

**The UNV Full Funding programme**

**'25**

*We are inspiration in action*

## Full Funding programme

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Full Funding programme is a direct investment by Member States in people. It gives individuals practical skills and places them where the UN needs them most, in line with partner priorities. In 2025, 861 fully funded UN Volunteers served across 116 countries and territories, supporting 40 UN entities.

The programme also opens the door to the United Nations for people from Member States, bringing in new voices and perspectives on development cooperation and action. Volunteers can take on different assignments over time, build their experience, and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.



Member States including China, Czechia, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland funded UN Volunteer assignments.

UNV also collaborated with the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in India, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi in Thailand, and Kwansei Gakuin University in Japan.



From Left to Right: National UN Volunteers, Pragyan Rath (UNICEF); Sudipto Ghosh (UNICEF); Bhupendra Majhi (UNV); Stiti Pragnya Padhy, (UNDP); Mandakani Mishra (UNICEF); Sai Susrut Das (WFP); Ishita Paul (UNRSCO); Shatarupa Mishra (UNESCO); Debabrata Kumar (UNODC), with Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, India.

## Developing Local Capacity

Between 2022 and 2025, the share of fully funded volunteers from the Global South rose from 39 to 59 percent, while national assignments increased from 15 to 17 percent, reflecting stronger partner investment in local talent. Partners also funded roles for their own nationals—both at home and abroad—and supported assignments for persons

with disabilities, expanding access to volunteering. Since 2022, five partners from the Global South have joined—Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (India), and the Agency for Volunteering Service (Hong Kong SAR, China)—helping build a more representative, nationally rooted volunteer workforce.

## UNV in numbers

**861**

fully funded UN Volunteers were with

**40**

UN partners in

**116**

countries

**13**

Persons with Disabilities

**516**

From the Global South

**29**

Average Age

**656**

Women



Youth empowerment is a cornerstone of our national vision. Our youth is actively engaged in addressing global challenges. The UNV Full Funding programme helps with contributing their skills across vital sectors and offering new perspectives within the United Nations system.

Hattan bin Samman, Senior Advisor and General Supervisor for International Organizations, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia.

Volunteering is a unique opportunity for me to step into the UN system. With limited prior experience, this has been an incredible first professional experience.

Teima Labou, (Embassy of Switzerland in Tunisia), national UN Volunteer with IOM in Tunisia.

# Empowering volunteers to lead

Full Funding puts learning at the core of the UN Volunteer experience. It makes sure all UN Volunteers, wherever they serve, have access to high-quality learning opportunities. This gives them the skills and confidence to lead and contribute effectively in diverse contexts.

UNV's learning offer supports volunteers with clear onboarding, developing practical skills, and a strong grounding in the United Nations' values and standards of conduct, including how to prevent misconduct. Learning combines peer exchange and hands-on coaching, helping volunteers build confidence quickly and do their work responsibly in the communities they serve.

*Victor Orih, (Benue State, Nigeria), national UN Volunteer with WHO in Nigeria*



Being part of the UN is the best place to start. You have access to resources, training, and support throughout your assignment. UNV offers a package that stays with you forever.

**Robine Bonsenge, (Luxembourg),** international UN Volunteer with WFP in Senegal.

The main office for the Caribbean Multi-country Office is in Barbados; however, my duty station is on another island that was previously only supported remotely. My biggest accomplishment has been to set up the office and increase visibility for the agency in this small island country.

**Mar Echevarria, (Spain),** international UN Volunteer with UN Women in Antigua and Barbuda.



*Tereza Sikorová, (Czechia), international UN Volunteer with UNFPA in the Republic of Moldova.*



## Sustainable Development Goals supported by fully funded UN Volunteers in 2025



## Volunteer Numbers 2022-2025

	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Total Volunteers</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>861</b>
<b>International Volunteers</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>713</b>
<b>National Volunteers</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>148</b>



# Full Funding and Multilateralism



Czechia's longstanding support to UNV reflects the deeply rooted culture of volunteerism within Czech society. We view volunteerism as a vital element of democratic engagement and community resilience. At the national level, volunteer initiatives help address local challenges, promote social cohesion, and build trust between citizens and institutions. Internationally, volunteerism amplifies these values and forges connections between cultures and communities. As we celebrate 25 years of our cooperation with UNV, we look forward to continuing our support to contribute to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

Jiří Muchka, Head of Multilateral Cooperation Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czechia.

