UN VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

**Preamble:**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers.

In most cultures, volunteerism is deeply embedded in long-established, ancient traditions of sharing and support within the communities. In this context, UN Volunteers take part in various forms of volunteerism and play a role in development and peace together with co-workers, host agencies and local communities.

In all assignments, UN Volunteers promote volunteerism through their action and conduct. Engaging in volunteer activity can effectively and positively enrich their understanding of local and social realities, as well as create a bridge between themselves and the people in their host community. This will make the time they spend as UN Volunteers even more rewarding and productive.

1. **UNV Assignment Title:** Insert assignment title.
2. **Host Entity:** Name and acronym of host entity
3. **Volunteer category:** Choose an item.
4. **Duty station, country:** Insert duty station, country
5. **Number of UN Volunteers:** Enter number of volunteers
6. **Duration (in months):       or expected contract end date:**
7. **Possibility of extension\*:** Choose an item:

\*Dependent on continuation of mandate, availability of funding, operational necessity and satisfactory performance; there is no guarantee of assignment extension.

1. **Assignment Family Status:** All youth and university assignments are without family
2. **Expected Starting Date:** Enter expected start date
3. **Organizational Context and Brief Project Description:**

[Provide brief description of Host Agency– date of establishment/creation, mandate, roles].

e.g. This UNV assignment is part of [Host Agency’s] project/flagship programming initiative etc. Provide brief description of the project including relevant stakeholders, outcomes etc. and/or include web link.

1. **Sustainable Development Goals:** Choose an SDG

**Supervision, induction and duty of care of UN Volunteers (**[Roles and Responsibilities of Host Entities)](https://toolkit.unv.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/Roles_and_Responsabilities_of_Host_Entity_EN.pdf)

UN Volunteers should be provided equal duty of care as extended to all host entity personnel. Host entity support to the UN Volunteer includes, but is not limited to:

* Introductory briefings about the organisation and office-related context including security, emergency procedures, good cultural practice and orientation to the local environment;
* Support with arrival administration including setting-up of bank accounts, residence permit applications and completion of other official processes as required by the host government or host entity;
* Structured guidance, mentoring and coaching by a supervisor including a clear workplan and performance appraisal;
* Access to office space, equipment, IT support and any other systems and tools required to complete the objectives of the assignment including a host entity email address;
* Access to shared host entity corporate knowledge, training and learning; ​
* Inclusion of the volunteer in emergency procedures such as evacuations;
* Leave management;
* DSA for official travel, when applicable​;
* All changes in the Description of Assignment occurring between recruitment and arrival or during the assignment need to be formalized with the United Nations Volunteer Programme;
* Investigate misconduct: sharing reports with the UNV;
* Provide emergency assistance, e.g. the death of volunteer or medical evacuation, in collaboration with UNV. Accept letters of guarantees or potential liabilities for covering medical costs not claimable under medical insurance in extraordinary situations (e.g. isolation facilities` services during pandemics)

1. **Description of Tasks:**

Under the direct supervision of Insert function of supervisor, the Choose an item. will:

* Fill in the duties for this assignment. When describing the tasks, please note that youth would be in more supporting, learning roles, so the focus would be more on those tasks with ‘potential’ to the complete work. Wording such as contributes to, supports, assists, participates in, as part of a team the youth volunteer will …. should be preferred.
* [Insert additional tasks as necessary given local context];
* Any other related tasks as may be required or assigned by the supervisor.

Furthermore, UN Volunteers are encouraged to integrate the UN Volunteers programme mandate within their assignment and promote voluntary action through engagement with communities in the course of their work. As such, UN Volunteers should dedicate a part of their working time to some of the following suggested activities:

* Strengthen their knowledge and understanding of the concept of volunteerism by reading relevant UNV and external publications and take active part in UNV activities (for instance in events that mark International Volunteer Day);
* Be acquainted with and build on traditional and/or local forms of volunteerism in the host country;
* Provide annual and end of assignment self- reports on UN Volunteer actions, results and opportunities.
* Contribute articles/write-ups on field experiences and submit them for UNV publications/websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.;
* Assist with the UNV Buddy Programme for newly-arrived UN Volunteers;
* Promote or advise local groups in the use of online volunteering, or encourage relevant local individuals and organizations to use the UNV Online Volunteering service whenever technically possible.

1. **Results/Expected Outputs:**

Please complete the required information:

* Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) perspective is systematically applied, integrated and documented in all activities throughout the assignment
* A final statement of achievements towards volunteerism for peace and development during the assignment, such as reporting on the number of volunteers mobilized, activities participated in and capacities developed

1. **Qualifications/Requirements:**

Required Degree Level**:** Choose an item.

Required Experience:Insert number of yearsyears

[The Youth Modality specifically targets young individuals entering their professional life with no or little experience]

Education, qualifications, skills, experience, areas of expertise (to be filled in by the host entity)

For example (the below is indicative, to be adapted by the host entity).

