

Portrait of Hanan Ahmed



Hanan is an international UN Volunteer from Ethiopia, deployed with MONUSCO as a civil engineer since June 2014. She is one of the 400 UN volunteers working on development aid projects, humanitarian and peace keeping operations throughout the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Tell us, Hanan, what made you choose to become a United Nations Volunteer? ***"After completing my Civil Engineering studies in Ethiopia, I wanted to have a professional experience in another country in an environment where I could serve as a volunteer. I submitted my resumé online and I was contacted a few weeks later to serve as volunteer within MONUSCO. I didn't hesitate one second!"***

Based in Goma, in the eastern part of the country, what is your role within the mission? ***"I am involved in all phases of MONUSCO's construction and infrastructure work by conducting preliminary research before launching a project, managing the contract workers, drafting budgets and the end-project report. For example, I am currently in charge of supervising the work at the terminal of the Goma Airport which will help facilitate travelling for MONUSCO civilian and military personnel as well as UN volunteers on official missions through the country"***

Choosing Hanan for the portrait of the month was not accidental. Ghassan Mahshi, her team leader has this to say about our UN volunteer, "***Having Hanan as part of our mission is essential. Her work is not only carried out in several locations in Goma but also in different provinces in North Kivu to monitor and evaluate the projects underway. Hanan is a***



multi-tasked person who can manage many projects from the inception in highly professional manner. For example, with the help of our team, Hanan recently secured the logistics for the organization of a forum for 15,000 young people addressing peaceful cohabitation, tolerance and non-violence in the Grands Lacs region. Above all, I feel fortunate to be able to work on a daily basis with motivated and experienced UN Volunteers like Hanan who give added value to the mission's operations".

One of Hanan's colleagues Katembo Kalo, has echoed Ghassan Mahshi as declaring: "***Hanan is someone who listens to others and who is always willing to share her expertise in projects that are sometimes complicated. She displays a real team spirit that motivates us every day".*** Hanan works in a professional male-dominated environment and is proud to overcome the stereotypes and barriers faced on a daily basis. After all, she became UN Volunteer with a view to contributing her expertise and energy to assist the local population with whom she lives. "***I am doing all I can to have a positive impact on the people around me. That is what motivates me to go to work every morning".***

Lastly, what message would you give to others who would like to serve as volunteers for the United Nations? "***Apply! The volunteer assignments are an opportunity to have a positive impact by contributing in significantly to peace and development. Volunteer's work increases social harmony by encouraging individual and collective actions, which lead to sustainable development by citizens and for citizens".***



UN interventions in favor of peace and development can count on UN Volunteers to maximize their results and make them sustainable in the long run. Hanan is one of the UN Volunteers who embodies the fundamental values such as inclusion, dedication, commitment and solidarity.

By Fabien Faivre
Translated by Marguerite McMillan,
an online volunteer mobilized through
www.onlinevolunteering.org