

# UNV PARTNERING WITH UNDP

Since 1971, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has been partnering with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Some 9,682 UN Volunteers served with UNDP in 148 countries during the period 2007-2016.

## Why recruit UN Volunteers?

United Nations Volunteers are global citizens motivated to contribute to peace and sustainable development. Working with United Nations entities, governments, civil society and the private sector, UN Volunteers use their experience and talent to bring people to the forefront of development and give them a voice.

UN Volunteers are one of the talent-management solutions available to the UN system. UNV manages this rich talent pool of volunteers who can be deployed to work in synergy with the staff and personnel of United Nations entities to bolster the effective delivery of their programmes and mandates.

UN Volunteers are particularly suited to support UNDP's mandate. UN Volunteers can contribute to UNDP's focus on poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, democratic governance, energy and environment, social development, and crisis prevention and recovery. UN Volunteers work within communities, making them well-placed to support household surveys and data analysis for use in policy development and monitoring progress towards development goals. UN Volunteers, by the very nature of volunteerism's inclusiveness, advance



Hortika Joshi, national UN Volunteer Civil Engineer, served with the UNDP demolition project which handled the damage assessment of buildings to identify whether they were safe for residents to resettle in or needed to be demolished before the start of the monsoon season, Nepal. (UNV, 2015)

UNDP efforts to deliver solutions to global and national development challenges.

## What is the added value of UN Volunteers?

Some 83 per cent of UN Volunteers come from the South. Thus, UN Volunteers tend to be familiar with local development challenges and societal norms. UN Volunteers apply culturally-sensitive approaches that foster participation and generate a sense of ownership. Through engaging community volunteers and strengthening local volunteering structures, UN Volunteers help make development more effective and sustainable.

### 2007-2016

9,682 UN Volunteers helped UNDP carry out its mission in 148 countries



### Top 3 countries of assignment

2007-2016		
553	389	346
India	Ethiopia	Kenya

### Top 3 countries of origin

2007-2015		
630	416	379
India	Ethiopia	Kenya

### Top 3 professional titles in 2007

Project Management Officer
Medical Doctor
HIV/AIDS Officer

### Top 3 professional titles in 2016

UNV Electoral Officer
UNV Programme Officer/Assistant
UNV Communications Officer



*“Volunteerism is a powerful tool for tackling our world’s development challenges. Through our global engagement with people and communities, UNDP and UNV have fostered an inclusive approach for implementation of the Global Goals. Volunteerism and volunteers embody the spirit of cooperation and commitment that will help us achieve these goals.”*

*Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator*

UNV is committed to reaching out to youth and bringing their voices to the table in a rapidly changing world. UNV is leading the way on youth volunteerism within the UN, and established a UN Youth Volunteer Programme in 2014. Based on the UN Youth Volunteering Strategy launched in September 2013, this programme helps develop the skills and enhance the employability of young people, while at the same time tapping into the energy, unique strengths and perspectives of youth.

### **What categories of UN Volunteers are available to UNDP?**

There are different categories of UN Volunteers, each with its own characteristics, which offer flexible solutions to the needs of our United Nations partners. UN Volunteers serve on contracts lasting three to twelve months on a renewable basis for assignments of up to four years, depending on the category of volunteer.

**International UN Volunteers** are typically professionals with specialized knowledge. They come from all walks of life and over 100 professions, bringing five to ten years of experience to their assignments. The average age of international UN Volunteers is 36.

**National UN Volunteers** are nationals of the host country (or a refugee or stateless person with legal status in the country), normally recruited locally. These volunteers concentrate in areas such as local community outreach. Recent university graduates with specialized skills are also recruited as national UN Volunteers.

**UN Youth Volunteers** are between the ages of 18-29 and may be engaged for national and international assignments of up to two years. UN Youth Volunteer candidates will have demonstrated their commitment to global peace and sustainable development through academic, extra-curricular and volunteer activities they have undertaken and/or up to two years of formal work experience. UNV supports these young volunteers by providing additional learning and guidance so that they are well supported throughout their assignments in areas such as primary health, education, climate change adaptation and human rights.

UNV also offers an innovative **short-term UN Volunteer** modality through which volunteers can be contracted for assignments of less than three months. This option may be useful for rapid deployment in many areas, such as shoring up emergency responses, census activities, and in general for projects that require a quick scaling up or rapid adaptation to changing circumstances. The short-term modality often suits diaspora nationals, the corporate sector and retirees. It allows partners to have an agile, flexible and adaptable talent solution when specific skill sets are required for a defined period.

Another modality that can provide strategic support to partners is **UNV Online Volunteering**, a rapidly growing service of UNV. Over 11,000 UN Online Volunteers conduct 15,000 assignments over the Internet annually to bolster peace and development activities of United Nations entities, governments and civil society organizations.

In all the above categories, the very nature of volunteering for the United Nations inspires and attracts exceptionally motivated specialists and youth – people dedicated to advancing global peace and sustainable human development. Irrespective of the modality through which they serve, UN Volunteers come from all geographic regions and socio-economic backgrounds.

### **How can UNDP offices recruit UN Volunteers?**

To partner with UNV and recruit UN Volunteers who will help you implement your development initiatives, contact the UNV Programme Officer based in your country office. The UNV Programme Officer can provide advice and guidance on how to recruit volunteers for assignments relevant to UNDP.

For further information, refer to the partners section on our web site at [unv.org/partnerships/host-volunteer](http://unv.org/partnerships/host-volunteer).

