



# SUSTAINING PEACE

After violent conflict has receded and mechanisms are in place to deal with immediate needs and stabilization, attention must be devoted to longer term sustainable development. The triggers of conflict must be constructively addressed, enabling long-term social, political and economic transformation. Communities scarred by the experiences of conflict situations must learn to trust once again.

Helping communities overcome the consequences of violent conflict is a long-term process that encompasses the transition from immediate conflict management and resolution to sustainable peace and development. UNV empowers individuals and communities to engage in effecting the local development of infrastructure shattered by conflict.

UNV volunteers promote social cohesion and help people re-establish safe and secure communities through volunteerism. In Cambodia, UNV is helping communities deal with demining and the impact of armed engagement. In Nepal, UNV volunteers strengthened domestic institutions and empowered people to actively participate in political processes directly impacting on their lives. UNV volunteers in Niger and Uganda are enabling the reintegration and rehabilitation of former perpetrators of violence. And in Tanzania, they are promoting peace education and destroying weapons.

Nearly 30 years of armed conflict have left Cambodia among the countries most affected by landmines and other remnants of war. Nearly half of all Cambodian villages are contaminated by these lethal devices. Between four and six million landmines remain unexploded in the ground, as do around seven million cluster bombs, rendering this land useless for development activities.

To address this challenge, UNV and UNDP have been assisting the Government by developing the capacities of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, which monitors and regulates mine clearance, and supporting the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, which undertakes clearance activities.

UNV worked with them on providing training for authorities to monitor licensed mine clearance operators, and supporting the development of mine action standards and guidelines to ensure the safe and efficient conduct of mine clearance operations and access to productive land. More than 25 million square metres of systematically targeted land have been cleared of around 25,000 anti-personnel mines, 400 anti-tank mines, and 60,000 items of unexploded ordnance. More than 100,000 people and 15,000 students now have access to productive land that can be used for resettlement, agriculture, roads, schools and health centres.

Pao Ravuth (left) a carpenter from the Kratie district in Cambodia, lost his leg to a landmine while fighting against the Khmer Rouge in 1991. Thanks to a UNV-organized awareness raising campaign and with the help of Khun Lay (right) Mine Action Monitoring Officer, of Norwegian People's Aid, Pao learns about the significance of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and adds his name to hundreds of signatures for the People's Treaty to Ban Cluster Bombs. (Nathan Horton, 2008)

## Meet a volunteer

**Mirko Daniel Fernandez** from Canada is a UNV volunteer Forensic Anthropologist working in Timor-Leste. He supports the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) in promoting the development of human rights and the rule of law. A legacy of human rights violations, widespread poverty and the fragility of institutions has hampered development in the young nation.

Mirko (left) carries out crucial forensic work to examine the remains of individuals who were allegedly killed during the public consultation for independence, a period in which the country endured serious human rights violations. He also mentors and trains forensic personnel. "I have a gruesome and difficult job, but it is necessary to serve justice," he says. "I examine physical evidence in collaboration with the forensic pathologist, crime scene officer and regional investigation teams. I put names to the dead and help bring closure to the families of the victims I identify."



UNV volunteer Alexandra Hiniker of the United States says: "We organized a Cluster Munitions Ban Bus that travelled through some of Cambodia's most cluster-bombed provinces. The university students we mobilized as volunteers raised awareness about the harm these weapons cause to civilians and collected hundreds of signatures for the People's Treaty to Ban Cluster Bombs."

UNV also facilitated the translation of the International Convention on Cluster Munitions from English to Khmer through a consultative process involving 15 representatives from the Government, mine clearance operators, civil society and UN agencies. Alexandra explains: "UNV raised awareness of the link between landmine clearance and poverty alleviation by sharing beneficiary stories, coordinating field visits, organizing presentations and film nights, and working with universities. People we spoke to appreciated receiving this information in their own language from the university volunteers."

Nurturing conditions in which people can readily express their will is a prerequisite for the social stability needed for productive growth. Volunteerism is a key tool to facilitate the involvement of citizens in democratic processes. After a decade of civil conflict in Nepal, the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) provided support to new elections.

This special political mission was established to create a free and fair atmosphere for the election of the Constituent Assembly and support the peace process in Nepal.

UNMIN engaged more than 140 UNV volunteers to work as electoral advisors in partnership with the Nepal Electoral Commission. Other UNV volunteers provided logistical and operational support in areas including information technology, transport, air operations and engineering, as well as civil affairs and public information. They worked together with 8,500 local voter education volunteers mobilized in villages, Development Committees and municipalities in preparing the electorate to vote.

