

# INSPIRATION IN ACTION



Annual  
Report | 2007



**UN**

**Volunteers**

## OUR INSPIRATION

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The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is inspired by the conviction that volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and by the idea that everyone can contribute their time and energy towards peace and development. With partners, UNV advocates for volunteerism, integrates volunteerism into development planning and mobilizes volunteers. The enormous potential of volunteerism is an inspiration to UNV and to volunteers around the world. Delivering on that potential is UNV's mission.

## OUR MISSION

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Volunteering brings benefits to both society at large and the individual volunteer. It makes important contributions, economically as well as socially. It contributes to a more cohesive society by building trust and reciprocity among citizens.

UNV is the UN organization that supports sustainable human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism, including the mobilization of volunteers. It serves the causes of peace and development by enhancing opportunities for participation by all peoples. It is universal, inclusive and embraces volunteer action in all its diversity. It values free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity, which are the foundations of volunteerism.

[www.unvolunteers.org](http://www.unvolunteers.org)



UNV is administered by the United Nations  
Development Programme (UNDP)

# UNV today

The results of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme reflect its focus on Advocacy, Integration and Mobilization. This report provides case studies and insights into UNV's work in these three complementary areas of intervention.

## Our Inspiration/Our mission

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## FOREWORD



### **UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş**

Volunteerism is one of the most important manifestations of trust and solidarity within and between communities. When properly recognized and supported it can foster empowerment and broad-based ownership, and engage in development people who are affected by poverty and exclusion. This is at the heart of the collaboration of UNDP with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme.

The work of UNV on the ground and the contributions of UNV volunteers are an inspiration to the upstream work of UNDP. In 2007, UNV volunteers played an important role in about 500 UNDP projects. UNDP and UNV are therefore well-placed to support programme countries and the broader United Nations system in integrating volunteerism into efforts to attain development objectives.

Volunteerism is a fundamental source of community strength, resilience, solidarity and social cohesion. It enables the engagement of communities and individuals in achieving key objectives of the United Nations: promoting peace and security, advancing development, and protecting human rights and human dignity.

The achievements of UNV volunteers, and of the wider communities that UNV helps to mobilize, provide inspiration to governments, UN agencies and civil society organizations to engage volunteers and make greater use of their services. That is why the UN system draws on the spirit of volunteerism to expand the reach of its activities. The work of UNV is increasingly recognized around the world: references to UNV and volunteerism were included in 41 United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and 29 UNDP Country Programme Action Plans (CPAPs) in the past two years alone. The development of national and regional volunteer schemes and policies are further testimony to the efforts of UNV and the valuable contribution of volunteerism to development.

As this annual report amply demonstrates, UNV is making a significant and growing contribution to the entire UN system. In 2007, UNV deployed more than 7,500 UNV volunteers to work in 140 countries. To achieve this, UNV partnered with 25 UN organizations and with governments and civil society partners. This is a powerful demonstration of solidarity in action to achieve our shared aim of building a better world for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Derviş', written in a cursive style.

## INTRODUCTION



### **UNV Executive Coordinator Flavia Pansieri**

I am very pleased to present this report on the activities and achievements of UNV and UNV volunteers. It reflects the inspiration and actions of my predecessor, Ad de Raad, the staff of UNV, our partners and the many talented volunteers around the world.

Having joined UNV in early 2008 as Executive Coordinator, I feel privileged to lead an organization with such an inspiring mandate, strong and supportive partners, and thousands of dedicated volunteers and staff all over the world. Together, we feel we can contribute to human development, peace and security, and environmental sustainability through voluntary effort. The activities which UNV undertakes and supports around the world provide telling examples of how to realize the values of the United Nations through direct action, by promoting the principles of free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity.

This report complements UNV's biennial report to the UNDP Executive Board, and sets out our achievements through the lens of the UNV business model. It therefore focuses on the guiding principles of UNV: Advocacy for Volunteerism for Development (V4D), the Integration of V4D in development programming, and the Mobilization of UNV volunteers and other volunteers.

This report illustrates the excellent work of UNV volunteers and the achievements of our projects and partners. Since the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) in 2001, UNV has experienced continued growth in the scope of the organization's mandate and in the numbers of UNV volunteers. Over the past two years in particular, UNV has experienced strong growth in the areas of peacekeeping, disaster and humanitarian response, and the continued development of national volunteerism.

UNV is building on this positive energy by fostering recognition and support for volunteerism as a development asset and as an important contributing force towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Volunteerism is a powerful force that enables everyone, including marginalized and disadvantaged people, to contribute to development – on site and online, all around the world.

I would like to thank the 7,521 UNV volunteers who, in 2007, together with the many other volunteers around the world, contributed to peace and development. Your actions are our inspiration, and this report illustrates our inspiration in action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Flavia Pansieri', with a stylized flourish at the end.

# ADVOCACY

**The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme advocates for greater understanding and recognition that volunteerism is a sustainable and culturally adapted asset for development and peace. UNV promotes volunteerism as an integral part of international, regional and national development agendas and advocates to put in place systems that develop capacities and foster volunteerism.**





## Advocating Volunteerism for Development

**The UNV programme promotes enabling environments within which volunteerism can flourish. It supports partners in developing regulatory frameworks conducive to volunteerism, thus harnessing the potential of volunteerism for the advancement of their societies.**

UNV convenes, facilitates and networks amongst key stakeholders. It works with governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and UN agencies, funds and programmes to organize and support national and international dialogue about volunteering and to lend support to policy formulation. UNV cultivates interest in, and appreciation of, volunteerism and encourages people to volunteer their time and expertise towards development targets. It supports and facilitates local volunteer contributions towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and regional and national priorities.

