



Backgrounder

Factoids

(N.B. Page numbers refer to English-language report)

Chapter 1: Volunteerism is universal

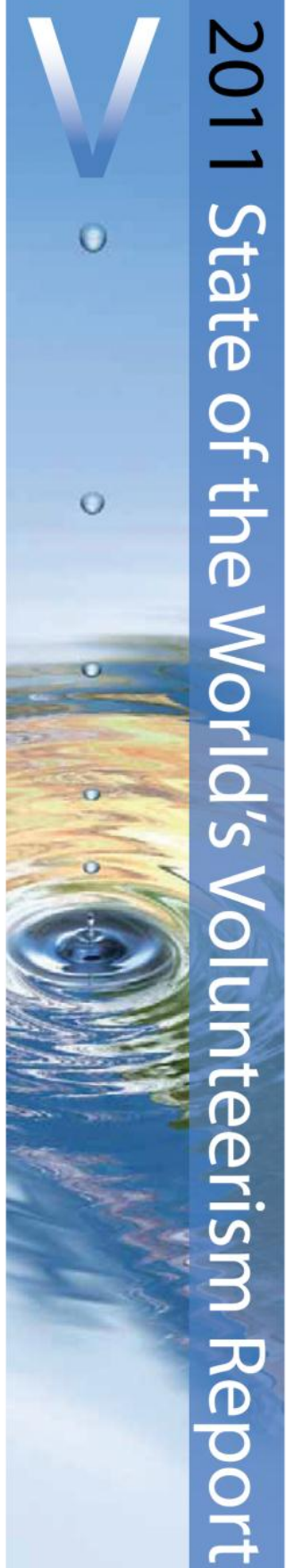
- Since 1998, **20 million, mostly local, volunteers** have helped to immunize more than **2.5 billion children** worldwide against polio as part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, spearheaded by national governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and Rotary International. (page 9)
- In **Uzbekistan**, there are close to 3000 volunteers in the *Mahalla* scheme who are raising awareness on TB, assisting in enhancing health-care systems and water supply, supporting successful treatment of TB patients and supporting household-based income generation activities among TB patients and their immediate family. (box 1.6, page 9)
- In 1997, a group of **Chilean** young people set out to build 350 basic houses for families living in slums. The programme has since expanded to 19 countries in **Latin America** and every year mobilizes more than 50,000 young volunteers between the ages of 17 and 28. (box 1.8, page 10)
- In the **Republic of Korea**, since 2008 the Happy Move Global Youth Volunteers have been sending around 1000 Korean university students per year to contribute to humanitarian, cultural and other volunteer efforts in Brazil, China, the Czech Republic, India, Slovakia, Thailand and Turkey. (box 1.9, page 11)

Chapter 2: Taking the measure of volunteerism

- Around 13.1 million active Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers donated nearly **6 billion US dollars** worth of services that reached about **30 million people** in 2009. (box 2.1, page 14)
- In 2004, the **United States** Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor indicated that 62.8 million people had volunteered for an organization at least once in the previous 12 months. (page 15)
- The Bureau of Statistics of **Australia** found that, in 2007, 5.2 million people volunteered for a total of 713 million hours of work, the equivalent to 14.6 billion Australian dollars of paid work time. The study showed that 34 per cent of the adult population volunteered – 36 per cent of women and 32 per cent of men. (page 15)
- A household labour-based survey carried out by the **Bangladesh** Bureau of Statistics revealed that a total of 16,586,000 people over 15 years of age volunteered in 2010. The survey estimated the contribution of volunteering to the Bangladesh economy in 2010 at approximately 1.66 billion US dollars. The findings also showed that the economic value of volunteering in 2009-2010 was equivalent to 1.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). (box 2.5, page 17)

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- An estimated 92 to 94 million adults volunteer in the **European Union**, around 22 per cent of Europeans over 15 years of age, with most volunteers aged 30 to 50 years. (page 18)
- Gallup World Poll (GWP) found that 16 per cent of adults **worldwide** volunteered their time to an organization. The Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project (CNP) estimates that, between 1995 and 2000, the number of volunteers contributing through voluntary organizations in **36 countries**, taken together, would make the ninth largest country in the world in terms of population. (page 19-20)
- CNP calculated the economic contribution of volunteers in the 36 countries to be 400 billion US dollars annually. This represented, on average, 1.1 per cent of GDP in these countries. However, in **developing and transition countries**, volunteer work represented 0.7 per cent of GDP. In **developed countries**, volunteer work represented 2.7 per cent of GDP. (page 20)

Chapter 3: Volunteerism in the twenty-first century

- Some 10,000 volunteers from **170 countries** (62 per cent from **developing countries**) complete an average of 15,000 online assignments each year through Online Volunteering managed by UNV. (page 27)
- In 2009, the Senior Volunteer Programme of the **Japan** International Cooperation Agency (JICA) gave 445 people aged 40 to 69 the opportunity to participate in cooperative activities in developing countries. Since the programme started in 1990, a total of 4,462 people have been dispatched to 64 countries. (box 3.6, page 31)
- Volunteerism is an important expression of Corporate Social Responsibility with **over 90 per cent of Fortune 500 companies** having formal employee volunteer and giving programmes. (page 34)