Deployed to all 75 districts, UNV volunteer Electoral Advisors were able to reach people in remote locations and support local, regional and headquarters electoral operations, despite sometimes difficult conditions. The UNV volunteers developed productive and close working relationships with their local Electoral Commission counterparts. After the elections, Commission staff, especially at the district level, strongly felt that the mere presence of UNV advisors in their communities was a significant factor in ensuring credible elections.

UNMIN Chief Electoral Adviser Fida Nasrallah recognized the contribution of UNV volunteers

Fatima Moumounta is a national UNV volunteer assigned to the Project for Peace Consolidation in Air and Azawak in Niger. She is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of livestock activities managed by members of the GUADA cooperative. The project is aimed at reintegrating ex-combatants back into rural society. Here she confers with members of the cooperative in Agadez. (Aly Adamou/UNDP Niger, 2009).



## *Ukubaza gutera ukumenya*

### Questioning breeds wisdom

to the electoral process. “UNV volunteers, both international and national, played a very important role in assisting Nepal’s independent Election Commission. They are the UNMIN personnel closest to the community level in this country, where over 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas,” she says. “Their competence and professionalism, together with their hard work in the districts, helped to bring confidence in the electoral process.”

Peace consolidation is the focus of a project implemented by UNV volunteers in Niger, which experienced a period of internal conflict in the 1990s that resulted in the near absence of local development. The project, which reintegrated ex-combatants into their communities and supported local development in the regions of Air and Azawak, was funded by: UNDP; the Government of Niger, particularly the High Commission for the Restoration of Peace; the French Service de Coopération et d’Action Culturelle (SCAC); and the Governments of Libya and the United States of America.

UNV volunteers reached out to the local population and nomadic Touareg communities, enabling the reintegration of over 3,000 ex-combatants. They supported the creation of cooperatives that reflected the skills of the ex-combatants before the conflict and empowered women to use their skills

to start their own cooperatives. The local population benefited from the rapid creation of new jobs and better working conditions, which propelled the local economy.

The UNV volunteers also promoted a culture of peace and development, sensitizing youth and communities and generating a sense of rehabilitation and harmony. Members of a local group called ‘Personnes Ressources’ had experienced the atrocity of the civil unrest and were trusted by the nomadic tribes, thus forming a bridge between ex-combatants and project staff advocating the benefits of the project. In 2007, Touareg communities met on the border between Niger and Mali to celebrate the improved peaceful conditions and relationships the project had created through volunteerism.

An Amnesty Commission was formed in Uganda in the year 2000 to promote peace and reconciliation by demobilizing, resettling and reintegrating ex-combatants into local communities, promoting reconciliation in conflict-affected areas, and engaging the general public in dialogue.

Working with the Amnesty Commission, UNV volunteers are engaged in outreach to former combatants in northern and eastern Uganda, a large portion of whom are youth. They carry out investigations on human rights violations, engage in mediation and provide



UNV volunteer Gerald Janani Loum (left) provides assistance to camp resident Kajalina Acayo (right) as part of the return and resettlement process at Keyo IDP Camp, in Amuru District, Uganda. (Harald Franzen, 2009)

## *Intibagira ntibana*

### He who dwells in the past cannot build for the future

counselling services to clients traumatized by their experiences. The volunteers plan and facilitate the reintegration of former child soldiers and young mothers, for example, by facilitating access to skills-based literacy and gender training. They participate in civic education by convening workshops on human rights protection for the police, army and prison forces, and also inspect detention sites. They also work to link ex-combatants to economic activities that could result in better living conditions and facilitate their reintegration into society.

Joe Burua is a national UNV volunteer seconded to the office of the National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. “In 2007, I supported the mass destruction of over 460 tonnes of decommissioned, redundant and obsolete ammunition and ordnance,” he says. The event was the largest of its kind in the country and comprised a wide assortment of explosives that were destroyed in a series of massive detonations ranging between 10 to 15 tonnes of material at a time.

“Through these arms destruction activities, Uganda is making a statement of peace. Uganda is no longer at war. This is the time to remove all weapons of war from circulation in order to make our communities safe,” says the Minister of Defence, Chrispus Kiyonga. The National Focal Point on Small Arms

and Light Weapons, Richard Nabudere, adds: “Our activities to rid Uganda of small weapons and ensure a safe and secure living environment are now more visible to the people of Uganda thanks to the contributions of UNV volunteers.”

Decades of conflict in the neighbouring countries of the Great Lakes region have made Tanzania a hub for high numbers of refugees, some of whom brought their weapons and their conflicts with them. This resulted in increased violence and destabilization particularly in Kigoma and Kagera, the poorest and most marginalized regions in the north-west. With improved conditions for return, large numbers of refugees are voluntarily repatriating to their home countries. Camps are now being closed and consolidated, and only around 200,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi remain. Accordingly, humanitarian stakeholders are withdrawing from north-western Tanzania and activities are being phased out.

