

UNV SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND REPORT 2017



UN Volunteer, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Norah Ngeny (Kenya) discussing with community members on the UNDP SAFE Ecosystems Project site, Savannakhet, Lao PDR. (UNV, 2017)

The Special Voluntary Fund (SVF), an open non-earmarked United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme trust fund, relies on contributions from a wide range of United Nations (UN) Member States and other partners, and enables UNV to pilot and deploy volunteer solutions to the world's pressing development and peace challenges. The SVF gives volunteerism a role in some of the UN's most innovative development and peace projects and programmes to improve people's lives, in line with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

In 2017, SVF resources were used in volunteerism-based interventions along UNV's programmatic priority areas, knowledge, and innovation. Through SVF funding, UNV, in 2017:

- created skills needed for **youth** employment by fostering youth volunteer schemes;
- promoted **innovation** and **social entrepreneurship**;
- enabled more **women** to play **active roles** in their communities;
- catalyzed **more peaceful communities** and promoted social cohesion;
- addressed the specific needs of marginalized people, advocating to '**leave no one behind**';
- promoted **South-South** cooperation through volunteer initiatives and knowledge exchanges;
- contributed to improved **health and education** coverage and attainment;
- enabled communities to prepare and **respond to crises, climate** and **disaster**;
- supported the development of national policies and legal instruments that create a **favourable environment for volunteerism**.

The SVF enables UNV to implement innovative activities that demonstrate the value and impact of volunteerism in achieving peace and development results. One of the most powerful aspects of the SVF is that it helps the United Nations system in pursuit of peace and sustainable development, while ensuring greater inclusion and local ownership. UNV's unique 'cascading model' mobilizes experienced international and national UN Volunteers, who then support and coordinate clusters of local volunteers. In 2017, UNV also mobilized 1,852 volunteers under the age of 29 who engaged in international cooperation and brought energy and innovation to their assignments.

SVF Funding 2017

In 2017, the SVF was critical to deliver UNV's mandate, finalize the Strategic Framework 2014- 2017 and implement UNV's Global Programmes. Contributions to the SVF amounted to US \$3,736,000 received from thirteen UN Member State partners.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2017 FROM PARTNERS

PARTNER COUNTRIES*	PROGRAMME RESOURCES RECEIVED (US \$)
GERMANY	2,061,000
SWITZERLAND	834,000
SWEDEN	708,000
IRELAND	53,000
CHINA	30,000
INDIA	15,000
CZECH REPUBLIC	13,000
TURKEY	10,000
ISRAEL	5,000
KAZAKHSTAN	2,000
LAO PDR	2,000
BANGLADESH	1,000
THAILAND	1,000
TOTAL	3,736,000

*Funding partners are ordered by magnitude of contributions received in 2017.

Programme results 2017 funded by SVF

In 2017, SVF funds were allocated to joint projects and initiatives in line with UNV's strategy to allocate the greatest share of resources to least developed countries. UNV engaged in projects and activities to integrate volunteerism into United Nations efforts for sustainable development in its major programmatic focus areas. Highlights of these results are below.

Youth Global Programme

In 2017 UNV supported the capacity development of governments and youth-led volunteering organizations, in coordination with civil society, to create spaces and partnerships for youth engagement, establish youth volunteer schemes, and formulate youth volunteering policies.

UNV, together with UNDP, established a 2030 Youth Force network across six countries in the Asia Pacific Region. The network has more than 6,000 members exchanging knowledge and building momentum of youth engagement in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region.

In Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Guatemala, UNV implemented an initiative known as Youth for the Global Goals that engaged more than 27,000 youth in discussions on the SDGs and positioned young people as agents of change within their communities.

