

AFRICAN UNION
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UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

Lilongwe 3, MALAWI P. O. Box 30898 Tel. +265 1 775 335/ +265 1 774 878 Fax . +265 1 775 330 e-mail: oau-saro@malawi.net

PRESS CONFERENCE

TICHAWONA SHUMBA

SENIOR ECONOMIST

AFRICAN UNION SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

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AU-YVC is a continental development program that recruits and works with youth volunteers, to work in all 54 countries across the African Union.

AU-YVC promotes volunteering to deepen the status of young people in Africa as key participants in Africa's development and integration agenda. It brings people together to share skills, knowledge, creativity and learning to build a more integrated Continent and by implication strengthen Africa's position in the globalized world.

The concept is in line with the African Youth Charter as well as the Decision of AU Head of States and Governments in Assembly/AU/Dec.274 (XVI) January 2010, to set up a continental Volunteer initiative.

AU-YVC was officially launched on the 3rd of December 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria, in the presence of H.E. President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Ministers of Youth from across the African Union, high level AU representatives, Partners and other Volunteer Organizations and Africa's Youth at large.

Objectives of the AU-YVC

- Engage Africa's Youth in the Continent's development through meaningful youth participation by providing Service for their Continent;
- Provide opportunities to Young Africans to serve and gain crucial professional experience, soft skills, social competence, international exposure and leadership skills;
- Promote shared values and Pan-Africanism among the upcoming generation.

What are the focus areas of work the AU Volunteers may participate in?

Areas of intervention by AU Volunteers are in line with the African Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018) which focuses on the following AUC Strategic Programs:

- **Development** (education, health, HIV AIDS, ICT , private sector development, agriculture and environment)
- **Peace and Security**
- **Shared Values** (rights , governance and democracy)

What is the Profile of the Youth Volunteer?

Young people from across the continent are welcome to apply to be part of the program. The minimum requirements here for are, candidate must be/have:

- African Citizen or African Diaspora
- Age 18 – 34
- Have at least a post-secondary certified training and qualifications (Bachelor equivalent) with above average performance
- Available to dedicate minimum of 12 (twelve) months for volunteer work in any part of the continent
- Good knowledge of at least one official AU languages (Arabic, English, French, Portuguese) and willing to learn others
- Verifiable minimum of one year of volunteer and one year of work experience

Once volunteer applicants are screened and shortlisted, they are now nominated as volunteer candidates. The selection process is very competitive, out of yearly 2000 or more applicants only about 200 make to the final stage (10%).

Prior to their deployment, volunteers undergo an intensive training of 2-3 weeks. The training is aimed at preparing volunteers for their new journey, induce the spirit of volunteerism amongst their trainees and enhance their professional skills and to promote shared values and Pan-Africanism amongst trainees.

For this training modules have been prepared to be conducted in a very interactive manner enabling trainees to work in small groups which involves discussions, hand-on-community works, program designs, plays and various forms of team building exercises.

After the training volunteers:

- Are familiarized with Africa, the African Union and the African Union Commission and their role in it as emerging leaders;
- spirit of volunteerism is enhanced;
- Understand their roles as change agents;
- Are involved in community learning and development;
- Are able to apply their skills in a multispectral and multicultural environment;

What happens after volunteers participate in the program?

After the pre-deployment training, volunteers will now be matched with existing requests and assigned to a position which matches their educational background. Volunteers are deployed to a country outside of their own;

In 2010, 30 volunteers participated in the first training programme in Nigeria. The second volunteer training programme was held in Equatorial Guinea, at which a further 95 volunteers were trained.

So far 30 volunteers have been deployed in various institutions including, the African Union Commission, USAID, UNFPA and AU member states.

The deployment process of the remaining training graduands is ongoing.

Proposed Volunteer Training Malawi

The third Youth Volunteer training is scheduled to take place from 4-18 July 2012, in Lilongwe. The target intake for this training is 100, of which 30 participants will come from Malawi and the rest from the other 53 member states.

How are volunteer used for future AU work?

Volunteers are deployed across the African Union in international organizations (AU, UN, RECs), government ministries and national institutions, community projects, rural schools and health centres amongst others.

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Press conference Tichawona shumba
Senior Economist African Union
Southern Africa regional office
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