



International Volunteer Day



Special Edition on the occasion of International Volunteer Day

2022

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT 5 December 2022

An Interview with the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, David Gressly



On International Volunteer Day, we honour the commitment and contributions of volunteers towards building fairer societies and a healthier planet.

Through their selfless service, volunteers show the best of humanity. They are true champions of our work to advance peace, sustainable development, and human rights. And their spirit of giving enriches all.

This year's theme – "Solidarity through Volunteering" – highlights the importance of coming together to

care for one another.

It is a reminder that everyone has a role to play. Wherever you live, whatever your skills, I urge you to take action.

Volunteer your time. Volunteer your talent. Volunteer your experience.

Today and every day, let us take inspiration from all those who, through acts of solidarity large and small, improve our world. And let us resolve to do our part to forge a better future for all.



UNIC Newsletter had an interview with Mr. David Gressly on the occasion of International Volunteer Day

Q: How does the UNV programme support United Nations operations in Yemen?

A: It is no exaggeration to say that UN Volunteers play a critical role in the United Nations' Yemen operations.

UNVs volunteer throughout the UN system in Yemen. They work in the north and the south. They support one of the largest humanitarian operations in the world. They are professionals that help

make the UN's development, political, human rights and gender work possible.

Every day, UN Volunteers' commitment to the communities in Yemen they serve improves the lives of children, women and men. National and international volunteers deploy in Yemen on short notice with the required skills, expertise, and motivation.

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An Interview with the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, David Gressly



When COVID-19 struck two years ago, 55 UNV doctors and nurses deployed to UN clinics in seven cities. Twenty UN volunteers have deployed to monitor human rights across the country.

UN Volunteers are selfless and, frankly, don't often get the credit they deserve. That is why marking International Volunteer Day is so important. I encourage everyone inside and outside the United Nations to recognize volunteers' dedication and contributions to improving the lives of people in Yemen.

I am extremely thankful for every one of the 155 men and women volunteering in Yemen this year, most of whom are themselves Yemeni. They volunteer under difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions in solidarity with the people of the communities most affected by crisis. We should all recognize them as a beacon of hope and a testament to resilience.

Q: *Is it true you began your career as a volunteer?*

A: Yes. I was a Peace Corps volunteer. That experience – of volunteering in Kenya in the 1970s – was amazingly rewarding. It reinforced for me the importance of working closely with communities to understand their needs, something that has stayed with me throughout my long UN career.

My great aunt and uncle were also among the first Peace Corps volunteers in 1962. They were retirees, who served in India as rural extension workers.

So, I strongly recommend volunteer work for everyone, but especially for highly motivated professionals like the UNVs we have in Yemen who have so much to give.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the availability of online UNV volunteers, who are available to serve at no cost to the UN, Governments and non-governmental organizations. The online platform provides opportunities for 600,000 people around the globe

who possess a wide range of expertise to volunteer their services online.

Q: *Can you tell us more about International Volunteer Day?*

A: International Volunteer Day honours the commitment and contributions of volunteers towards building fairer societies and a healthier planet. The theme this year is "solidarity through volunteering," which highlights the importance of coming together to care for one another.

Reflecting on the spirit of UN volunteerism this year, I am also reminded of the three things Yemen needs most of all: peace, peace and peace. I continue to support the efforts to restart and expand the truce in Yemen, as well as the eventual movement towards a ceasefire and eventual settlement. When that comes,

I know that UNVs will continue to stand in solidarity with Yemen's people to forge a better future.



Interview with MR. Abdullah Al Duraibi, UNV Yemen Country Coordinator

Q1: Please tell us about the mission of UNV programme, and when did it start operating in Yemen.

UNV works to achieve two defined missions: providing the UN organizations with talented, motivated, and empowered UN Volunteers who can contribute effectively to the efforts of UN Agencies in their humanitarian and development activities in Yemen; and promoting the global value and recognition of volunteerism worldwide, in cooperation with all partners. As you may know, UNV was established in 1971, with Yemen being one of the very first countries where UN Volunteers were deployed that same year.

Q2: Tell us more about the work of the UN Volunteers deployed in Yemen.

