



▶ UN Youth Volunteers assigned to UNDP Madagascar attend training in preparation for manning Youth Centres across the southern part of the country.

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Engaging with  
**UNV**



## SERVICE LINE: UN VOLUNTEER DEPLOYMENT AT HEADQUARTERS DUTY STATIONS

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme offers a service line to promote innovation through the on-site placement of skilled UN Volunteers, as well as UN Youth Volunteers, within the United Nations system to support H category duty stations. The International Civil Service Commission places all duty stations in one of six categories: H and A to E. The H category comprises headquarters duty stations and others in similar locations where the United Nations has either a facilitative role to developmental or humanitarian programmes or no traditional physical infrastructure (i.e. in the case of some European countries whereby support is provided to facilitate incoming refugees). While UN Online Volunteers have served H category duty stations for years, this service line is a direct response to recent demand from UN partners for increased on-site capacity.

The **service line for UN Volunteer deployment at headquarters duty stations** opens up opportunities for young talent management programmes, an alternative to UN unpaid internship schemes (which are currently under review) and traineeship experience. The service line is designed to increase the quantity and diversity of opportunities for interested parties to volunteer as peace and development actors in advancing the mandates of UN entity partners. By affirmatively promoting gender equality in recruitment and the selection of interested candidates from the global South, it can strengthen the role of the global South in the work of the UN system at headquarters level.



## KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

UN Volunteer specialists for shorter term assignments – up to one year – in headquarters duty stations will contribute to the mandates of UN entity partners in support of development, peace and humanitarian assistance. The UN Volunteers will contribute, inter alia, to UNV thematic programme areas where volunteerism has a transformational and cumulative impact on the lives of people, including:

- Securing access to **basic social services**;
- **Community resilience** for environment and disaster risk reduction;
- **Peacebuilding** and peacekeeping;
- **Youth**; and
- **National capacity development through volunteer schemes.**

UN Youth Volunteer assignments under this service line will be for up to two years, designed for **qualified and motivated young professionals** skilled in areas relevant to the UNV thematic areas above. Including UN Youth Volunteers in this service line is valuable to:

- Provide opportunities for youth to **gain experience in the development sector** through **hands-on professional development** and exposure to policies, operations and mandates of UN entity partners;
- Strengthen **youth input into the UN system**, encourage innovation and the spirit of volunteerism as a programmatic resource provided to UN entities in H-duty stations; and
- Recognize that UN Youth Volunteers can **contribute significantly** to the impact of UNV's work in supporting UN entity partners to carry out their mandate and implement the **Sustainable Development Goals.**

Gender represents a cross-cutting focus within the five programmatic areas, and beyond, specifically:

- Ensuring programmes commit to gender equality mainstreaming;
- Recognizing the role of women as a driving force for peace and development efforts; and
- Promoting societal transformation across all areas of programme delivery

## UN VOLUNTEERS DEPLOYED WITH UNHCR IN EUROPE

UNV is responding to the European dimension of the refugee crisis, through this deployment of UN Volunteers with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Europe for the first time in over 50 years. To date, we have deployed over 50 UN Volunteers to support the mandate of UNHCR in countries in Europe affected by the influx of refugees and migrants. The top three professional profiles deployed are: UN Volunteer Interpreter/Translator, UN Volunteer Protection Officer and UN Volunteer Community Services Assistant. The service line for UN Volunteer deployment at headquarters duty stations is being piloted through the deployment of 10 international UN Volunteers each in Bonn, Geneva and New York, and is under consideration for other duty stations like Paris and Vienna.

*“Can you imagine a world without volunteers? It would be a poorer world because... volunteering is about action and service, about active citizenship, social cohesion, partnership and relationships. Its impact on local, national and global development can be transformational.”*

**Dr Gill Greer, CEO, Volunteer Service Abroad (New Zealand)**

## UNV SERVICE LINES

Consultations with UN and national partners led to the establishment of UNV service lines. These embody a set of standardized assignments dedicated to provide services across multiple countries. They leverage existing UN Volunteer modalities and initiatives to formulate standard Descriptions of Assignments. A service line package can include mixed teams of international/national UN Volunteers, UN Youth Volunteers and UN Online Volunteers, identification of highly qualified candidates (with relevant language skills and diverse experience), common induction/training, joint resource mobilization efforts and integration into global, regional and multi-country programmes.

**To engage with UNV on this service line for volunteer deployment at H category duty stations, kindly visit [www.unv.org](http://www.unv.org) or contact your focal point at UNV.**

*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).*



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