Voluntary action is a vast resource available to most societies that can and must be engaged to meet development goals. To encourage and support volunteerism, UNV pursues the establishment of policies and frameworks that enable communities and individuals to contribute to development, peace, and economic and social growth. UNV has been expanding its support to programme countries in the establishment and strengthening of volunteer infrastructure aimed at enhancing national capacities to promote and nurture volunteerism.

During 2007, UNV advocated for volunteerism in different fora, including meetings, conferences and publications, volunteer fairs, parades and sports competitions. As a result, people at all levels of society in developed and developing countries have gained a greater appreciation of the potential and application of volunteerism for development.

## 'Sailing the Nile' for the Millennium Development Goals



6.2

UNV advocates volunteerism as a means of engaging communities in their own development. UNV volunteers can also serve as catalysts for involving other volunteers and communities. A pilot campaign in Egypt demonstrated the value of this approach in mobilizing community support for the MDGs.

Egypt's 'Sailing the Nile' campaigns in 2006-2007 played a significant role in engaging national and local governments, civil society groups and vulnerable sectors of society to raise awareness of the potential of volunteerism to address local development challenges. UNV initiated this innovative idea and was part of a unique partnership that brought together the Government, an unprecedented number of 18 UN organizations, plus civil society organizations, media, academia and the private sector.

Raising awareness and encouraging people's engagement towards the achievement of the MDGs, eight feluccas (boats) sailed the Nile from Aswan to Cairo over several weeks, making stops en route at eight harbours to interact with communities and volunteer groups. Various cultural and art activities held at each stop attracted, in a creative manner, thousands of committed young people to volunteer for development. At each location, local volunteers informed communities about one of the MDGs and launched a series of events celebrating human rights, development and youth volunteerism.

'Sailing the Nile' was widely acclaimed a success, both for its creativity and its decentralized approach to mobilizing communities for development, and won the UNDP Administrator's Award 2006 for Innovation and Creativity. UNV supported the Government in mobilizing hundreds of local volunteers and establishing volunteer coordination units. Communities continue to mobilize and engage in initiatives to address development needs and achieve specific goals. The campaign was repeated in 2007 and will occur annually until 2011.



6.1



## Valuing women's contributions to development

**UNV aims to strengthen, make visible and recognize women's volunteer involvement in participatory processes. It is helping to clarify the value of women's unpaid contribution to society and strengthen women's influence on local participatory decision-making processes.**

In Latin America, UNV has been working with the United Nations Development Fund for Women to promote and support volunteerism, especially by women, in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru.

UNV volunteers ensured the increased availability of methodologies and tools to advocate and conduct gender budget analysis at local, national and regional levels, as well as improved practices and policies to enhance gender equality.

The project led to increased participation of women in decision-making processes and better coordination and organizational capacity among women's volunteer groups. In the municipality of Cochabamba in Bolivia, this prompted local governments to allocate more resources to fulfil women's needs, such as literacy training for migrant women, municipal child-care centres and vacation programmes for children in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

In Villa Salvador, Peru, women's representative groups are using new tools to monitor and analyse the public expenditure of municipal governments from a gender perspective. In Rosario, Argentina, and in Cuenca, Ecuador, women elected to community decision-making bodies have started women's networks, neighbourhood groups and other volunteer-based organizations to tackle violence and other social issues.

## Supporting development through sports



8.2

**Volunteerism is a vital component of sports activities that foster the positive development of society. Together with governments, UN and other partners, UNV volunteers are active in sports programmes that are helping to restore post-conflict societies and engage youth and other marginalized sectors in society and in development activities.**

In Sierra Leone, a project aimed at reintegration and peace-building used sports to involve communities affected by the war in the consolidation of peace. Working in 11 communities, UNV volunteers organized 3,000 youth to take part in sporting activities, 40% of them girls. Football and netball galas were held in several districts to spread the spirit of volunteerism and strengthen community bonding.

UNV actively supports sports-based development programmes, ranging from coaching youth in conflict in Kyrgyzstan to helping train volunteers for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

In the town of Karakol, Kyrgyzstan, UNV worked with UNDP to use sport and volunteerism to address conflicts between secondary school students. UNV volunteers trained informal youth leaders representing 11 schools on conflict prevention and teambuilding exercises. The youth were then encouraged to organize basketball coaching and hold a tournament between their schools. The activities are being spearheaded by a youth organization founded by local volunteers.

In China, UNV shared international best practices on volunteer legislation with the Municipality of Beijing, many of which were integrated into the city's Regulations on Promoting Voluntary Service adopted in September 2007. UNV partnered with the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad to enhance the capacity of Olympic and Paralympic Games volunteers and is encouraging citizen participation in sustainable development through 'Green Olympics' awareness-raising activities.



8.1



9.1

## Advocating volunteerism for post-conflict reconstruction

**Creating an environment conducive to volunteerism can generate the momentum to tackle serious developmental challenges. Fourteen years of civil unrest and armed conflict in Liberia have had devastating effects on the population, especially the country's youth.**

In 2006, the newly elected Liberian Government made the inclusion of youth in the national development programme a national priority and called upon universities to collaborate in this regard. UNV worked with a wide network, comprising UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre and national partners to promote the concept of a national volunteer scheme.

UNV convened a meeting of university students to discuss the role of volunteerism in reconstruction and development. This contributed to the establishment of a National Youth Volunteer Scheme in 2007, which provides opportunities for students to volunteer in rural communities to improve the provision of services and promote inclusive volunteer initiatives.

**Six years on:  
Progress since the 2001  
International Year of Volunteers**



10.2

**In 2008, the United Nations Secretary-General will report to the General Assembly on progress since the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) 2001. The General Assembly proclaimed IYV to enhance worldwide recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of voluntary action and volunteer service in all its forms.**

Since 2001, UNV has deployed many more volunteers, mobilized greater trust fund resources and broadened its terms of engagement. The financial magnitude of UNV almost doubled in this timeframe, from US \$107 million in 2001 to US \$192 million in 2007, while the number of UNV volunteers increased from 5,090 in 2001 to 7,521 in 2007. There is greater diversity among UNV volunteers, with a gender ratio of 36% female to 64% male. Overall, 77% of UNV volunteers came from developing countries in 2007. The nature of their assignments has broadened to encompass all fields of development including governance, humanitarian response and peacekeeping.

UNV, together with partners, launched the World Volunteer Web in 2002 to provide a dynamic, interactive global platform. This platform expands information sharing, knowledge and resources for volunteerism. The website [worldvolunteerweb.org](http://worldvolunteerweb.org) catalyzes partnerships among volunteer stakeholders. It has a constituency of more than 27,000 organizations and individuals and receives 30,000 monthly visitors.

UNV has increased recognition of volunteerism as a means of engaging communities in development programmes and enhancing the delivery of long-term development objectives. Every year, UNV actively promotes International Volunteer Day (IVD) on 5 December in order to highlight the contributions of governments, volunteer organizations and individuals to development around the world.



10.1

## Facilitating an enabling environment for volunteerism

**UNV supports the creation and strengthening of volunteer infrastructure, with the aim of reaching a common understanding of volunteerism and a shared appreciation of its value.**

In Niger, UNV and UNDP supported the Government in developing and adopting a decree establishing a national scheme for Volunteerism for Development. The Government played a leading role in the steering committee driving this process, underlining national ownership. The decree established the status of volunteers, the management structure and the conditions for engaging and deploying national volunteers in development projects. UNV volunteers continue to support this process.

The project has fostered learning exchanges and facilitated partnerships between the Government and voluntary organizations, while strengthening the capacity of volunteer associations and piloting the recruitment, fielding and management of national volunteers.



## Measuring the economic value of volunteerism

**UNV promotes the worldwide acknowledgement of volunteerism as a significant force for economic and social development. It strives to improve data on volunteering so as to enable governments and policy-makers to factor it into budgetary and other areas of decision-making.**

Working with the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, the United Nations Statistics Division and other partners, UNV is helping to measure the contributions made by civil society, volunteering and philanthropy. This is facilitated by the United Nations Handbook on Non-profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts.

UNV supports institutions in charge of national accounts data in nine pilot countries to establish national capacity for the production of solid economic data on non-profit institutions and volunteering. Analysis of the data produced so far reveals that non-profit activity accounts for an average of 5% of national gross domestic product in the pilot countries.

# INTEGRATION

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme works to mainstream volunteering into national development programmes and integrate it into the planning and activities of partners. Volunteerism facilitates the participatory elaboration of national development strategies, helping to ensure local ownership, sustainability and the engagement of all stakeholders.



12.1



## Integrating volunteerism into development planning

**The UNV programme promotes the integration of volunteering into the objectives and activities of partners such as governments and development organizations, in order to facilitate national ownership of development processes.**

UNV partners with UNDP to support democratic governance worldwide. More than 1,500 UNV volunteers are working with UNDP in this area, playing a critical role in providing specialist technical support to governments and other stakeholders at national and local levels. Working with local authorities and communities, they ensure that governance is grounded in the principles of human rights, access to justice, inclusion and gender equality. This ensures that people have the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

A measure of UNV's success in demonstrating the effectiveness of volunteerism is seen in the replication and scaling-up by partners of development initiatives and the engagement of more volunteers through UNV partners and other organizations. Programme agreements between UNV and its partners provide for the increasing engagement of UNV volunteers and the mobilization of local communities to participate in development through voluntary action.

For instance, UNV collaborated with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in a natural resource management project in Cape Verde, which was replicated in Ethiopia, Zambia and Zimbabwe in 2007. The project involved youth volunteers, developing their capacity in watershed and habitat management and providing them with income through agroforestry.

## Using knowledge against gender discrimination



14.1



14.2

**Volunteerism enables communities to generate their own solutions to development challenges, thus complementing the work of governments and development partners, including civil society organizations.**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a harmful practice and a fundamental violation of human rights that affects 90% of women in Sudan, according to the 1999 Safe Motherhood Survey by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). A national strategy to abolish FGM has existed since 2001, with the Government and UN agencies involved in different approaches to combat the practice. In 2007, UNV contributed to the development of the National Strategy for the Abandonment of All Types of FGM and launched an abandonment campaign.

UNV's unique approach to combating FGM capitalizes on volunteerism and local community action. Working closely with UNFPA, the Ahfad University for Women and other stakeholders, UNV engaged local volunteers to tackle these issues from within their own communities. This led to greater openness to consider collective abandonment of the practice.

By involving males and youth in peer education, engaging midwives and mothers in sexual education, and working with schools to raise the awareness of children, UNV and community volunteers were able to challenge FGM from a community perspective.

The holistic approach of this pilot project has been crucial to its success. A combination of innovative information materials, entry into the community through schools, and reaching the families of pupils through public events has led to engaging a greater number of people. To ensure sustainability, UNV and partners supported the creation of a new non-governmental organization comprising the community volunteers it mobilized. The scheme is being replicated elsewhere in Sudan and expanded to include new partners.



## Addressing HIV/AIDS among vulnerable groups

**Voluntary participation has the potential to move disadvantaged populations away from being passive recipients and towards becoming engaged in local development efforts.**

UNV builds partnerships that stimulate the creation of supportive political, legal and social environments to address the issues and needs of vulnerable groups. UNV engages vulnerable groups and peer networks – including women, youth, people with disabilities and people affected by HIV/AIDS – in voluntary efforts to address development issues.

