Summary of Security Policy Applicable to UN Volunteers

UN Security is underpinned by five main legal documents, outlining the responsibilities of all stakeholders:

1. United Nations Charter – articles 104 and 105
2. Conventions on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (1946 and 1947)
4. Annual Resolutions of the General Assembly on Safety and Security of UN personnel and associated personnel

The Security Policy Manual (SPM) constitutes a solid policy framework for enabling the conduct of UN operations while ensuring the safety and security of UN personnel, including UN Volunteers. The Security Policy Manual contains a series of security policies that guide all actors within the UNSMS, including UNV. There are four essential policies for any security decision maker in the United Nations system:

1. The Applicability Policy
2. The Policy on Security Risk Management (SRM)
4. Programme Criticality (PC) Framework

Chapter III of the UNSMS SPM Applicable Policy makes clear that UN Volunteers serving with UN Entities and their eligible dependents must be fully incorporated into UN Entities’ security planning, management and implementation arrangements for the area of the relevant UN Entity office and under the overall authority of the Designated Official.

UN Volunteers shall abide by the requirements of such security plans and adhere to all security instructions given by their UN Entity supervisor and/or UN Entity Field Security Adviser, as applicable.

The Programme Criticality methodology assigns one of the four Programme Criticality levels:

- PC1 activities only in very high present risk environments;
- PC1 - PC2 in high present risk environments;
- PC1 - PC2 - PC3 in medium present risk environments;
- PC1 - PC2 - PC3 - PC4 in low present risk environments.

UNV reserves the right to restrict placement of UN Volunteers, with particular attention to UN Youth Volunteers, from serving in environments with unacceptable risk levels in line with the UNV guiding principle that UNV does not compromise on duty of care health, safety, well-being, and sanity of UN Volunteers.
Annex

Risk determination and Programme Criticality

Determining Acceptable Risk: Comparing Security Risk and Programme Criticality levels

Security Risk Management (SRM) process → Present Risk

Programme Criticality Level

- Life-saving activities (at scale) – or –
- Any activity endorsed by the SG
(Principal's approval to implement in very high risk)

Two rating criteria:
- Contribution to each in-country UN strategic result
- Likelihood of implementation

Accountability Matrix

1. Regularly conducting Programme Criticality assessments
2. Using the results of a PC assessment in UN Security Risk Management
3. Decisions on PC1 activities carried out in very high risk