

# The Fake Offer: How UN Job Scams Target Young Africans

Onoja Anthony, PhD

# How These Scams Work

Scammers are clever. With the latest advancements in Artificial Intelligence, their tactics have become more complex and harder to detect. They:

- ❑ Use fake emails and websites that look official.
- ❑ List real UN job titles and impressive salaries.
- ❑ Promise fast-track hiring
- ❑ Ask you to pay for visas, accommodation, or onboarding



*“They know many of us want these jobs badly — and they use that against us.”*

# Common Red Flags

*“You will think so hard about when you applied for it or where you filled your details. But you won’t remember. That is because you didn’t.”*

## ✗ Scam Sign

Gmail/Yahoo addresses

They ask for money upfront

Poor grammar or fake titles

Pressure to act immediately

## ✓ What’s Real

Always **@un.org** only

UN never charges applicants

UN uses formal, clear language

UN gives proper timelines



A person wearing a dark hoodie is sitting at a desk, using a laptop. They are holding a white credit card in their right hand. The background is a dark, teal-colored wall with various cybercrime-related terms and numbers floating around. The terms include 'IDENTITY THEFT', 'PHISHING', 'CODE', 'HACKER', 'VIRUS', 'FRAUD', 'SPYWARE', 'PASSWORD', and 'INTRUDER'. Numbers like '5498022158', '68853243', '55428901', '32457906', '589901', and '01001109' are also visible. The overall theme is digital security and cyber threats.

# Case Study: My Personal Encounter

# The Baiting Strategy

They create a bait — usually by sending out emails designed to lure unsuspecting victims.

Dear All,

I am happy to pass along this news I recieved some days ago, someone else may also need it.

There are several available job openings at the International agency at the moment, you may push your application letter or resume directly to: [applicants@career-un.org](mailto:applicants@career-un.org)

You will receive further directives thereafter.

You can check the below trailing mail for more info.

Best of luck,  
Shaheen Hassan

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From: Mariela Garabendian  
Date: Wed, 27 Oct 2021 at 23:57  
Subject: Available Job Openings: Batch C 2021  
To: BA DESA; BA UN Agencies; BA UNDSS; BA WCESA; BA UNDP

# Scammers often begin by sending convincing emails to lure their victims in.

Dear All,

For your kind information, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is looking for passionate changemakers to contribute to our mission to help the United Nations drive global progress.

Find below list of current openings:

1. *Senior Technical Advisor, D1-D2*
2. *Senior Economic Affairs Officer, D1*
3. *Transport Planner, P4*
4. *Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, D1*
5. *Programme Officer, P4*
6. *Finance Officer, P4*
7. *Research Assistant, P4*
8. *Emergency Programme Officer, P4*
9. *Senior Public Health Officer, D1*
10. *Logistics & Administration Officer, P4*
11. *Social Work Officer, P4*
12. *Human Resource Officer, P5*
13. *Associate Procurement Officer, P4*

Specific details of each of the available positions will be communicated to the applicants.

Details of the Associated Annual net salaries in United States Dollars are as follows:

P1: \$87,553.00 - \$91,014.00  
P2: \$98,441.00 - \$111,962.00  
P3: \$117,554.00 - \$148,384.00  
P4: \$151,031.00 - \$169,540.00  
P5: \$171,226.00 - \$192,569.00  
D1: \$193,577.00 - \$211,248.00  
D2: \$213,676.00 - \$241,995.00

Application Deadline: 20 Dec 2021

Duration: Permanent and Full Time

Duty Station: Multiple

Interested candidates can send an application to:

It would be highly appreciated if you could provide the following information:

Kind regards,

--

Mariela Garabedian  
HR, Public Information Assistant  
Mail: [mariela.garabedian@career-un.org](mailto:mariela.garabedian@career-un.org)  
760 United Nations Plaza  
Manhattan, New York City  
NY 10017-6818, USA

...

[Message clipped] [View entire message](#)

← Reply

→ Forward



ion of recruitment officer Ms. **Lim Kim-Lan**: [applicants@career-un.org](mailto:applicants@career-un.org)

sted applicants.



Onoja Anthony - Application Number 16/E/UN/DESA/177424 - Personal History Form (PHF) Σ Inbox x



**UN DESA | WCESA | RPI** <rpi@un-career.org>  
to me, UN ▼

Dear Onoja Anthony,

Thank you for your interest to join the UN workforce.