In 2022, the total number of UN Volunteers deployed in Yemen reached a record-high number of 155 UN Volunteers, based in different UNDSS classified cities of Yemen like Aden, Hodiedah, Mukalla, Saadah ...etc. Serving with UNDP, UNICEF, OHCHR, UN-Habitat, WHO, UNODC, UNFPA, UNV and UN Clinic; UN Volunteers in the country are predominantly nationals – with only two being internationals. About 30% of the UN Volunteers in the country are women.

It is worth noting here that just four years ago, in 2018, we had only 7 UN Volunteers in Yemen. The number expanded particularly in 2020 as Covid-19 pandemic started. During that year, 55 UN Volunteer doctors, nurses, and

health associates were recruited. These health professionals provided highly needed health services for UN staff and their families. Furthermore, UN Volunteers provided 7,000 Covid-19



vaccinations for personnel of international humanitarian NGOs and their families.

While more than 40% of the volunteers deployed this year worked in the area of health, the talent of UN Volunteers in Yemen is very diverse and includes various other roles, such as communications, human rights, humanitarian affairs, programme and project support, ICT, finance and administration, among others.

Q3: How do you identify the caliber and specialization of the UN Volunteers you wish to recruit?

We primarily work with our UN partners to

identify their needs. According to the specific requirements of each assignment, the UN partner would submit a request alongside a completed Description of Assignment (DoA) specifying the expected roles of the UN Volunteer and the qualifications sought in the candidate. Then, UNV would advertise the assignment through its Unified Volunteering Platform (UVP) to receive applications from interested candidates. Once the application deadline ends, UNV recruiters would rely on Artificial Intelligence to longlist candidates, and then do shortlisting of top candidate profiles for submission to the hiring UN entity, who would then handle final selection, based on interviews and/or written tests. UNV helps support and monitor the quality of the process.

In addition, UNV Yemen has established a UNV National Database in 2019. The size of the database as of now is 10500. Twenty one percent of the profiles the Database are Females. The Database is used for quick deployment. Instead of advertising for a UNV post, we can access the Database and select suitable candidates and choose the best.





From Inspiration to Action: I Believe in Volunteers

By: Dr Florence Nju Fongang, N Physician/Health Manager, UN Clinic in Yemen

My journey as a UN Volunteer started with a recommendation from a friend. At the time, I had practiced medicine in my home country, Cameroon, for over 20 years. A close friend advised me to join the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme as a way to expand my experience in medicine, while traveling and volunteering in service of others. My recollection of my sister's illness made me decide right away that this was right for me.

My journey as a UN Volunteer started with a recommendation from a friend. At the time, I had practiced medicine in my home country, Cameroon, for over 20 years. A close friend advised me to join the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme as a way to expand my experience in medicine, while traveling and volunteering in service of others. My recollection of my sister's illness made me decide right away that this was right for me. When I was younger, my sister developed a medical condition. She underwent two heart surgical procedures and endured a lot of suffering, but she survived and inspired me. She later asked me to consider a career in medicine to help other young girls. When this volunteering opportunity came up, I took it and became a UN Volunteer on 27 March 2008. I was recruited for the first volunteer assignment in Haiti. As a mother of a seven year-old twins, it was not easy for me to travel and leave them behind. But

I did it with the support of my husband, who understood my motives and took good care of our children while I was deployed overseas. I am sharing my experience to encourage



age other women, especially mothers, to not pass on such opportunities. I understand their role as caregivers. I hope learning about how I volunteered, and balanced between my work and family, will make them more confident that they can do it too. While in Haiti, I practiced medicine amidst floods, cholera, earthquakes and a severe economic recession. These harsh conditions damaged roads and threatened the supply of

food and other resources to affected communities. My volunteering journey with the UN took me next to support the Ebola response in Africa, amidst lockdowns and a profound public health crisis, which garnered the world's concern. Through these emergency and disaster relief contexts, I became involved in inpatient and outpatient services, medical evacuations, capacity building, prevention and disease mitigation activities.

It was especially heartwarming to see my work being recognized while knowing I was making the contributions my sister always believed I would make. Serving with UNV prepared me in ways that I couldn't have imagined. These experiences were wide-ranging and led my career growth within the UN. I eventually transitioned from a UN Volunteer Medical Officer to become the Health Manager of the UN Clinic administered by



the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), first in Somalia, then in Yemen, which is a lead medical position in the field.

When COVID-19 hit the globe, I was in Yemen. Indeed, I was the one of the first female doctors to join the UN Clinic medical team in Yemen. Like my home country Cameroon, Yemen desperately needs to increase the number of doctors and nurses to improve health conditions and address humanitarian needs. My previous experience allowed me to understand both the significant role women can play in this regard and the value UN Volunteers can

add in such contexts. I moved quickly to recruit, deploy and train national UN Volunteers in our UN Clinics. All while ensuring inclusion of women in the deployments, coupled with flexible schedules and remote work opportunities which promote work-life balance. Ultimately, our work in Yemen benefited significantly from the contribution of the recruited national UN Volunteer health professionals.

As I travel between clinics to attend to patients and help building staff capacity, I often think of my sister and how she inspired me. I also

think about my children and how my own journey would inspire them. At first, my children didn't want to study medicine. While in Cameroon, they saw me work long hours and weekends then come home tired. They struggled to embrace the career that demanded a lot of their mother's time. However, my children began to view medicine differently after I joined UNV. They began to understand how important doctors are to crisis-affected communities and now see themselves in the lives we save. This is everything to me.

Belal's experience in voluntary work

Belal Al-Madhehagi, a Yemeni volunteer working with the United Nations (UN), said he had always been aspired by volunteerism and his belief in charity made him become a national UN volunteer. Belal has started working as a UN volunteer with OCHA in Sa'dah Governorate since July 2022. Prior to that, he worked as a project coordinator, as well as a monitoring and evaluation officer





with local organizations between 2018 and 2021. Engaging with people affected by humanitarian crises and partners who are implementing activities and projects to provide much-needed assistance to those who are in need, including people who were displaced by conflict and natural disasters, has been a rewarding experience for Belal. "It is a valuable opportunity for me as it has broadened my interest in humanitarian work, while helping to develop my coordination and facilitation skills."

National UN volunteers, like Belal, who are part of the community they serve are invaluable assets to the work of the UN as they know the context better and have already had trust and a good relationship with

various stakeholders on the ground, including affected people, partners and authorities.

Every time he visits people in displacement sites, Belal listened to heartbreaking stories of women, girls, men and boys whose lives were uprooted by the war and witnessed their suffering. An estimated 4.5 million people have been displaced in Yemen since 2015—multiple times for some of them. Displaced people, particularly those in remote and hard-to-reach areas, lack or have minimal access to basic, essential services, such as food, water and health care.

"I heard many sad stories, which pushed me to make more efforts and work harder so that their voices are heard and

they receive the help that they need and deserve. In my role with OCHA, I contribute to information sharing and coordination among partners for a robust and timely response for people." Belal said the work and dedication of other volunteers had not only helped him to appreciate volunteerism, but also to nurture the culture of volunteerism in his society. "My fellow volunteers and humanitarian workers face challenges, including insecurity, on a daily basis, and some of us experience abductions and trauma. But these things cannot stop us from doing what we are doing. We keep going for the sake of humanity. I do believe that we all need to promote volunteerism, which will help society to understand the importance of giving and building peace."





UN Volunteers provide critical healthcare in times of crisis in Yemen



UN Volunteer health professionals have been providing much-needed critical healthcare for UN operations in Yemen in times of crisis. Since 2020, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has deployed 60 UN Volunteer doctors, nurses and other medical providers, almost all of whom are nationals, in UN Clinics administered by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in seven locations in Yemen. National UN Volunteer Emergency Nurse Ahmed Al Rough (left), checking a list of critical emergency medications at the UN clinic in Sana'a, Yemen. |

UNV, 2021 UN Volunteer health professionals have been providing much-needed critical healthcare for UN operations in Yemen in times of crisis. Since 2020, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has deployed 60 UN Volunteer doctors, nurses and other medical providers, almost all of whom are nationals, in UN Clinics administered by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in seven locations in Yemen. National UN Volunteers have been playing a key role in providing healthcare to over 6,000 UN staff

and their eligible dependents. They carry out daily walk-in consultations, emergency care, inpatient care, follow up of cases and healthcare promotional activities, with proper guidance from international UN Volunteers and senior medical staff, as stipulated in the UN Clinic Standard Operating Procedures. In addition, they contribute to health consultations, workshops on universal precautions and COVID-19 awareness activities, in cooperation with relevant governmental health departments. The country-wide de-

ployment of these UN Volunteers was meant to keep up with the needs on the ground, and to facilitate the wide international humanitarian response to the crisis in Yemen. Humanitarian and relief activities are implemented by international and national staff who, in turn, rely on a robust healthcare system to keep them well in the field. Thus, the deployment of UN Volunteer medical workers enables the work of many others. – Abdullah Al Duraibi, UNV Country Coordinator in Yemen Accordingly, the level of expectations from these



UN Volunteers went beyond the commitment required from a health worker to their patients in a normal context. Recruited in the context of a national crisis, compounded with a global pandemic situation, being prepared to go over and beyond, and having the ability to work within diverse teams were critical assets.