* Academic; (specify the level required: secondary, technical or tertiary as deemed necessary for the assignment)
* Demonstrated interest and/or experience (up to 2 years) in (specific thematic/technical area required)
* Motivated to contribute towards peace and development and to serve others;
* Good interpersonal, networking and communication skills;
* Willingness to contribute and work as part of a team;
* Flexible and open to learning and new experiences;
* Respect for diversity and adaptability to other cultures, environments and living conditions;
* Previous experience as a volunteer and/or experience of another culture, (i.e. studies, volunteer work, internship) would be highly regarded;
* Computer skills (i.e. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, social media, and others).

b) Language skills

Choose an item. spoken and written [language(s)] is required;

Choose an item. [other language(s)] is an advantage;

c) Competencies and values: [Edit as required]:

* Professionalism: demonstrated understanding of operations relevant to [Insert name of Host Agency]; technical capabilities or knowledge relevant or transferrable to [Insert name of Host Agency] procedures and rules; discretion, political sensitivity, diplomacy and tact to deal with clients; ability to apply good judgement; ability to liaise and coordinate with a range of different actors, especially in senior positions; where appropriate, high degree of autonomy, personal initiative and ability to take ownership; resourcefulness and willingness to accept wide responsibilities and ability to work independently under established procedures; ability to manage information objectively, accurately and confidentially; responsive and client-oriented;
* Integrity: demonstrate the values and ethical standards of the UN and [Insert name of Host Agency] in daily activities and behaviours while acting without consideration of personal gains; resist undue political pressure in decision-making; stand by decisions that are in the organization’s interest even if they are unpopular; take prompt action in cases of unprofessional or unethical behaviour; does not abuse power or authority;
* Teamwork and respect for diversity: ability to operate effectively across organizational boundaries; excellent interpersonal skills; ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and harmonious working relations in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, mixed-gender environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity; sensitivity and adaptability to culture, gender, religion, nationality and age; commitment to implementing the goal of gender equality by ensuring the equal participation and full involvement of women and men in all aspects of UN operations; ability to achieve common goals and provide guidance or training to colleagues;
* Commitment to continuous learning: initiative and willingness to learn new skills and stay abreast of new developments in area of expertise; ability to adapt to changes in work environment.
* Planning and organizing: effective organizational and problem-solving skills and ability to manage a large volume of work in an efficient and timely manner; ability to establish priorities and to plan, coordinate and monitor (own) work; ability to work under pressure, with conflicting deadlines, and to handle multiple concurrent projects/activities;
* Communication: proven interpersonal skills; good spoken and written communication skills, including ability to prepare clear and concise reports; ability to conduct presentations, articulate options and positions concisely; ability to make and defend recommendations; ability to communicate and empathize with staff (including national staff), military personnel, volunteers, counterparts and local interlocutors coming from very diverse backgrounds; capacity to transfer information and knowledge to a wide range of different target groups;
* Flexibility: adaptability and ability to live and work in potentially hazardous and remote conditions, involving physical hardship and little comfort; to operate independently in austere environments for protracted periods; willingness to travel within the area of operations and to transfer to other duty stations within the area of operations as necessary;
* Genuine commitment towards the principles of voluntary engagement, which includes solidarity, compassion, reciprocity and self-reliance; and commitment towards [Insert name of Host Agency]’s mission and vision, as well as to the UN Core Values.

1. **Learning expectations**

Learning and development are a central part of the UN Youth Volunteer’s assignment and take place before, during and after his or her assignment in the field. Ideally, offering diverse opportunities for learning and development aim to strengthen the volunteer’s skills and competences, improve the quality of the assignment and keep the volunteer’s motivation high.

Learning elements for the UN Youth Volunteer include the development of:

* Professional skills: including specific competencies and reflection on assignment-related abilities; and on-the-job skills such as time management, problem solving, team building; and career preparedness such as interview skills, CV preparation, job searching.
* Inter-personal skills: including communication and listening skills; multi-cultural aware-ness and cultural competency; and conflict and stress management.
* Volunteering-related skills: including leadership; civic responsibility; and engagement and active participation.

Beyond the learning opportunities provided by UNV, [name of the host entity] will support knowledge and capacity development in the technical areas that are relevant to the UN Youth Volunteer’s assignment. [host entity] will provide, at its expense, UN Youth Volunteers with equal opportunity to participate in training courses and workshops offered to its personnel.

1. **Living Conditions:**

[Provide brief description of relevant living conditions in duty station – e.g. security situation, access and air travel, climate, cultural awareness such as dress code / alcohol use, cost of living, accommodation options, availability of food/water/electricity, medical facilities, banking facilities, communications infrastructure, etc.

End with encouraging but cautioning statement such as “XXX is a unique country and XXX is a unique (humanitarian) operation. It provides for an interesting and enriching environment, but also requires a mature level of cultural awareness, as well as more stamina and commitment than elsewhere to make life comfortable and affordable. Therefore, flexibility and the ability and willingness to live and work in harsh and potentially hazardous conditions, involving physical hardship and little comfort, are essential.

**CHOOSE ONE APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE BELOW FOR INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL UN YOUTH VOLUNTEERS AND DELETE THE REST.**

**Conditions of for I 17. Conditions of Service for International UN Youth Volunteers**

Note on novel coronavirus – COVID-19.

