Our mission: Mobilize volunteers

We mobilize volunteers to serve in UN agencies, both in development programmes and peacekeeping operations.

Once primarily a provider of volunteers to the United Nations (UN) system in support of programme countries, UNV has evolved in terms of the size and spread of its mandate, results and activities, driven by the changing external environment for peace, development and the eradication of poverty, by the wider acknowledgment of the role of volunteerism globally and by intergovernmental legislation.

Executive Board decision 2006/18 confirmed UNV’s business model, leading to UNV being operational in three domains:

- mobilizing volunteers to enable more people to be directly involved in humanitarian, peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery, as well as sustainable development and poverty eradication work of the UN;
UNV and development assistance

Development assistance means enabling people to improve their lives in the long term. Development aid strives to address the underlying issues and socio-economic factors that impede human progress.

All around the world, UN Volunteers help people lead more productive and fulfilling lives, such as through their work on projects in quality education and improved healthcare, or by ensuring equitable access to community resources and sustainable practices. UN Volunteers at times also work with governments and other local partners, helping to boost local capacity and augment knowledge.
A SHORT HISTORY OF UNV

UNV and peacekeeping operations

The United Nations itself was established in a post-conflict setting, namely the aftermath of World War II, one of the most devastating conflicts in human history. To this day, humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping represent some of the United Nation’s greatest and toughest field operations and responsibilities.

Interventions in conflict and post-conflict environments help alleviate the plight of people in desperate situations typically by addressing their emergency, short-term and early recovery needs. UN Volunteers are frequently at the forefront of United Nations humanitarian and peacekeeping operations because of their skills and expertise, but also because of the commitment they bring to peace and recovery processes.

UN Volunteers usually live in the communities they serve and – importantly – are perceived as politically and socially neutral. As non-threatening global citizens, UN Volunteers greatly facilitate the building of bridges between various groups by promoting dialogue and fostering situations of confidence and trust.

Are you interested in mobilizing UN Volunteers in support of your peacebuilding and peacekeeping work? Refer to our UN Partner Toolkit for information on how to get started.