National UN Volunteer Hamza Tidjani Ousmane, UNHCR WASH Officer in Batouri, is providing assistance to a young boy while inspecting water points on the site of Lolo, Batouri, Cameroon. (Rakotondrazafy A. M. Ny Aina / UNV)

15 February 2022

Why volunteer in your country with the UN?

National UN Volunteers are invaluable assets to the work of the United Nations, particularly at the community level where they usher in greater ownership of programmes and projects.

Would you like to contribute to your own country and work with others like yourself who have a desire to accelerate your nation’s development and promote peace?

As a national UN Volunteer serving with a United Nations entity, you will make a positive impact on your homeland, while working alongside people from around the world, including international volunteers and other United Nations professionals. As a citizen, you can share your knowledge of local languages and culture and bring an insider’s understanding of social and economic conditions.

National UN Volunteers are invaluable assets to the work of the United Nations, particularly
at the community level where they usher in greater ownership of programmes and projects. Join us now and help your country move faster towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

What exactly does a national UN Volunteer do?

National UN Volunteers may frequently have many roles. The types of activities in which national UN Volunteers engage may include:

- Strengthening the capacities of local communities, so they can participate effectively in development activities and gain access to government services;

- Fostering social inclusion and the empowerment of marginalized communities and persons;

- Encouraging national and local volunteer initiatives; and

- Promoting sustainability and local ownership of development and peacebuilding activities.

The beauty of this is that the volunteers themselves gain valuable experience and enrich their own skills and development. That is why volunteering is often described as a win-win situation.