role, please send your CV (maximum 2 pages) with a cover letter (maximum 1 page) outlining your suitability and reasons for applying for the position, to:

yumon.kyaw@turquoisemountain.org by **Aug 31st 2022**.