

UN VOLUNTEERS ETHIOPIA NEWSLETTER

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YOUTH CONNEKT

ESTIBEL & BARAKA,

The UN
Volunteers
Bringing
Youth
Connekt to
Ethiopia



Benjamin Mirichi joins UNODC to
launch **Blue Heart** Campaign



**UN
VOLUNTEERS**
Ethiopia

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ABOUT THE UN VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME

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 administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and reports to the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board.

After an Executive Board decision in 2006, the UNV programme became operational in three domains:

1. Mobilizing volunteers to enable more people to be directly involved in humanitarian, peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery, as well as sustainable development and poverty eradication work of the UN.
2. Advocating for volunteerism and civic engagement in peace and development.
3. Pursuing the integration of volunteerism across policy, legislation and programming as well as delivering on internationally agreed development goals.

The UNV programme now works under a dual mandate – to mobilize volunteers for the United Nations System and to advocate for the importance of volunteerism in development worldwide.

The United Nations General Assembly created UNV in 1970, with an initial mandate to provide qualified and motivated volunteers for the United Nations System in support of peace and development in operational countries.

Over nearly five decades, the scope of UNV's mandate has expanded, driven by a constantly changing global environment and wider recognition of the value of volunteerism. A series of UN decisions now direct UNV activities and results to also focus on youth engagement and on demonstrating how integrating volunteering in peace and development projects and programmes can widen and deepen impact.

Changes in the development paradigm over the years also created a shift from international technical cooperation towards greater support for national and home-grown solutions, achieved by strengthening national and local capacities. Likewise, the growing vulnerability of communities due to exposure to recurrent natural disasters and conflict has demanded a much more robust humanitarian intervention globally. These trends are reflected in UNV's volunteer mobilization and programming for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and peacekeeping.

UNV and Development Assistance

Development assistance means enabling people to improve their lives in the long term. Development aid strives to address the underlying issues and socio-economic factors that impede human progress.

All around the world, UN Volunteers help people lead more productive and fulfilling lives, such as through their work on projects in quality education and improved healthcare, or by ensuring equitable access to community resources and sustainable practices. UN Volunteers at times also work with governments and other local partners, helping to boost local capacity and augment knowledge.

MESSAGE FROM THE UNV ETHIOPIA COUNTRY COORDINATOR



Hello!
2019 has been an extraordinary year for the United Nations Volunteers Programme worldwide and here at UN Volunteers Ethiopia, we are happy to play our part. Our volunteers have gone on to make tremendous impact not just within Ethiopia but in Africa and the rest of the world. Taking stock of the work our volunteers have put in leaves me inspired every time as they are at the centre of extensive progress being made in the country. With 79 international and national volunteers under our programme in 2019, our UNVs as they are fondly called, help lead the way in advancing the development agendas of Ethiopia, Africa and the rest of the world. This year, our volunteers have been involved in remarkable programmes and projects covering the sustainable development goals and the continent's 2063 Agenda. In 2019, some of our volunteers:

1. Participated at the BAPA+40 Conference in Argentina and discussed the South-South Cooperation Outcome Document with a focus on Africa.
2. Led the institutionalization of the Youth Connekt programme in Ethiopia.
3. Helped host the first meeting for African

- Women in STEM in South Africa.
4. Liaised with key government officials in Nairobi, Kenya to Institutionalize South-South Cooperation in Kenya's national policy.
 5. Joined UNDP to launch the UNDP Accelerator Labs in Ethiopia.
 6. Participated in panel discussions at Youth Connekt Africa Summit in Kigali, Rwanda on bringing African Urban Youth together for the realization of the SDGs.
 7. Provided support to the Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross-Border Initiatives (SECCCI) project in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.
 8. Under the backing of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in partnership with the African Union Commission's Department of Economic Affairs co-organized the 11th African Private Sector Forum in Madagascar and hosted a side event on African Women in STEM.
 9. Provided medical support to UN Staff in Non-Family Duty Stations like Melkadida and Jijiga.
 10. Responded to wide-ranging issues surrounding refugees.
- The work of our programme in Ethiopia culminated in the International Volunteer Day (IVD) Celebrations held at Amba - Education for Needy People Association, Addis Ababa - Ethiopia. In what was a delightfully spirited display of unity and commitment to a better future, volunteers representing different organizations came together to share experiences, propose ways forward and most importantly "volunteer for an inclusive future."
- Looking ahead to 2020, we are ever committed to volunteer mobilization for the goals through increased partnerships across the UN system and beyond. We look forward to sharing even more milestones with you. Happy Holidays.