Volunteers bridge communities and policy as frontline actors. Today, their role is more important than ever.

Hiroyuki Kobayashi, Focal Point, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

For Switzerland, the Full Funding programme is a key instrument for investing in the next generation of professionals dedicated to peace, human rights, and development. By supporting UN Volunteer assignments, Switzerland enables young professionals to gain hands-on experience in multilateral environments while reinforcing its long-standing commitment to multilateral cooperation and international engagement.

Janine Misteli, Focal Point for Talent Programmes, Peace and Human Rights Division, Switzerland.



Atsushi Murata, (Japan), international UN Volunteer with UNDP in Djibouti.



Over the past 20 years, the collaboration between KOICA and UNV has provided Korean youth with hands-on experience in the international arena and advanced their careers within international organizations. Moving forward, KOICA will continue to actively support youth so that they can grow into experts in international development cooperation.

Yoon-Gil Jeong, Director-General of the Global Leaders Programme at KOICA, Republic of Korea.



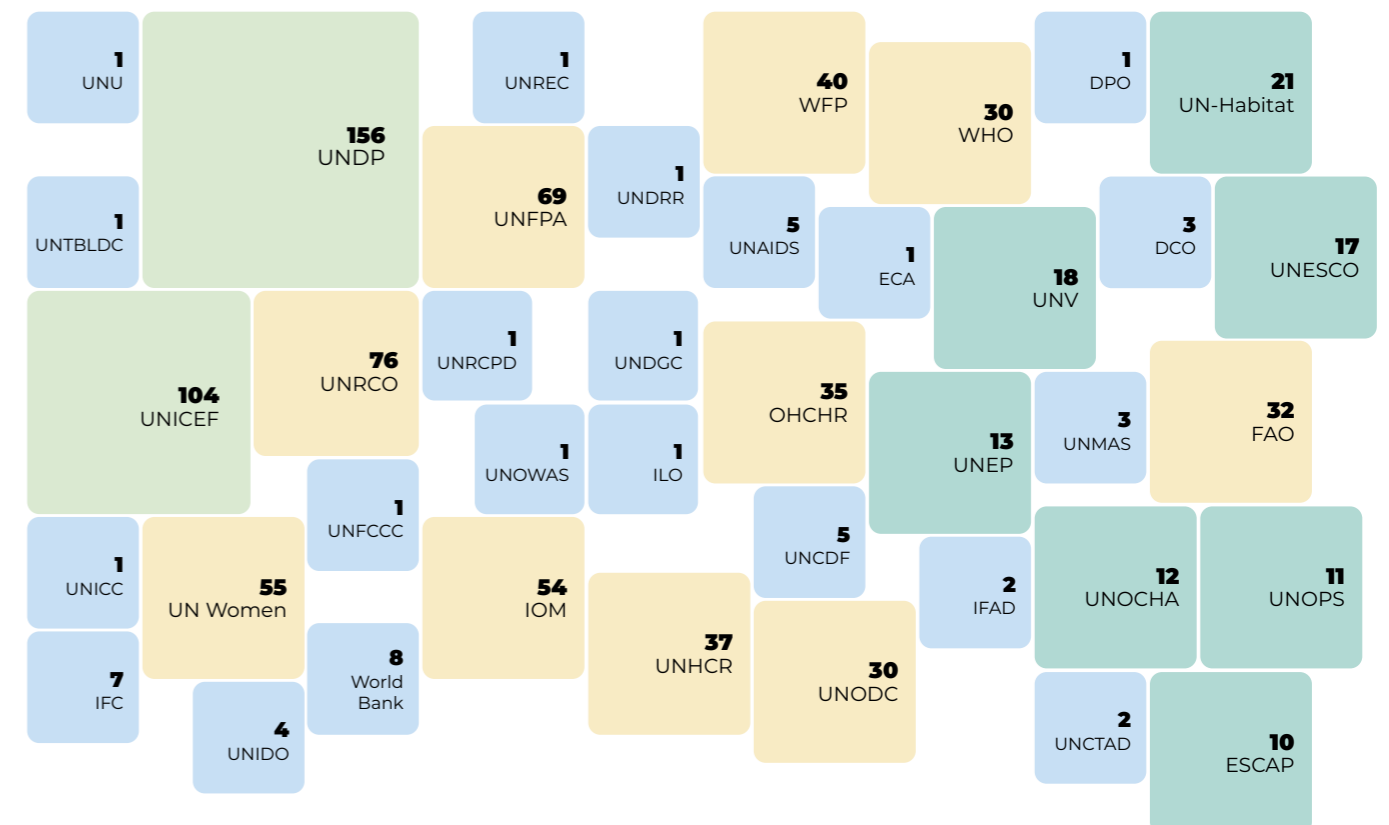
Da Eun Kim, (Republic of Korea), international UN Volunteer with OHCHR in Cambodia.



