



UN

Volunteers

Guyana

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS (UNV) PROGRAMME

Volunteering brings benefits to both society at-large and the individual Volunteer, contributing to a more cohesive society by building trust and reciprocity among citizens. In the words of UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan,

“At the heart of Volunteerism are the ideals of service and solidarity and the belief that together we can make the world a better place. In that sense, we can say that **Volunteerism is the ultimate expression of what the United Nations is all about**”

Based in Bonn, Germany, UNV is the UN organization that supports sustainable human development globally through the promotion of Volunteerism, including the mobilization of Volunteers. Administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNV works in close collaboration with governments, civil society and other United Nations Organizations, Funds and Programmes, as well as many Volunteer-involving organizations and networks.

Each year, UNV provides a channel for more than 7,000 skilled professionals from 160 different countries to engage as UN Volunteers in some 140 developing countries. Since starting its operations in 1971, the UNV Programme has mobilized more than 30,000 UN Volunteers to serve the causes of peace and development.

Reaffirming the programme’s commitment to promoting south-south cooperation, the majority of these UN Volunteers are nationals of developing countries. Possessing a university education or advanced technical training as well as several years of work experience, they support the activities of UN Agencies and other partners in 115 professional categories including such diverse areas as health, humanitarian relief, peace-building, human rights, electoral supervision, HIV/AIDS, education, ICT, income generation, gender mainstreaming, environmental management and urban development.

Working towards achieving the **Millennium Development Goals - MDGs** (www.undp.org/mdg) is a particularly important facet of the UNV Programme which seeks to harness the ingenuity, solidarity and creativity of millions of ordinary people through Voluntary action. To reinforce its focus the UNV Programme has developed the “Volunteerism to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets grant facility” to be executed in each country. (www.undp.org/gu/unv/mdg.htm)



In addition to sharing technical expertise, UN Volunteers demonstrate commitment and solidarity in promoting the ideals of Volunteerism often by working in their spare time with communities in activities ranging from renovating classrooms, to building wells and distributing clothes to the needy. They are professionals who work on a peer basis. They listen and discuss; teach and train; encourage and facilitate. Volunteers also share and exchange ideas, skills and experience.

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www.undp.org/gu/unv • www.unvolunteers.org • www.onlinevolunteering.org • www.worldvolunteerweb.org
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UN Volunteers are essential to the process of social mobilization, poverty reduction and decentralized local government – with community members, government officials and on a peer to peer basis, they liaise, facilitate, train, motivate, inspire and encourage their peers.

There is an **International and a National scheme** under the UN Volunteers programme. An UNV assignment varies from 3 months to 2 years or more.

Visit www.unvolunteers.org to become involved in the international programme or contact the local UNV Office for the national programme or to request the assignment of a volunteer, either international or national, to your organization.

NEED A VOLUNTEER?

If you are a Government Ministry, agency, international organization, NGO, private sector organization, entrepreneur or small business and need a professional with skills and several year of experience contact the local UNV Country Office.

Part of UNV's resources comes from country and regional funds provided by UNDP. Other significant sources include the regular programme budgets of UN agencies, contributions from host Governments, special purpose grants by donor Governments and the UNV Special Voluntary Fund. Contributions to UNV's Special Voluntary Fund and other funds exceed \$17 million annually.

In supporting Volunteerism for Development, UNV also coordinates the contributions of thousands of people who Volunteer online, and manages a global Volunteer portal, www.onlinevolunteering.org, that serves as a resource for the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of Volunteer action.

Volunteers from all over the world are helping organizations serve developing countries, without leaving their own communities. These OnLine Volunteers (OVs) translate documents, write articles, research data, build web sites, mentor young people, design logos, and engage in many other projects to benefit organizations serving people in the developing world. OVs are volunteers without frontiers

Additionally the **Corporate/Private Sector Programme**, through the United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources (UNISTAR), provide strategic advice to clients, which can be small- and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs), trade and industry groups, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), as well as government policy makers and institutions strengthening private sector development.

The assignments can last from one week to a maximum period of three months and volunteers receive an allowance to cover their costs. In general, their mission expenses are covered by the sponsoring companies/organizations. Clients cover local transportation and interpretation fees if needed.

