UNV is administered by UNDP
The **United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme** is the United Nations 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. Volunteering 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 advocates 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 United Nations 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.

Based in Bonn, Germany, UNV is active in around 130 countries every year, engaging close to 8,000 qualified and experienced women and men of about 160 nationalities. UNV, with Field Units in 86 countries, is represented worldwide through the offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and reports to the UNDP Executive Board.
The United Nations Volunteer Programme in Kenya was launched in the mid 1970s. In line with the global pattern, the UNV programme is administered by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kenya.

**What Areas do the UN Volunteers Work in?** *Conflict resolution and peace building *Governance & Elections *HIV/AIDS *ICT & Communications *Gender mainstreaming *Environmental conservation *Disaster Risk Reduction *Poverty eradication *Monitoring & Evaluation *Advocacy for the Millennium Development Goals.

**Where are UN Volunteers?** With most of the funding coming from UN agencies, the volunteers are providing these services to various institutions and at various levels, including UN agencies, Kenya government ministries and departments, the Parliament of Kenya and non-governmental organizations.

**UNV & National Advocacy** UNV Kenya is also actively involved in advocacy for volunteerism at the national level, working with the government and partners in setting up a national policy and legal framework, as well as advocacy for the recognition of volunteers and integration into development programming.
As of June 2012, there were 137 UN Volunteers serving in Kenya, 111 of them Kenyan nationals and 26 internationals. Of these, 64 are female while 73 are male.

UN Volunteers in Kenya are attached to 11 different UN Agencies and several government departments, working from the UN offices in Gigiri, across the Counties in community projects and in government offices both in Nairobi and the other Counties.

Between January 2011 and May 2012 alone, UNV Kenya sent out almost 100 Kenyan volunteers to work in over 20 countries of the world in various areas of specialization. You can find them everywhere on the continent, from Western Sahara to Lesotho, from South Sudan to Libya and from Liberia to Chad.

The youngest UN Volunteer currently serving in Kenya is 26 years old, while the oldest is 53 years old.
Hussein Mohammed Alio has been a UN Volunteer since 2009, specializing in peace building and conflict resolution in Northern Kenya’s border town of Mandera.

Hussein knows well the sounds of conflict that often plague Mandera County. As a national UN Volunteer serving as a field monitor in the County, Hussein works with youth, district peace committees, prominent clan elders, provincial administration and community leaders in preventing conflict and peace building among warring pastoralist communities.

His work has taken him across the County to peace meetings and negotiations among various communities, seeing several peace agreements signed in the area. Beyond that, Hussein also notes that the root problem of many of the conflicts in the area has to do with scarce resources and over-reliance on pastoralism. As a result, he works with young people in the region to develop alternative sources of livelihood such as irrigation farming and small businesses.

Hussein has been impressed by what the groups have been able to do in such a short time, and is excited about having taken the opportunity to volunteer: “I come from the region myself, and I’ve always wanted to be able to give something back to see the young people do better for themselves...I’m so happy with the progress they’re making, and this shows that there’s hope. I’m glad I chose to be a UNV!”

{Photo ©UNV Hussein Alio (in blue jacket) sits with clan elders in Mandera during a peace meeting. Hussein specializes in working with local communities to enhance peaceful co-existence in the conflict-prone area}
The post-election violence that rocked Kenya in 2007/2008 left hundreds of thousands displaced in various parts of the country. Four years later, UN Volunteer Eric Oyuyo knows just how arduous the journey to recovery has been for the many that were displaced in and to Kisumu.

Eric is one of four national UN Volunteers serving in different parts of the country to help victims of the 2007/2008 Post-Election Violence recover their Livelihoods. Eric serves in the lake city as the coordinator for UNDP Kenya’s Post Election Violence Livelihood Recovery project with the Disaster Risk Reduction unit. Over the last three years, his work has involved working with the IDPs through government ministries and institutions to help them recover their livelihoods and move on from the PEV losses.

“People think that there were no IDPs in Kisumu...there actually were very many of them, in addition to all the ones who were displaced from other towns and came back to settle here,” Eric explains as he talks about the many beneficiaries of this project.

His work has overseen provision of farm inputs to over 200 IDP farms, revolving funds given to 12 different groups, supported by UNDP through the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Trade has managed to train IDPs and youth in five districts, reaching some 230 people in total. Many of these youth have gone ahead to start up business projects in areas as diverse as horticulture, fish farming, poultry keeping and even rice farming. Several displaced fishermen have also been provided with boats and nets to start up fishing businesses, and these have also taken off very well and are now self-dependent.

{Photo©UNV Eric Oyuyo on Ogal Beach in Lake Victoria, Kisumu. Eric works with fishermen there to help them recover their livelihoods.}
“My name is Millicent Dorcus Oluteyo. I am attached to the Kenya National AIDS Control Council (NACC) as a UNV Programme Officer for Community Programmes. I joined the national UNV programme in April 2011 and I have since never regretted being a volunteer because I have gotten a lot of exposure and grown professionally, socially and spiritually.

Alongside my Community Programmes, I carry out all youth related activities and other additional divisional activities within the work plan. One of the activities I have been able to organize is an exchange visit for District Youth HIV and AIDS Networks in North Rift Kenya. The visit involved Youth Networks from Nyanza province coming to learn from North Rift networks which had registered a lot of success in national HIV and AIDS response.

I have also participated in establishment and capacity building of Youth Networks in UNFPA-supported regions like Kilifi, Migori, Nairobi West and Naivasha. I also have opportunity to participate and represent my organization in different forums, including special events designed to draw attention to issue important to my programme such as tackling HIV and AIDS related stigma and gender violence against women and girls.”

{Photo©UNV Millicent (right) with members of the Wareng District Youth Networks. Millicent helps the youth networks in different parts of the country share knowledge on best HIV/AIDS response practices}
Do you want to be a **UN Volunteer**? Every year, thousands of professionals give their time and essential service in peace and development through volunteering with the UN. You can volunteer either as a **national** volunteer or an **international** volunteer.

**General Requirements** || a university degree or higher technical diploma || relevant work experience || at least 22 years of age (no maximum age limit) || strong commitment to the values and principles of volunteerism||

**International UN Volunteer**: 60% of UNVs serve in countries other than their own. They are recruited for specialized inputs to development programmes, peace-keeping, humanitarian assistance and UN-supported electoral processes. UNV maintains a roster of candidates with relevant experience in these areas. To get your profile on the roster, go to [www.unv.org](http://www.unv.org).

**National UN Volunteer**: Many volunteers serve in their own countries to support national capacity-building. Volunteers are recruited based on opportunities available and the local UNV office also maintains a database of qualified candidates in various areas. You can send in your CV for the database by e-mail to [unvkenya@undp.org](mailto:unvkenya@undp.org) or check the UNV Vacancies webpage: [http://www.ke.undp.org/unv_vacancies](http://www.ke.undp.org/unv_vacancies) for existing vacancies from time to time.

**Online Volunteering** ——————————

UNV’s online volunteering service connects development organizations and volunteers worldwide. Note that online volunteers are not UN volunteers, and the requirements differ. For more information, visit [www.onlinevolunteering.org](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org).
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For more information about the UNV Online Volunteering service, please visit www.onlinevolunteering.org.
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