Online Volunteering: how creative solutions contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda

Born and raised in India, Reenal has lived in Germany, China and Denmark, where she resides today. This experience has added a multicultural facet to both her professional and social understanding, offering an insightful approach to different cultural perspectives within her practice.

As an urban planner and designer by education and profession, Reenal was able to work on projects closely related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

"The Online Volunteering service provides an opportunity for anyone and everyone across the globe to be part of this organization, while contributing towards our common shared future. -- Reenal Agarwal, Online Volunteer collaborating with UN-Habitat
At UN-Habitat, Reenal used her skills to increase visibility, for example by designing the Regional Office for Arab States Overview (2018), which helped better showcase their work through compelling visual communications. This publication showcases the achievements of UN-Habitat in the region in terms of strengthening planning strategies and urban development frameworks, indicating their progress towards fulfilling SDG 11, the need for sustainable cities and communities, among other sustainable development goals.

“The best thing about the Online Volunteering platform is that you can choose and apply for any project based on your professional skills and capabilities. This opens up many opportunities for anyone with free time on their hands and willingness to use it productively.” -- Reenal Agarwal

Online volunteering is a force for global development. Reenal’s work has contributed to the future of urban development, potentially shaping the lives of those in cities across the region. Online Volunteering directly supports the work of development organizations like UN-Habitat, allowing volunteers to change the world from a computer, tablet or mobile phone anywhere.

The Online Volunteering programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. It allows organizations and volunteers to team up to address sustainable development challenges – anywhere in the world, from any device; it is fast, easy, and most of all, effective.

"I am confident that being associated with the UN and its other organizations will add towards my personal, as well as professional, growth," Reenal says.

“When skilled, passionate individuals join forces online with great organizations working toward sustainable development goals, everyone wins.” --
Jason Pronyk, UNV Regional Manager in the Arab States

Commenting on Reenal’s work with UN-Habitat, Jason continues, "The ease of the online platform, coupled with the expansive use of technology today, means that UNV’s Online Volunteering platform is a space where sustainable development goals are met through the innovation and motivation of Online Volunteers.”

Arab States

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Sustainable Development Goal: SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities, SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals