

**“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 Dorjkhand Nergui of Mongolia (right) and Daniel Mwisunji 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** UNV 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 (Jean-Baptiste Avril, 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 (Jean-Baptiste Avril, 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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