In Benin, UNV and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria co-funded a programme that developed the capacity of Boy Scout leaders to provide leadership on issues surrounding HIV and AIDS. UNV and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) provided Boy Scout leaders with training in organizational skills, sensitization and HIV/AIDS awareness. As a result, the Boy Scout leaders are working with their Scout groups to discourage risky behaviour leading to the spread of HIV/AIDS and reduce related stigmatization. The programme has now been formally incorporated into the curriculum of the Scout movement and will become part of a worldwide initiative called 'Red Ribbons for Scouts'.

Similarly, in Mongolia, UNV volunteers mobilized local partners to participate in outreach and advocacy activities. These enhanced public awareness and reduced risky sexual behaviour among youth by addressing the prevention of sexually-transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS. UNV volunteers and local voluntary community volunteers worked as facilitators and role models to mobilize and strengthen the participation of adolescents, sex workers and other vulnerable populations in the National Strategy to Respond to HIV/AIDS.



UNV volunteers play a key role in supporting the integration of peace and development interventions on the ground. They help to provide a secure and stable environment within which constitutional and political processes can begin to flourish, particularly in post-conflict countries and those transitioning to democratic governance. The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has been working with UNV since 1992.



The United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) drew on almost 700 UNV volunteers in 2007, representing almost 40% of the mission's international civilian personnel. They helped identify, localize, disarm and repatriate foreign combatants in remote areas, monitored and raised awareness about human rights violations, and acted as spokespersons for the mission.

Since facilitating the presidential and legislative elections in the DRC in 2006 – the largest electoral operation ever supported by the UN – UNV volunteers have been developing the capacity of thousands of national election commission staff, thus enabling greater investment in civic and voter education. In 2007, UNV volunteers supported preparations for the local elections to be held in 2008, with more than 55,000 polling stations and over 200,000 candidates.

UNV is working through the United Nations Mission in Nepal to support the effective and timely implementation of the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and its transformation into lasting sustainable peace. In 2007, UNV volunteers worked with the Mission in the areas of child protection, civil affairs, gender and public information, as well as technical, administrative and electoral support. UNV helped conduct the 2008 elections for a Constituent Assembly and provided a team of UNV volunteer electoral monitors to review and report on all aspects of the electoral process.



17.1

## Fostering national ownership in post-conflict communities

**UNV strengthens the capacities of national counterparts to assume ownership for development processes and to recognize the importance of engaging volunteers as a cohesive force and a tool for peace and development.**

UNV provides support in Somalia to crisis prevention and recovery programmes, poverty reduction projects and to the Rule of Law and Security Programme. Working with UNDP, the World Food Programme (WFP) and other partners, UNV volunteers focused in 2007 on supporting and empowering vulnerable and marginalized populations, including ex-combatants, internally displaced persons and returnees.

Promoting the maintenance of peace and security, UNV volunteers train the police force and prison staff, strengthen law enforcement and assist in psychosocial reintegration activities. They also support youth and women's organizations in improving livelihoods and raising awareness of issues such as HIV/AIDS. In 2007, UNV volunteers helped to build new prison and hospital facilities, improve infrastructure for orphans and mental health patients, and train nurses and midwives.

## Planning for development: The role of volunteerism in development

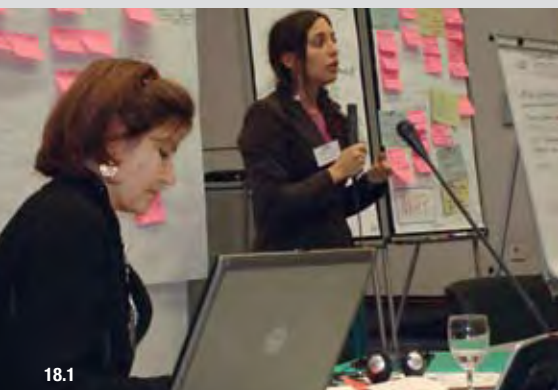


**UNV promotes the integration of volunteerism into development planning. UNV focuses on bridging gaps between policy-makers and local decentralized structures, facilitating coordination between urban and rural development programming and peacekeeping in post-conflict countries.**

In 2007, UNV supported decentralization processes to improve local governance in several countries, promoting the establishment and capacity building of local development and planning structures. UNV also enhanced the mobilization of communities towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and fostered their participation in monitoring MDG country indicators.

Reflecting the integration of volunteerism in development planning by the United Nations system, the role of UNV volunteers and/or volunteerism was incorporated in 41 of 80 United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) in 2007, compared to nine in 2005. The same was true of 29 Country Programme Action Plans (CPAPs), up from two in 2005. UNV also supported governments in the preparation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) processes, promoting the national ownership of strategies by enhancing the broad-based participation of civil society.

Based on the global Memorandum of Understanding and Note on Guiding Principles signed in 2003, UNV and DPKO are working together to enhance an environment in which volunteerism is recognized as a significant element in the success of UN peacekeeping operations. In 2007, about 3,000 UNV volunteers supported 18 peacekeeping and special political operations in fulfilling their mandates. About half of all UNV volunteers are engaged in peacekeeping and special political operations and they constitute 30% of the international civilian personnel supporting DPKO missions worldwide.



