

# 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.

## // National 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, **national 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.

National 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.



*National UN Volunteers María Celia Sahuanay Calsin and Roberto Carlos Loaiza Dueñas talk with a beneficiary of the solid waste management project, part of the UNDP/UNEP/UNV Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) in Arequipa, Peru. Solid waste management is a serious environmental and social concern. Waste is not separated but often dumped into rivers, contaminating the water. At the same time, illegal recycling is a widespread practice, seeing the poorest people collecting waste in dangerous conditions.*

*UNV is utilizing the potential of volunteerism, as well as the engagement of young people, to enhance the impact of this project. National UN Volunteers are training local volunteers how to correctly separate solid waste and formalizing the engagement of these 'informal recyclers' into associations to fight the negative impact of waste on the environment and on people's health.*

*(Red Circle Films, 2014)*

## // Why become a national 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.

National UN Volunteers serve in their own country and combine their professional expertise in a wide range of fields with in-depth knowledge of local conditions. They respond to development priorities and needs in their home countries when faced with poverty and socio-economic challenges, humanitarian crises, conflict and post-conflict challenges and situations of fragile peace.

National UN Volunteers are recruited at country level to serve in their own countries or countries in which they have refugee status, particularly in support of national capacity building initiatives. Their assignments can be an initial contract of 6-12 months, generally with a possibility to extend to maximum 4 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 a national 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;
- 22 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 multi-cultural environment;
- The ability to adjust to changing and at times difficult living and working conditions.

## // What support is provided to national UN Volunteers during their assignment?

- Settling-in-Grant for in-country resettlement (if applicable) 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 for in-country resettlement calculated based on the duration of assignment, which is paid upon satisfactory completion of the assignment.

## // What other opportunities to volunteer does UNV offer?

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 candidates on UNV's database, however from time-to-time, difficult, highly specialized or high volume assignments are advertised on the UNV website, in specialized media, professional associations and on social media/networks.

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

The **UNV Online Volunteering** service is a free service that puts volunteers into contact with organizations worldwide to work together for peace and development – over the Internet. [www.onlinevolunteering.org](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org)

**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.

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](http://www.unv.org/become-un-youth-volunteer).