



UN Community Volunteers

Bringing local solution

UNV mobilises UN Community Volunteers as part of an integrated talent solution to bring local expertise to development and peace solutions. UN Community Volunteers work where they live on projects that impact their own community. UN partners can mobilise UN Community Volunteers in large numbers from the communities where they will be assigned, bringing direct impact and resilience building to UN initiatives.

Combined with the expertise of international and national UN Specialist Volunteers, there is great potential to transfer knowledge and build capacity at the local and national levels with this community-based volunteer solution. Inclusion of Youth and UN Online Volunteers for support on key deliverables can also round out the skill-sets needed and ensure coverage of all aspects of any UN project.

It is expected that volunteers will contribute to local solutions and progress the Sustainable Development Goals in their communities. In return, volunteers will gain greater knowledge and experience in different areas related to community development, programme or project management, and ultimately empower their own community.

UNV suggests, in the recruitment of UN Community Volunteers, to invest in a UN Community Volunteer Coordinator, who will coordinate and support recruitment, onboarding, learning,



Community members celebrate after the successful rehabilitation of a borehole in Uba Community, Adamawa State, Nigeria. In September 2017, UNV deployed a UNV Humanitarian Crisis Coordinator who works with UNDP and has recruited 10 UN Community Volunteers in Nigeria. (UNV, 2018)

contract management and volunteer well-being for the community volunteer initiative. UNV recommends that these coordinators are National UN Specialists.

Examples of UN Community Volunteer projects

- UNV mobilised 30 youth from the Roma community in Serbia for a project funded by UNHCR and implemented by UNDP aimed at improving social inclusion of Roma youth in local initiatives.
- 10 UN Community Volunteers served in rural Nigeria to help establish village savings and loan associations for vulnerable groups.
- More than 100 UN Community Volunteers were mobilised over two years in Bolivia in an agricultural training initiative.

Community Assignment, what it looks like

- **Duration:** One month to four years
- **Age criteria:** 18 or over
- **Living allowance:** Forty percent of a UN National Specialist Volunteer in the same location. Fifty percent less for part time.
- **Comprehensive health, life and emergency insurance**
- **Learning and training:** UNV actively promotes lifelong learning and national capacity development, so each UN Community Volunteer assignment has a budget either for group training facilitated by the host entity with support of UNV or given to the volunteer to pursue their own learning.

Recruitment of UN Community Volunteers

Recruitment criteria and assignment objectives give community members the opportunity to be part of a human-centred development approach through volunteerism.

Secondary school is the maximum education level requested to be eligible to become a community volunteer. Similarly, community engagement or work experience can be considered in lieu of formal education. Outreach for candidates in communities focuses on the promotion of diversity and participation of women, while volunteers can be deployed part time (less than 30 hours/week) as well. These measures promote broad representation of the community.

UNV and the UN host entity will work together to develop the requirements for the UN Community Volunteer deployment, including whether a coordinator is required, and if other volunteer categories could complement. Once descriptions of assignments are written for the roles, UNV will propose candidates for the coordinator for the host entity to select. UNV will train the successful candidate in required aspects of UNV's operations. The UN entity and the coordinator can then work together on the deployment, training and management of UN Community Volunteers in line with local conditions and UN entity requirements.

Responsibilities of the host entity

To ensure appropriate recruitment and management of UN Community Volunteers, the host entity takes responsibility for the following:

- Planning and description of assignment development including selection criteria for recruitment;
- Assessment and selection of candidates including recruitment methods appropriate to local context and policy guidelines;
- Operational issues relating to hosting UN Community Volunteers;



UN Community Volunteers gather around a protected plant at the tree planting exercise at Sangere Community, Adamawa State, Nigeria. Today, volunteerism has been successfully positioned as an integral part of the UN response to the humanitarian crisis in North-East Nigeria. (UNV, 2018)

- Facilitating mandatory learning and Code of Conduct training, accommodating local languages if necessary;
- Assist with onboarding and induction coordination of newly recruited UN Community Volunteers and equip them to perform their roles;
- Day-to-day leave management of UN Community Volunteers;
- Full inclusion of UN Community Volunteers by the United Nations Security Management System under the same terms and conditions applicable to locally recruited UN staff members.

The list above is indicative and host entities are asked to discuss recruitment and deployment of UN Community Volunteers with the local or regional UNV representative. For more information also see our website www.unv.org

We are
inspiration
in action