## Integrating volunteerism in UN-wide agendas

**UNV works with UN partner agencies and governments to support social mobilization and transparent and participatory development. UNV is participating in the UN 'Delivering as One' pilots, which aim to ensure more efficient and effective development progress.**

The 'One UN' Programme in Albania supports people's participation and social inclusion and recognizes the contribution of volunteerism to these ends. As a member of the One UN team, UNV has supported the inclusion of disadvantaged groups in the development process. Under One UN joint programmes, UNV volunteers will be instrumental in engaging community volunteers in the implementation of local development initiatives to improve the social integration and living conditions of minority Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania and will work with youth in disadvantaged areas. UNV is also contributing to national efforts to curb the 'brain drain' affecting Albania by mobilizing promising young graduates at home and providing volunteerism opportunities for skilled expatriates returning from abroad.



## Enhancing support for volunteerism

**UNV helps countries to integrate volunteers into their development programmes and utilize volunteerism to meet national development targets.**

In Senegal, UNV is working with UN agencies and the Government to promote volunteerism as a viable means of engaging local communities and delivering on the country's development objectives.

The UNDAF (2007-2011) includes the promotion of volunteerism as a vehicle for increased aid effectiveness in the implementation of the poverty reduction strategy. The role of volunteerism is also recognized as a cross-cutting mechanism for the implementation of the UNDP country programme in the CPAP.

In response to Government priorities in 2007, UNV launched a project with UNDP and other UN organizations to support efforts to achieve the MDGs through volunteerism. The project aims to establish a legal and regulatory framework for the engagement of volunteers and to create a volunteer service support and coordination centre to strengthen national capacities for the coordination and promotion of volunteerism.

# MOBILIZATION

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme mobilizes thousands of UNV volunteers every year in pursuit of distinctive contributions to development effectiveness in three areas: increased access to services and delivery of services, greater inclusion and participation, and community mobilization. UNV also builds the capacity of partners to mobilize volunteers and harness volunteerism to respond to development needs.





21.1

## Mobilizing volunteers for peace and development

Peace and development require the involvement of millions of citizens through voluntary action. The UNV programme mobilizes and supports others to mobilize large numbers of people as volunteers in pursuit of human development. Mobilization occurs within communities, through universities, in the private sector and online.

In 2007, UNV directly mobilized 7,521 UNV volunteers of 162 nationalities to contribute to national and local programmes in 139 countries. One-third (33%) of these UNV volunteers served in their own countries; three-quarters (77%) came from developing countries. UNV supports the United Nations in its peacekeeping missions and special political operations. Approximately 30% of the international civilian personnel supporting DPKO missions worldwide are UNV volunteers, which is equivalent to 40% of all UNV volunteers.

UNV volunteers are drawn from more than 500 professions and specializations, demonstrating the flexibility of UNV in addressing the complex needs of its partners, including UN organizations and governments.

UNV volunteers epitomize the South-South transfer of skills and knowledge. They build capacity and exchange innovative practices that support national development. Within the framework of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process, UNV deployed volunteers through the 'Asia Youth Volunteer Programme' to support capacity development in Africa. In 2007, UNV volunteers from Afghanistan, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and the Philippines shared their knowledge and skills in agriculture and small and medium enterprise development with communities in Zambia and Tanzania. One result is that subsistence farmers in Zambia faced with perennial food shortages were introduced to new production approaches that have enhanced food security, including voluntary cooperative activities.



22.2

**UNV responds rapidly to emergencies and crisis situations by fielding experienced specialists. It also works with communities, governments and partners worldwide to develop capacities to cope with potential disasters and manage major risks.**

About 1,200 UNV volunteers worked in humanitarian response in 2007, primarily with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). UNV volunteers supported more than 100,000 internally displaced persons and 280,000 refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic by engaging in crisis management activities including protection, generation of livelihoods, HIV/AIDS prevention and support to vulnerable groups.

In the wake of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, UNV pursued development programmes in Sri Lanka and Indonesia promoting disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness. In Indonesia, UNV partnered with UNDP and national stakeholders in 2007 to support the tsunami rehabilitation and recovery process. UNV's intervention enhanced the livelihoods of subsistence-level rural households and mobilized community support for extremely vulnerable individuals.

When a massive earthquake shook Pakistan in 2005, UNV was among the first on the scene. Working with UNDP, UNV mobilized volunteers to assist displaced people with shelter, water, sanitation, nutrition and health care. UNV and UNDP later received a shield of commendation from Pakistan's Prime Minister in recognition of outstanding and meritorious services. In 2007, UNV helped the Government of Pakistan to operate the National Volunteer Movement (NVM) launched in response to the humanitarian crisis. UNV is now helping to develop the capacity of the NVM to operate independently in mobilizing and sustaining volunteerism nationally.



22.1



23.1

## Mainstreaming human rights in development activities

**UNV volunteers strengthen the capacities of national institutions to develop and implement strategies for human rights education, communication and mainstreaming human rights in development activities.**

The Government of Uganda sought assistance in 2007 to develop the capacities of institutions responsible for human rights protection to interact with communities in ways that would change attitudes and help resolve the cycle of violence and abuses of fundamental human rights. UNV supported the work of UNDP and the Ugandan Human Rights Commission by establishing clear linkages between policy dialogue at national level and concrete human rights initiatives at the community level.

To promote basic civil liberties, including access to justice, UNV volunteers helped to develop capacity in government and national institutions. They provided technical advice on policy and institutional reform for enhanced participatory governance and undertook community mobilization, training, project management, research, monitoring and evaluation.

Volunteerism was integrated in communities and human rights awareness was increased through voluntary action. UNV volunteers sensitized community volunteers on human rights issues and provided training on monitoring and reporting cases of human rights abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence, children's and domestic rights.

As a result, 26 human rights clubs comprising 6,478 schoolchildren were set up and human rights desks were established in the local administrations of six districts. A significant reduction in the cases of human rights abuses was reported. These structures have contributed to reinforcing trust in the peace-building process in northern Uganda, and building social capital through voluntary action, a model that other districts in Uganda are looking to emulate.

