

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.