



▶ UN Volunteers with the UNDP Electoral Support Project, assist Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante (CENI or National Independent Electoral Commission) commissioners in supervising an open-air voting station under a baobab tree in the south-central region of Kombissiri, Burkina Faso.

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Engaging with UNV



// SERVICE LINE: UN VOLUNTEERS FOR ELECTORAL SUPPORT

Are elections coming up in your country for which you wish to mobilize large numbers of people? Engage with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme to co-create, design and tailor mixed teams of international/national UN Volunteers (including short-term volunteers), UN Youth Volunteers, as well as UN Online Volunteers to support the organization of electoral processes. UNV is a UN entity with the capacity to rapidly mobilize large numbers of skilled volunteers to support UN partners and governments in responding to peace and development efforts worldwide.

This service line offers a highly professional systematic approach covering the whole volunteer cycle of elections. Similar to or in conjunction with organizing large international/national events, this approach includes a UN Volunteer team to handle various training, community mobilization, technical and logistical arrangements to ensure free,

inclusive and peaceful elections. Accordingly, this team coordinates the recruitment, training and mentoring of local and community volunteers for electoral processes.

UNV event teams are adapted to your needs, for example, a team can be made up of 10 UN Volunteers who mobilize, train, support and manage 1,000 additional volunteers, including UN Online Volunteers who design communication materials, develop web pages or translate materials.

This service line builds on previous UNV successes in supporting electoral processes in Timor-Leste, Mali, Afghanistan and, most recently, in Burkina Faso. Through this service line, UN Volunteers motivate event volunteers to engage in development matters and build important social capital for peace and development initiatives. Many young volunteers describe their experience as life-changing.



KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

UNV has a solid roster of UN Volunteers for electoral support, cleared by the UN Electoral Assistance Division of the Department for Political Affairs. UN Volunteers deployed under this service line can:

- Provide technical, administrative and logistical support;
- Assist with the production of voter information materials and assist the international/national election observers;
- Facilitate information sharing among electoral bodies and their provincial and communal layers;
- Create networks of contacts among stakeholders, such as election administration officials, political parties, administrative authorities, security personnel, civil society organizations and human rights associations, national and international election observers, and religious leaders;
- Create training materials for polling staff and provide support during their selection, recruitment and training;
- Facilitate the monitoring and analysis of the political and electoral environment, as well as producing weekly reports, statistical tables and other electoral documents; and
- Collaborate with national electoral bodies to create a national polling staff database for future elections.

UN VOLUNTEERS DEPLOYED FOR ELECTORAL SUPPORT IN BURKINA FASO

Following the October 2014 protests against the ruling regime in Burkina Faso, the transitional government took charge with the mandate to organize free and transparent elections by the end of 2015. UNDP developed the Projet d'Appui aux Élections (PAE or Electoral Support Project) to provide technical support to all main parties involved in the organization of elections. In collaboration with UNV, UNDP-PAE recruited 14 international UN Volunteers and 48 national UN Volunteers and ensured their rapid deployment. UN Volunteers proved to be an effective presence in all regions of Burkina Faso, including remote locations with difficult access. With volunteer support, the Commission Électorale Nationale Indépendante and all its administrative levels managed to organize free, fair, transparent and peaceful elections. Voter turn-out reached 59.9 per cent.

“UNDP staff and UN Volunteers from around the world joined our Afghanistan Country Office staff and election team to advise the Independent Elections Commission of Afghanistan on vote audit procedures. This effort, supported by the action of volunteers, made it possible for the eventual election result to be regarded as credible.”

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator

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 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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