UN Volunteer Marwah Al-Maqtari had full understanding of this context when she was recruited as a National Emergency Doctor for the UN Clinic in Sana'a back in May 2020.

"Serving as a UN Volunteer within the COVID-19 team required a disciplined professional commitment around the clock," she explains. For Marwah, being a doctor is not just about treating the patients, it is about "listening to their fears and

concerns and staying by their side," as well.

These medical volunteers are part of a larger community of UN Volunteers, including ambulance drivers, human rights advocates, translators, engineers and information technology experts, among others. Together with their colleagues serving UN operations in Yemen, this volunteer community maintains knowledge-sharing platforms, renewable energy sources and updated medical procedures, upon which healthcare systems depend.

Our UN Volunteers learn from one another and work closely together. This high degree of cooperation and learning contributes to capacity building and improves the care we provide. — Dr Florence Fongang, UN Physician/Health Manager with UNDP in Yemen

UN Volunteer Ahmed Al Rough serves as an Emer-



gency Nurse within the UN Clinic in Sana'a. His core duties involve providing primary healthcare to the beneficiaries of the UN Clinic, preparing medical supplies for emergency services and managing referrals. He also plays a key role in updating the daily COVID-19 statistics, which contributed greatly to the review and update of the UN country team's COVID-19 protocols. "Unfortunately, patients often delay medical services because they are misinformed and

dissuaded by stigmas," says Dr Florence. This is an issue the UN Volunteers help to address, benefiting from their position as national volunteers embedded in the local community, which allows them build trust with local beneficiaries. Alongside his core duties, Ahmed helps counter misinformation.



UN VOLUNTEERS

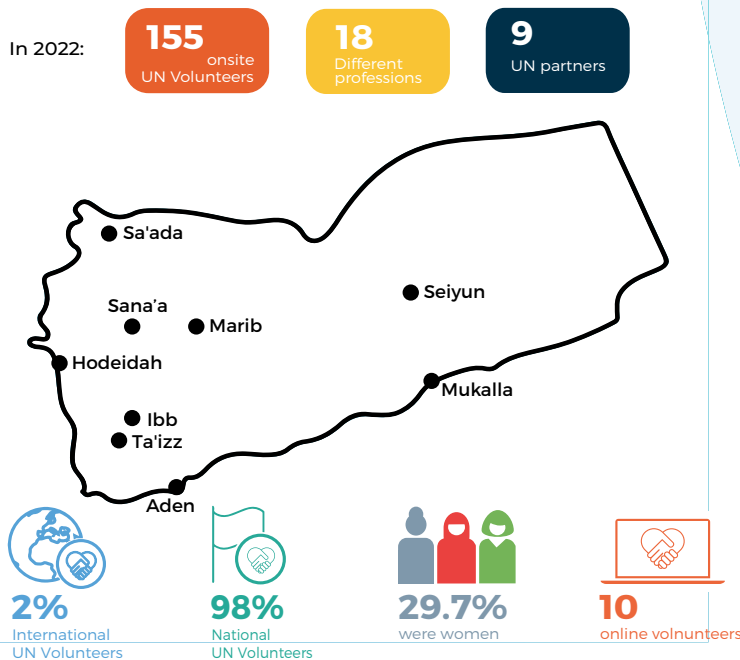
Yemen



We are inspiration in action

Our Vision

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Program envisions a world in which volunteerism is recognized and valued within societies as a way for all people and countries to achieve peace and development; a world in which societies fully embrace volunteerism in their efforts to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities and exclusion.