SELAMAWIT TSIGE
UN Volunteers Ethiopia Country Coordinator

Nyasha Mhandu Nonhlanhla
UNDP Ethiopia

Getting the opportunity to work in the UN is something many including myself dream of and I still can't believe I am one of the lucky ones that gets the opportunity to do so. The opportunity is sponsored by the Irish Government as they did for 9 other youth volunteers in various host countries. My experience with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Ethiopia so far has been filled with various emotions but mostly I am excited. Since I left Zimbabwe some 16 years ago, I have been back to Africa once as a 15-year-old girl, so getting the opportunity to not just live here but contribute to its development is a very cherished experience for me. Although I was born in Southern Africa and Ethiopia is in East Africa, I have felt right at home thanks to kind friends and colleagues. My role as an Irish UN Volunteer in the UNDP Communications team, has offered me great opportunities to explore Ethiopia's different cultural offerings. As part of my missions to the field, I have gained first-hand exposure to UNDP Ethiopia's development goals. UNDP Ethiopia is involved in different programmes and projects some of which include improving the livelihoods of people living in drought-affected areas, integrated landscape management, improving food security and administering the UN Volunteers Programme in Ethiopia which I am a part of. My daily responsibilities involve branding and media coverage of UNDP events, writing articles for online publication, and creating infographics depicting important elements of UNDP projects. UNV has offered continuous support throughout my journey so far and having a network of colleagues in the UN to reach out to has created an opportunity for seamless learning. The first 2 months of my Ethiopia experience have been filled with new knowledge, experiences and friends and I look forward to learning and developing even more in my role over the next coming months.





IVD 2019

“Volunteer for an Inclusive Future”

United Nations Volunteers Programme joined the global celebrations of International Volunteer Day (IVD) on 5th December 2019 under the theme – Volunteer for an Inclusive Future at the Amba Education for Needy People Association (Amba-ENPA) in Ethiopia.

WHAT'S IVD?

IVD was mandated by the UN General Assembly (A/RES/40/212) at the 120th Plenary meeting in 1985 to be observed annually, on 5 December. The General Assembly petitioned governments, specialized UN agencies, other UN system organizations, NGOs affiliated with volunteerism and the Office of the UN Secretary-General to raise awareness of volunteer contributions to peace and socio-economic development activities.

In recent years, IVD celebrations have expanded to include CSOs, private sector and other partners working to advance the United Nation's development agenda.



“International Volunteer Day is an opportunity for us all to promote volunteerism, encourage governments to support volunteer efforts and recognize volunteer contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local, national and international levels.”

IVD 2019

The celebration was hosted by the Amba Education for Needy People Association (Amba-ENPA) supported by UN Volunteers Ethiopia, CUSO International, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), and Comitato Collaborazione Medica (CCM) to provide support to over 165 young students some of whom are disabled.

Mr. Endrias Getachew, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Deputy Resident Representative (Operations) a.i. during his opening remarks commended the efforts of volunteers in the country and called on more support from governments “today, we celebrate the volunteers who are working to advance peace and development in the country (Ethiopia). We encourage governments to support volunteer efforts and recognize volunteer contributions to the pursuit of equality and inclusion.”