Please note your app

Kindly find attached I

You are allowed only

Only short-listed can

Thank you and have

--

**Lim KIM-LAN**  
Recruitment | HR M  
United Nations Dep

Email: [rpi@un-c](mailto:rpi@un-c)

Address: 760 Unite  
Manhattan, New York City  
NY 10017-6818, USA



xecution. Ensure that all data are clearly stated on the spaces provided.

back to the undersigned via email.

may be telephonic, online questionnaire, video or in-person.

[un.org](http://un.org)



# Notification offer: Letter of Employment

Onoja Anthony - Notification Of Offer Of Employment > Inbox x



UN DESA | WCESA | HR <hr@headoffice-un.org>  
to me, UN, UN ▾

Dear Onoja Anthony,

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT**

Sequel to your entry, with application 16/E/UN/DESA/177

You have been offered a provisional appointment as **Seni**

Your Employment will be effective October 3rd, 2022 and

Details of this Offer will be stated on the Employment doc

Congratulations!

--

Alexander THERN-SVANBERG  
Chief Personnel Service  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Email: [hr@headoffice-un.org](mailto:hr@headoffice-un.org) | [alexander.ts@headoffice-un.org](mailto:alexander.ts@headoffice-un.org) | [alexander.thern.s@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.thern.s@gmail.com)

Address: 760 United Nations Plaza  
Manhattan, New York City  
NY 10017-6818, USA

Tel: (917) 274-7099



process.



A grayscale photograph of a person in a call center, viewed from behind. They are wearing a headset and sitting at a desk with two computer monitors. The background shows other workers and office equipment, slightly out of focus. Overlaid on the image is the word 'SCAMMER' in large, bold, white capital letters, and below it, the text 'How to know these are Scammers' in a smaller white font.

# SCAMMER

How to know these are  
Scammers

# Look out for subtle inconsistencies

Onoja Anthony - Notification Of Offer Of Employment 🔍 Inbox x



UN DESA | WCESA | HR <hr@headoffice-un.org>

to me, UN, UN ▼

Dear Onoja Anthony,

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT**

Sequel to your entry, with application 16/E/UN/DESA/177424, we are pleased to inform you that you were

You have been offered a provisional appointment as **Senior Technical Advisor D1**, for an initial period

Your Employment will be effective October 3rd, 2022 and your duty station shall be at the Asia Regional

Details of this Offer will be stated on the Employment documents to be emailed to you on or before July

Congratulations!

--

Alexander THERN-SVANBERG  
Chief Personnel Service  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Email: [hr@headoffice-un.org](mailto:hr@headoffice-un.org) | [alexander.ts@headoffice-un.org](mailto:alexander.ts@headoffice-un.org) | [alexander.thern.s@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.thern.s@gmail.com)

Address: 760 United Nations Plaza

Manhattan, New York City

NY 10017-6818, USA

Tel: (917) 274-7099

from: UN DESA | WCESA | HR <hr@headoffice-un.org>

to: donmaston09@gmail.com

cc: UN DESA | WCESA | HRM <hrm@wcesa-undesa.org>,  
UN DESA | WCESA | NY <hrm@headoffice-un.org>

date: Jul 13, 2022, 11:45 PM

subject: Onoja Anthony - Notification Of Offer Of Employment

mailed-by: headoffice-un.org

signed-by: headoffice-un.org

security: Standard encryption (TLS) [Learn more](#)

# Do some Background checks

Fwd: Selection Process: Administrative Assistant, NO-B, FAO Nigeria (VN167462), Apeh 🔍 Inbox x



**Apeh John**  
to me ▾

📧 4:02 PM (5 hours ago) ☆ 😊 ↩ ⋮

----- Forwarded message -----

From: FAO Recruitment <[fatima.khan@fao-recruitment.org](mailto:fatima.khan@fao-recruitment.org)>

Date: Mon, Apr 14, 2025, 10:46 AM

Subject: Selection Process: Administrative Assistant, NO-B, FAO Nigeria (VN167462), Apeh

To: <[apehjohn52@gmail.com](mailto:apehjohn52@gmail.com)>

From: FAO Recruitment <[fatima.khan@fao-recruitment.org](mailto:fatima.khan@fao-recruitment.org)>

