

UNV PARTNERING WITH WHO

Since 1973, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO). 143 UN Volunteers, 62 per cent of them women, served with WHO in 46 countries during the period 2007-2017.

Why recruit UN Volunteers?

UN Volunteers make important contributions to UN action in the pursuit of sustainable development, with a particular focus on people in transition or crisis. UN Volunteers embody the fundamental values of volunteerism: commitment, inclusiveness, engagement and solidarity.

UN Volunteers are one of the human resource solutions available to the UN system. UNV manages a talent pool of volunteers who can be deployed to volunteer in synergy with the personnel of United Nations entities to bolster the effective delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

UN Volunteers can effectively support WHO in providing basic social services, including primary health care, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS awareness raising and prevention, as well as strengthened capacity of primary and referral health facilities to provide maternal, newborn and child health care to realize WHO's mission to 'promote health, keep people safe, serve the vulnerable'.



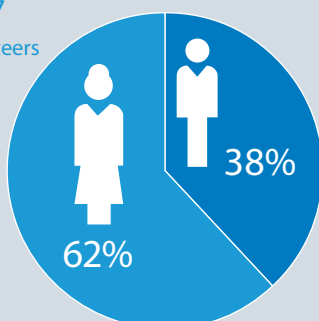
UN Volunteer Illes Silvia Illescas is an international UN Volunteer from Nicaragua, serving as a Health Advocacy and Coordination Officer at WHO in Lao PDR. (UNV, 2018)

UN Volunteers are experienced professionals who work within communities to provide coordinated and effective health and medical services. UN Volunteers also support health systems with a focus on the organization of integrated service delivery, supporting emergency preparedness and creating effective responses to disease outbreaks.

UN Volunteers in the field often ensure organizational leadership and corporate services that are required to maintain the integrity and efficient functioning of field operations. UN Volunteers have completed successful volunteering assignments with WHO as Health Officers, Medical Doctors, Communication Specialists, Midwives, Technical Officers and Health Assistants, among others.

2007-2017

143 UN Volunteers helped WHO carry out its mission in 46 countries



Top 4 countries of assignment

2007-2017		
18	11	9
Egypt	Congo	South Sudan/Bangladesh

Top 3 professional titles in 2007

UNV Communications Officer
UNV Field Officer
UNV Food Monitoring Advisor

Top 4 countries of origin

2007-2017		
8	7	6
Belgium/Pakistan	Spain	Benin

Top 3 professional titles in 2017

UNV Communications Officer
UNV Health Officer
UNV Surveying Officer



What is the added value of UN Volunteers?

Eighty-three per cent of UN Volunteers come from the South. Thus, UN Volunteers tend to be familiar with local development challenges and community dynamics. 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.

What categories of UN Volunteers are available to WHO?

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. National UN Volunteers serve in areas ranging from local community outreach to highly skilled professionals areas.

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 12,000 UN Online Volunteers conduct 18,000 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 WHO offices recruit UN Volunteers?

To partner with UNV and recruit UN Volunteers who will help you implement your development initiatives, contact us through your focal point at UNV, either in New York, at our regional offices, or at headquarters in Bonn, Germany.

For further information contact us <https://www.unv.org/about-unv/contact-us>

UNV-WHO success stories

Enhancing community health systems in Mauritius

Faisal Shaik is a UN Volunteer Technical Officer with WHO working to strengthen community health systems in Mauritius. Faisal is originally from India where he studied medicine and worked in public health for many years.

Faisal serves with the WHO country office in Mauritius where he supports the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to perform programmes on communicable and non-communicable diseases, promotion of health, strengthening the health system, and preparedness, surveillance and response to health issues.

Faisal provides technical support to the implementation of national health policies, strengthens technical capacity of health professionals, and contributes to the coordination of health interventions between a multitude of stakeholders.

"I draw my motivation from the aspect that I have an impact on the community where I work," says Faisal. "For example, we were successful in improving the overall health situation in Rodrigues Island in Mauritius through community engagement programmes."

"I have faith that volunteerism is an effective way to bring social change, be it to reduce inequalities in health care or to contribute to improving the quality of life for people through effective contribution of skills, knowledge and time."

UN Volunteer documents WHO's emergency response in Bangladesh

Catalin Bercaru joined WHO Bangladesh as an international UN Volunteer in media and communications in May 2017. Since September 2017, he has been documenting WHO's emergency response in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar area. With the exodus of well over 600,000 people from Myanmar, Catalin has been reporting on the work of WHO teams delivering critical health services to vulnerable populations and supporting partners in the field.

As an international UN Volunteer specialized in communication, Catalin was one of the first people to be sent to Cox's Bazar to document the response of WHO Bangladesh. "Prior to the escalation of this crisis, there were already established partnerships between WHO, the government and other health partners. With the massive influx of people from Myanmar, strategies had to be adapted to this critical situation," explains Catalin.

Last September, WHO coordinated a mass vaccination campaign against measles and polio, immunizing more than 150,000 children. In October, this was followed by a one-

month 700,000 mass vaccination campaign against cholera, supplemented by actions to improve hygiene conditions, sanitation and access to water – essential measures to prevent cholera outbreaks.

"Medical teams from WHO and other organizations work tirelessly every day, seven days a week," he adds. "My activity is to highlight WHO's hard work but also to raise awareness among people about vaccination, sanitation and other health related issues that require a positive approach from the population."

With his camera in hand, Catalin carefully captures the work of WHO's team delivering medical support, and the mixed sense of anxiety, exhaustion and relief on the face of the women, men and children receiving care. His purpose is also to help WHO strengthen its communication capacity by planning communication trainings for local staff – it is important for the organization to be able to present its work and the efforts of its people in the best way possible.



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Strengthening emergency obstetrics and neonatal care in South Sudan

In South Sudan, 3,500 women died during pregnancy or childbirth in 2015, resulting in a maternal mortality ratio of 789. To compare, in the United Kingdom the ratio comes to nine and maternal deaths accounted to 74 in the same year. That's why the work of Grace Kerkulah Temeh (Liberia) is important. The UN Volunteer Midwife with WHO in South Sudan serves with the 'Strengthening of Emergency Obstetrics and Neonatal Care' project implemented by WHO and the Ministry of Health, with Canadian funding. Grace worked in different hospitals to improve maternal and new-born care: first in Upper Nile State at Malakal Teaching Hospital in 2013, then later Torit State Hospital in 2014, and finally Yambio State Hospital.

Working in South Sudan was not always easy for Grace. "For example, many mothers don't want to leave the safety of their homes to go to the hospital in conflict situations. At one point, the health facilities were looted in Yambio, leaving us with little items to provide care," Grace shares. "Often there is little knowledge in local communities and wrong

treatments are applied. I once treated a pregnant woman from Kapoeta who was suffering from high blood pressure. When she became unconscious following eclamptic fits, a red-hot metal was applied to her arms in an attempt to wake her up. When an ambulance from the hospital brought her to us, she was admitted with severe wound sepsis, deeply unconscious after several fits and intrauterine fetal death."

Grace was instrumental in providing midwife training and mentoring, implementing immunization campaigns and supporting the Ministry of Health in improving maternal services around the country. She also engaged in community dialogues to understand the needs of the community, get their views on their health status, inform and sensitize on available midwife services, and raise awareness of the importance of Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care services, commonly known as CEmONC.

"In delivering health care for all, there are many challenges. The world needs midwives and nurses now more than ever."

UN Volunteers support WHO by supporting the development of health logistics response plans, the setting up of emergency health facilities, by coordinating and implementing public health response activities, and by monitoring health emergency incidents at country level 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 administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

