

4. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPOUSES: GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS

AFRICA: GENERAL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Job opportunities exist at most of the posts in Africa, especially in the fields of teaching and medicine. As is often the case, preference is given to locals when hiring. In some countries there is a huge labour market of highly-qualified unemployed nationals; in others, expatriates are needed to fill specialized positions. Salaries are low and often in a local currency which is not readily convertible to hard currency.

Unlike Europe, the potential employee who speaks only English and/or French has a good chance of being hired. The ability to work in the local language is necessary in only a few countries.

Persons with professional qualifications are urged to take all of their documentation, including originals, with them. The usual licensing requirements do not appear to be in force in many countries as the need for qualified people, especially medical personnel, is so great.

Secretaries and clerks have a good chance of finding employment with other missions, with international organizations such as the UN, or with multinational companies as, in most posts, these employers do not fall under the local regulations.

There are many opportunities and a great need for unpaid volunteer work in the fields of medicine, teaching, nutrition, etc. In several countries, one can study various languages and learn new skills.

ALGERIA (Algiers)

Reciprocal Employment Agreement: No
Approximate number of spouses working as locally engaged staff: 0
Community Coordinator contract work exists: Yes
Registered Nurse position exists at the mission: No

The many foreigners who work in Algeria are brought in under international contracts concluded by the government or one of its nationalized companies. For a person already in the country the opportunities for employment are extremely limited. The chances of finding employment are further reduced by the vastness of the government sector and its Algerians-only hiring policies. This virtually eliminates any chance of practising a profession or specialized trade in fields such as education, medicine, or management.

The only possibility of finding employment locally is in our own or a friendly embassy, or in a secretarial, translation or interpretation capacity with a Canadian company. However, these opportunities are quite limited. There is also