Dear Sir/Madam John Apeh,

FAO Nigeria is currently recruiting for several local support positions, and your professional profile has been identified as meeting the minimum requirements for the following position:

**Position Title:** Administrative Assistant (multiple positions)

**Grade Level:** NO-B

**Reference Number:** VN167462

**Type of Assignment:** Fixed Term Appointment

**Job Schedule:** Full-time

**Duty Station:** Abuja, Nigeria

**Duration of Initial Contract:** One year

**Expected Duration:** Renewable annually based on performance and organizational needs

If you wish to be considered for this position, please confirm your interest by replying to this email by **Apr 21, 2025**. Upon receiving your confirmation, as well as that of other suitable candidates, we will proceed with the selection process and notify only the selected candidates. If you would like us to update your candidate information and professional profile that we currently have in our files, please attach your latest CV to the email along with your confirmation.

If you no longer wish to be contacted about job opportunities within the UN Common System, please let us know so we can update your profile preferences in OneHR and Inspira.

The remuneration for this position is set at the NO-B level in accordance with the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) salary scales. The estimated net base monthly salary for an NO-B post in Abuja, Nigeria, is USD 3,336.17 as of February 2025. This amount can be estimated using the [UNDP Estimation tool](#) or on the [OneHR portal](#). It is subject to applicable special measures and adjustments as determined by the ICSC.

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If you wish to be considered for this position, please confirm your interest by replying to this email by **Apr 21, 2025**. Upon receiving your confirmation, as well as that of other suitable candidates, we will proceed with the selection process and notify only the selected candidates. If you would like us to update your candidate information and professional profile that we currently have in our files, please attach your latest CV to the email along with your confirmation.

If you no longer wish to be contacted about job opportunities within the UN Common System, please let us know so we can up

The remuneration for this position is set at the NO-B level in accordance with the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) the [UNDP Estimation tool](#) or on the [OneHR portal](#). It is subject to applicable special measures and adjustments as determined

FAO salaries a

To ensure effi

Due to the high

We look forward

Best regards,  
Fatima

**Fatima Khan**

Human Reso

Human Reso

Food and Agri

Tel: 339 432

Viale delle Te

00153 Rome

The image is a screenshot of a LinkedIn profile page for Fatima Khan. The profile is for an External Relations Officer at WHO, located in the New York City Metropolitan Area. It shows 198 connections and options to message or follow. The 'Activity' section indicates she hasn't posted yet. The browser's address bar shows a search for 'Fatima Khan' on LinkedIn. Other browser tabs are visible, including a search for 'it.search.yahoo.com' and a LinkedIn profile for 'Fatima Khan'. The page is partially obscured by a red box on the right side.

# Do some diligence checks

<https://careers.un.org/>

<https://careers.un.org/how-to-apply>

<https://www.fao.org/employment/en> for the FAO.

Real website

Fake!!!!



[applicants@un-job.org](mailto:applicants@un-job.org)

## Fraud Alert

### Beware of scams implying association with the United Nations

The United Nations has been made aware of various correspondences, being circulated via e-mail, from Internet web sites, text messages and via regular mail or facsimile, falsely stating that they are issued by, or in association with the United Nations and/or its officials. These scams, which may seek to obtain money and/or in many cases personal details from the recipients of such correspondence, are fraudulent.

The United Nations wishes to warn the public at large about these fraudulent activities being perpetrated purportedly in the name of the Organisation, and/or its officials, through different fraud schemes.

- The United Nations **does not charge a fee at any stage of its recruitment process** (application, interview, processing, training) or other fee, or request information on applicants' bank accounts. To apply for a job go to [careers.un.org](https://careers.un.org) and click on Vacancies. See more on [employment-related fraud](#).
- The United Nations **does not charge a fee at any stage of its procurement process** (supplier registration, bids submission) or other fee. Visit the Procurement Division to see the latest business opportunities with the United Nations.
- The United Nations does not request any information related to bank accounts or other private information.
- The United Nations does not offer prizes, awards, funds, certificates, automated teller machine (ATM) cards, compensation for Internet fraud, or scholarships, or conduct lotteries.
- The United Nations does not approve military vacations or pensions, or release packages in exchange for a fee.

The United Nations strongly recommends that the recipients of solicitations, such as those described above exercise extreme caution in respect of such solicitations. Financial loss and identity theft could result from the transfer of money or personal information to those issuing such fraudulent correspondence. Victims of such scams may also report them to their local law enforcement authorities for appropriate action.