One of the things I value most is the opportunity to help make the world a better place. The understanding that my work, whether directly or indirectly, can improve someone's life is a powerful source of motivation.

Aleksei Gorkov, (Russian Federation), international UN Volunteer with FAO in Egypt.

## UN host partners for 861 fully funded UN Volunteers





Anja Natacha Menninger, (Switzerland), international UN Volunteer with UN Women in Bangladesh.

Working in a highly international and multilingual environment, I often face the challenge of bridging cultural and linguistic gaps between UNEP’s global experts and local Chinese counterparts. However, these challenges have pushed me out of my comfort zone—helping me navigate fast-paced, high-stakes situations, adapt to different working styles, and develop leadership skills.

Haoming Hong, (China), national UN Volunteer with UNEP in China.



Akniyetti Aliyeva, (Kazakhstan), international UN Volunteer with ESCAP in Thailand.

## Contributions to the UNV Full Funding programme (USD)

Funding partner	2022	2023	2024	2025
Republic of Korea	4,621,268	4,039,900	5,109,100	4,490,388
Spain**	1,385,928	1,557,465		3,213,717
China*		1,349,351	2,038,440	2,058,565
Sweden			1,035,991	2,002,982
Russian Federation	1,000,000	1,000,000		1,965,322
Switzerland	1,919,065	1,312,946	4,422,346	1,884,855
Japan*	3,386,177	3,371,028	1,702,348	2,009,614
Ireland	1,218,335	1,208,488	1,156,388	1,213,873
Czechia	412,608	455,900	413,505	416,989
France	1,819,865	2,048,280	2,028,936	352,500
Finland	1,979,982	1,070,500	674,991	268,452
India*			74,148	138,918
Kazakhstan		628,120	628,125	
Nigeria*			149,217	
Australia			24,395	
Thailand			20,000	
Saudi Arabia		1,029,414		
Iceland		62,433		
Germany	276,255			
Norway	249,140			
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,268,623</b>	<b>19,133,825</b>	<b>19,477,929</b>	<b>20,016,175</b>

\* Contribution from China includes those from the Chinese Young Volunteer Association (CYVA) and Agency for Volunteer Service, Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region, China; Contribution from Japan includes that of Kwansai Gakuin University; Contribution from Nigeria is from Benue State. Contribution from India is from the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology.

\*\* Contribution from Spain does not include an additional USD 21,318, which will be reflected in the 2026 report.

## Full Funding in 2026

Opening up who can serve—and how—Full Funding in 2026 marks a clear shift for UN Volunteers. The UNV Strategic Framework 2026–2029 reshapes how people join and work with the UN. In April, UNV simplified its offer, making it more open and easier to navigate. The updated Conditions of Service reflects today’s needs: University and Youth roles were merged into a single Associate group, and age limits were removed. People aged 18 to 80 can now apply. The focus is clear—skills and experience matter most. As the UN builds momentum towards the International Volunteer Year, this opens the door to a broader, more diverse community of volunteers.

Looking ahead, I'd love to bring in new ideas around volunteer recognition and motivation and help promote a more engaging and meaningful volunteer culture back home. I hope to inspire young people in Kazakhstan by sharing my journey and showing that volunteering is not only giving but also growing professionally and gaining perspective.

Akniyetti Aliyeva, (Kazakhstan), international UN Volunteer with ESCAP in Thailand.

Volunteering helps you to develop a sense of understanding, diplomacy and adaptability, meaning that you're allowing yourself to understand others, but also not to think that your truth is the only truth. Volunteering is like a bridge and we're all in this together for global development.

Océane Musaniwabo Mlanao, (France), international UN Volunteer with OHCHR in Cambodia.



Cover photo: *Jana Abbas (Sweden)*, international  
UN Volunteer with UNICEF in Jordan.

# 25

## United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

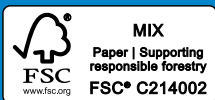
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We are  
inspiration  
in action