The event was marked with a myriad of activities like tree planting, cleaning, reading of stories to children, painting, sports, short plays, musical renditions and much more. During a sit-down session involving volunteers from UN Volunteers and partner organizations and prospective volunteers, the UN Volunteers Ethiopia Country Coordinator, **Selamawit Tsige** stressed the need to clear misconceptions surrounding the concept of volunteerism in Ethiopia. She fielded

questions from prospective volunteers who were of the notion that all volunteer service was unpaid. She stated that the UN Volunteers Programme provides allowances capable of covering basic needs of volunteers to ensure they are not impoverished. She encouraged all present not to relent in their efforts to make the world a better place. With over 79 volunteers (National and International) serving in Ethiopia in 2019, the UN Volunteers Programme provides support to the UN and the Ethiopian Government by providing support to development initiatives in Ethiopia, Africa and the rest of the world.





UNV @ UNOSSC

She works to improve cooperation among Nations of the Global South particularly those in Africa by facilitating partnerships with the African Union Commission, Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In this newsletter, **Cynthia Oluasa** opens up on her role as a UN Volunteer at UNOSSC ➤

I work as the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Analyst at the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) Africa Regional Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. UNOSSC is the Office that promotes, coordinates and supports South-South and Triangular Cooperation globally and within the United Nations system. South-South and Triangular Cooperation entails political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical solidarity among Nations of the Global South for the general development and realization of the SDGs. Based at the Africa Regional Office, I focus on supporting the Africa Regional Chief in South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives related to African Countries and Organizations such as the African Union Commission (AUC) in mainstreaming South-South and Triangular Cooperation in their development agenda and making visible opportunities that lie in this development framework.

Specifically, we work on initiatives related to women and youth as well as supporting the AUC in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). This has been through facilitating partnerships with other regional institutions in the Global South such as the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the quest for peer-to-peer learning and capturing best practices on free trade area agreements. I work with different stakeholders to capture different development initiatives and highlight lessons learnt and best practice to allow for peer-to-peer learning within the South-South and Triangular Cooperation space. I spearhead an initiative which supports and promotes African Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) through the South-South Cooperation model. I also play an active role in offering programme support

to the Regional Office on all matters. This includes the procurement of equipment, engagement of consultants and the recruitment of interns for the Office as well as budget planning and management. As part of the skills and knowledge development goal of the office, I am responsible for on the job training of interns from across the world who work with us in different capacities. I also ensure smooth collaboration with the overall supervisor, UNOSSC Regional Chief, who plays a leading role in ensuring the ambitions of UNOSSC are realized. Being a UN Volunteer in Ethiopia has provided me with the opportunity to experience, learn and contribute to the UN system. I have further developed my multi-stakeholder engagement skills and gained practical experience in different sectors by constantly engaging with high-level stakeholders such as the AU, the Government and UN agencies.

CYNTHIA OLOUASA

Meet the UN VOLUNTEERS

— Bringing Youth Connekt — To Ethiopia

African countries are adopting Rwanda's Youth Connekt model in addressing today's challenges facing youth and Ethiopia wants to join that list. Estibel and Baraka are at the forefront of ushering in Youth Connekt Ethiopia.

Designed to address the multidimensional problems being faced by African youth, Youth Connekt Africa (YCA) connects youth to financing for entrepreneurship, employment, networking opportunities as well as training in a bid to strengthen the capacities of African youth. As part of its initiative to engage government leaders and policy influencers for the benefit of youth, Youth Connekt Africa attempts to bring together key government stakeholders to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration among one another. This in turn leads to an enabling environment for young leaders and visionaries hoping to make their countries, the continent and the world better than what it is.

In partnership with UNDP, Youth Connekt Africa seeks to create 10 Million jobs for youth, empower 25 million youth with skills, nurture 1 million young leaders, connect 100

million young Africans and close the gender gap while at it.

In the words of Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Secretary General and Regional Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa "Youth Connekt Africa is a practical, concrete and most effective way to tackle the current unemployment situation in the continent. It empowers the youth to be potent actors and driving vectors in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and of the future we want in Africa."

Ugochukwu Kingsley Ahuchaogu, UN Volunteers (UNV) Ethiopia Communications and Advocacy Officer sat down with Estibel Mitiku and Baraka Ochieng to discover their role and contributions to Youth Connekt Africa through the UNV Programme, UNDP and the Ethiopian Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MOWCY).



