Who we are

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. We promote the value and global recognition of volunteerism and work with partners to mobilize qualified, highly motivated and well supported UN Volunteers in support of peace, development and humanitarian efforts.
UNV, past and present

The United Nations General Assembly created UNV in 1970, with an initial mandate to provide qualified and motivated volunteers for the United Nations System in support of peace and development in operational countries.

Over nearly five decades, the scope of UNV’s mandate has expanded, driven by a constantly changing global environment and wider recognition of the value of volunteerism. Explore the history of UNV to learn more.

Every year, over 8,200 UN Volunteers contribute to the effective delivery of the peace, development and humanitarian interventions of 50+ UN system partners. Additionally, more than 13,000 Online Volunteers make their contributions over the Internet.

Organizational structure and leadership

UNV headquarters are in Bonn, Germany. UNV has around 150 staff members at its headquarters and regional offices, managing 8,200 UN Volunteers deployed around the world. UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and reports to the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board.

Mr Olivier Adam (France) is the Executive Coordinator of UNV, and took up his appointment in January 2017.

Mr Toily Kurbanov (Russian Federation) is the Deputy Executive Coordinator of UNV and took up his appointment in August 2016.

UNV’s Office in New York (ONY) promotes volunteers and volunteerism through partnership development with Permanent Missions to the UN, UN partners headquartered in New York, civil society organizations and other NY-based partners. It monitors policy and strategy developments at the UN in New York and contributes to UN Volunteer mobilization by developing and promoting volunteer solutions within UN partner operations, projects and programmes, coordinating closely with UNV headquarters, regional offices and field units.

UNV has six Regional Offices in Amman (covering the Arab States), Bangkok (covering Asia and the Pacific), Dakar (covering West and Central Africa), Istanbul (covering Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States), Nairobi (covering East and Southern Africa) and Panama City (covering Latin America and the Caribbean). The regional offices are the first entry point for partners wishing to engage with UNV. They offer UNV services and solutions to government partners, UN entities, civil society and the private sector, and takes the lead in scoping and delivering UNV advisory services on volunteer infrastructure. They also provide oversight and strategic guidance to UNV’s field units in the regions.
At the country level, UNV Field Units interact with UN entities to strategically and meaningfully integrate volunteerism into the implementation and delivery of their mandates. As part of this process, UNV works with UN entities to identify opportunities where volunteers add specific and unique value to development programmes and peacekeeping missions.


**Zero tolerance of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

UNV, as part of the United Nations System, has a no-tolerance policy towards Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). For this reason, we adhere to all policies, procedures and training of the United Nations on The Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). UNV also has a mandatory e-learning course for all volunteers to be taken pre-deployment, whether at Headquarters or at other duty stations, on our e-learning platform. This e-learning course is composed of a set of lessons designed to raise awareness about SEA, become familiar with a range of measures to combat SEA, understand the impact on victims and the consequences for UN Personnel who commit Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

**Accountability**

The UNV Advisory Panel on Disciplinary Measures (APDM) is mandated to advise the Executive Coordinator on disciplinary matters involving UN Volunteers. The main functions are to provide an objective review of independently investigated allegations of misconduct involving UN Volunteers, and recommend to the Executive Coordinator appropriate disciplinary measures or exoneration of UN Volunteers from allegations of misconduct. The APDM further renders in-house advice, at the request of the Executive Coordinator and senior managers, on practical or theoretical questions with potential disciplinary implications.