

UNV PARTNERING WITH UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING

Since the early 1990s, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has been partnering with the United Nations Departments of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Political Affairs (DPA) and Field Support (DFS). Some 8,011 UN Volunteers served UN peacekeeping in 35 countries during 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 UN peacekeeping, political and field missions. They advance peacebuilding, bolster humanitarian assistance, support electoral processes and respond to emergency health needs. With their specialized skills, they provide administrative, logistical, technical and medical expertise.

UN Volunteers, by the very nature of volunteerism's inclusiveness, advance the efforts of UN Peacekeeping



N'Sengo John-Eraste Kyambanza from DRC (centre, in striped shirt) served as UN Volunteer Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Officer with the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire. He contributed to the reinsertion of ex-combatants through community-based rehabilitation projects in Man and its outskirts. (UNV, 2015)

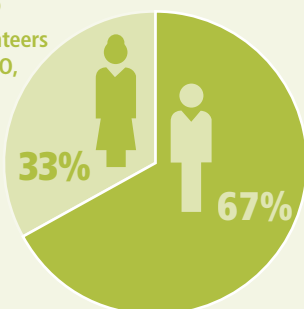
to help countries torn by conflict create the conditions for lasting peace.

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

8,011 UN Volunteers helped UN DPKO, DPA and DFS carry out their mission in 35 countries



Top 3 countries of assignment

2007-2016		
1,690	1,159	856
Democratic Republic of Congo	Sudan	South Sudan

Top 3 professional titles in 2007

UNV Electoral Advisor
UNV Civil Affairs Officer
UNV Vehicle Mechanic

Top 3 countries of origin

2007-2016		
363	326	317
Philippines	Kenya	Sierra Leone

Top 3 professional titles in 2016

UNV Human Rights Officer
UNV MOVCON Officer
UNV Air Operations Assistant

"The working experience with UN Volunteers is an extremely positive one. We are the mission at MONUSCO with the most volunteers... we have around six hundred volunteers in most areas. So, one can really say we could not fulfill our mission, we could not fulfill our mandate, without UN Volunteers."

*Martin Kobler, former Special Representative of the
UN Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC),
Head of the United Nations Organizations Stabilization Mission in the DRC*

UNV is committed to reaching out to youth and bringing their voices to the table in a rapidly changing world. UNV promotes 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 UN Field Missions?

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 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 and supporting start-up missions, 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 UN Field Mission offices recruit UN Volunteers?

To partner with UNV and recruit UN Volunteers who will help you implement your peacekeeping, peacebuilding and emergency response initiatives, contact UNV headquarters, or the UNV Programme Officer based in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country office.

For further information, refer to the partners section on our web site at unv.org/partnerships/host-volunteer.

UNV-UN PEACEKEEPING success stories

UNV has been key in supporting UN Security Council peacekeeping and political mission mandates since the early 1990s. The 2009 Secretary-General's Report on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict encouraged UNV to continue its support of special political and peacebuilding initiatives with particular attention to strengthening the capacities of national civilians in order to support sustainable peace.

As part of UNV's role in peacekeeping, highly-skilled UN Volunteers serve in areas such as human rights monitoring, local institutional capacity support, democratic governance and operational technical support. UNV's goal is to expand its role in further engaging communities within the context of UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding, contributing to both local and national capacities, and rebuilding mutual trust between citizens and the state. UNV's contributions have taken the form of emergency relief support, early and long-term recovery expertise and human rights monitoring.

UN Volunteers are instrumental in providing the support framework for the seamless operation of DPKO uniformed peacekeepers and at the same time they aid in creating an environment for development. They are driven by their commitment to promote sustainable development through volunteerism.

In Sudan, almost 400 UN Volunteers reinforced the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in 2014. Volunteers support the mission in a wide variety of areas, including protection of civilians, with a focus on children, human rights and civil affairs.

Since the civil war broke out in Darfur in 2003, education and employment opportunities have been severely limited, presenting a destabilizing risk to peacebuilding efforts. Around 20 per cent of Sudanese nationals in Darfur are between the ages of 15 and 24. UNDP's Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur programme, in partnership with UNV, addresses the enormous dearth of business and financial skills amongst women and youth in Darfur. The initiative promotes entrepreneurship and market participation for women and youth, while training new university graduates to work as trainers and business brokers in rural communities.

In cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Finance and Sudanese universities, 205 young volunteers from Darfur, 91 of them women, were trained in El Fasher, El Geneina and Nyala in 2013. The three-week course covered business and environmental modules, as well as volunteerism, human rights, conflict resolution and gender studies. In a domino effect, these volunteers went on to train a

Advancing peace and reconciliation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations

The distinctive contribution made by UN Volunteers for peacekeeping operations has been strongly endorsed by the UN Secretary General and at the highest levels in DPKO. At its 59th session, the General Assembly acknowledged "the valuable contribution of the United Nations Volunteers in the United Nations system and takes note of DPKO's intention to continue its efforts to exploit the potential for increased use of UN Volunteers in peace-keeping operations in those functions or skills which are not normally available in the Secretariat or which are limited."

Over the years, UN Volunteers have supported missions in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Burundi (BINUB), Central African Republic (BONUCA), Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE), Georgia (UNOMIG), Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS), Haiti (MINUSTAH), Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Kosovo (UNMIK), Liberia (UNMIL), Nepal (UNMIN), Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), Sudan (UNMIS), Darfur/Sudan (UNAMID) Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and Western Sahara (MINURSO), as well as the United Nations Mission for Emergency Ebola Response (UNMEER).

Crafting skill-building training modules for youth and ex-combatants in Sudan

further 3,577 community members, more than half of whom were female, across five states of Darfur.

In 2014, UN Volunteers in northern Darfur, Sudan facilitated the reintegration of ex-combatant youth through vocational skills training. In Mellit, the Community-based Labour-Intensive Projects programme equipped youth with high-demand vocational skills and temporary employment. It was first implemented by the UNAMID Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration section with the goal of offering youth a path towards rebuilding community infrastructure rather than drifting into armed groups.

After conducting needs-assessment interviews and consultations with stakeholders, UNV crafted training courses that met market needs. Popular courses included general electricity, dress-making, building and construction, food processing and auto mechanics. Upon graduation, UNV provided youth with the equipment necessary for their chosen trade. By end 2014, 59 learning projects had been implemented in 70 communities, directly impacting over 5,000 youth. Some 90 per cent of programme participants reported that they gained skills necessary to secure employment. More than 150,000 community members indirectly benefitted from the programme through increased access to health, education, water and sanitation facilities.



UN Volunteers support United Nations peacekeeping missions with expertise. They play key roles in coordination, administration, logistics and movement control. (UNV, 2014)

Building peace in Mali

In early 2012, Mali suffered the dual shock of an armed rebellion in the north of the country and a coup d'état. An international coalition of foreign troops led by France assisted the country to restore its territorial integrity by the beginning of 2013. Since then, Mali has been in a period of transition aimed at returning constitutional order and democratic governance.

Against this backdrop, UNV provided crucial support to UNDP, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and other United Nations partners engaged in restoring peace.

Since MINUSMA started its operations in April 2013, UNV mobilized and deployed UN Volunteers to contribute to civilian protection, human rights monitoring, the creation of conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance, the preservation of cultural heritage and the preparation of free, inclusive and peaceful elections.

UNV deployed 40 UN Volunteers to UNDP's Support to Mali's Electoral Process Project and MINUSMA's electoral division. These volunteers proffered technical assistance to Malian authorities across the country to ensure the efficiency, transparency, credibility and security of the elections. This operation was no small feat. It involved training 125,000 national electoral personnel and providing support to over 20,000 polling stations for both the

presidential and parliamentary elections. It also entailed technical and financial support for 107 civil society organizations and the distribution of electoral material for both elections. This was the first time the Malian government had requested electoral assistance from the United Nations.

Of the international UN Volunteers deployed, the majority came from countries of the South, further strengthening South-South cooperation in peacebuilding contexts. Julio Botendi, a UNV Electoral Advisor from the Democratic Republic of Congo, says, "As a volunteer, it gave me great pride to lend my support to a new electoral process. The exchange and enrichment are mutual. I brought my expertise in electoral issues to national partners and, reciprocally, I gained experience and was enriched culturally through my contact with them."

"UN Volunteers serve alongside United Nations personnel in MINUSMA and the other United Nations agencies, playing a key role in the stabilization of Mali," said Bert Koenders, Special Representative and Head of MINUSMA. "These dedicated UN Volunteers are often at the frontline of United Nations initiatives in Mali, working as closely as possible with the communities. Their contribution during the electoral process was crucial and has been praised by national partners. The commitment and willingness of UN Volunteers to serve peace and development, often under harsh conditions, is a source of inspiration."

UN Volunteers serve as civilian peacekeepers in conflict zones, bolster crisis and post-crisis humanitarian assistance, support demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, enhance peacebuilding and conflict prevention, enable post-conflict electoral processes, fulfill administrative, logistical and technical roles, 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) and reports to the UNDP Executive Board.

