
Full Funding programme Reporting for 2020

The Full Funding programme of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme enables partners external to the United Nations, such as national governments, private sector entities, foundations and universities, to sponsor the entire cost of UN Volunteer assignments. Fully funded UN Volunteers are then deployed to serve with United Nations host entities.

In 2020, UNV deployed fully funded volunteers in partnership with the Governments of **Australia, China**, the **Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Norway**, the **Republic of Korea**, the **Russian Federation, Sweden** and **Switzerland**. These Member States funded nationals of their own countries, while Ireland, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland also offered UN Volunteer opportunities to nationals of other countries.

In addition to Member States, UNV worked with other partners on fully funded assignments, such as the **Agency for Volunteer Service** (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China), the **King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi** (Thailand) and **Cisco Systems**.

Engaging partners in the COVID-19 response

This year, some Member States funded a number of UN Volunteer assignments to address the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic. Serving across 39 countries and 12 United Nations agencies, more than 50 of the fully funded UN Volunteers deployed in 2020 served in assignments linked to the United Nations' COVID-19 response.

Japan, through a partnership for COVID-19 impact reduction, sponsored 13 UN Volunteers supporting COVID-19 related efforts in Africa, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and Asia and the Pacific. **Sweden's** support included sponsoring five specialist UN Volunteers in statistics, data and information management for the COVID-19 response.

Due to travel restrictions and lockdowns, flexibility was required by partners and UN Volunteers. Many assignments were carried out remotely, allowing UN Host Entities entities to continue to receive valuable support provided by fully funded UN Volunteers.

Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, UNV continued to ensure UN Volunteers had access to dedicated learning and professional development opportunities – for example, UNV designed and delivered virtual assignment preparation training for UN Youth Volunteers.

2020 UNV Full Funding programme at a glance¹

635 fully funded UN Volunteers served with
35 United Nations partners in **111** countries

41% expert and specialist UN Volunteer assignments

59% UN Youth and University
Volunteer assignments

77% women
23% men



¹ One UN Volunteer may serve
in multiple assignments.

Partnerships in support of an inclusive United Nations system

In 2020, UNV engaged a total of 88 UN Volunteers with disabilities in the United Nations system, with support from United Nations host entities along with funding partners.

The Government of **Sweden** funded three international and 12 national UN Volunteers with disabilities in 2020, while **France** and **Finland** each fully funded one assignment for an international UN Volunteer with a disability. These volunteers served with **UNDP**, **UN Women** and **UNICEF** as well as within UNV. Their assignments further embedded inclusive volunteering in the United Nations system, building on the achievements of the UNV Talent and Capacity Development Programme for an Inclusive UN System for Persons with Disabilities, funded by the Government of **Germany** since 2017.

“ Many factors motivated me to volunteer: I always wanted to be an agent of change – to change mindsets towards persons with disabilities and disability-related matters. I further wanted to prove to the world – through my actions and contributions – that disability does not mean inability. ”

Pelgrina Shimanu Ndumba, national UN Volunteer funded by **Sweden**, Project Officer, UNDP, **Namibia**

“ UNV gave me the opportunity to learn about the United Nations system. I have never felt so useful. I feel that my work has meaning. ”

Guillaume Pyot, UN Volunteer funded by **France**, Gender and Vulnerable Groups, OHCHR, **Senegal**

Expanding collaboration with new partners

In 2020, UNV created opportunities for new partners to contribute to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda through volunteerism. For the first time, UNV deployed seven international UN Volunteers funded by the Government of **Kazakhstan** on assignments in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

UNV and the United Nations in **Kenya** initiated the process of deploying the first UN Volunteers funded by an African partner, following an agreement with **Mount Kenya University**. The deployment of these national UN University Volunteers was put on hold because of the pandemic but will resume in 2021. A new partnership agreement on fully funded international UN Volunteer assignments was signed with **Bangladesh**; however, implementation was delayed also due to the pandemic.

In a unique collaboration with **PBSO**, UNV and the **PeaceNexus Foundation** signed an agreement in December 2020 to deploy national UN Volunteers to work on a thematic review of local peacebuilding initiatives. The collaboration with **Switzerland** was expanded to include the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, posting UN Volunteers with **World Bank** country offices.



Fully funded UN Volunteers' career trajectories

To document and analyse the post-assignment career trajectories of fully funded UN Volunteers, UNV conducted a survey reaching out to almost 2,000 fully funded UN Volunteers who had completed their assignments between 2008 and 2019. A total of 1,031 UN Volunteers had completed the survey as of February 2020.

Just under half, or 47 per cent, of former fully funded youth and specialist UN Volunteer respondents had held a subsequent position within the United Nations system. As of February 2020, 30 per cent were still working in the United Nations system.

