Madina Alimova is a volunteer English teacher at a children’s home through the Social Innovation and Volunteerism project in Uzbekistan. (UNV, 2013)

Standing up for positive change

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan:** For as long as she can remember, Madina has loved to study and discover for herself the traditions and cultures of different Anglophone countries. Despite initial fears about the challenges of assuming a teaching position without formal pedagogical training, her desire to contribute something to society and to share her knowledge with younger generations prevailed and still remains her daily source of motivation.
"Volunteerism is giving me the opportunity to do what I really love. I sincerely believe that these English lessons will be useful for my pupils. Not only to obtain better marks, but also for better access to educational resources later in life," says Madina. "I hope that in the future English will help them to get a good education and employment."

During the lessons Madina uses many interactive methods, such as thematic games or audio and video materials. This helps to capture the interest of children and allows them to learn grammar and new words faster and more easily.

"The first time I thought that it would be difficult for me to teach, but after just one lesson with these kids, I got so much positive energy," explains Madina. "With every new lesson it is becoming more and more interesting for me to work with them. The kids are very quick to learn and strive for knowledge."

Volunteerism is an important and an integral element of society. It provides us with an opportunity to contribute to peace and human development. Anyone can become a volunteer – the decision depends only on our own personal willingness and capabilities.

There are plenty of examples of social programmes and practical development initiatives successfully accomplished through the activities of volunteers all around the world.

Success stories have been achieved and continue to be so day after day through the exchange of ideas, the sharing of knowledge and creative approaches put into practice by ordinary people standing up for positive change in their communities.

Europe and the CIS

• Uzbekistan • English • teacher

Sustainable Development Goal: