



▶ **Stepanka Pechakova (Czech Republic), a fully funded UN Youth Volunteer Communications, Outreach and Youth Officer with the UNV Field Unit and UNDP Country Office in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), giving presentations to local school children to promote volunteerism. (UNV, 2015)**

# Engaging with UNV



## // UNV FULL FUNDING PROGRAMME TOMORROW'S ACHIEVERS TODAY

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. In 2016, UNV deployed 6,590 UN Volunteers to 126 countries; 83 per cent of these volunteers came from countries of the South. Some 418 were funded by partners of the UNV Full Funding Programme.

### WHAT IS THE UNV FULL FUNDING PROGRAMME?

Through the UNV Full Funding Programme, funding partners, host UN partners and UNV offer UN Volunteers an opportunity to share knowledge and gain experience as part of the UN system while addressing a range of development challenges around the world.

The Full Funding Programme represents a win-win situation for UN Volunteers, funding partners and host

communities alike. Through the programme, fully funded UN Volunteers are able to make direct contributions to support transformative change at the national and local levels. In doing so, they gain invaluable skills and unique opportunities for personal and professional growth, often continuing along the career path in development cooperation. At the same time, through their presence in UN entities, they enable funding partners to invest in their citizens while improving the development impact and effectiveness across the UN system.

In the true spirit of inspiration in action, the Full Funding Programme is preparing a fresh cadre of UN Volunteers to contribute their skills and talents as agents of change for a new set of development goals.



## WHO CAN INVEST IN UN VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS?

At first, governments funded their own nationals for UN Volunteer assignments. Then, Germany and Luxembourg expanded their funding to UN Volunteers from the global South to serve in other countries, as well as national UN Volunteers to serve in their own countries. Governments from the global South and middle income countries that are ready to contribute to knowledge transfer underpin South-South cooperation as integral and support their citizens to complete assignments in other developing countries. Partnership opportunities in the Full Funding Programme have also expanded to include universities, civil society organizations and the private sector, with the aim engaging more stakeholders to contribute to the SDGs.

### MODALITIES

Fully funded UN Volunteers are currently deployed under two modalities: **UN Volunteers** and **UN Youth Volunteers**, which include UN University Volunteers:

- **UN Volunteers** are usually professionals looking to meaningfully apply their skills and experience, seasoned professionals taking a stimulating career break, or retirees seeking to contribute as volunteers. They have a minimum age of 25 years and at least two years of work experience; they serve from three months up to four years.
- **UN Youth Volunteers** are young people who usually have less than two years of experience and who wish to gain more field experience, to diversify their skills and increase their employability. They are between 18

to 29 years, and serve for six months up to two years. As part of the UN Youth Volunteer category, UNV and its partners can offer students opportunities to serve as UN University Volunteers. These must be enrolled in a university and can serve from three to six months.

### WHAT IS THE COST OF A FULLY FUNDED UN VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT?

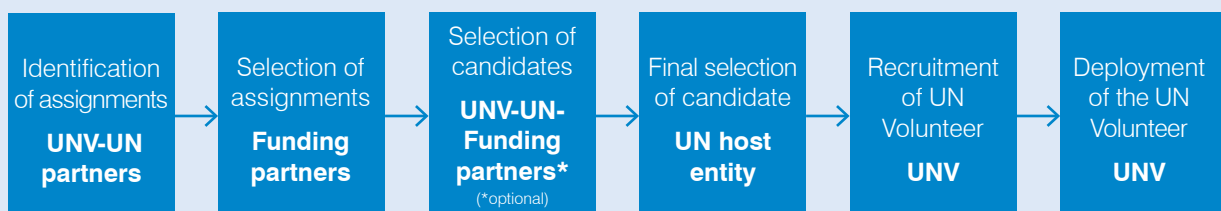
UN Volunteers can serve in their own countries ('national UN Volunteer') or abroad ('international UN Volunteer'). The cost of assignments for fully-funded UN Volunteers vary from country to country, depending on the cost of living. The average costs are approximately:

- International UN Volunteer (1 year): US \$58,400
- International UN Youth Volunteer (1 year): US \$43,900
- International UN University Volunteer (6 months): US \$19,700
- National UN Volunteer (1 year): US \$20,500
- National UN Youth Volunteer (1 year): US \$17,500
- National UN University Volunteer (6 months): US \$6,700

### HOW DOES THE FULL FUNDING PROGRAMME WORK?

Through this programme, UNV enables its funding partners to deliver on their strategic priorities in response to the partner country needs and the work of the UN system at country and regional levels. Today, UNV provides partners with opportunities to co-design solutions tailored to specific development challenges through more focused assignments for fully funded UN Volunteers.

### SEQUENCE OF STEPS TO DEPLOY A FULLY FUNDED UN VOLUNTEER



UNV represents the main interlocutor for UN partners and funding partners alike. UNV delivers quality, results-oriented volunteer management, including taking on the full complement of tasks involved in the identification of assignments in close consultation with UN host entities, selection, recruiting, and training volunteers.



▶ Yanira Santana (Spain), a fully funded UN Volunteer Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, leads a participative evaluation with the users of the Hadduna Cyber Café, a pilot project in the Bafata region of Guinea-Bissau. The project is carried out by the Association of Volunteers of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries. (UNV, 2013)

© Guinea-Bissau.