Of all the respondents, 69 per cent indicated that they still worked in the areas of peace and human security, humanitarian assistance and/or development cooperation. In addition, 93 per cent of respondents reported that their assignments were useful in helping them secure employment opportunities.



*UN Youth Volunteer Florence Homberger, funded by **Switzerland**, helps distribute personal protective equipment, in Moldova with UN Women. (UN Women, 2020)*

“ The COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on our work with girls and women, imposing social distancing [...] Having Michaela in our team, who shared our mission to ensure that no girls are left behind, was an immensely valuable addition. We were delighted to have her on board, to work with such an enthusiastic person and to contribute to her professional development. ”

Zerina Mandžo, IT Girls Project Officer with UN Women, on **Michaela Ptackova**, UN Youth Volunteer funded by the **Czech Republic**, Youth Skills Development and Entrepreneurship Officer, UNDP, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

“ I think volunteering is one of the best things one can do to contribute to improve our world, because you do it, in my opinion, from passion, because you are really dedicated to this cause that you are working for. Volunteering is something that you can get involved with at any point in life. ”

Oscar Boije, UN Volunteer funded by **Finland**, Education Officer, UNICEF, **Somalia**

“ **Olga Nilova**, our UN Volunteer funded by the **Government of Russia**, not only provided outstanding support to the communications and partnerships work of the United Nations in Lao PDR, but she also excelled in her support to the United Nations Country Team's preparedness and response to COVID-19. ”

Sara Sekkenes, United Nations Resident Coordinator, **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

Contributions to the UNV Full Funding programme, 2017-2020 (thousands of US\$)

FUNDING PARTNER	2017	2018	2019	2020
Republic of Korea	3 669 578	4 137 367	4 001 751	4 012 649
Sweden	1 799 940	3 900 020	2 251 361	3 212 137
France	2 078 191	1 107 166	1 288 672	1 949 336
Japan	1 542 331	951 585	1 330 594	2 537 997
Switzerland	866 831	991 851	994 761	1 748 334
Finland	829 005	859 335	1 407 681	1 234 950
Ireland	479 138	517 523	935 094	1 254 480
Russian Federation		1 004 000	1 000 000	1 000 000
Norway	763 076	866 920	249 960	1 149 970
Czech Republic	323 421	346 675	462 478	405 586
Agency for Volunteer Service, China (Hong Kong, SAR)	370 037	370 037	370 037	
Australia			1 039 016	
Kazakhstan				740 970
Luxembourg		490 840		
Germany	426 174			
Chinese Young Volunteers Association			103 686	84 653
King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand		46 710	40 305	29 118
Save the Children	37 896	4 193		
Mount Kenya University				36 690
PeaceNexus Foundation				21 726
Alphabet Inc.		16 500		
AIIESEC	8 245			
GRAND TOTAL	13 193 863	15 610 722	15 475 396	19 418 596

Funding partners ordered by total contributions amount.

