



Engaging with UNV



VOLUNTEERS AS A RAPID RESPONSE SOLUTION TO GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES

When large-scale emergencies like the recent Ebola outbreak occur, mounting a coordinated rapid response can make the critical difference between thousands of lives saved or lost. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is a UN entity with the capacity to rapidly mobilize large numbers of skilled volunteers to support UN partners and governments in responding to emergencies.

UN Volunteers are often at the forefront of humanitarian response, because the skills and expertise they bring to help alleviate the plight of people in desperate situations. Also, their volunteer commitment, local knowledge and neutral status facilitate building bridges between stakeholders in affected communities by promoting mutual trust, enhancing ownership and building capacity.

UNV has developed considerable expertise over its 43-year history in mobilizing volunteers in disaster and crisis prevention and recovery. It has a talent pool of over 25,000

positively preassessed potential volunteer candidates, ready to be deployed as international or national UN Volunteers, and over 400,000 candidates ready to volunteer online.

When emergencies happen, UNV can quickly draw on its extensive candidate pool to fill over one hundred different expert profiles. UNV offers different volunteer modalities with varied skills, resources and expertise, which, combined, can create a powerful multi-faceted response.

While in the immediate response stage internal SURGE capacities of respective UN entities are usually tapped as a first resource, UN Volunteers have typically been deployed right after the initial SURGE period, in the transition to and throughout the early recovery phase.



More than 250 UN Volunteers are currently supporting the coordinated UN system Ebola response in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, in functions ranging from medical support to logistics and humanitarian assistance.

UNV is also deploying around 130 international UN Volunteers to support United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) operations in the three affected countries. Profiles requested range from UN Volunteer Field Crisis Management Officers and GIS Data Collection Specialists to Air Operations Assistants and Logistics Officers. UNV has established a field unit in Accra to support the recruitment, briefing, training and management of these volunteers.

If mobilized as part of a rapid response solution to global health emergencies, UN Online Volunteers could support hotline services, for instance, by mobilizing medical doctors and stress counselors based in various countries and speaking relevant languages.

The UN [Online Volunteering service](#) currently has about 6,000 UN Online Volunteers with post-graduate degrees in health related fields. Another area of potential support is awareness raising: UN Online Volunteers could assist in developing gender- and culturally-sensitive messaging, also in local languages, as well as information and education materials, which they could disseminate through their networks.

ACCELERATED RECRUITMENT OF UN VOLUNTEERS FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

UNV handles the logistics of fielding international UN Volunteers, as well as their administrative management throughout their assignment, thus reducing the administrative burden on our partners.

UNV has special measures to ensure that partners are able to deploy highly-skilled UN Volunteers quickly and easily. To ensure highest priority is given to accelerated and targeted recruitment procedures for partners in emergency operations, UNV headquarters in Bonn, Germany, can set-up special task forces for both the identification and deployment of UN Volunteers.



Contact info@unv.org for more information about recruiting UN Volunteers as a rapid response solution to global health emergencies.

Steps involved in requesting international UN Volunteers for emergency/crisis deployment include:

Requester submits Description of Assignment

- First, the requesting UN entity partner prepares one or more standardized Descriptions of Assignment (DOAs) for profiles needed in the emergency operation, and sends them to UNV for approval.
- UNV may assist in the process by providing the hosting UN entity with examples of related DOAs that it may have in its repository.

Candidate selection

- Once UNV has approved the requesting UN entity partner entity's DOAs and received confirmation of the budget, it selects those candidates that best match the requirements and interviews the most promising candidate(s).
- Subsequently, UNV submits the profiles of all suitable candidates to the requesting partner UN entity.

Fielding of UN Volunteers

- Together, the requesting UN entity partner and UNV select the UN Volunteers, after which UNV prepares them and deploys them to the field.
- UNV provides all training, orientation and logistical arrangements relating to the fielding of the UN Volunteers.

End of assignment

- Following conclusion of the volunteer assignment, the performance of UN Volunteers is evaluated in close collaboration with the hosting UN entity partner.
- UNV also places emphasis on end of assignment reporting and debriefing with the UN Volunteers on their volunteer experience.

The time lapse between the submission of the DOA by the requesting UN partner entity and fielding the UN Volunteers ranges from 3-12 weeks, depending on the availability of selected candidates. UN Volunteers are deployed for at least three months and up to two years, depending on the need.



The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming and mobilizing volunteers. UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). For more information about UNV, please visit www.unv.org.