

05 October 2021



Students and young UN Volunteers from the Roma population and the population of refugees and asylum seekers painting a mural at an elementary school in Belgrade, calling for a clean environment.

© UNDP, 2021

## Together without borders in art, sports and games

A group of United Nations Volunteers from among the Roma community, refugees and asylum seekers, together with students from the Elementary School "Branko Pesic" in Zemun, came together to call for a clean environment in Serbia. They collaborated to paint a mural at the school, combining different elements from individual works that the students had previously painted.

Painting a mural on the wall of the "Branko Pesic" school fence is just one of the activities designed by young UN volunteers to animate students through games, sports activities and music and encourage them to think about the importance of preserving the environment.

Throughout the school day, elementary school students of different ages and UN volunteers participated in outdoor workshops in which they competed in a general knowledge quiz, played football, sang karaoke and practiced dance choreographies.

The goal of these activities was to make the environment in which the children attend classes more beautiful, to make the school day more fun, but also to better connect the population to which the UN volunteers belong with the local community, through these activities.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) organized workshops as part of their joint project on local initiatives for the better inclusion of young people from vulnerable groups, bringing them together without borders in arts, sports and games.

Thanks to this initiative, since 2018, 65 young Roma men and women have served as UN Volunteers in local institutions and non-governmental organizations. They have gained new knowledge and experience, and 26 of them found jobs after completing their volunteering assignments. As of this year, young refugees are also included in the project.

---

Sustainable Development Goal: [SDG 10: Reduced inequalities](#) [SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities](#) [SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions](#)