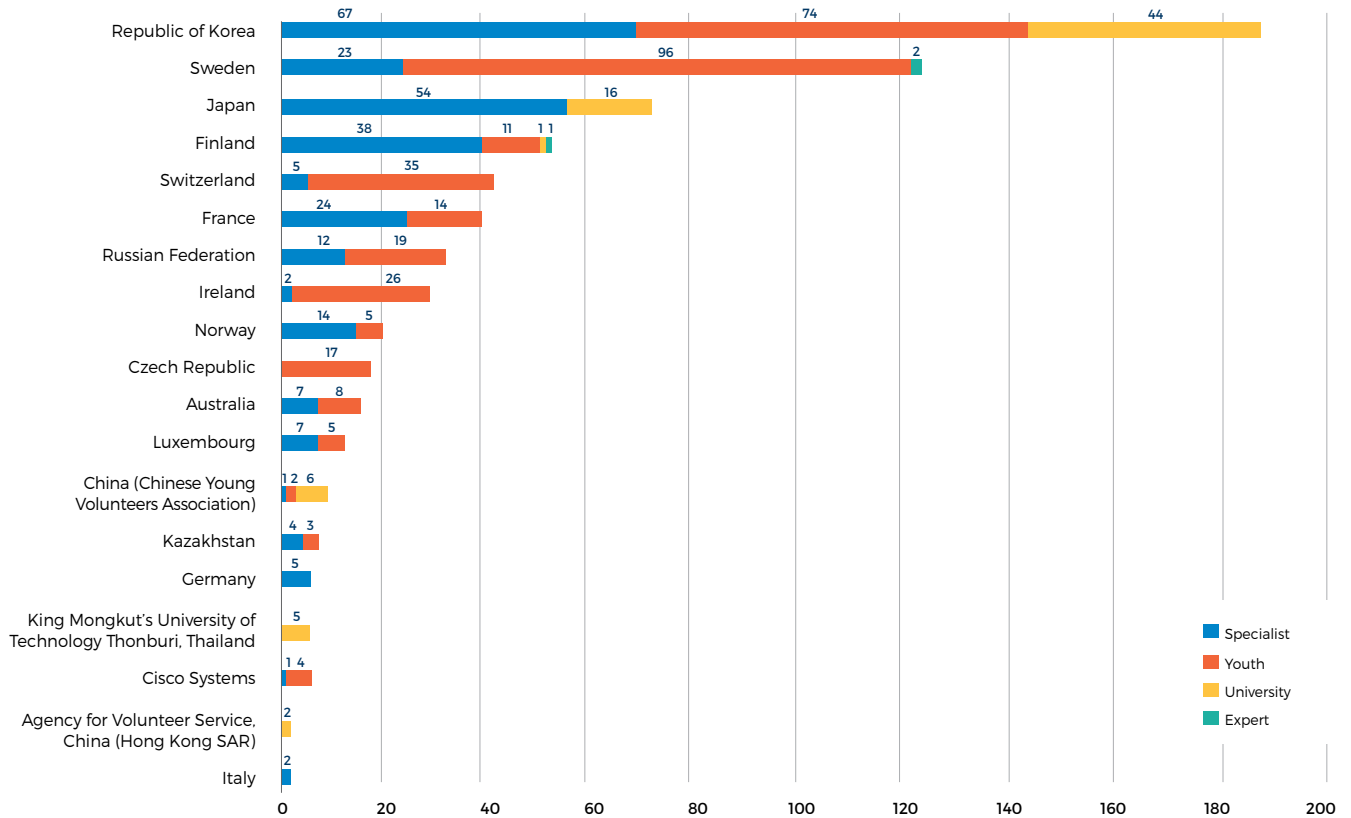
“ My UN Youth Volunteer assignment is providing me with an outstanding opportunity to contribute actively to building more resilient societies in Small Island Developing States, facing intensifying climate change impacts and the repercussions of the pandemic [...] I value the balance between delivery and learning, which makes volunteering a very stimulating experience. ”

Samuel Henry, UN Volunteer funded by **Ireland**, Programme Officer, UNDP, **Barbados**

“ It is amazing to see all our efforts and energies going towards the common goal of protecting the most disadvantaged, vulnerable people in communities and society. This connectedness, oneness and solidarity is inspiring, as the COVID-19 pandemic is dividing people, society and the whole world in every aspect. ”

Natsuko Hatano, UN Volunteer funded by **Japan**, Programme Associate in Public Health Policy, Practice and Management in Integrated Early Childhood Development, UNICEF, **Viet Nam**

Fully funded UNV assignments by funding partner, 2020



Ella Ballerini, a UN Youth Volunteer funded by Australia, serves with UNICEF in Fiji supporting communities with COVID-19 preparedness. (UNV, 2020)

“ I feel honoured to have had a chance as a volunteer to participate in the ASEAN MY World 2030 programme and to help, at least a little, in terms of advocacy and research about the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on countries in Asia and the Pacific.”

Yuhan Yang, UN University Volunteer funded by the **Chinese Young Volunteers Association**,
SDG Research and Advocacy, UNDP, **Bangkok regional hub**

“ I am very happy to be one of the first international volunteers from Kazakhstan [...] This programme is a great opportunity for Kazakh professionals to try themselves in a global work environment and garner crucial international experience.”

Dina Akylbekova, UN Volunteer, Outreach and Partnerships Support Officer, funded by **Kazakhstan**, Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development, UNDP, **Turkey**

“ Inclusive partnerships are a source of motivation for me, because as refugees look forward, I look forward with them. The long-term recovery of refugees depends on finding a livelihood that covers the costs of health care and good nutrition, especially in a pandemic.”

Jueun Jung, UN Youth Volunteer funded by the **Republic of Korea**, Associate Livelihoods Officer, UNHCR, **Jordan**

Fully funded UNV assignments by United Nations host entity, 2020

UNITED NATIONS HOST ENTITY	Total volunteers	UNITED NATIONS HOST ENTITY	Total volunteers
UNDP	161	UNFCCC	5
UNICEF	64	UNAIDS	4
UNRCO	49	ESCAP	3
UNFPA	47	IFAD	3
IOM	45	UNCDF	3
UN Women	45	DPPA	1
UNHCR	31	DSS	1
UNV	22	ILO	1
WFP	22	SRSG-CAAC	1
UNOCHA	20	UNDGC	1
FAO	18	UNDRR	1
OHCHR	17	UNFICYP	1
UNESCO	15	UNODA	1
WHO	14	UNOPS	1
UNEP	11	UN-OSCEY	1
UNODC	11	UNOSSC	1
UNRWA	9	UNOWAS	1
UN-Habitat	7		

For the full names of United Nations entities refer to unterm.un.org.