

UNV PARTNERING WITH UNFPA

Since the early 1970s, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has been partnering with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA). Some 512 UN Volunteers served with UNFPA in 85 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 UNFPA's mandate. UN Volunteers can contribute to the UNFPA goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health by building the capacities of health service providers and those who train them. 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



UNV Midwife Trainers from Côte d'Ivoire serving with UNFPA in Haiti attend to a mother and newborn. (Jose Rendee Torres/UNV, 2012)

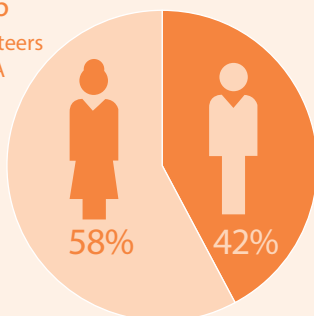
nature of volunteerism's inclusiveness, advance UNFPA efforts to mainstream gender equality.

What is the added value of UN Volunteers?

Some 83 per cent of UN Volunteers come from the global 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

512 UN Volunteers helped UNFPA carry out its mission in 85 countries



Top 4 countries of assignment

2007-2016		
76	20	20
South Sudan	Rwanda/ East Timor	Ethiopia

Top 3 professional titles in 2007

UNV Medical Doctor
UN V Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
UNV HIV/AIDS Advisor

Top 3 countries of origin

2007-2016		
24	23	21
Ethiopia	Kenya	Rwanda

Top 3 professional titles in 2016

UNV Midwife
UNV Youth Counsellor
UNV Communications Officer

“UN Volunteers contribute to the functioning of health centers, handling obstetric complications, creating specialized consultations, strengthening the referral system and mentoring young professionals. National UN Volunteers are crucial to the success of Husbands’ Schools, where they engage husbands as volunteers in promoting women’s health.”

Monique Clesca, UNFPA Representative, Niger

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 develops the skills and enhances 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 UNFPA?

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 12 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 10 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 **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 UNFPA 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 the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country office. The UNV Programme Officer can provide advice and guidance on how to recruit volunteers for assignments relevant to UNFPA.

For further information, refer to the partners section of our website at unv.org/partnerships/host-volunteer.

UNV-UNFPA success stories

UN Volunteer Midwives with UNFPA in South Sudan

UN Volunteers enhance crucial life-saving services through the training of midwives and the provision of midwifery services. South Sudan's maternal mortality is the highest in the world. For every 100,000 live births, approximately 2,054 women die due to labour and delivery complications, most of which would be avoidable if women had access to obstetric care.

Access to health care, including reproductive health services, is challenging in complex emergency settings, complicating development efforts. Therefore, strengthening midwifery services was highlighted as a priority in Malakal, South Sudan. To cater to women and children's health, a Midwifery and Sexual Reproductive Health Services unit was established by UNFPA, International Medical Corps (IMC) and International Organization for Migration (IOM). The goal was to ensure increased access to quality midwifery services and care for pregnant women in humanitarian Protection of Civilian settings.

Two UN Volunteers serving with UNFPA reintroduced midwifery and sexual reproductive health services and delivery at the

Malakal Teaching Hospital, which were halted during the crisis. Through the project, UN Volunteers provided parenting and health education for expecting women, supervised and assisted mothers in childbirth, supported and advised on daily care of newborns, and provided counselling on family planning options.

The results of these UN Volunteer contributions has been impressive. Quarterly records (October-December 2014) indicate that the UN Volunteers provided quality antenatal care for a total of 3,581 internally displaced women at the IOM clinic, IMC clinic and the Malakal Teaching Hospital. They also provided quality neonatal care for 63 babies at the IOM clinic and 335 at the IMC clinic. In the labour and delivery units, 65 women at the IOM clinic and 337 at the IMC clinic had safe vaginal deliveries, and 13 caesarean sections were performed at the level-2 IMC clinic. UN Volunteer Midwives serving with UNFPA mentored 26 health workers on reproductive health, including six traditional birth attendants at the Malakal Teaching Hospital.

UN Volunteer Reproductive Health Officers with UNFPA in Cameroon

The maternal mortality rate in Cameroon was estimated at 669 per 100,000 live births in 2004, and 782 per 100,000 live births in 2011. Lack of skilled medical personnel is partly responsible for this increase. Since 2011, UNFPA and UNV have been working with the Government on the reduction of neonatal and maternal mortality in four regions of Cameroon, as part of the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa initiated by the African Union Commission. In 2011, the Government, with support from partners, established a training programme for medical personnel on reproductive health services delivery, including improving family planning, emergency obstetrical and neonatal care services, as well as obstetrical fistulas eradication and adolescent reproductive health promotion activities. The Government also established a training programme for midwives. In 2011, UNFPA recruited four UNV Gynaecologists & Obstetricians and four UNV Midwives from Burkina Faso, Guinea and Kenya to support the implementation of these two training programmes.

These UN Volunteers served in pairs in regional and district hospitals and health centres across the four regions of the country. They were at the heart of implementation, providing clinical support and training, supervising reproductive health professionals and delivering quality services.

Dr John Bosco Bicomakuba, a specialized Obstetrician & Gynaecologist and UNV Reproductive Health Supervisor/Trainer with UNFPA serves in Garoua, northern Cameroon. Reflecting on his experiences, he says, "We were turned into field managers, serving the beneficiaries, health institutions, nursing schools and students. Health indicators in my domain improved, including the rates of assisted deliveries and Caesarean sections, and maternal and child mortality trends lowered. The number of women delivering in Garoua Regional Hospital increased to 35.6 per cent in 2012. Health care providers benefited from my experiences, teaching, coaching and knowledge sharing. And I also benefitted immensely."



UN Volunteers combating gender-based violence in Asia and the Pacific

UNV partners with UNDP, UNFPA and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on Partners for Prevention, a regional joint programme in Asia and the Pacific that addresses the primary way to prevent gender-based violence: stopping violence before it starts. Since its inception in 2008, Partners for Prevention has engaged with national government and civil society partners in 12 countries across Asia. UNV is active in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam supporting communication, advocacy, research and capacity development. Seven UN Volunteers are serving with this programme promoting gender equality and empowering women.

UNV's role in Partners for Prevention is to build capacity by embedding local volunteers in projects, offering technical

training on violence prevention and volunteer management and coordinating volunteer-based networks, thus fostering an enabling environment for volunteerism.

UN Volunteers are also aiding programme partners in the development of comprehensive documentation and research on the role of volunteerism in preventing gender-based violence. In Indonesia, UN Volunteer Programme Specialist Raymond Brandes (Netherlands) worked with Marwan Idris, a national UN Volunteer at the Puli Foundation in Aceh, to prepare a study on the Contributions of Volunteerism to the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Aceh. "This study gives information from a unique perspective, because Aceh is a post-tsunami and post-conflict area," Marwan says. "It documents the history of volunteerism here, as a first step towards reinvigorating traditional Acehnese notions of voluntary action, and promoting volunteerism to address and prevent violence against women."

UN Volunteers support the delivery of integrated sexual and reproductive health services, engage youth and adolescents, advance gender equality, strengthen capacity for population and development data gathering and analysis, 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).