UNV: Tell us a bit about yourself?

Baraka: My name is Baraka Ochieng from Kenya currently working at the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa as a Coordination Support Officer for the Regional Youth Programme.

UNV: Where's the office based?

Baraka: The office is based in Addis Ababa.

UNV: You mentioned Regional Youth Programme, what's that about?

Baraka: This is the UNDP mandate, to support solutions that are trying to address the unemployment challenge in Africa.

So, there is a regional programme that was developed to build the capacities of the youth, connect them to resources, connect them to opportunities, get them involved in

leadership, civic engagement (that kind of thing) and so, UNDP has a flagship programme in which we are mainly supporting the scaling up of Youth Connekt as the main driver of its mandate.



"This is the UNDP mandate, to support solutions that are trying to address the unemployment challenge in Africa"

UNV: What about you Estibel?

Estibel: I'm Estibel Mituku I'm from Ethiopia. I work for UNDP seconded to the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MOWCY as a Capacity Building Specialist.

Baraka: And Focal Person for the Emerging Youth Connekt Programme in Ethiopia.

Estibel: Exactly. And focal person for the Youth Connekt Programme in Ethiopia. It's him and I who are coordinating...

Baraka: No, no, no.

Continued on Page 12 & 13

Estibel: He's my boss!

Baraka: No, no, no, no, He's my boss. (both laugh) He's the one driving this whole thing, me I don't take any credit.

UNV: You are being humble and laying it off to him, putting all the credit on him and He's also putting all the credit on you. So, who now gets the credit?

Estibel: This is the vision of Youth Connekt

UNV: So everyone is equal?

Estibel: Everyone is equal.

UNV: Youth is at the centre of what both of you do at your respective agencies and there is one programme I keep hearing when both of you speak and that's Youth Connekt. To anyone who is hearing about Youth Connekt for the first time, what do you want that person to know?

Baraka: Youth Connekt is this multidimensional programme that basically looks at the development of a young person. What are the things that they need to be able to be a productive member of society? The multidimensional programme addresses skills, capacity development, civic engagement, getting them involved in leadership, connecting them to productive opportunities whether it's for entrepreneurship or employment. It doesn't just address one thing, there are youth that require TVET skills, there are those that require connection to financing – that kind of thing. It looks at where the gaps are and how do we develop this very large youth population in Africa.

UNV: Youth Connekt is for Africa and not one specific country, right?

Baraka: Yes. Right now, it's for Africa. It's a programme that was first developed in Rwanda in 2012 and the Rwanda model has seven components. There is Youth Connekt Hangout, Youth Connekt Awards, Youth Connekt Convention, that kind of thing. So, each component addresses different aspects of youth development. It has since evolved and is now an African programme because other countries saw what is happening in Rwanda – the impact and the scalability of the programme and decided that we can adopt this programme for our



specific context as well as it is addressing similar challenges.

UNV: Was UNDP involved in Youth Connekt from the very beginning in Rwanda.

Baraka: That is correct. Driven by the previous Minister of Youth and ICT, John Filbere and the previous UNDP Resident Coordinator Mr. Lamin Manne They are the founding fathers of the programme.

UNV: Estibel, at what point did you and the Ministry come into the programme.

Estibel: I participated in the 2018 (Youth Connekt Africa Summit) last year.

After participating in that very important programme, I was so impressed in the programme because that was the first time to see more than 3,000 young people across Africa gather together and connect with each other. There were so many young

