

Be a UN Volunteer, be inspiration in action

// How can a **UN Volunteer** complement the work of the United Nations?

Volunteerism is one of the most vital delivery mechanisms for social, environmental and economic transformation, ensuring a lasting impact with its ability to change people's mindsets, attitudes and behaviours. People become actors of change and equal partners in the attainment of local, national and international progress towards sustainable human development and global peace.

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme recognizes the shared universal values underpinning volunteerism – free will, commitment, equity, engagement, solidarity, compassion, empathy and respect for others. Since its establishment in 1970, UNV has enabled thousands of volunteers around the globe to contribute to advancing human development and fostering progress towards a better world.

// International UN Volunteers

UNV manages a value-driven talent pool of global citizens motivated to contribute to the peace and development work of the United Nations. Through their expertise, **international UN Volunteers** enable the effective delivery of programmes and mandates of partner UN entities. Together we can tackle poverty and inequality to advance peace and social cohesion worldwide.

International UN Volunteers come from all walks of life. In the health sector UNV's partners have requested volunteers knowledgeable and experienced as general medical practitioners, medical specialists and doctors specialized in public health; staff counselors and psychologists; midwives and nurses, dentists, pharmacists and laboratory

technicians. Other functions in demand include: protection, resettlement/reintegration/repatriation, refugee status determination officers, monitoring, evaluation and reporting specialists, programme development and project management specialists, public information and communication specialists, rule-of-law, judicial monitoring, access to justice, security sector reform, policy specialists, statisticians, community mobilization experts, entrepreneurship and employment. In technical and support areas: aviation, movement and transport control, ICT and telecommunication, civil engineering, supply management, logistics and procurement, human resources and training of trainers etc.



In South Sudan, the world's newest nation, UNV is providing crucial and extensive support to United Nations partners, including UNDP, UNFPA and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), in the process of state building. This ranges from helping build effective and responsive government institutions and delivering urgent health services, to the emergency reintegration of South Sudanese returnees.

Akintobi Olusanmi (Nigeria), UNV Urban Management Specialist conducts perimeter and topographical surveys of 112 hectares designated by authorities of Twic County to accommodate an estimated 1,000 households comprising both returnees and host families. Akintobi also provides technical support and develops training programmes in surveys, urban planning and land administration. (Photo: UNDP South Sudan, 2012)

// Why become an **international UN Volunteer**?

Becoming a UN Volunteer is a unique opportunity to enrich personal and professional experiences, and it benefits both the individual volunteer and the society at large.

In 2017, some 6,500 UN Volunteers in over 100 different professions served with 35 United Nations entities in 131 countries. Of these UN Volunteers, 59 per cent served on international and 41 per cent on national assignments, 83 per cent were from the global South and 47 per cent were women. Additionally, close to 18,500 UN Online Volunteers contributed to development through the UN Online Volunteering service.

International UN Volunteers serve in countries other than their own, and are highly-skilled individuals who work actively with development partners and within communities, responding to development priorities and needs in countries faced with poverty and socio-economic challenges, humanitarian crises, conflict and post-conflict challenges and situations of fragile peace.

International UN Volunteer assignments can be an initial contract of 6 to 12 months, generally with a possibility to extend for one to two years. Short-term assignments of three months or less are also required from time to time by UNV's partners.

// What are the minimum requirements to serve in an **international UN Volunteer** assignment?

- A higher technical diploma, university or Master's degree (credentials will be requested);
- A minimum of two years of relevant working experience in your professional field;
- 25 years or older (there is no upper age limit);
- Good working knowledge in **at least** one of the three UNV working languages: English, French and Spanish (Portuguese or Arabic an asset for some countries);
- Strong commitment to the values and principles of volunteering;
- Respect for diversity and a willingness to work in a multicultural environment;
- The ability to adjust to changing and at times difficult living and working conditions.

// What **support is provided** to international UN Volunteers during their assignment?

- Settling-in-Grant calculated on the duration of assignment, which is paid at the beginning of the assignment;
- Volunteer Living Allowance (not a salary) intended to cover basic living expenses, which is paid each month;
- Travel to duty station on appointment and return/repatriation at the end of assignment as applicable;
- Life, health and permanent disability insurance;
- Annual leave;
- Resettlement allowance calculated based on the duration of assignment, which is paid upon satisfactory completion of the assignment.

// What **opportunities to volunteer** does UNV offer?

International UN Volunteers serve in countries other than their own, and are highly-skilled individuals who work actively with development partners and within communities, responding to national priorities and needs. UNV maintains a database which is a dynamic pool of talent fed by over 50,000 registrations annually and tailored to meet the needs of our partners. The majority of assignments are filled from UNV's database, however, difficult, highly specialized or high volume assignments are advertised on the UNV website, professional associations and on social media/networks.

To create your UNV profile, visit our website at:
www.unv.org/how-to-volunteer.html.

National UN Volunteers serve in their own country and combine their professional expertise with in-depth knowledge of local conditions. For further information, contact your local UNDP/UNV office.

A **UN Youth Volunteer** programme was launched in 2014 for the placement of UN Youth Volunteers aged 18 to 29. For further information and assignments, visit www.unv.org/become-un-youth-volunteer.

The **UNV Online Volunteering service** connects volunteers with organizations worldwide to advance peace and development through collaboration over the Internet. www.onlinevolunteering.org.