



## DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

### **Preamble:**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers.

In most cultures volunteerism is deeply embedded in long-established, ancient traditions of sharing and support within the communities. In this context, UN Volunteers take part in various forms of volunteerism and play a role in development and peace together with co-workers, host agencies and local communities.

In all assignments, UN Volunteers promote volunteerism through their action and conduct. Engaging in volunteer activity can effectively and positively enrich their understanding of local and social realities, as well as create a bridge between themselves and the people in their host community. This will make the time they spend as UN Volunteers even more rewarding and productive.

### **General**

**Assignment title:** National UN Youth Volunteer

**UN Host Entity:** UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund

**Country of assignment:** **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Nicaragua

**Duty station:** Nicaragua has a security level 2.

The assignment will include mission travel to New York, twice; once for orientation and/or for a capstone to conclude the fellowship.

**Volunteer category:** National UN Volunteer

**Duration:** 8 months

**Expected starting date:** 1 May 2022

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**Sustainable Development Goal:** SDGs 3, 5, and others

## Details

### **Organization mission and objectives**

UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. Our mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA's goal is to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, realize reproductive rights, and reduce maternal mortality to accelerate progress on the ICPD agenda, to improve the lives of adolescents and youth, and women, enabled by population dynamics, human rights, and gender equality.

In 2018, UNFPA launched efforts to achieve three transformative results, ambitions that promise to change the world for every man, woman and young person:

- 1.) Ending unmet need for family planning
- 2.) Ending preventable maternal death
- 3.) Ending gender-based violence and harmful practises

UNFPA recognizes that innovation is a key accelerator to achieve these results. UNFPA will harness innovation to meet tomorrow's challenges and boost its impact, especially in addressing furthest behind populations, and leverage opportunities, social capital, funding and technology by (a) strengthening the corporate innovation architecture and capabilities, (b) scaling up innovations that have proven to be effective and impactful, (c) forming new partnerships and connecting with relevant innovation ecosystems, (d) strengthening and leveraging financing for innovation, and (e) expanding communities and culture for innovation.

### **Assignment context**

#### **UNFPA Youth Innovators Fellowship Programme 2022**

Enabling young people to realise their full social, economic and human potential is a key aspect of UNFPA's mandate. Our Fellows are innovative young people from around the world who have demonstrated commitment to development issues within their communities.

The youth innovators fellowship programme brings young people into UNFPA with a dedicated focus on both providing a youth perspective and driving innovation. This exciting opportunity sees fellows undergo leadership training and support innovation efforts in UNFPA Regional or Country Offices in a capacity relevant to their experience.



Our goal is to provide fellows with the tools, skill sets, international experience and exposure to innovation to empower them to realise their career goals, thus building national capacity. Fellows in turn provide innovative insights and ideas that will enable us to be better aligned with development issues in their community.

## **Task description**

The UNFPA Youth Innovation Fellow will contribute to UNFPA's innovation priorities in a number of ways, including: strengthening the innovation architecture; supporting the scale-up of innovations; forming partnerships; strengthening financing for innovation; and expanding the communities and culture for innovation.

Nicaragua has made significant progress in SRH, such as the reduction of maternal mortality, and access to modern contraceptives has increased, but the gaps among regions of the country and in the adolescent group are still showing significant inequities. The country is among the first places in adolescent pregnancy (second place in pregnancy in adolescents between 15 and 19 years old and first place in those under 15 years old) and early unions (35.2%) in Latin America and Caribbean.

The high rate of pregnancy in children under 15 years of age, whose tendency is to increase, it's a main challenge. In this context, it is necessary to continue emphasizing the promotion of accurate, timely quality information on sexual and reproductive health and rights and GBV prevention and care, as well as to strengthen the empowerment of girls and adolescents for decision-making about their body and sexuality.

The UNFPA cooperation program for Nicaragua in the period 2019-2023 establishes within its second result to enhance the skills of adolescents and young people to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health; a result that is also reflected in the project "Prevention of pregnancy in adolescence: sexual and reproductive health for adolescents in Nicaragua", focused on the 20 municipalities with the highest rates of pregnancy in adolescents and unions at an early age, implemented by UNFPA in coordination with Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Family and Ministry of Youth.

Innovation is one of the key components of sustainable development to find new technologies and ways to solve issues and to find more effective solutions. Innovation and digitization is part of the 6 accelerators of the new UNFPA strategic plan to keep the promise of the ICPD Program of Action, Nairobi Commitments and Montevideo Consensus. In that way, UNFPA Nicaragua aims to improve the efficiency and quality of its program through innovation, to ensure that it will have a positive impact on the lives of Nicaraguan girls, adolescents and women.

