

United Nations Volunteers

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The United Nations Volunteers (UNV), a program created in 1971, is one of the UN's crowning achievements. In 1997 these volunteers numbered over 3600 women and men, with an average age of about 40. Drawn from 115 occupational categories, they worked in 147 countries, including the 48 least developed.

Assignments are for a two-year period, and the volunteers work in five main fields: (1) technical co-operation; (2) assistance to non-governmental organizations and community groups wishing to set up local development projects; (3) humanitarian aid and social re-integration; (4) support for UN operations involving peacebuilding, conflict resolution, human rights and democratic process; and (5) development of entrepreneurship in the private and public sectors.

Volunteers are sent to countries only at their request and with their approval. The projects involve all sectors of activity, from health and education to environmental protection, agriculture, fisheries and forestry.



World Food Programme

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The World Food Programme (WFP) was founded in 1963 and has its headquarters in Rome. It is the United Nations agency responsible for food aid. The world's leading international organization of this type, the WFP uses food aid to:

- save human lives in humanitarian crises;
- assist the most vulnerable, especially women and children, when it is essential to meet their food needs in order to allow them to better realize their full human potential; and
- help people suffering from hunger to achieve self-dependence, and equip their communities with vital infrastructure such as roads, schools and irrigation systems.