Under the United Nations ‘Delivering as One’ initiative, agencies including UNV have been collaborating to implement a human security project aimed at supporting the Government of Tanzania in managing a smooth transition from humanitarian assistance to sustainable development. Working together with UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP,

## TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE THROUGH EXPATRIATE NATIONALS

The Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) programme was initiated by UNDP in 1977 as a means to address the needs of developing countries suffering the exodus of skilled professionals. TOKTEN experts provide short-term advisory services in priority areas identified by host governments ranging from three to six months. The programme was administered by UNDP and the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development until 1994. Since then, the programme has come under the umbrella of UNV.

TOKTEN experts are specialized professionals, highly motivated to serve their homelands. Their knowledge of the country frequently results in the identification of special needs that might otherwise have been ignored, and their cultural and linguistic skills facilitate the transfer of technology and pave the way for more permanent relationships. Many maintain contact with their national counterparts, share literature, donate equipment and arrange for postgraduate training and study missions to the overseas institutions with which they are affiliated.

UNV manages volunteer assignments under the TOKTEN initiative within the framework of United Nations projects. It has also directly managed a TOKTEN initiative in Afghanistan, which was launched by UNDP following the Bonn Peace Agreement in December 2001. UNV volunteers under TOKTEN supported national capacity-building efforts of the Afghan Interim Administration and the successor government.

UNV promotes the integration of volunteering into the development programming of partners in order to facilitate national ownership of development processes. In this spirit, the management of TOKTEN has been decentralized in several countries and territories, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Egypt, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory, Somalia, Syria, Sudan, Senegal, Rwanda, and Viet Nam. Here, TOKTEN projects are implemented by UNDP and UNV, government counterparts and other United Nations agencies.

Since its establishment in the occupied Palestinian territory in 1994, more than 500 experts have been fielded through the TOKTEN scheme, working in key Palestinian Authority ministries and other institutions. The TOKTEN experts have contributed in several different realms including medicine, computer and information technology, city planning, university curriculum development and academic networking, the upgrading of film and television capacities, and cultural preservation.

UNDP, UNIDO, and FAO, as well as the Red Cross, World Vision, Care International and the district governments, UNV volunteers have been promoting greater participation of communities in this process.

Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Tanzania at the time, and himself a former UNV volunteer, believes volunteers are playing a crucial role in the peace process. “The contribution of UNV volunteers to the inter-agency efforts in north-western Tanzania has been invaluable and we all are proud of them. National volunteers are providing alternative livelihoods to the local population to reduce the illicit circulation of light weapons and gender-based violence. They are also working on the reforestation of areas hosting refugee camps, improving

water and sanitation facilities in schools and villages, and raising awareness to reduce HIV/AIDS infection.”

UNV volunteers worked with communities and their leaders to prevent conflict and spread the message of peace. They are empowering youth to volunteer to carry out peace education and contribute to improved communications and information flow. “UNV volunteers are the voice that talks to people in the communities,” says beneficiary Mustafa Said in Kigoma. “Before the introduction of the project there was a high number of armed incidents. Then the volunteers reached out to our communities at the grassroots level, and now people here have been giving up their weapons and comfortably performing their development activities, like farming, fishing and trading.”

## GLOSSARY

<b>BRD</b>	Bureau for Reconstruction and Development (Afghanistan)
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
<b>DIS</b>	Détachement Intégré de Sécurité (Chad)
<b>DPKO</b>	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>HPC</b>	Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (Japan)
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MINURCAT</b>	United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad
<b>MINUSTAH</b>	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
<b>MONUC</b>	United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>NVS</b>	Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme (Kenya)
<b>NYVS</b>	National Youth Volunteer Service (Liberia)
<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>PAHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization
<b>TOKTEN</b>	Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNIFEM</b>	United Nations Development Fund for Women
<b>UNMIK</b>	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
<b>UNMIL</b>	United Nations Mission in Liberia
<b>UNMIN</b>	United Nations Mission in Nepal
<b>UNMIS</b>	United Nations Mission in Sudan
<b>UNMIT</b>	United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

*Back Cover Photo:*

Estefania Aguirre Chauvin is a UNV volunteer Protection Assistant with UNHCR in her home country, Ecuador. At the San Lorenzo refugee registration centre, people often arrive from across the Colombian border with almost nothing and have to start a new life. Registering them and listening to their needs is a crucial task in order to deliver further assistance. (Andrew Smith, 2009)

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For information about becoming a UNV volunteer, please visit the UNV website:  
<http://www.unvolunteers.org>

For more information about the UNV Online Volunteering service, please visit:  
<http://www.onlinevolunteering.org>

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