The rapidly changing nature of novel coronavirus COVID-19 has placed significant and increasing restrictions on the freedom of movement of people across the globe, within countries and across borders. Such restrictions make it very difficult for international UN Volunteers to begin their assignments at their assigned duty station and UNV cannot guarantee assignments will proceed as normal.

Candidates for international UN Volunteer assignments during this period may be exceptionally granted alternative working arrangements to work from their place of recruitment until restrictions are lifted. This is at the discretion of the host entity. Candidates proceeding to interview are recommended to discuss the likelihood of travel and possible alternative arrangements with the host entity. If selected, candidates should carefully consider the circumstances before accepting UNV’s offer.

In cases where the UN Host Entity partner has requested the UN Volunteer to perform their assignment remotely, the Post Adjustment Multiplier (PAM) and related entitlements to be paid may be adjusted to the temporary duty station from where the UN Volunteer has been requested to work if requested by the UN Host Entity.

The contract is for the period indicated above with the possibility to extend subject to availability of funding, operational necessity and satisfactory performance. However, there is no expectation of renewal of the assignment.

A UN Volunteer receives a Volunteer Living Allowance (VLA) per month and is paid at the end of each month to cover housing, utilities, transportation, communications and other basic needs.

In non-family duty stations that belong to hardship categories D or E, as classified by the ICSC, international UN Volunteers receive a monthly Well-Being Differential (WBD).

Furthermore, UN Volunteers are provided a settling-in-grant (SIG) at the start of the assignment (if the volunteer did not reside in the duty station for at least 6 months prior to taking up the assignment) and also in the event of a permanent reassignment to another duty station.

UNV provides life, health, permanent disability insurances as well as assignment travel, annual leave, full integration in the UN security framework (including residential security reimbursements).

UN Volunteers are paid Daily Subsistence Allowance at the UN rate for official travels. A resettlement allowance is paid for satisfactory service at the end of the assignment.

UNV will provide, together with the offer of assignment, a copy of the Conditions of Service, including Code of conduct, to the successful candidate.

**17. Conditions of Service for International UN University Volunteers**

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The duration of your assignment is indicated above with the possibility of extension subject to availability of funding, operational necessity and satisfactory performance. However, there is no expectation of renewal of the assignment.

A UN Volunteer receives a Volunteer Living Allowance (VLA) per month and is paid at the end of each month to cover housing, utilities, transportation, communications and other basic needs.

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UNV provides life, health, permanent disability insurances as well as assignment travel, annual leave, full integration in the UN security framework (including residential security reimbursements). UN Volunteers are paid Daily Subsistence Allowance at the UN rate for official travels, flight tickets for the final repatriation travel (if applicable). UNV will provide, together with the offer of assignment, a copy of the Conditions of Service, including Code of conduct, to the successful candidate.

**17. Conditions of Service for National UN Youth Volunteers**

Note on novel coronavirus – COVID-19.

The rapidly changing nature of novel coronavirus COVID-19 has placed significant and increasing restrictions on the freedom of movement of people, even within countries. Such restrictions may affect the ability national UN Volunteers to begin their assignments at their assigned duty station or limit the ability to enter UN premises. Thus, UNV cannot guarantee assignments will proceed as normal.

Candidates for national UN Volunteer assignments requiring travel to the duty station may be exceptionally granted during this period alternative working arrangements to work from their place of recruitment until restrictions are lifted. Candidates for national UN Volunteer assignments may also need to begin their assignments remotely in cases where access to UN premises is restricted. These are decisions at the discretion of the host entity. Candidates proceeding to interview are recommended to discuss travel requirements, any restrictions, and possible alternative arrangements with the host entity. If selected, candidates should carefully consider the circumstances before accepting UNV’s offer.

The duration of your assignment is indicated above with the possibility of extension subject to availability of funding, operational necessity and satisfactory performance. However, there is no expectation of renewal of the assignment.

Travel to duty station (if applicable) and a Settling-In-Grant will be provided in the event the duty station is not within commuting distance from the place of recruitment. The applicable Volunteer Living Allowance is provided monthly to cover housing, utilities and normal cost of living expenses. Life, health and permanent disability insurance are included) and final repatriation (if applicable).

Furthermore, in non-family duty stations that belong to hardship categories D or E, as classified by the [ICSC](http://icsc.un.org/map/), a Well-Being Differential (WBD) on a monthly basis will be provided.

1. **Conditions of Service for National UN University Volunteers**

Note on novel coronavirus – COVID-19.

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Furthermore, in non-family duty stations that belong to hardship categories D or E, as classified by the ICSC, the applicable Well-Being Differential (WBD) on a monthly basis will be provided.

**Hiring Manager for this assignment:**

[Name, functional title, Host Agency, location, date]

**Alternate Hiring Manager for this assignment (if available):**

[Name, functional title, Host Agency, location, date]

**Supervisor of UN Volunteer (if known):**

[Name, functional title, Host Agency, location, date]

*United Nations Volunteers is an equal opportunity programme which welcomes applications from qualified professionals. We are committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, nationality, age and culture.*