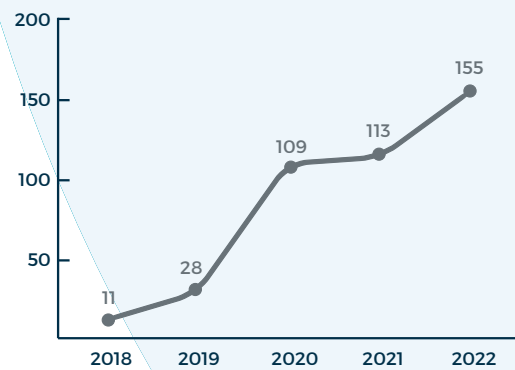


Why partner with UNV?

UNV is one of the original common services to the United Nations system, providing highly motivated and skilled individuals with an opportunity to volunteer within the United Nations system.

“
They are often the first to act in moments of crisis. They create social bonds and give a voice to marginalize and vulnerable groups (...) they help build resilient communities, equipping people against natural disasters, political instability, economic shocks and other pressures.
 ”

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General



Growth in UN Volunteer mobilization 2018 - 2022

Did you know?



UNV Online Volunteering is fast, easy, and effective. You can mobilize extra capacity for your team in less than a week.

Register at: app.unv.org

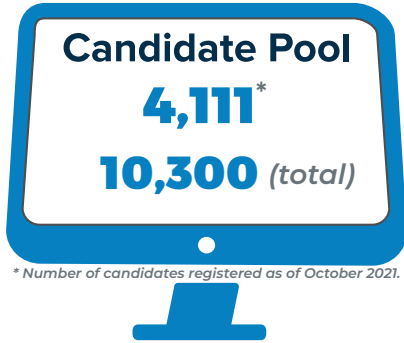
The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is pleased to offer you access to its Online Volunteering service (OV) to support you perform short-term tasks over the internet, completely free of charge.



The online volunteer gets a certificate of appreciation upon the completion of assignment.



Our national talent pool in Yemen



76%

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

78.7%

4-15 years of experience

47.2%



24%

15+ years of experience

8.2%

Interested in volunteering online

11%

What does UNV offer?

UNV offers different volunteer categories, depending on needs and the nature of your organization. It provides a unique service to identify, recruit and support on-site and online volunteers for the United Nations.



International Volunteers



National Volunteers

<p>UN Expert Volunteers</p> <p>15+ years of expertise</p>	<p>UN Specialist Volunteers</p> <p>skills & experience</p>	<p>UN Youth Volunteers</p> <p>Young innovators</p>
<p>UN Community Volunteers</p> <p>Local Knowledge</p>	<p>UN Refugee Volunteers</p> <p>Refugee/ protective status</p>	<p>Online Volunteers</p> <p>Volunteers serving remotely</p>



For more information on how to host a UN Volunteer, simply scan the code or visit:

<https://toolkit.unv.org/>

Or contact UNV in Yemen:

Abdullah Al-Duraibi, UNV Country Coordinator
abdullah.al.duraibi@unv.org



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



OHCHR statement:

Volunteering for the common good has a long history in Yemeni communities; dams and village cisterns are a legacy of this tradition. In modern Yemen volunteers have expanded the range of activities and the duration of the time they engage in but the spirit has remained the same. OHCHR has only been 10 years in Yemen but benefitted from the engagement of tens of volunteers and remains grateful for their contribution to the cause of human rights.

Renaud Detalle
Representative Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Yemen

Taha Hamidaddin is serving as a UNV Admin and Finance Associate in UNDP Yemen. “Even before joining UNDP Yemen, I hvolunteerismad a wonderful experience with. This experience motivated me to become more involved in volunteerism with the United Nations so that I can make greater difference in

people’s lives,” Taha says. “Volunteerism opened many doors and opportunities for me to learn and to take action as any other colleague in UNDP.” “This volunteering opportunity with UNDP is exciting and essential to serve the community and people.”





UNDP's statement:

UNDP Yemen thanks all of our volunteers who work tirelessly in Yemen, and those based in the region and globally, who work every day to improve the lives of millions. Whether your service is online, at home, or in the field – you are the change agents of tomorrow. Today is your day, but we celebrate you always and truly appreciate your unwavering dedication.



Maisaa Motahar, is a United Nations Volunteer (UNV) serving in UNDP Yemen as a Communications Associate. "From the stories and engagement with UNDP beneficiaries in Yemen, I learned that tomorrow will be a better place for my people," Maisa'a says. "Professionally, this volunteering opportunity allowed me to be confident – more than ever before – that I am able to take on my communications tasks and assignments with high quality."