



▶ Muhammad Sharaz (Pakistan, right) UN Volunteer Information Management Officer with the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, speaks to Security Officers at the Security Check Point of Kambia District Ebola Treatment Centre on the importance of recording attendants/care-givers who escort patients to ease contact tracing.

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Engaging with UNV



VOLUNTEERS AS A RAPID RESPONSE SOLUTION TO GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES

When large-scale emergencies like the recent Ebola outbreak occur, mounting a coordinated rapid response can make the critical difference between thousands of lives saved or lost. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is a UN entity with the capacity to rapidly mobilize large numbers of skilled volunteers to support UN partners and governments in responding to emergencies.

UN Volunteers are often at the forefront of humanitarian response, because the skills and expertise they bring to help alleviate the plight of people in desperate situations. Also, their volunteer commitment, local knowledge and neutral status facilitate building bridges between stakeholders in affected communities by promoting mutual trust, enhancing ownership and building capacity.

UNV has developed considerable expertise over its 45-year history in mobilizing volunteers in disaster and crisis

prevention and recovery. It has a global talent pool of over 25,000 positively preassessed potential volunteer candidates, ready to be deployed as UN Volunteers, and over 400,000 candidates ready to volunteer online.

When emergencies happen, UNV can quickly draw on its extensive candidate pool to fill over one hundred different expert profiles. UNV offers different volunteer modalities with varied skills, resources and expertise, which, combined, can create a powerful multi-faceted response.

While in the immediate response stage internal SURGE capacities of respective UN entities are usually tapped as a first resource, UN Volunteers have typically been deployed right after the initial SURGE period, in the transition to and throughout the early recovery phase.





More than 250 UN Volunteers were supporting the coordinated UN system Ebola response in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, in functions ranging from medical support to logistics and humanitarian assistance.

UNV also deployed around 130 international UN Volunteers to support United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) operations in the three affected countries. Profiles requested range from UN Volunteer Field Crisis Management Officers and GIS Data Collection Specialists to Air Operations Assistants and Logistics Officers. UNV has established a field unit in Accra to support the recruitment, briefing, training and management of these volunteers.

If mobilized as part of a rapid response solution to global health emergencies, UN Online Volunteers could support hotline services, for instance, by mobilizing medical doctors and stress counselors based in various countries and speaking relevant languages.

The UN [Online Volunteering service](#) currently has about 7,175 UN Online Volunteers with post-graduate degrees in health related fields. Another area of potential support is awareness raising: UN Online Volunteers can assist in developing gender and culturally-sensitive messaging, also in local languages, as well as information and education materials, which they can disseminate through their networks.

ACCELERATED RECRUITMENT OF UN VOLUNTEERS FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

UNV handles the logistics of fielding international UN Volunteers, as well as their administrative management throughout their assignment, thus reducing the administrative burden on our partners.

UNV has special measures to ensure that partners are able to deploy highly-skilled UN Volunteers quickly and easily. To ensure highest priority is given to accelerated and targeted recruitment procedures for partners in emergency operations, UNV headquarters in Bonn, Germany, can set -up special task forces for both the identification and deployment of UN Volunteers.



Visit www.unv.org for more information about recruiting UN Volunteers as a rapid response solution to global health emergencies.

Steps involved in requesting international UN Volunteers for emergency/crisis deployment include:

Requester submits Description of Assignment

First, the requesting UN entity partner prepares one or more standardized Descriptions of Assignment (DOAs) for profiles needed in the emergency operation, and sends them to UNV for approval. UNV may assist in the process by providing the hosting UN entity with examples of related DOAs that it may have in its repository.

Candidate selection

Once UNV has approved the requesting UN entity partner entity's DOAs and received confirmation of the budget, it selects those candidates that best match the requirements and interviews the most promising candidate(s). Subsequently, UNV submits the profiles of all suitable candidates to the requesting partner UN entity.

Fielding of UN Volunteers

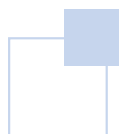
Together, the requesting UN entity partner and UNV select the UN Volunteers, after which UNV prepares them and deploys them to the field. UNV provides all training, orientation and logistical arrangements relating to the fielding of the UN Volunteers.

End of assignment

Following conclusion of the volunteer assignment, the performance of UN Volunteers is evaluated in close collaboration with the hosting UN entity partner. UNV also places emphasis on end of assignment reporting and debriefing with the UN Volunteers on their volunteer experience.

Duration of recruitment process

The time lapse between the submission of the DOA by the requesting UN partner entity and fielding the UN Volunteers ranges from 3-12 weeks, depending on the availability of selected candidates. UN Volunteers are deployed for at least three months and up to two years, depending on the need. The mobilization of UN Online Volunteers follows standard processes described at www.onlinevolunteering.org, and while it varies according to the profile required, it may take no more than 48 hours in emergency contexts.



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 active in around 130 countries every year. With field presences in over 80 countries, UNV is represented worldwide. UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*