

How does it work?

1. Organizations post opportunities to the UNV Online Volunteering service website in which they describe the volunteers' tasks.
2. Online volunteers search for opportunities that match their profiles and interests, and submit their applications to the organization through the website.
3. Organizations select the volunteers they would like to engage.
4. Online volunteers and organizations collaborate over the Internet.
5. Organizations and online volunteers submit feedback upon the completion of an assignment.
6. Organizations issue certificates of appreciation to their volunteers.

Voices of online volunteers and development organizations

"Being an online volunteer is being able to volunteer at any time that is convenient. It is a great experience to be able to benefit those who live so far away."

Minh Vo, online volunteer (Viet Nam)

"All 90 online volunteers helped us face the challenge of an ambitious project and made a real impact."

Armelle Armou, Programme Officer, UNESCO (France)

"It's so good to feel that you are helping a great cause. I'm learning new things and how these same issues could be affecting the environment and communities in my country."

Carmina Velasco, online volunteer (El Salvador)

"Volunteering online has opened my view on both local and international realities. It also helped me integrate the situation of my community and country into the global context."

Dieudonné Amisi Mutambala, online volunteer (D.R. Congo)

"Involving online volunteers, YTF has not only fulfilled its mission to bridge the digital divide, but we have also actively bridged the cultural divide as well!"

Njideka Hary, Executive Director, Youth for Technology Foundation (Nigeria)

About United Nations Volunteers

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme operates the UNV Online Volunteering service.

UNV is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. Volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people in tackling development challenges, and it can transform the pace and nature of development. Volunteerism benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer by strengthening trust, solidarity and reciprocity among citizens, and by purposefully creating opportunities for participation.

UNV contributes to volunteerism for peace and development by advocating for recognition of volunteers, working with partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing an increasing number and diversity of volunteers, including experienced UNV volunteers, throughout the world. UNV embraces volunteerism as universal and inclusive, and recognizes volunteerism in its diversity as well as the values that sustain it: free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity.

For more information

Visit the website: www.onlinevolunteering.org

Email: info@onlinevolunteering.org



Supported by



UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
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UNV Online Volunteering Service

Connecting volunteers and organizations to collaborate online for peace and development.

onlinevolunteering.org



UN
Volunteers

inspiration in action



Online volunteers are...

...professionals, students, homemakers, retirees, people with disabilities and expatriates from across the globe who support development organizations over the Internet. What they have in common is a strong commitment to making a real difference to development.

Thousands of online volunteers collaborate with development organizations every year through the UNV Online Volunteering service: 60 percent of them are women and 50 percent come from developing countries.

Why volunteer online?

Volunteering online is an opportunity to support the cause of sustainable human development working from a computer anywhere in the world. Volunteers do not need to travel and have a great degree of flexibility in volunteering the hours that fit their schedule.

Online volunteers gain knowledge about the issues which developing countries face, they exercise their skills, or take on roles different from those of their professional or academic lives.

Online volunteering enables individuals with disabilities to contribute to sustainable development. It also provides expatriates with opportunities to reconnect with and help their native countries.

What can online volunteers do?

Online volunteers can support development organizations in numerous ways. They engage in...

Project development and management

Volunteers write project proposals, share expertise, develop fundraising strategies, draft grant applications, etc.

Design

Volunteers design logos, create the layout of publications, develop a corporate identity, illustrate training material, etc.

Coordination and facilitation

Volunteers manage teams of other online volunteers, coordinate campaigns, moderate online discussions, act as board members, etc.

IT development

Volunteers develop and maintain websites, design databases, set up blogs, do Search Engine Optimization (SEO), write Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), create flash animations, etc.

Research

Volunteers research information on development topics, funding sources, potential partners, best practices, etc.

Writing, editing and translating

Volunteers draft newsletters and articles, translate presentations, summarize survey results, proofread reports, develop website content, etc.

Training and coaching

Volunteers develop training material, teach online courses, provide guidance to organizations and/or their beneficiaries, etc.

Consulting

Volunteers assess projects, provide advice on communication strategies and legal issues, evaluate software solutions, etc.

Development organizations are...

... grassroots organizations, international NGOs, educational institutions, governments and United Nations agencies.

There are more than 1,300 organizations registered with the UNV Online Volunteering service, of which approximately 64 percent are based in developing countries.

Why engage online volunteers?

By sharing their skills, knowledge and ideas directly with organizations, online volunteers...

Enhance organizations' resources

Online volunteers provide organizations with additional skills and expertise that may not be available locally. Coming from various backgrounds and cultures, they bring new ideas and fresh perspectives.

Develop organizations' capacities

Online volunteers can increase organizations' institutional capacities by training staff, teaching new skills or providing guidance and advice.

Extend organizations' networks

Online volunteers learn about organizations and the people they serve, and in turn share this information with their friends and colleagues, thereby mobilizing additional support.

