

# UNV PARTNERING WITH UNICEF

*Since 1971, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has partnered with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Some 781 UN Volunteers, 53 per cent of them women, served with UNICEF in 95 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 can effectively support UNICEF in creating a world where the rights of every child are safeguarded and realized. They contribute towards child survival and development, basic education and gender equality, HIV/AIDS and child protection. UN Volunteers have completed successful volunteering assignments with UNICEF as Nutrition and Protection Officers, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialists and Programme Officers. They have been engaged in



*Maki Komura (Japan, right), a UNV Project Officer with UNICEF, with peer educators on HIV/AIDS at a gathering of people living with HIV/AIDS in Danané, in the Montagnes Region of Côte d'Ivoire. (Koné Kiwabien, UNICEF, 2013)*

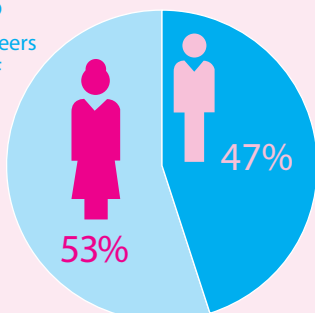
outreach to children, caregivers and communities, promoting enhanced nutrition and health, analysing data and contributing to policy dialogue.

## 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

781 UN Volunteers helped UNICEF carry out its mission in 95 countries



### Top 3 countries of assignment

2007-2016		
51	48	35
Sudan	Ethiopia	Bolivia

### Top 4 countries of origin

2007-2016		
47	38	31
Ethiopia	Japan / Sudan	Italy

### Top 3 professional titles in 2007

UNV Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
UNV Project Coordination Officer
UNV Education Officer

### Top 3 professional titles in 2016

UNV Programme Monitoring Officer
UNV Community Development Assistant
UNV Child Protection Officer

*"We are grateful for the UN Volunteers based in Ethiopia who dedicate themselves to improving the lives of women and children, often in remote and challenging environments. Their capacity building efforts have significantly enhanced service delivery, appropriate use of resources, coordination of efforts and timely reporting. UN Volunteers are positive agents of change for sustainable development who contribute immensely in bridging critical capacity gaps."*

*Peter Salama, Representative, UNICEF Ethiopia*

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 is developing the skills and enhancing 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 UNICEF?**

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 UNICEF 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 UNICEF.

For further information, refer to the partners section of our website [www.unv.org/partnerships/host-volunteer](http://www.unv.org/partnerships/host-volunteer).

# UNV-UNICEF success stories

## Strengthening the response to HIV/AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire

The Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding programme demonstrates the powerful role of volunteerism by fielding skilled professionals from Japan and other Asian countries to advance peace and empower women, youth and marginalized groups in other parts of the world. During 2013, 16 UN Volunteers served under this programme.

One of these volunteers, Maki Komura (Japan), serves as a project officer in the HIV/AIDS and Adolescents section of the Ministry of Health and the Fight Against AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire. She has been involved in the project Strengthening National HIV/AIDS Response through Community-based Interventions, contributing to quality assurance of project implementation. Maki makes sure that gender issues are considered during project design, planning and implementation phases. She also

coordinates the project with national partners, including the country's branch of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and local non-governmental organizations working with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and the Fight Against AIDS.

The community-based interventions are implemented by working closely with local governments, civil society organizations, community leaders and community volunteers. "We understand that the key element to maintain programme results is the involvement and ownership of the community and commitment of community volunteers," Maki says. Awareness-raising activities under this project have reached 22,000 women and 28,000 men.

## Monitoring and assessing child protection systems in Timor-Leste

UNV has been involved in Timor-Leste since the lead-up to the popular consultation process and the subsequent vote for independence in 1999 and still maintains a presence in the country. Partnering with UNICEF, UNV participated in the organization's Child Protection Team. Funded by the Japanese government through the Programme for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding, UNV Child Protection Officer Shoko Fujita worked towards better coordination among authorities and others involved in child protection. She acted as focal point for the National Commission for the Rights of the Child, providing technical support and advice. Her work also involved monitoring and assessing child protection systems in various districts, reclassifying crimes against children in line with the national penal code and developing common data collection tools to provide authorities with a template to uniformly report crimes and to set up a case tracking system, which did not exist before.

Fujita also collaborated in planning and preparing advocacy activities and developed advocacy tools. "When I was

conducting interviews with rural members of the child protection network, they insisted on the need to raise general awareness about what child abuse is and how to combat it," she explains. To directly benefit children on the ground she produced a child-friendly child protection referral poster providing information on where to seek help and advice in case of abuse. She also led a nationwide campaign that included a big advocacy event, workshops and consultation meetings to raise awareness of child protection issues.

Antonia Lüdeke, Head of Child Protection Section, UNICEF Timor-Leste, feels that Fujita's work was a valuable asset for UNICEF in the country. "The advocacy event can be seen as a catalyst for UNICEF's strengthened partnership with religious communities and faith-based organizations for preventing violence against children," she says, adding "One of the main strengths of the programme is that UN Volunteers function as role models for increased volunteering in the host country."



Chowkmagu, Nepal: Chandra Maya, a community health volunteer (centre), gives Sushmita Sumbhamphe, who is nine months pregnant, Vitamin A, iron and folic acid supplements, during a home visit in the remote mountainous Eastern Region. Chandra is a trained birth assistant, and has conducted more than 150 deliveries in the past 14 years. She is one of 50,000 volunteers who have been involved in a Government project initiated in 1988 and supported by UNICEF, UNFPA, USAID and the Gates Foundation. (Anita Khemka / UNICEF, 2007)

## Facilitating access to safe drinking water, sanitary facilities and hygiene in Nepal

Since 2000, UNICEF in Nepal has been cooperating with the government and other relevant organizations in the "WASH in schools" programme. The programme, which aims to set national standards for gender-sensitive and inclusive sanitary facilities and essential hygiene life skills, has two facets: it focuses on building latrines, but also emphasizes safe hygiene and health practices such as hand washing.

Since the launch of the programme, the government has provided support to over 11,500 schools across Nepal. UNICEF has been helping the government to build capacity, including through WASH Programme Officers like UN Volunteer Nuria Alday Lefcourt, who joined UNICEF Nepal as a Programme Officer for "WASH in schools" in early 2013. Not only help with research and the design of the latrines, she also trains government officials in the Department of Education on the best practices of latrine and wash basin design. Once a year, training is conducted

for engineers from rural areas to teach them about latrine design and the importance of building child friendly and differently-abled facilities to suit the respective terrain.

The WASH programme advocates that all children have the rights to basic facilities in school including access to toilets, safe drinking water and education on safe hygiene and health practices. UNICEF, through child clubs is supporting the Open Defecation Free movement. Monitoring the implementation of the programme is another essential part of Alday's work. To do this, she often visits schools and communities in 15 Districts across Nepal. "I greatly appreciate the opportunity to go to the field regularly to see how the programme is implemented," Nuria states. "Witnessing the results strongly motivates me in my work as I can see that we are on the right track." She also emphasizes the role of children in achieving the objectives of the programme: "We regard children as community change agents. They learn quickly and then explain the use of latrines and safe hygiene practices to their family and neighbours at home."

**UN Volunteers enhance access to basic social services, accelerate progress in safe water, sanitation and hygiene, eliminate practices and behaviours harmful to children, provide access to early learning opportunities and quality primary and secondary education, 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).