The selected UNV will contribute to the use and strengthening innovation in the country office for the full exercise of SRHR and GBV prevention among adolescents.

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Under the direct supervision of the Communication Associate, and in coordination with SRH Specialist and CSE and GBV Programme Analyst. Provide adequate induction, guidance, timely feedback as well as a team working environment, the UN Volunteer will undertake the following tasks:

Among the main activities are:

Develop a UNFPA Nicaragua innovation plan with emphasize in Communication for Development with the active participation of adolescents and young people that include:

- Benchmarking regional and global innovative initiatives, prioritizing those aimed to adolescents and young people
- Mechanism of participation of adolescents and youth to exchange ideas and build solutions to overcome barriers
- Review, select and optimize the use of pre-existing material, tools and resources available in the country office such as Youth online platform, videos and other assets and platforms.
- Promote strategies to expand technological skills for adolescents and youth for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as the prevention of gender violence.

Furthermore, UN Volunteers are required to:

- Strengthen their knowledge and understanding of the concept of volunteerism by reading relevant UNV and external publications and take active part in UNV activities (for instance in events that mark International Volunteer Day);
- Be acquainted with and build on traditional and/or local forms of volunteerism in the host country;
- Reflect on the type and quality of voluntary action that they are undertaking, including participation in ongoing reflection activities;
- Contribute articles/write-ups on field experiences and submit them for UNV publications/websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.;
- Assist with the UNV Buddy Programme for newly-arrived UN Volunteers;
- Promote or advise local groups in the use of online volunteering, or encourage relevant local individuals and organizations to use the UNV Online Volunteering service whenever technically possible.

## **Requirements**

### **Skills and experience description**

- Secondary education completion and/or some tertiary education with qualifications in social sciences, business, social innovation, media, arts and design, public administration, management, public relations or a related field

- 3-5 years of demonstrated interest and dedication to development issues in areas of UNFPA's mandate through either volunteer experience, work experience, or youth network affiliations
- Experience in facilitating workshops with adolescents and young people (desirable)
- Experience using apps, social networks, and other platforms to encourage engagement of adolescents and young people
- Demonstrated, or clear idea of, delivery of UNFPA's mandate in an innovative way
- Ability to identify and propose innovative solutions to problems
- Good digital literacy skills and awareness of ethical online safety practices when engaging with young people
- Knowledge of design and editing programs such as Adobe Creative or other similar (desirable)
- Good communication skills (written and oral)
- Open to candidates aged between 18 years to 26 years old
- Special consideration will be given to indigenous people, afro-descendants people, persons with disabilities and LGBTQI candidates

#### Values

- Exemplifying integrity
- Demonstrating commitment to UNFPA and the UN system
- Embracing cultural diversity
- Embracing change

#### Core competencies

- Achieving results
- Being accountable
- Developing and applying professional expertise/business acumen
- Thinking analytically and strategically
- Working in teams/managing ourselves and our relationships
- Communicating for impact

#### Language skills

English                      mandatory  optional   
   basic  fair  working knowledge  fluent  mother tongue

Spanish                      mandatory  optional   
   basic  fair  working knowledge  fluent  mother tongue

   mandatory  optional   
   basic  fair  working knowledge  fluent  mother tongue

**Competencies and Values:**

- Accountability
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Building Trust
- Client Orientation
- Commitment and Motivation
- Commitment to Continuous Learning
- Communication
- Creativity
- Empowering Others
- Ethics and Values
- Integrity
- Judgement and Decision-making
- Knowledge Sharing
- Leadership
- Managing Performance
- Planning and Organizing
- Professionalism
- Respect for Diversity
- Self-Management
- Technological Awareness
- Vision
- Working in Teams

**Driving license needed: No.**

**Living conditions**

Nicaragua is a Central American lower middle-income country with a population of 6.8 million people, 38% of them are adolescents and youth (10-29 years). Poverty is still high, particularly in rural areas, where 44% of Nicaraguans live, and among indigenous and afro-descendants, who represent 7 per cent of the total population and mostly live in the North (RACCN) and South (RACCS) Atlantic Autonomous Regions and in the North-central part of the country.

Nicaragua is prone to earthquakes, especially on the pacific coast, while Tropical Storms and hurricanes are common occurrences on the Caribbean coast (between May-Nov). Malaria is endemic in some rural areas. Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika are also widely present in the country. Also, the country is experiencing COVID-19 community transmission, but there are no imposed restrictions (lockdown, curfew, etc.).



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