

COVID-19: UNV SUPPORT AND CAPACITY SOLUTIONS FOR UN PARTNERS

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1. Context

The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is placing significant strains on health systems, essential public services and communities globally. The World Health Organization has described COVID-19 as an unprecedented threat to the global community: the full scale and impact of COVID-19 in both the immediate and long term, however, is not yet known.

UN entities are working closely with national governments, community groups, the health sector and industry to prepare and respond to this crisis with a multi-sectoral, equitable and human-rights focused approach. Skilled professionals will be required to 1) support the UN system to tackle the health emergency, 2) minimize the economic, social and health impacts of this crisis, and 3) ‘recover better’ to safeguard progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. How can UNV support your organization?

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme provides flexible, cost effective, UN Volunteer capacity to support rapid COVID-19 responses. UNV support can be dynamic to your entity’s needs, with multiple categories, flexible contract lengths (three months – four years), over 100 professional profiles and speedy deployment timeframes. UN Volunteers (onsite and online, national and international) can support preparedness, response and longer-term recovery efforts. In particular, National UN Volunteers can meet UN entity capacity gaps in countries with travel restrictions.

a) *Global volunteer talent: onsite and online profiles for the COVID-19 response*

UNV’s **Global Talent Pool** has over 200,000 registered, highly skilled professionals from over 150 nationalities, representing over 100 different professional profiles. They speak all official UN languages, as well as many non-UN and indigenous languages.

These candidates have capacities required by the UN system immediately, including in information management, communications, logistics, procurement and impact assessment, as well as health-specific areas including Medical Officers, WASH specialists and those with health supply chain experience. UN Volunteer candidates are also suited to longer-term recovery efforts, including livelihoods, economic recovery, monitoring and evaluation, and health systems strengthening.

The number of candidates in **UNV’s Global Talent Pool** in priority profiles is noted below¹:

Prepare: health systems and communities	Respond: inclusive crisis management	Recover: sustainably
Community engagement (incl. C4D): 28,900 Communications: 20,500 Logistics: 16,400 Procurement: 9,200 WASH (hygiene focus): 5,800 Coordination: 5,200 Health supply chain (pharmacists, equipment, cold chain): 3,200 Anthropologists/sociologists: 240	Medical (medical officers, doctors, nurses, lab technicians): 9,900 Child protection: 5,300 Information management: 2,900 Medical waste management: 560 Socio-economic & health assessment: 120	Monitoring & evaluation: 27,400 Health systems (epidemiologists, public health, statisticians): 14,300 Livelihoods: 1,100 Economic development: 690

¹ Global Talent Pool search criteria used: 22 years old or older, have a BA or above, speak English or French or Spanish fluently, and possess minimum 3 years of work experience. Modification of requirements (e.g. adding country requirement) may return different results. This is also subject to interest and availability of candidates.

UNV also has **National talent sub-pools** of nationals who have registered to volunteer with the UN in their own country, and can draw on local expertise and socio-economic and cultural knowledge.

In addition, UNV's **Online Volunteering service** has 600,000 registered volunteers available to support the UN system on task-based assignments remotely. Online volunteers can support in translation, graphic design, outreach and community organizing, among other areas. In 2019, 33 UN entities used Online Volunteers, with a 96 per cent satisfaction rate.

b) Flexibility: diversified UN Volunteer categories

UNV offers a diverse package of [UN Volunteer categories](#), available for integration into UN partner COVID-19 preparedness, response and recovery strategies:

- *Specialist UN Volunteers* are highly skilled professionals
- *Youth UN Volunteers* are energetic young people, suited to project support functions
- *Community UN Volunteers* are deployed within their own communities, for example, supporting data collection and community engagement
- *Expert UN Volunteers* are highly experienced professionals with advanced experience and skills in technical areas
- *Online volunteers* can support remotely, from one hour per week upwards

National UN Volunteers can be deployed without visa and travel restrictions, with knowledge of local languages, cultures, and political contexts. Qualified foreigners with residence permits can also be deployed as national UN Volunteers. **International UN Volunteers** can provide technical assistance, boost programme implementation and support capacity building and knowledge transfer. In previous [emergency response efforts](#), **online volunteers** have supported UN entities with information management, impact assessments and data analysis.

c) UNV's service offer

UNV can provide the following support to UN entities' COVID-19 response and recovery efforts:

- *Sourcing:*
 - UNV's national and international Talent Pool and sourcing expertise
 - Real-time advertisement to attract available candidates, including targeted nationally focused recruitment campaigns through UNV's field networks
 - Possibility to include candidates recommended by Host Entities, based on mutual recognition policies, in short-list
 - Possibility of direct, non-competitive recruitments
 - Standard Descriptions of Assignments (DOAs) with 11 UN entities² in high demand profiles, that can be tailored as needed
- *Recruitment and deployment:*
 - Quick identification of highly qualified candidates (usually three to five per assignment)
 - Fast-track recruitments if a host entity proposes a qualified candidate
 - Speedy deployment to the duty station; the average time of recruitment of International and National UN Volunteers is 39 and 22 business days respectively from selection to EOD when funding is confirmed (this can be accelerated in emergency contexts)
 - If assignments can be done remotely, possibility to start assignment from home country by telecommuting (to be agreed between Host Entity and the candidate)
 - UN Volunteers serving worldwide can also be re-assigned by UNV to areas where needs are most pressing
- *Contract management:*
 - Entire management of contracts and payroll/entitlements of UN Volunteers, including deployment and resettlement

² Standard DOAs: UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, OCHA, UNFPA, UN Women, IOM, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNESCO

- Possibility of short-term contracts from three months

3. How much will my organization need to budget?

Country-specific proformas for UN Volunteers are [here for internationals](#), and [here for nationals](#).³

Global averages are:

US\$ - 12 months	Specialist	Youth	Community	Expert
International	57,848	42,105	-	70,438
National	19,420	16,113	7,261	24,447

The UNV Online Volunteering service has recently been made **free of charge** to UN partners.

4. What duty of care is provided to UN Volunteers?

Duty of care for UN Volunteers is critically important for UNV. UNV ensures UN Volunteers are afforded duty of care, including through an entitlements package, and benefits including international medical, life, and disability insurance coverage through CIGNA (including medevac). UN Volunteers are bound by UNV's Conditions of Service and Code of Conduct.

UN host entities also have roles and responsibilities when [hosting UN Volunteers](#). This includes extending all security management policies, **including for UN Volunteers in emergencies in line with the UN Security Management System**, and work management, including flexible working arrangements.

Information for serving UN Volunteers, candidates and host entities regarding COVID-19 is on a dedicated [COVID-19 page on UNV's website](#).

5. My organization is ready: what are the next steps?

To discuss how UN Volunteers can be integrated into your entity's COVID-19 response and recovery plans, contact your local UNV field unit, regional office or your HQ UNV focal point. [Contact details can be found on UNV's website](#).

Further information:

- *Onsite UN Volunteers* - Information on recruiting onsite UN Volunteers (including Description of Assignment templates, proformas, and an overview of host entity responsibilities) can be found on the [how to host a UN Volunteer page](#) on the UNV website
- *Online volunteers* - information on how to recruit online volunteers and examples of existing assignments can be found on the [UNV Online Volunteer service](#)

³ The proforma cost includes (a) **volunteer entitlements** (e.g. Volunteer Living Allowance, Settling-in-Grant, Resettlement Allowance); (b) **assignments costs** (e.g. medical and life insurance premiums, training and orientation); (c) management/support cost. It does not include (where applicable) the costs of R&R, MORSS, duty-related official travel, office logistics – which host entities are expected to administer.