WANT TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

To become a UNV you only need to have the commitment and skills. Some facts: for international postings a minimum of a Bachelor's or Master Degree, with more than 3 years of related professional experience is required. Assignments require 1 to 2 years of full time commitment and are normally in developing countries. UNVs receive a volunteer living allowance plus medical coverage and other benefits as laid out in the conditions of service for international and national UNVs. The UNV recruitment roster includes 100 professional categories. The age of a UNV varies from 25 to 70 years.





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They bring a wide range of competencies and technical expertise such as planning, engineering, financial management, industrial design, product development, food processing, marketing, quality control, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), waste management etc.

The UNV "**Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN)**" programme, on the other hand, provides an official framework and multidimensional and multisectoral umbrella to facilitate the return of motivated and talented expatriate nationals men and women for short-term assignments to support the development efforts in their countries within an enabling environment guided and supported by the UN System. Following the UN System approach of building self-reliance, the UNV TOKTEN programme will focus on capacity building of the national government and UN agencies at the country level through transfer of knowledge of expatriate national Volunteers.

TOKTEN Volunteer assignments are usually for short terms, ranging from about two weeks to three months, depending on the needs of the recipient institution and availability of the Volunteer. Flexibility of the duration of the assignment might be considered to meet a specific country's context.

Under the Information and Communication Technology umbrella, the United Nations Information Technology Service (**UNITEs**) is a global Volunteer initiative to help bridge the digital divide, led by the UNV Programme..

UNITEs has two primary goals (www.unites.org):

- To promote volunteer involvement as a fundamental element of successful information and communications technologies for development (ICT4D) initiatives.
- To work with the UN Volunteers (UNV) programme and a coalition of organizations to support projects and initiatives that involve volunteers to improve the capacity of individuals and institutions in developing countries to make practical use of ICTs in their development processes in a variety of areas (health, education, governance, gender equity, environment, HIV/AIDS, etc.).

In addition to this ongoing work, UNV organizes an annual event which focuses the eyes of the world on Volunteering. **International Volunteer Day** for Economic and Social Development (IVD) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1985.

Held on December 5th, IVD provides an opportunity for Volunteer-involving organizations and individual Volunteers to work together in projects and campaigns promoting their contributions to economic and social development at local, national and international levels. By merging United Nations support with a grassroots mandate, IVD is a unique opportunity where governments government agencies, non-profit and non-governmental organizations, community groups, the private sector and Volunteer-involving organizations can work together to attain common goals.



International Volunteer Day



The General Assembly also proclaimed 2001 the International Year of Volunteers (IYV). The idea for an IYV at the beginning of the 21st Century was to stimulate national and international policy debate and to advocate for the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of Voluntary action.

The UNV Programme was designated as focal point for the follow-up to the IYV and IVD by the United Nations General Assembly.

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UNV ACTIVITIES IN GUYANA

We are present in Guyana since 1984 and more than 200 International and National UNVs have served under different Government Ministries and Agencies, UN Agencies (UNICEF, PAHO/WHO, UNDP), NGOs and National and International Organizations.

At present the UNV Programme is supporting the UN System and the development efforts of Guyana through national and international UN Volunteers in the following areas:

1. HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment

United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2006-2010 Guyana, Country Programme National Priority (NP) 1 - Eliminate poverty by investing in people and requisite physical capital

Outcome 1.2 Health Status of population improved

Output 1.2.1 Institutional capacity enhanced to deliver quality health services

The partner François Xavier Bagnoud (FXB), in the context of the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) projects, works with UNVs and the Ministry of Health (MOH), for delivery of culturally relevant and sustainable strategies feasible in a developing country's public health system, with a focus on HIV care and treatment.

UNV is providing 10 HIV/AIDS physician specialist to the project. They work in national teams in the hospitals and clinics for the provision of health care services in HIV/AIDS. At this moment 4 are allocated to the capital (regions 3 and 4), one to outreach work in remote regions (1, 7, 8 and 9) and the remaining in region 2, 6, and 10.

Partners web pages:

MoH: www.sdn.org.gy/moh

National HIV/AIDS Programme: www.hiv.gov.gy

CDC: www.cdc.gov

FXB: www.fxbfoundation.org & www.fxbcenter.org

2. Social cohesion and regional development

UNDAF 2006-2010 Guyana NP 2 – An inclusive system of governance based on rule of law in which citizens and their organizations participate in decision-making processes that affect their well-being.

