Proforma cost description for UN Volunteers

Applies to agencies, funds and programmes

Last updated November 2019

Volunteer Entitlements

Monthly Living Allowance (MLA)

The monthly allowance is intended to meet basic living costs. It should not be considered a salary.

For international UN Volunteers, MLA is calculated by multiplying a base rate (established by UNV) by the Post Adjustment Multiplier (PAM). PAM is set by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) for each duty station.

For national UN Volunteers, MLA is aligned to local conditions. Rates are established and updated based on surveys conducted by the ICSC. Rates are normally benchmarked to the annual total net salary of locally-recruited UN personnel at GS-2, Step 6. They may be adjusted at the request of the UN Country Team and/or Resident Coordinator, with the approval of the UNV Regional Manager.

UN Youth, UN University and UN Community Volunteer rates are 80%, 60% and 40% of the UN Volunteer specialist rate, respectively. UN Expert Volunteers receive a 40% experience differential in addition to the UN Volunteer specialist rate.

Family Allowance

International UN Volunteer specialists or UN Expert Volunteers who are supporting recognized dependants receive a family allowance in addition to their MLA. There are monthly, flat rates for:

1. one dependant; or
2. two or more dependants

Dependants are either a spouse or unmarried children under 21 years old.

Dependants do not need to be present at the duty station for the UN Volunteer to receive family allowance.

Settling-in-grant (SIG)

A one-time, lump sum to help eligible UN Volunteers buy basic household items and cover other one-time expenses that are typically incurred in moving and setting up a new residence. This includes additional costs of temporary accommodation and other living expenses in the early days after arrival. Settling-in-grant is calculated as a proportion of MLA, depending on the volunteer modality and length of assignment (maximum 2 x MLA).

All international UN Volunteers are eligible, as are national UN Volunteers who are recruited outside of commuting distance from their duty station.

Additional SIG is paid to eligible international UN Volunteers if dependants join them at the duty station.

Well-being differential (WBD)

Recognizes added health, security, climate, and psychological burdens faced by UN Volunteers serving in non-family duty stations, where living conditions are substantially below conditions in family-duty stations. There are two rates, depending on criteria set by UNV which is based on ICSC classification.

The UN Country Team or Resident Coordinator may request UNV to apply an exceptional WBD in locations that are not eligible according to ICSC classification, if justified by local conditions.
Resettlement allowance
A lump-sum to help UN Volunteers re-establish themselves professionally and personally after their assignment ends.

Volunteer Assignment Costs

Insurance
Covers comprehensive health, life and disability insurance for UN Volunteers.

Training and learning
The training and learning charge contributes to a central fund to cover free access for UN Volunteers to UNV’s online learning platform, and an individual learning and training allowance paid to volunteers on request. It also covers the cost of maintaining UNV’s internal capacity to deliver the volunteer learning platform and group learning.

An additional charge is applied for UN Youth Volunteers to pay for assignment preparation training.

UN Community Volunteers receive a one-time payment for learning at the start of their assignment, unless this amount is utilized by the host entity for group training activities. UN Community Volunteers are not eligible to apply for additional learning allowance.

Entitlement travel (including pre-departure expenses)
For the initial and repatriation travel of international UN Volunteers, a standard amount is charged and flows into a central fund, regardless of actual travel costs. The amount charged depends on the volunteer category.

For eligible assignments, an amount is charged monthly for home visit travel. Home visit allows international UN Volunteers and their dependents to travel home to rest and to renew personal, cultural and professional ties in the home country.

International UN Volunteers receive a standard amount for pre-departure expenses and shipment of personal effects to and from their assignment duty station.

National UN Volunteers, receive a one-time payment at the beginning of the assignment to cover the costs of a medical examination.

National UN Volunteers may also claim costs for travel and moving costs, but these are paid (and charged to the host entity) only if the volunteer lives outside of commuting distance to the duty station and costs are claimed by the UN Volunteer.

Sundry
Sundry includes a monthly contribution to a central fund to cover potential medical evacuation.

A monthly charge is also applied per volunteer to cover costs incurred for medical services provided by the UN Office in Geneva. Services include medical clearance, approval of medical evacuation and certification of long-term sick leave.

Sundry also includes a standard monthly charge, per volunteer to enable UNV Regional Officers and Field Unit personnel to travel for monitoring of conditions of service implementation in the field.

UNDP security charges
Charged at a rate of either 4% or 6% of MLA, depending on the duty station for assignments with UNDP/UNV or UNCDF for UNDP to meet its security obligations.

Residential Security
Residential security costs when incurred are charged directly to the project/host UN agency at actual cost. There are two types of costs for which host entities need to budget:

(1) costs dependent upon the duty station for implementing Residential Security Measures (RSMs).

(2) any possible security relocation/evacuation related charges. For international UN Volunteers this includes compensation for loss of personal effects due to war, civil unrest or natural disaster.

**Volunteer Management Costs**

**Deployment Charge**

A one-time, fixed amount charged at the beginning of the assignment to recover costs expended by UNV to:

- Develop partnerships and manage the assignment pipeline
- Manage the UNV talent pool, conduct outreach, source and assess candidates
- Identify, select and recruit candidates and onboard UN Volunteers and their dependants
- Close assignments and repatriate UN Volunteers and their dependants

The deployment charge varies by UN Volunteer category.

**Recurring Charge (for the duration of assignment)**

A monthly charge to recover costs expended by UNV to manage contracts and entitlements and provide ongoing support for UN Volunteers including:

- UNV premises
- UNDP corporate fees
- UNDP legal services
- UNV personnel
- Payroll and banking information services provided by the Global Shared Services Unit (GSSU) in Kuala Lumpur and Copenhagen
- Information technology (IT) equipment purchase and maintenance and IT services
- Communications and advocacy

**Country Office Support Costs**

Paid to UNDP country offices for UNDP infrastructure support with UN Volunteer recruitment, deployment and administration as per the agreement between UNV and UNDP Bureau of Management services (BMS). This is not applicable to assignments with UN Peace Operations, as these provide the needed infrastructure, including personnel.

**General Management Support (GMS)**

Encompasses general oversight and management functions of UNV/UNDP and includes receipt, allocation and reporting to the donor of financial resources; branding, knowledge transfer; leadership and representation; programme direction and accountability; operations management and administration.

GMS is charged at a negotiated rate as a percentage of all costs associated with UN Volunteer deployment and management.

**Additional entitlements**

**Accommodation supplement**

International UN Volunteers serving in duty stations where local rental markets are distorted due to temporary extenuating factors may apply for extra allowance to meet the costs of rent. Upon request from the host entity, the accommodation supplement may be applied duty-station wide.