From Left: Estibel Mituku - UNDP Seconded to MOWCA, Baraka Ochieng - UNDP RSCA

leaders, young entrepreneurs and different influential young people from Africa. That was a nice platform to learn. By the time I got back to the office, I consulted with 11 Government officials about its importance (and if we can) contextualize it in Ethiopia. We are the second (most) populous country in Africa and (about) 70% of our population is below the age of 30. So, we need to use this as an opportunity, we shouldn't always see the number of young people as a threat. We should use it as an opportunity and we need to bring good initiatives from different countries so that we learn as well as share our experiences. Right after I participated in that event, I discussed with ministers, relevant government authorities, regional UNDP Office as well as the country office which I am working in. They were ready to

learn from that platform and we took them to Rwanda to see how it looks like including other youth development and empowerment programmes. Rwanda has a good model on Youth Empowerment and Development programmes. This year in October 2019, (Her) Excellency Minister (of Women, Children and Youth Affairs) was with us in Rwanda and she was really impressed by it. That drives us to make that programme realized in Ethiopia. That's how it started. As a young person and as a UN Volunteer as well as an individual who thinks about sense of Africanism and sense of nationhood, I just believe that bringing this programme into Ethiopia will create a good platform for our young people (to) exchange cultures, share knowledge with their brothers and sisters from different African countries.



“Youth Connekt as a programme really focuses on gender, especially women - trying to see how they can leverage on their available resources”

Baraka: I would also add that Youth Connekt as a programme really focuses on gender, especially women - trying to see how they can leverage on their available resources as well. In this case, I know Estibel, my brother here, works for the youth but he will find himself very much involved in women issues and for development partners like UNICEF and eventually children issues.

UNV: I want to thank both of you for taking out time to come here. Thank you so much.

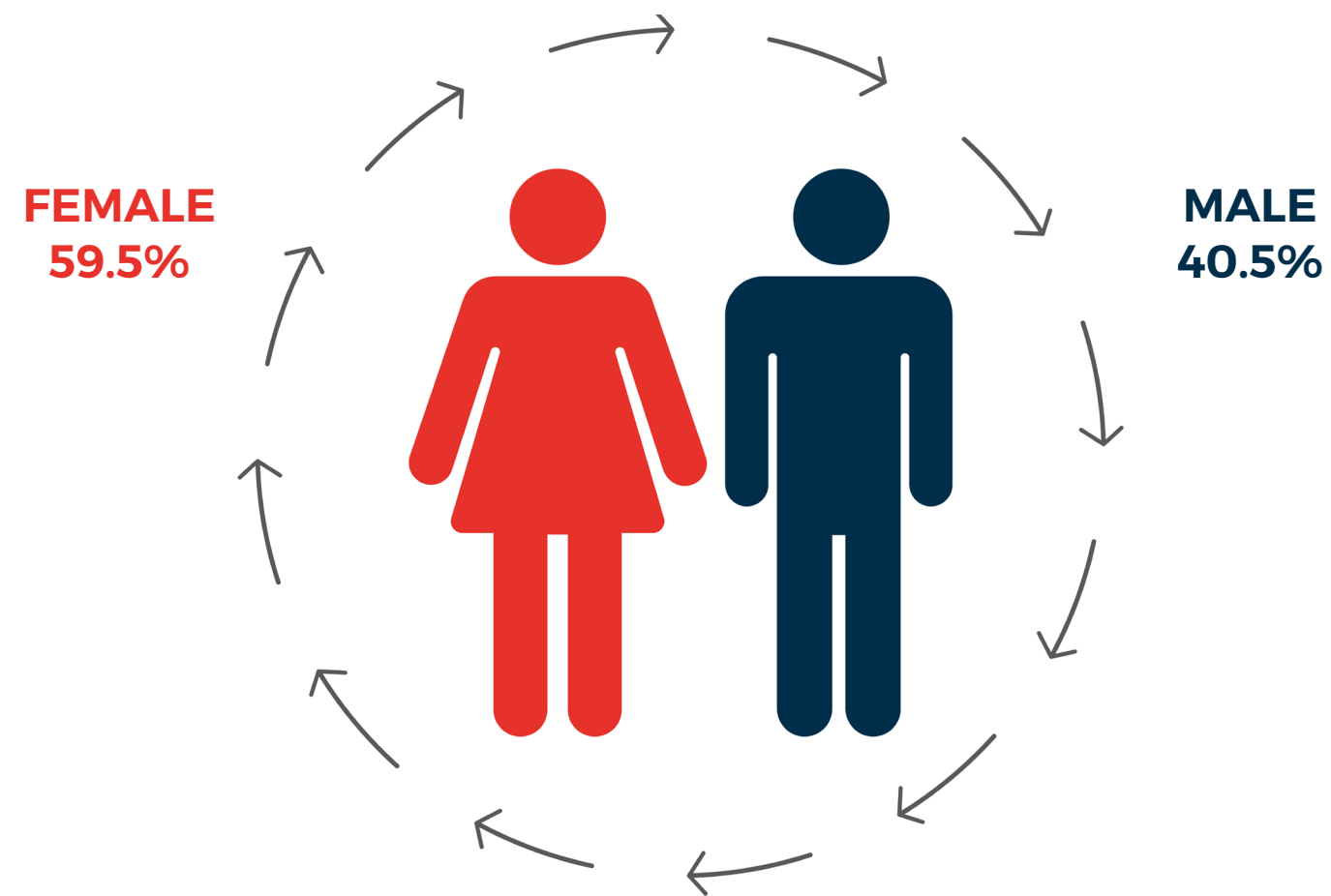
Baraka & Estibel: Thank you

This interview was conducted on the 24th of October 2019



My name is Benjamin Mirichi a UN Volunteer from Nairobi, Kenya. I serve as a Programme Management Support Officer for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I was previously a National UNV in Kenya from 2015 - 2018 where I also served as a member of the UNV Regional Advisory Board for East and Southern Africa in 2018. I have been instrumental in supporting the office with one of the most important highlights of the year for UNODC in the region, the Blue Heart Campaign - a global awareness raising initiative to fight Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling and its impact on society. According to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (UN TIP Protocol), human trafficking is "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to

achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at the minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs". Along that line, the campaign works to raise public awareness of the plight of victims and to build political support to curb the work of those involved in trafficking. The Blue Heart Campaign, supported by several countries, seeks to encourage involvement and inspire action to combat human trafficking. The Blue Heart is increasingly recognized as the international symbol against human trafficking, representing the sadness of those who are trafficked while reminding us of the cold-heartedness of those who buy and sell fellow human beings. By "wearing" the Blue Heart, you raise awareness of human trafficking, increase the visibility of the struggle of victims and join the campaign to fight this crime.



UNV ETHIOPIA CONTRIBUTES TO 2019 GLOBAL UNV PROGRAMME GENDER GAINS

The UN Volunteers (UNV) Programme for the first time since its establishment in 1971 achieved global gender parity for all UN Volunteers.

News of the achievement first broke in October, 2019 as the UNV Deputy Executive Coordinator, Toily Kurbanov made the announcement on social media and assured that the "struggle doesn't stop there". The UNV Programme has been working to achieve gender parity as an important step in also achieving gender parity in the United Nations system as a whole.

With 2,839 female UN Volunteers, the UNV programme walks the talk of ensuring gender parity drives its recruitment process. An article published on Impactpool highlighted four key takeaways from its study which surveyed UN Staff - "Are Women Paying a Higher Price for a UN Career"

1. Women that started their career as UN Volunteers were more likely to remain longer in the UN system.
2. As many as 12% of all successful women