Chapter 4: Volunteerism and sustainable livelihoods

- As part of the Malaria Control Project in **Cambodia**, from August 2010 to May 2011, 32 trained volunteer taxi drivers reached out to 47,723 passengers, of whom some 21,660 were migrant workers. They played malaria information on CDs or cassettes during their rides and provided additional information to the passengers. (box 4.1, page 43)
- **Nepal** initiated a National Female Community Health Volunteer programme in 1998 which has now expanded to around 50,000 trained volunteers across the country. (page 43-44)
- The poverty rate in **Latin America** would be 10 per cent higher today without the voluntary work carried out by women, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (box 4.6, page 49)

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Chapter 5: Volunteering as a force for social inclusion

- In **Arab states**, recent developments in the region have shown that “volunteerism” and “civil society” are just new names for age-old traditions in the region. Social activism has long been embedded in associations such as Muslim consultative councils and parallel secular organizations aimed at combating poverty and underdevelopment. (page 55)
- Empirical studies support the view that young people who participate in volunteerism tend to develop pro-social behaviours that mitigate delinquency. (page 57)
- A **China** Youth Daily survey of 1044 employers shows that more than 60 per cent of them prefer a candidate with experience of volunteering. (page 57)

Chapter 6: Volunteerism, cohesion and conflict management

- In **Sri Lanka**, the healing process between the two ethnic groups involved in conflict is being assisted by thousands of volunteers from the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement who are trained in peace building, crisis intervention and non-violent dispute resolution in order to engage them in the longer-term rehabilitation process. (page 67)
- Since 2005, some 69 volunteers have been deployed to 23 Muslim and Christian community NGOs through the Muslim Volunteering Organization for Peace and Development in the **Philippines**. They have been working in peace building, community dialogue and intercultural exchange. While contributing about 150,000 volunteering hours, they have impacted on the lives of as many as 500,000 people. (box 6.2, page 67)
- A system called *Ushahidi*, developed in 2008 to map the post-election violence and peace efforts in **Kenya**, has since been utilized in a variety of humanitarian, development, and disaster relief efforts, including in the earthquakes in **Chile** and **Haiti** in 2010. (page 79)

Chapter 7: Volunteerism and disasters

- Since 2000, over 7,000 volunteers in **Nepal** have been deployed in 72 districts working on disaster mitigation projects such as the building of seeds banks, toilet construction and water sanitation. (page 75)
- In **Bangladesh**, over 40,000 trained volunteers have been contributing to strengthening disaster management capacity in coastal communities under the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP). When Cyclone Sidr hit in 2007, it claimed a lower death toll compared to the cyclone of similar magnitude which hit in 1991. This was partly due to the work of volunteers who received advance warning and alerted communities. (box 7.2, page 76)
- Over 10,000 employees of 300 **United States** companies have been trained as a community-based volunteer response force as part of the workplace volunteer programme Ready When the Time Comes launched by the American Red Cross

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Society in 2006. As a result, the capacity to respond to local disasters increased by more than 40 per cent between 2006 and 2010. (page 77)

- In **New Zealand**, when an earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale wreaked havoc on 22 February 2011, Canterbury University Student Volunteer Army, a 10,000-strong, self-organized student workforce, assisted with clearing liquefaction sludge around homes and with disseminating information. A group of farmers, the FARMY Army, volunteered alongside students to clear hard-hit parts of the city and deliver meals to affected residents. (box 7.3, page 78)
- In some countries, the presence of so-called “permanent volunteers” is increasing rapidly, e.g. in **China**, as of 2006, there were an estimated 100 million trained volunteers many of whom were registered with three major organizations: the Communist Youth League, the Red Cross and Civil Administration. They are highly trained and readily available for large-scale crises. (page 78)
- When Mount Merapi in **Indonesia** erupted in 2010, a nearby community used Twitter as part of a broader information network that had started with a community radio called *Jalin Merapi*. According to the news agency Reuters, *Jalin Merapi* has helped shelters that are unable to receive government aid by deploying about 700 volunteers who report by tweeting specific aid needs. (page 79)

Chapter 8: Volunteering and well-being

- People who volunteer are more likely to report being happy, feeling stronger and more energetic. (page 86)
- For older persons, volunteering leads to more positive moods, as well as less anxiety and fewer feelings of helplessness and hopelessness. (page 86)
- According to longitudinal studies, engagement in volunteering leads to positive mental health, results in decreased psychological stress and buffers the negative consequences of stress while enhancing life satisfaction, the will to live and self-respect. (page 86)
- People who volunteer for more hours and for more than one organization experience greater well-being. (page 86)
- Engaging in volunteering leads to better physical health, according to longitudinal studies. In rural **China**, reciprocal relationships through mutual aid led to higher levels of health. (page 86)
- Mortality rates are lower for volunteers in comparison to non-volunteers of the same age, regardless of age, marital status, education or gender. (page 86)

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