Outcome 2.3 Increased Social Cohesion

Output 2.3.2 Civil groups and institutions with capacity to deal with conflict and tensions peaceably

UNDP developed with the Government of Guyana (GoG) a project to build social cohesion in the country. This project is carried out by the UN system as a whole with financial support from several of Guyana's international partners.

Initially, the support was directed towards addressing some of the needs of the National Assembly as the ultimate forum for airing differing and contending views, and for reaching consensual solutions to Guyana's development and governance challenges. The support was also directed to address the needs associated with making operational the Commissions created under the Constitutional Reform process and assisting in their effective functioning. This is the case of the Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC). Latter on other interventions have

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been identified, among them work with the Linden Regional Democratic Council on the development of a regional development strategy.

Implementing partner: UNDP Social Cohesion Project

For more information see: www.undp.org.gy/democratic_governance.html

3. Strengthening the institutional capacity of government institutions

UNDAF 2006-2010 Guyana NP 3 – Reduce poverty to 28% by 2010 through stimulation of growth and job creation. Respect for human rights, inclusive participation of all groups, mainstreaming gender equality and HIV/AIDS, an enabling macro-economic framework, data for planning & decision-making, and exploiting synergies while reducing overlaps among programmes.

Outcome 3.1 Policy framework for sustainable development and economic growth of 6% per annum.

Output 3.1.1 Strengthened stakeholder-led processes for formulation of concrete growth strategies.

UNDP and UNFPA are assisting the Government of Guyana in improving the quality of data and indicators used in the preparation of key national strategies and plans (including the PRSP, MDG Reports and National Development Strategies) and to design evidence-based policies. Very important aspect is to enhance the capacity in the Bureau of Statistics to collect, analyze and disseminate key economic and social data. This project is also expected to enhance the collection of gender statistics and the disaggregating of data by sex, region, age, disability and race so that key indicators of the gender dimensions of poverty and other vulnerabilities and gaps can be highlighted.

The UNV programme is involved through the provision of two international UNVs, one demographer and a data processor.

UNDP Development of Institutional Social Statistics Capacities Project

For more information see:

UNDP: www.undp.org.gy/poverty_reduction.html

UNFPA: www.undp.org.gy/unfpa.html

Bureau of Statistics: www.statisticsguyana.gov.gy/

4. Supporting the work of other UN agencies

➤ Project: Disease Prevention and Control Programme

Objective: Support the capacity of the agency PAHO/WHO in Disease Prevention and communication initiatives/activities.

MDGs: Contributing to several goals (2, 4, 7 and 5) although the main component of the assignment is directed to Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, and Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

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UNV is providing a national UNV to contribute to the development or introduction of advocacy and communication strategies for disease prevention programmes and coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of communication strategies for disease prevention programmes such as those of Lymphatic Filariasis, Malaria and the Healthy Settings Initiative (Health Promoting School/Healthy Markets/Healthy Community Programme). To supplement the initial planning, on-site visits are conducted to coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate which ever communication programme/s is/are being executed.

For more information see:

PAHO/WHO: www.guy.paho.org

5. Corporate/Private Sector Programme

For this initiative (presented before) the UNV programme will execute an already established mission from KRAFT (food production and processing) to Tandy's Manufacturing Enterprise. Additionally the UNV programme will liaison with private sector organizations in order to promote this programme and identify additional missions.

The UNV programme is also involved in other activities, in accordance to its mandate:

MDG facility grant

For the initiative "Volunteerism to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets grant facility" (presented before) the UNV programme is involved in its identification and implementation in Guyana, having in mind the specific and differentiated needs that the 10 regions have in meeting these goals.

IVD Day and medical outreach

The International Volunteer Day celebrated is celebrated on the 5th of December and a series of activities surround the event. The UNV programme participates in the activities promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation (MoFTIC) together with other volunteer involving and promoting organizations, in particular in the already traditional medical outreach activities.

Promotion of volunteerism and UNV programme

The promotion of volunteerism and of the UNV programme constitutes one of the main components of the UNV mandate. Among the activities executed are: support local NGOs and CSOs who work with volunteers, strengthen the networking among NGOs, promote and communicate the agency mandate and volunteerism.

For any further information, please contact our UNV Guyana office or visit the national web site www.undp.org.gy/unv or the international web site www.unvolunteers.org.