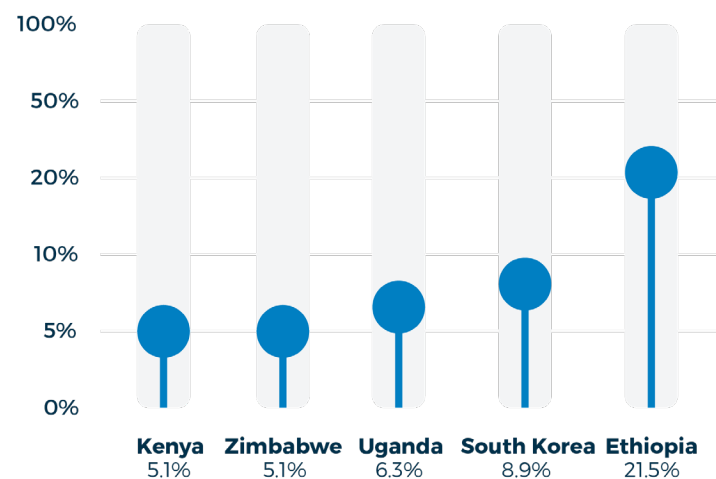
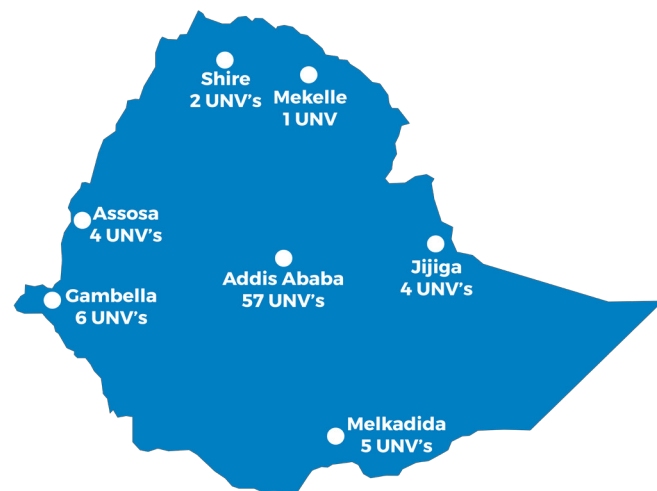
surveyed had previous UN volunteering experience.

3. There was significant correlation between hardship experience and women retention. UN Volunteers often serve in challenging locations and the study showed that women who had hardship experience before taking on the first UN staff position also tend to stay longer in the UN.

4. There was also a significant correlation between knowledge before applying and retention. Among the women surveyed, women who had someone to ask about the job to better understand its context before submitting their applications tend to be retained longer in the UN.

In 2019, there were 59.5% female UNVs and 40.5% male UNVs. This played a part in contributing to the global gender parity goal of the UN Volunteers programme.

While UNV takes a celebratory lap, it recognizes the task ahead of maintaining gains already made and pushing for gender balance in certain countries.



UN Volunteers In Ethiopia

With UN agencies working to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Ethiopia's development plan nationwide, different regions and states host various UN agency sub/field offices in order to draw closer to issues being faced at regional and local levels. The UN Volunteers Programme from its candidate pool, provides qualified and highly motivated volunteers.

A good case in point is the work of UNICEF in Gambella dedicated towards improving the state of social service delivery in the region. With a dedicated field office, they pay particular attention to the basic rights of women and children and target initiatives which cover health, learning and development, child protection, WASH and Social Policy and Evidence for Social Inclusion (SPESI).

Duty Stations

Out of the seven duty stations which hosted UN Volunteers in 2019, five as at 31st December 2019 are classified by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) as Non-Family Duty Stations while the other two are Family Duty Stations.

In 2019, UN Volunteers Ethiopia hosted 79 national and international volunteers in seven duty stations in the country namely: Shire, Assosa, Gambella, Melkadida, Jijiga, Mekelle and the country's capital, Addis Ababa.

UN Volunteers

Our volunteers came from far and wide with 36 countries represented in Ethiopia in what was a display of service and commitment to development in the country.

55.7% of our volunteers represented **44 African countries**, 25.3% represented **20 European countries**, 16.5% represented **13 Asian countries**, 2.5% represented **2 countries in North and South America**.

Ethiopia with 21.5% has the strongest representation of those who serve as volunteers in the country while the next country with some distance is **South Korea** with 8.9% of international volunteers serving in the country. Following closely is Uganda with 6.3% and in joint fourth are Kenya and Zimbabwe with 5.1% of international volunteers serving in the country.

Where do our Volunteers Serve?

Our volunteers were hosted by 19 different agencies and the most demanded professional backgrounds were programme/project management, communications/information management and administrative/human resources management. UNHCR had the highest number of volunteers followed by the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa and UNICEF Ethiopia.

To join the UN Volunteers Programme, visit www.vmam.unv.org to sign up and apply.

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UN VOLUNTEERS

Ethiopia

We are **inspiration in action**