## Advancing peace through capacity development



**UNV volunteers represent a vital component of collective peacekeeping efforts, constituting 30% of international civilian personnel in peacekeeping missions. They enhance efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability in countries suffering from political insecurity or those recovering from conflict.**

For several years, UNV and DPKO have been supporting the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to ensure a secure and stable environment for judicial and political processes. UNV volunteers were instrumental in carrying out the electoral mission mandate. In 2006, they were the only electoral personnel in remote areas and were widely applauded for their commitment and work.

In 2007, UNV volunteers focused on developing infrastructure and providing training throughout the country to advance capacity development and ensure the transfer of knowledge. For example, UNV volunteers organized training workshops throughout the country for journalists, while others working in transport and engineering also enhanced the capacities of local staff and contractors. UNV volunteers supported almost every section of the Mission, particularly in remote areas, and provided it with essential logistical support in transport, communications and engineering.

MINUSTAH's mandate now focuses more on improving border security and the rule of law. Besides maintaining relations with local institutions and municipalities and providing basic logistical support to the Mission, UNV volunteers are also involved in governance and capacity building efforts. They are the only civilians working with UN Police in the reform of the Haitian National Police, strengthening their capacity to improve their services, particularly in the area of budgeting, procurement and auditing, vehicle and radio services, logistics and networks.





25.1

## Enhancing environmental sustainability

**UNV mobilizes community volunteers to develop solutions to address environmental issues that have a direct impact on them.**

In Cambodia, UNV worked with UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to promote alternative income-generating activities among communities living around the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve. UNV volunteers provided training and mobilized community volunteers to support linkages with environmental civil society organizations, reinforce local ownership and promote biodiversity.

UNV supported the formation of 20 self-help groups with the participation of 528 families. Some 90% of the individual participants were female, and the projects improved their capacity to provide for their families. UNV volunteers have been supporting these groups to develop savings and credit facilities. Community members have been able to acquire water filters and fuel-efficient cooking stoves. They also provided training and technical inputs for mushroom and aquatic vegetable growing, fish farming, fuel-efficient fish smoking and eco-tourism, as well as the production of biomass briquettes, thereby reducing threats to the unique lake ecosystem.

## Mobilizing youth: Harnessing the potential of youth volunteerism



**UNV works to harness the positive energy, vigour and innovation of young people to contribute to achieving national and global development goals. It aims to create an enabling environment for youth volunteering and address development issues through structured volunteer programmes.**

UNV empowers youth to serve as active development agents within their communities, helping to broaden public awareness of volunteering, and to shape the direction of volunteer policies and interventions.

In the Balkans, UNV implemented the first regional volunteer exchange programme – ‘UNV Support to Regional Integration through Volunteer Exchanges for Reconciliation in South Eastern Europe’ (RIVERSEE). This broad-based partnership of multiple agencies including UNDP enabled young people to volunteer in support of development efforts through community-based and non-governmental organizations and governmental institutions. Through these East-to-East volunteer exchanges, the programme placed 65 volunteers with the support of 14 national-level implementing organizations.

UNV supported the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in 2007 to set up the ECOWAS Youth Ambassadors for Peace programme. Having ensured the integration of volunteerism in the conceptual design and planning of the initiative, UNV will be supporting the pilot projects in the five countries: Guinea Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Togo and Sierra Leone. The pilots, which will be coordinated by UNV volunteers, will mobilize graduates from universities and technical and vocational colleges as volunteers in West Africa. Some 200 volunteers will serve as ‘Ambassadors for Peace’, to help strengthen non-governmental organizations, community-based associations and other civil society organizations working in the area of conflict resolution, reconciliation and peace-building.



## Youth volunteers promote the Millennium Development Goals

**UNV promotes the greater participation of youth in development, particularly through youth volunteerism. Mobilizing youth in local development projects and awareness-raising campaigns on the MDGs nurtures ownership of development processes among youth.**

In Ecuador, UNV involved youth in volunteerism as a means of contributing to development, enhancing knowledge and promoting action to achieve the MDGs and including volunteerism in institutional budgeting plans. UNV, the NGO Servicio Ignaciano de Voluntariado and municipal institutions in Quito supported a volunteering scheme that facilitated the social inclusion and interaction of youth of different social strata and led to the participation of hundreds of young volunteers in social projects that benefited thousands. As a result, the youth expressed strong interest in continuing their volunteer engagement. One of the project's achievements was the local municipality's recognition of the contribution of volunteerism, for the promotion of which funding was allocated from the municipal budget.



## Engaging youth and creating jobs through volunteerism

**UNV makes distinctive contributions to improving post-conflict environments, including by empowering youth to rebuild their communities and re-establish local livelihoods.**

Working with UNDP and the Sierra Leone Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNV initiated a youth empowerment and employment programme. UNV volunteers provided technical training and mentoring to improve the food security of young men and women and help mitigate rural to urban migration. As a result, 15,000 young men and women between the ages of 15 and 35 years gained skills and access to resources.

By supporting young people in farming activities, the community-based programme also empowered youth to engage in micro-enterprise development. UNV facilitated the process of youth empowerment by organizing and supporting youth in various voluntary group projects and establishing networks between youth groups for sharing experiences and best practices. The programme also provided self-employment opportunities for 50 groups of young farmers in vegetable gardening, food processing and marketing.

## UNV Online Volunteering service: Engaging online volunteers



Combining the energy and reach of the internet with the power of volunteerism, the UNV Online Volunteering service is a valuable source of capacity for hundreds of development organizations. Matching development programming with online volunteers, the UNV Online Volunteering service is expanding in scale and scope.