# UNV-UNDP success stories

## National UN Volunteers bracing the frontlines of emergency response in Nepal

The April 2015 Nepal 7.8 magnitude earthquake, also known as the Gorkha Earthquake, killed more than 8,800 people and injured more than 23,000. Thousands of houses were destroyed and entire villages were flattened. Estimates showed around 2.8 million people required humanitarian assistance and over 860,000 faced poverty, limited accessibility and homelessness. In the aftermath of the earthquake, volunteers were rapidly mobilized from other parts of the country to provide emergency aid on-site. National UN Volunteers were in the frontline of emergency response alongside over 300 agencies supporting the government-led efforts.

A team of eight national UN Volunteer Civil Engineers served under a UNDP demolition project. They formed teams which carried out building damage assessment and supervised demolitions. Daily, these teams assessed whether or not the buildings in various wards were structurally sound or at risk of collapse. If deemed unsafe, the demolition team handled and coordinated a safe collapse. Till June 2015, these UN Volunteers handled the damage assessment of 250 households benefitting approximately 1,500 people.

More assessments were needed before the monsoons in the Irkhu Village Development Committee area, where a thousand more buildings needed to be assessed and potentially torn down. The earthquake in Nepal triggered landslides in many areas within the districts. The UN Volunteer teams worked to identify safe places for residents to resettle in transitional shelters before the arrival of the monsoon season. As a result, the residents were required to vacate the premises for their safety and relocate to temporary shelters that they built themselves using scrap materials such as corrugated metal sheets and wood. Even though unpleasant, the temporary shelters were still safer than staying in a home at risk of collapsing. Many people have also gone back to their farms to grow crops for the next season – making this an extremely important step to counter the destruction of food stocks buried under the earthquake debris.

UN Volunteers were at the forefront of this endeavour staying in tents or camps alongside other government officials and front line responders. They were instrumental in the emergency response for the earthquake; their resolve unparalleled.

## Empowering farmers to mitigate climate change in Zambia

UNV assists community adaptation to climate change through people-centred approaches and by developing innovative disaster risk reduction strategies through volunteerism. UN Volunteers are well placed to strengthen capacities for inclusive and coherent natural disaster prevention, preparedness and risk reduction. This includes ensuring support to those rebuilding productive lives within their communities and avoiding chronic vulnerabilities.

Zambia's Southern Province has suffered floods, droughts, land degradation and soil erosion over the past 10 years, threatening food sources and revenues. In 2014, UNV organized a training programme for 1,024 Zambian communal farmers and 100 youth on sustainable agricultural practices and integrated environment and natural resource management practices.

The Asia Youth Volunteer Exchange Programme, in partnership with UNDP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), brought UN Volunteers

from Asia to Africa to share skills and knowledge in agriculture and small- to medium-scale enterprises. UNV provided one international UN Volunteer and four national UN Volunteers, and monitored project implementation to measure progress against agreed work plans. Communities also benefitted from 500 local volunteers who were mobilized through this effort. In total, 6,600 people have benefitted from the activities of the Youth Environment Management and Education Project.

UN Volunteers also trained Zambian farmers in the operation and maintenance of treadle pumps and in greenhouse farming. UN Volunteers constructed five greenhouses for technology demonstration and distributed subsidized plastics for additional greenhouse construction. Some 14 farmers (eight of them women) participated in the Kazungula district agricultural show, exhibiting tomatoes grown in the greenhouses. Collaborating with the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock and Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, UNV also disseminated early disaster warning messages to communities.



National UN Youth Volunteer Speech Therapist Margaret Hmangte provides therapy to Paumuanlian, a 10-year old child with a speech impairment. Margaret is one of four national UN Youth Volunteers providing services to children with special needs as part of the Malsawm Initiative in Churachandpur district, a remote tribal area of India. (Ruhani Kaur/UNDP, 2014)

## UN Volunteers advancing awareness about special needs in India

In Churachandpur, India, a remote tribal area, limited services are available for people with disabilities. In 2006, members of the local community – with financial support from UNDP – took the initiative to establish a centre for children with special needs. Four national UN Youth Volunteers worked at this center in 2014 to provide rehabilitation and disability support services to these children under the Malsawm Initiative (TMI).

Serving at the Centre for Community Initiatives, four UN Youth Volunteers helped the local community operate the school: Special Educator Dipak Prasad, School Administrator Kaylie Lalrokim, Physiotherapist Shakeeb Ahmed Khan and Speech Therapist Margaret Hmangte.

The special needs children suffer from conditions such as cerebral palsy, severe autism and hydrocephalus. UN Volunteers conducted daily activities such as tactile stimulation, balancing and coordination training and phonation duration exercises which facilitated their

seamless transition into mainstream classrooms. The value and success of this initiative was evident by the 100 per cent increase in the special needs school enrolment, which jumped from 13 students to 25.

“As I volunteer to train children in language and communication, I can see that these efforts are helping children to slowly learn the use of language for communication. This is creating a positive impact on their social skills, as well as preparing them for mainstream schools,” stated UN Youth Volunteer Margaret Hmangte.

The UN Volunteers worked closely with local organizations, teachers, volunteers, the public and government officials to raise awareness about the unique needs of the children and build local capacity for sustainability. The UN Volunteers trained 40 parents, nine TMI teachers and 10 teachers from a private school on physiotherapy, speech therapy, special education and inclusive education.

**UN Volunteers support the eradication of poverty, reduce inequalities, foster partnership abilities for sustainable development, facilitate inclusive growth, promote environmental sustainability and good governance, facilitate community engagement, and so much more.**

## Is your office investing in UN Volunteers?

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).