Some assignments can be linked to specific service lines that UNV has identified according to the operational needs and functions of host UN partners. These service lines include assignments in the areas of UN coordination, advocacy and communication, monitoring and evaluation, and support to UNV Field Units and Regional Offices. Also, partner funding can support thematic streams of UN Volunteers specializing in, for example, green growth, climate change, health or peacebuilding.

With a flexible, adaptable approach to meet the priorities of its partners, a vibrant corps of UN Volunteers, and the trust of its fellow members of the UN system, the UNV Full Funding Programme is confident to support its partners to deliver on the SDGs.

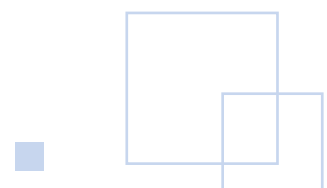
#### IMPACT

The Full Funding Programme has a positive impact in many different ways. Studies show that assignments enrich the lives of those who volunteer and provide them with interesting career and personal opportunities. Fully funded UN Volunteers gain new skills and grow at the professional and personal level; they strengthen their professional expertise, broaden peer networks and gain regional and international exposure and experience within the UN system. Equally, through this experience, they contribute significantly to promote volunteerism, support the work of the UN system and impact significantly on development results on the ground.

In the UNV annual survey 2016, **91 per cent of fully funded UN Volunteers** indicated that they were **satisfied with their experience** and **91 per cent agreed** that their **knowledge, competencies and skills had been developed** through the assignment.

"It was especially rewarding to consider that as a citizen of a global South country, I was helping to support progress in another: I was part of South-South cooperation in action!"

Thiago Xavier Resende (Brazil), fully funded UN Youth Volunteer Programme Policy Officer for Food Security Policy and Coordination with the World Food Programme in Pakistan





In June 2016, UNV surveyed fully funded UN Volunteers who had served between 2006 and 2015 to explore the effect of a UN Volunteer assignment on future career prospects and employability in the field of international development cooperation, and particularly within the UN system.

The results were encouraging: over **75 per cent of respondents indicated that the UN Volunteer experience had been valuable for career development and employment perspectives.**

The three most **highly rated aspects** of the volunteer experience were:

- Intercultural experience
- Knowledge of the UN system
- Development of personal and social skills

The positive experience appears to have lasting effects. **27 per cent of respondents continued to work with the UN** upon completing their UN Volunteer assignment.

Three years after their UN Volunteer experience, **76 per cent of respondents were still working in the field of development cooperation and peace**, and **24 per cent were still employed by the UN system.**

Among the top career paths followed by respondents were employment at a UN organization (24 per cent), at non-governmental organizations (19 per cent), at other international organizations (13 per cent) and with governmental organizations (12 per cent). Also, seven per cent of respondents undertook a further UN Volunteer assignment.

"I definitely want to continue my career in public service. After experiencing the impact of my work to such a degree, I could never go back to a job detached from the lives of real people in need."

Enja Sæthren (Norway), fully funded UN Youth Volunteer in the Emergency Response and Resilience Team of the World Food Programme in Nepal

## FULL FUNDING PROGRAMME STATISTICS

### KEY DATA 2016

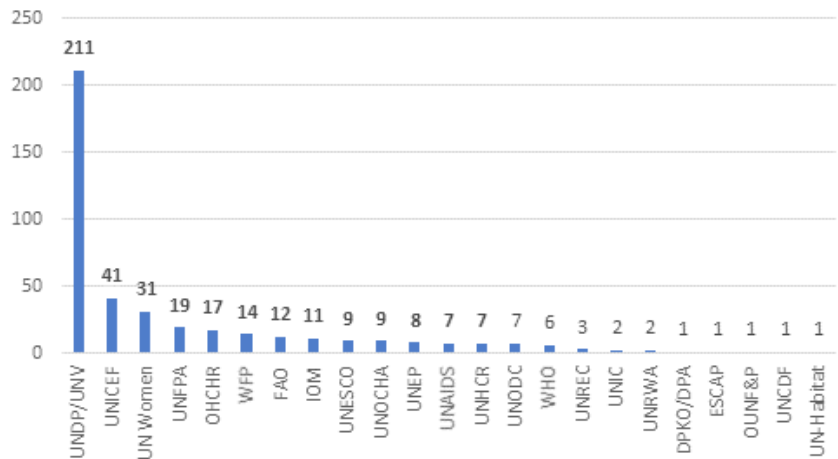
**418 fully funded UN Volunteers**

**Serving in 85 countries**

**253 UN Volunteers aged 29 or under**

**73% women, 27% men**

### UNV ASSIGNMENTS BY UN PARTNER ENTITIES 2016



For enquiries about the UNV Full Funding Programme contact our **Partnerships Section** at: [partnershipsupport@unv.org](mailto:partnershipsupport@unv.org)

UNV (May 2017)



The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. We work with partners to integrate qualified, highly motivated and well supported UN Volunteers into development programming and promote the value and global recognition of volunteerism.

UNV is active in around 130 countries every year. With field presences in over 80 countries, UNV is represented worldwide. UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