Not an official document. For information only.


# Check the job site for more clarifications

- ❑ Only these websites, the UN Careers website (<http://careers.un.org>) and the Inspira (<https://inspira.un.org>) are to be trusted.
  - All the employment applications for all job offers in the United Nations must be done for free on-line through those links.
- ❑ Applications must be submitted online through Inspira before the application deadline. Please keep in mind that RESUMES and CVs are not accepted when they are sent via email separately (outside of Inspira system).
- ❑ The United Nations does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing, training or any other fees or deposits). Any requests for such payment or information should be refused.
- ❑ The United Nations does not request any information related to bank accounts or other private information.



# Check for clues: Search other published materials

westafricaweekly.com/beware-fake-fao-job-scam-targeting-nigerians/




Home > News > Finance > Beware: Fake F

Finance, News


## Beware: Fake

CONFIDENCE UBANI · MARCH 12, 2025 ·

Elliot Murray  
Human Resou  
Human Resou  
Food and Agr  
Tel: 339 432  
Viale delle Te  
00153 Rome, I



unicef.org/careers/beware-fraudulent-job-offers

for every child  
Careers

Explore careers Life at UNICEF

Good day.

I am Etleva Kadilli, Director and Clinical Counselor of Supply Division of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

I provide individual and group therapy, coaching, assessment, and academic screenings to support Students and educational workers with disabilities (Physical, Chronic, Psychiatric, & Invisible) registered with UNICEF. A large percentage of the students and adult educational workers served by the mental health unit have psychiatric disabilities or co-morbid psychiatric disabilities and need mental health support to be successful at the educational institutions.

In addition, many University Students with academic difficulties and no prior diagnosis are seen and assessed through the academic screening and assessment process. I also am the director of supervision, training and coordination of counseling psychology and clinical psychology graduate students in the United States who have practicums at UNICEF and APA-accredited school psychology pre-doctoral interns.

Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, UNICEF has been delivering health supplies to many University Students and adult educational workers with academic difficulties to help in their response to the pandemic.

You have received this email because you have an offer to work with me in your university as a temporary personal assistant to help deliver essential products and services to Students and educational workers with disabilities, frustrated with ignorance and lack of moral and other services.

This is a very easy job. You will only help me purchase/receive some items when needed and supply to any assigned Student and educational worker with disabilities. This employment only takes about an hour per day and 3 times a week with a \$500.00 weekly pay.

I am unable to call you for an interview as I am currently away and helping the disabled students in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region. You will be paid weekly for all tasks done on my behalf. Upon my arrival we will discuss the possibility of making this job a long-term employment.

My arrival is scheduled for December 10, 2021.

To confirm your interest, kindly email me your Full Name | Age | Address | Alternate email address and your mobile number to my direct email [etleva.kadilli@unicefjob.com](mailto:etleva.kadilli@unicefjob.com)

I will send you more details on the job description, duties and responsibilities as soon as I receive from you.

Sincerely,

**Etleva Kadilli**  
Director, Supply Division  
[etleva.kadilli@unicefjob.com](mailto:etleva.kadilli@unicefjob.com)

# The Culture of Silence in African Communities

Among many Africans, it's quite common for people to withhold important information. This is often due to cultural and social factors such as:

- ❑ Fear of jealousy or envy – when others might not be happy about your progress.
- ❑ Belief in witchcraft or spiritual attacks – some people worry that sharing good news too early could attract negative spiritual energy.
- ❑ “Near-success syndrome” mindset – the fear that talking about opportunities too soon might cause them to fall apart just before they happen.

# Seek Guidance from the Right People

## *"Mentorship Could Save You"*

- ❑ Don't bottled up important decisions — talk to mentors and those with proven experience.
- ❑ Remember: Two good heads are better than one;
- ❑ Be cautious of greed — it's often what scammers prey on;

If you're desperate to **'make it'**, you're exactly who fraudsters target.



# Do Your Homework

## *"A Little Research Can Save You"*

- ❑ Take the time to read and research — it's one of your greatest defences.
- ❑ You don't need to be an expert; just enough curiosity and effort can go a long way.

*“My people perish for lack of knowledge” – Hosea 4:6*

- ❑ Don't rely on what you're told — verify it for yourself.

