

Volunteer with Unyenyekevu CBO

Creating Safe Spaces, Building Hope and Strengthening Young Lives

Unyenyekevu CBO welcomes national and international volunteers to join our community-based programmes supporting children and young people in **Kakuma Refugee Camp, Turkana County, and Kitale, Kenya.**

Our volunteer programme focuses on **mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, sport, play, creativity and youth engagement.** Through these activities, volunteers work alongside Unyenyekevu staff and community members to create safe, supportive and inclusive spaces where children and young people can play, learn, express themselves, build confidence and develop positive relationships.

Our approach is rooted in the communities we serve. Volunteers are therefore not coming simply to provide short-term assistance; they become part of a community-led programme that values local knowledge, participation, dignity and sustainable impact.

About the Volunteer Programme

Why Mental Health, Sport and Play?

Children and young people living in vulnerable circumstances can experience stress, social isolation, uncertainty and limited opportunities for recreation and positive social interaction. Unyenyekevu uses **sport, play, creative activities and psychosocial support** as practical ways of promoting wellbeing and resilience.

Sport and play provide opportunities for children to develop teamwork, communication, confidence and leadership while enjoying healthy physical activity. Creative and psychosocial activities provide safe opportunities for children and youth to express themselves, build supportive relationships and develop positive coping skills.

The programme is designed to complement, rather than replace, professional mental health services. Volunteers do not provide clinical diagnosis or treatment unless they have the appropriate professional qualifications and are specifically authorized by Unyenyekevu.

Where the Programme Takes Place

Kakuma Refugee Camp

Volunteers can support activities with children and youth living in **Kakuma Refugee Camp and surrounding communities**. Activities are implemented in collaboration with community leaders, local volunteers and Unyenyekevu programme staff.

Kitale

Volunteers can also participate in community-based activities in **Kitale**, working with children, youth, families and other vulnerable community members supported by Unyenyekevu.

Placements will depend on programme needs, available activities and the volunteer's skills and interests.

Who Can Volunteer?

National Volunteers

We welcome Kenyan volunteers who are passionate about working with children and young people. University students, graduates, teachers, social workers, psychologists, counsellors, sports coaches, youth workers, artists, musicians and community development practitioners are particularly encouraged to apply.

Previous professional experience is an advantage for some roles, but enthusiasm, commitment, respect for communities and willingness to learn are equally important.

International Volunteers

International volunteers are also welcome to contribute their skills and experience. We encourage international volunteers to approach the placement as an opportunity for **mutual learning and community service**, respecting local leadership, culture and knowledge.

Volunteers must be at least **18 years old** and must meet Unyenyekvu's safeguarding and volunteer requirements.

Programme Duration and Availability

How Long Can I Volunteer?

We offer flexible placements depending on programme needs and volunteer availability.

Short-term placements generally run for **2–3 weeks** and are suitable for volunteers seeking an introductory community experience.

Standard placements of **4–8 weeks** are recommended for volunteers who want sufficient time to understand the community, develop relationships and make a more sustained contribution.

Extended placements of **3–6 months** may be considered for volunteers with specialist skills or those interested in supporting longer-term programme development.

When Is the Programme Open?

Volunteer applications can be accepted **throughout the year**, subject to programme capacity, safeguarding requirements and availability of placements.

We encourage international volunteers to apply at least **6–8 weeks before their preferred starting date** to allow sufficient time for application review, safeguarding checks, travel planning and orientation.

Programme Highlights

Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing

Volunteers support supervised activities that promote emotional wellbeing, social connection and positive coping among children and youth. Activities may include storytelling, drawing, music, group discussions, relaxation activities, confidence-building exercises, life-skills sessions and resilience activities.

The emphasis is on creating safe spaces where children and young people can participate, express themselves and build positive relationships.

Sport and Physical Activity

Sport is an important component of the programme. Volunteers can support football, volleyball, athletics, relay races, traditional games, cooperative games, fitness activities and other age-appropriate recreational activities.

Sport is used not only for physical activity but also to encourage **teamwork, leadership, inclusion, communication and confidence.**

Creative Arts and Play

Creative activities provide children and youth with additional ways to express themselves and have fun. Volunteers may support drawing, painting, drama, music, dance, storytelling, poetry, crafts, educational games and talent activities.