UNV is helping UN agencies and other development organizations to leverage the knowledge of professionals, retirees and students through the UNV Online Volunteering service. Online volunteers are an important source of knowledge and capacity. Online volunteering enables anyone, anywhere, with internet access to contribute to development.

The benefits of online volunteering are being increasingly acknowledged by development organizations and volunteers. More than 3,800 online volunteering opportunities were posted on the UNV Online Volunteering service in 2007. This gave 2,800 online volunteers – 60% of them women – the chance to engage in development work via the service in 2007.

The growth of online volunteering shows that there are tremendous opportunities to engage people in development through the internet. The number of opportunities offered on the service grew by 30% in 2007 and it is poised to grow further in 2008. To cater to the growing demand, UNV is upgrading the service and expanding it to include French and Spanish.

### Contributing online to rainforest conservation

**Online volunteers are an important source of knowledge and capacity who support development and enhance the capacity of partner organizations to reach their goals.**

Online volunteers supported the African Conservation Foundation (ACF) in Cameroon in working towards the achievement of the environment goal of the MDGs. By sharing their technical expertise in geographic information systems and remote sensing, online volunteers contributed to rainforest conservation and the protection of critically endangered populations of great apes in south-west Cameroon. This laid the basis for the development of effective conservation strategies and of a community model for the co-management of the forest area, through a participatory process with local stakeholders. The volunteers also produced maps of forest cover and forest-cover change that helped visualize where rainforest was disappearing in the study area. Besides being an effective tool for awareness-raising and long-term monitoring, the forest-cover information increased local management capacities and enabled informed decision-making.

**“Volunteerism is a feature of all cultures and societies. It is a fundamental source of community strength, resilience, solidarity and social cohesion. It can help effect positive social change by fostering inclusive societies that respect diversity, equality and the participation of all. Such contributions are vital to the three pillars of the United Nations’ work – promoting peace and security, advancing development, and protecting human rights and human dignity. That is why every UN agency draws on the spirit of volunteerism, including through the United Nations Volunteers programme, to expand the reach of its activities.”**

*UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
Statement for International Volunteer Day, 5 December 2007*

**“Volunteering is about empowering individuals and communities at the grass-roots level. It is about giving them a voice and letting them take the lead. And it is the foundation upon which rests achievement of the MDGs. For over 30 years, the United Nations system has been tapping into this vital human resource through the fielding of skilled and experienced professionals under the UN Volunteers programme.”**

*UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, 2007*

**“Corporate investment in volunteers can be cost-effective and efficient. Volunteers strengthen development solutions and have the capacity and knowledge to link know-how with community needs.”**

*UNDP Associate Administrator Ad Melkert, 2008*

**“Involving online volunteers, YTF has not only fulfilled its mission to bridge the digital divide, but we have also actively bridged the cultural divide as well.”**

*Executive Director Njideka Harry  
Youth for Technology Foundation (YTF), Nigeria, 2007*

**“Online volunteering had an important impact on my life because I feel as though I am able to make a difference in the world and use my skills, even though I’m not on the ground. It allows me to genuinely feel as though I am part of the world community.”**

*Danielle Brunin, online volunteer, United States, 2007*

**“In November 2005, my father was tortured and killed by armed men on his way back from northern Uganda. Seven months later I met two of those ex-combatants when they came to seek amnesty. I had joined UNV attached to the Amnesty Commission, carrying out registration and needs assessment, which calls for re-humanizing the perpetrators of the conflict. There will be no future and peace without forgiveness and reconciliation among victims and the perpetrators of the conflict.”**

*National UNV volunteer Okema Emmanuel, 2007*

**Front cover**

UNV volunteers Enkhbat Ariunjargal of Mongolia (right) and Daniel Mwisungi of Kenya provide reproductive health care and HIV/AIDS prevention training in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (Peter Harris, 2008).

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**4.1** National UNV volunteer Marilyn Ruth Hunter Taylor (left) meets with women whose houses were rebuilt by volunteers after being damaged by Hurricane Felix in Pahra, Nicaragua (Mario Rizzolio, 2008).

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**5.1** UNV volunteer Julie Gipwola of Uganda (left) and contractor Josephine Ogbodu of Nigeria produce a regular programme for UNMIL Radio to promote the impact of volunteerism in peacekeeping and sustainable human development in Monrovia, Liberia (Blazej Mikula, 2008).

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**6.1** Customized versions of the MDG logos help to promote the Goals in Arab countries (UNV Egypt, 2006).

**6.2** Egyptian feluccas (boats) sailed the Nile from Aswan to Cairo to raise awareness and encourage local participation towards the achievement of the MDGs (UNV Egypt, 2006).

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**7.1** UN Country Office Assistant Carla Chacon in Quito, Ecuador, during an event to engage local youths in social projects (Mario Rizzolio, 2008).

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**8.1** UNV helped train thousands of volunteers for the Beijing Olympics in order to promote volunteerism for development in China (Peter Harris, 2008).

**8.2** National UNV volunteer Sarath Dayananda gives swimming lessons to children as part of the UNV Tsunami Rehabilitation project for Affected Communities in Kihinda, Sri Lanka (Veronica Balderas Iglesias, 2007).

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**9.1** Students of the Margaret Kennedy School in Bong, Liberia receive tuition from members of the National Youth Volunteer Scheme which was established by the Liberian Government with the support of UNV, UN agencies and national partners (Blazej Mikula, 2008).

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**10.1** The International Year of Volunteers 2001 logo, designed and donated to UNV by Sandra Rojas.

**10.2** Celebrated every 5 December, International Volunteer Day (IVD) highlights the contribution of volunteers to development, as shown in this IVD celebration in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (UNV Dominican Republic, 2007).

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**11.1** UNV volunteer Abid Ali of Pakistan (right) manages several construction projects within the United Nations Mission in Sudan compound (Blazej Mikula, 2008).