What Will Volunteers Do?

Volunteers will work alongside Unyenyekevu staff and community facilitators to plan and deliver activities. Depending on their skills and the programme schedule, volunteers may facilitate sport and play sessions, support psychosocial activities, assist with creative activities, help organize youth groups and participate in community engagement activities.

Volunteers may also assist with preparing activity materials, organizing sports equipment, recording attendance, supporting programme documentation and participating in daily team reflections.

Volunteers are expected to contribute ideas while recognizing that activities should be guided by **community needs, local leadership and Unyenyekevu's programme priorities**.

A Typical Volunteer Day

Morning: Team Preparation

The day normally begins with a team meeting where volunteers and Unyenyekevu staff review the day's programme, allocate responsibilities, prepare materials and discuss any issues that need attention.

Volunteers may then help prepare sports equipment, creative materials and activity spaces or accompany programme staff during community mobilisation.

Mid-Morning: Mental Health and Psychosocial Activities

Volunteers may support structured group activities involving storytelling, art, music, games, life-skills activities, resilience exercises and confidence-building sessions.

Activities are adapted according to the age, needs and interests of participating children and youth.

Afternoon: Sport and Play

Afternoon sessions generally focus on sport, physical activity and recreational games. Depending on the programme, activities may include football, volleyball, athletics, team games, traditional games and inclusive recreational activities.

Volunteers help ensure that activities are welcoming and accessible to both girls and boys and, where possible, children and young people living with disabilities.

End of Day: Reflection and Learning

At the end of each day, volunteers participate in a short team reflection with Unyenyekevu staff. The team reviews what went well, identifies challenges, discusses children's participation and agrees on any adaptations needed for the following day.

This reflection process helps Unyenyekevu continuously improve the quality and relevance of activities.

Example Weekly Programme

Monday – Teamwork and Sport

The week begins with group-building activities, wellbeing games and football or other team sports.

Tuesday – Girls’ Participation and Creativity

Activities focus on encouraging girls’ participation through sport, creative expression and inclusive group activities.

Wednesday – Youth Leadership

Young people participate in leadership, teamwork and confidence-building activities followed by team sports and recreational games.

Thursday – Creativity and Wellbeing

The day combines art, music, storytelling and psychosocial activities with afternoon physical activities.

Friday – Community Fun and Reflection

The week concludes with recreational activities, talent sessions, community games and group reflection.

The programme is flexible and may change according to community needs, school calendars, weather conditions and other local circumstances.

What Unyenyekevu Covers

Unyenyekevu will provide the programme-related support required for volunteers to participate effectively. This includes **volunteer orientation, safeguarding training, programme supervision, community introduction,**

programme materials and equipment, and ongoing coordination and support.

Where applicable, Unyenyekevu may also arrange accommodation, local transportation or meals. These arrangements will depend on the volunteer package selected and will be communicated clearly before the placement begins.

What Volunteers Cover

Unless specifically included in the volunteer package, volunteers are responsible for their own **travel to Kenya, visa and immigration costs, travel insurance, personal medical expenses, accommodation, meals, personal transportation and other personal expenses.**

All costs and inclusions will be communicated to volunteers before they confirm their placement.

Volunteer Programme Fees

Unyenyekevu may charge a programme fee to help cover the costs of volunteer coordination, orientation, safeguarding, programme supervision, community mobilisation, activity materials and administration.

The exact fee will depend on the **duration, location and services included in the placement.**

A full breakdown of fees and what is included will be provided to volunteers before acceptance into the programme.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Children Come First

Because volunteers will work directly with children and young people, **child safeguarding is central to the Unyenyekevu Volunteer Programme.**

All volunteers must complete safeguarding orientation, comply with the Unyenyekevu Code of Conduct and meet the required screening and reference-check procedures.

Volunteers must maintain appropriate professional boundaries and must never engage in physical punishment, inappropriate communication, discrimination, exploitation or unsupervised one-to-one activities with children.

Any safeguarding concern must be reported immediately through Unyenyekevu's designated reporting mechanism.