**11.2** In Niger, UNV helped strengthen capacities of volunteer associations in managing volunteers and provided a more enabling environment in advocating volunteering for development, such as marking IVD on 5 December (Jean-Baptiste Avril, 2005).

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**12.1** Abdullah Breshna returned to his native Afghanistan and served as a UNV volunteer under the Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) scheme which engaged civil engineers and site planners to improve Afghanistan's urban transportation and communication systems (Jean-Baptiste Avril, 2002).

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**13.1** UNV Programme Officer Aimé Aonon of Côte d'Ivoire (right) and Papa Birama Thiam, Administrative Civil Coordinator in the local government, review

plans to implement ALOPROV, a national volunteer programme, in Dakar, Senegal (Blazej Mikula, 2008).

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**14.1** Children examine FGM information in Abu Seid, Omdurman, Sudan (Blazej Mikula, 2008).

**14.2** National UNV volunteer Ammar Abdel Gadir conducts an FGM awareness-raising session with a group of parents in Sudan (Blazej Mikula, 2008).

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**15.1** UNV worked with UNAIDS and the Scouts movement in Benin to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, discourage risky behaviour and de-stigmatize those with the syndrome through cultural events (Blazej Mikula, 2008).

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**16.1** UNV volunteers supported preparations for the 2007 elections in Timor-Leste (UNV Timor-Leste, 2007).

**16.2** UNV volunteer Agnieszka Mikulska of Poland helps prepare for elections in Nepal (Sandar Hla, 2008).

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**17.1** Anselm Balyaruha of Tanzania (centre) serves as a UNV Custodial Corps Specialist with UNDP in Hargeisa, Somalia, helping to build a new prison and train customs and police officers to ensure the rule of law and a robust justice system (Scott McQuade, 2007).

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**18.1** Participants at a volunteerism infrastructure workshop in Bonn, Germany (UNV, 2007).

**18.2** National UNV volunteer Suranga Kahandawa (second from left) explains to community members in the Siriwardene village how to read a hazard map as part of UNV's Disaster Risk Management plan in Sri Lanka (Veronica Balderas Iglesias, 2007).

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**19.1** In Senegal, UNV works with the Government and UN agencies to help alleviate poverty through volunteering. UNV volunteers provide support to women to fund plots of land and plant vegetables (Blazej Mikula, 2008).

**19.2** Nafi Ndong (right), Manager of the micro-finance institution "Thiapy", with Rigobert Diouf, President of the Association des Handicapés pour le Développement du baol. UNV helped local handicapped people establish their own shop in Bambe, Senegal (Blazej Mikula, 2008).

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**20.1** National UNV volunteer Alice Saili of Zambia worked with people infected with HIV/AIDS to develop farming activities as an alternative income source (Jean-Baptiste Avril, 2005).

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**21.1** National UNV volunteer Seelan Thanigaseelan distributes human rights-related materials to students of the Malharushams School in Kalmunai, a tsunami-affected community in Sri Lanka. As part of the UNV Human Rights and Access to Justice programme, UNV volunteers conduct human rights workshops for students to make them aware of their rights to post-tsunami entitlements (Veronica Balderas Iglesias, 2007).

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When a massive earthquake rocked Pakistan in 2005, UNV volunteers were among the first to arrive and help survivors. National UNV volunteers were mobilized to cater to the needs of displaced people for shelter, water and sanitation, nutrition and health care (all photos by Waqas Anees, 2006).

**22.1** Muhammad Fayaz, National UNV Camp Manager for Mansehra District, helps a disabled refugee at Jaba Camp.

**22.2** Asghar Ali Shah (left), National UNV Camp Manager for the District Government of Mansehra, teaches children in a temporary school at Jaba Camp.

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**23.1** In Uganda, UNV volunteers were commended for their outreach activities in rural and remote communities, training more than 1,200 local court officials. UNV volunteers discuss human rights issues with community members in Soroti district, Uganda (Jean-Baptiste Avril, 2005).

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**24.1** UNV volunteer Degboevi Cletus of Benin (left) and a Haitian National Police Officer (centre) supervise the construction of a new police station in Cité soleil, Port au Prince, Haiti (Mario Rizzolio, 2008).

**24.2** UNV volunteer Sandra Miller of Germany (second from left) consulting with MINUSTAH and local colleagues in Haiti (UNV Haiti, 2007).

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**25.1** National UNV volunteer Veasna Chap in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve in Cambodia (Peter Harris, 2008).

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**26.1** National UNV volunteer Tran Van Xuan (left) leads local volunteers helping to preserve Hoi An, one of Viet Nam's World Heritage Sites (Horst Wagner, 2005).

**26.2** UNV volunteer Pierre de Hanscutter of Belgium (second from right) meets with other volunteers helping to lead a youth volunteer club supporting illegal migrants living along the banks of the Red River in Ha Noi, Viet Nam (Horst Wagner, 2005).

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**27.1** Volunteers encouraging children to give ideas on how to improve the historical part of Quito in Ecuador (Mario Rizzolio, 2008).

**27.2** UNV volunteers provide livelihood skills, such as fixing car engines, to young Africans (Jean-Baptiste Avril, 2005).

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**28.1** Elizabeth and Tim Rose of Canada, mother and son, are both online volunteers. Through the UNV Online Volunteering service they researched and identified donors of sports equipment for the Childcare and Adoption Society Zambia, an NGO that helps homeless children and orphans affected by HIV/AIDS (Steve Rose, 2008).

**Back cover**

To help abolish Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Sudan, UNV engages community volunteers who involve women, girls, males and youth in peer education within local communities through sports and other activities (Blazej Mikula, 2008).

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