Photography and Social Media

Volunteers must respect children's privacy and dignity at all times.

Volunteers may not photograph, film or publish images or personal information about children without authorization from Unyenyekevu and the appropriate consent.

Volunteers must also avoid creating inappropriate private relationships with children through social media, messaging applications or other communication channels.

Specialist Volunteer Opportunities

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Unyenyekevu welcomes appropriately qualified professionals such as psychologists, counsellors and social workers who can contribute to programme development, capacity building and supervised psychosocial activities.

Sport and Physical Activity

Sports coaches, physical education teachers, athletes and sports trainers can support the development of structured sport and recreation programmes.

Creative Arts

Musicians, artists, drama practitioners, dancers and other creative professionals can contribute to activities that encourage expression, confidence and social connection.

Child and Youth Development

Teachers, youth workers, child protection practitioners and community development professionals can support education, life skills, youth leadership and community activities.

Programme and Communications Support

Volunteers with skills in monitoring and evaluation, communications, digital media, fundraising and documentation may also contribute to strengthening Unyenyekvu's programmes.

What Volunteers Can Expect to Learn

Volunteering with Unyenyekvu is a two-way learning experience. Volunteers will gain practical exposure to **community-based programming, child and youth participation, mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, sport for development, safeguarding, inclusive programming and locally led development.**

International volunteers will also have the opportunity to learn from the knowledge, experience and leadership of local communities.

Making a Difference

The goal of the volunteer programme is not simply to increase the number of activities delivered. We want volunteers to contribute to **safe, meaningful and sustainable opportunities for children and young people.**

Through their participation, volunteers can help create more opportunities for children to play, build friendships, express themselves, develop confidence, participate in physical activity and strengthen positive coping and social skills.

At the same time, volunteers contribute additional skills and ideas to Unyenyekevu's community programmes and help strengthen the organization's ability to engage children and youth.

Our Programme in Pictures

See Our Work

Our website will feature photographs showing the real experiences of children, young people, volunteers and communities participating in Unyenyekevu activities.

Photographs will include **sport and play activities, psychosocial and creative sessions, community engagement, youth activities, volunteers working alongside community facilitators, and Unyenyekevu programme facilities.**

All photographs of children will be used in accordance with Unyenyekevu's safeguarding, consent and child-protection procedures.

How to Apply

Step 1: Submit Your Application

Tell us about yourself, your skills and experience, your preferred location, the type of activities you would like to support and your preferred dates.

Step 2: Application Review

The Unyenyekevu team will review your application based on programme needs, your skills and suitability for working with children and youth.

Step 3: Interview

Shortlisted volunteers will participate in an interview to discuss their interests, expectations and proposed contribution.

Step 4: Safeguarding Screening

Successful applicants will complete the required safeguarding, identification and reference/background checks.

Step 5: Orientation

Before beginning their placement, volunteers receive programme information, safeguarding orientation, guidance on community engagement and information about their responsibilities.

Step 6: Begin Your Placement

Volunteers join the Unyenyekevu team and begin participating in supervised activities with children and young people.

Ready to Volunteer?

Give Your Time. Share Your Skills. Build Hope.

Whether you are a Kenyan student looking for meaningful community service, a professional seeking to contribute your expertise, or an international volunteer looking for a responsible community-based experience, **Unyenyekevu CBO welcomes individuals who are committed to serving children and young people with dignity, respect and compassion.**

Join us in creating **safe spaces where children can play, young people can participate, communities can lead, and hope can grow.**

Apply to Volunteer with Unyenyekevu

Preferred Location: Kakuma / Kitale / Either

Preferred Programme: Mental Health & Psychosocial Wellbeing / Sport & Play / Creative Activities / Youth Development / Other

Preferred Duration: 2–3 weeks / 4–8 weeks / 3–6 months

Preferred Start Date: [Insert Date]

[APPLY NOW]

Email: [Insert Email]

Phone/WhatsApp: [Insert Number]

Website: [Insert Website]

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Contact Us

Kenya | info@unyenyekevucbo.org | +254 712 345 678

Call / WhatsApp: +254 712 345 678

Website: unyenyekevucbo.org