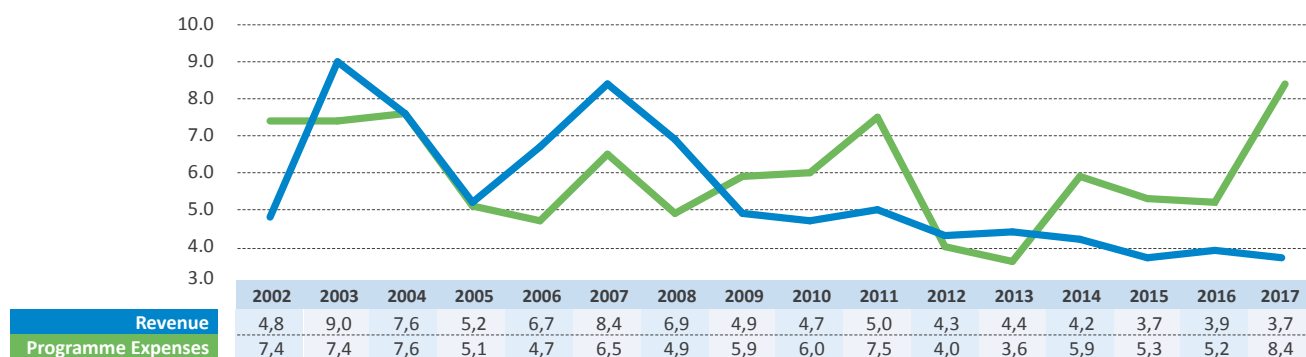
Basic Social Services Global Programme

In 2017 UNV enhanced access to basic social services through volunteerism. This year, UNV, with UN partners and national governments, emphasized access to education and health-care to excluded populations.

In Guatemala, UN Volunteers worked to empower adolescent girls by raising awareness on women's rights, and addressing issues such as early marriage, sexuality and violence against women.

In Togo, UNV trained 500 national volunteer teachers and 50 girl guides and girl scouts on raising awareness about root causes of violence and ways to find solutions.

SVF REVENUE AND PROGRAMME EXPENSES 2002-2017



Note: The introduction of the Global Programmes in the Strategic Framework 2014-2017 allowed UNV to increase delivery of SVF in 2017.

Peacebuilding Global Programme

This year UNV strengthened the awareness of people about peace processes and provided education for peace and reintegration through volunteerism. Many of these initiatives empowered youth as peace ambassadors, communicating and promoting peer learning and collaborative leadership.

UNV supported the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic and helped ensure the involvement of individuals affected by crimes falling under the Court's jurisdiction. In 2017, more than 500 persons in eight different regions were reached; including 100 women and youth leaders, local volunteers, internally displaced persons and persons living with disabilities.

In Turkey, UN Volunteers supported social cohesion between Syrian refugee women and host communities in the Southeast Anatolia region by implementing two community volunteer-based solutions. These engaged 85 refugee women to increase their employability and daily well-being.

In Colombia, UNV strengthened local conflict resolution mechanisms through volunteerism, especially through the empowerment of youth volunteers as peace ambassadors.

Community Resilience for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Global Programme

UNV, in 2017, promoted volunteerism to facilitate sustainable development using environmentally sound practices; including indigenous or local knowledge in environmental management, community preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

UNV supported the roll-out of a disaster risk reduction youth volunteer programme in Myanmar, which benefited thousands of young volunteers from rural areas. More than 450 trained youth volunteers (especially women and girls) connected their communities to a local disaster risk management mechanism. The programme is being piloted for implementation in three Regions: Mon, Rakhine and Ayeyarwady.

Volunteer Infrastructure Global Programme

The UN Volunteer survey of 2017 revealed that over 140,000 community volunteers were engaged through initiatives of UNV. Not only does this mobilization through volunteer schemes and infrastructure enable broad geographical reach and wide grassroots participation, but by engaging local volunteers, development interventions become more participatory, scalable and sustainable.

This year, in India, UNV strengthened one of the largest youth volunteering schemes in the world. UN Volunteers created spaces for interaction of youth volunteers through 3,273 new youth clubs, mobilizing more than 176,259 youth for volunteering activities.

In Cote d'Ivoire, through a partnership with UNDP, UNV supported the Government with drafting legislation on volunteerism, including the conditions of service for national volunteers.

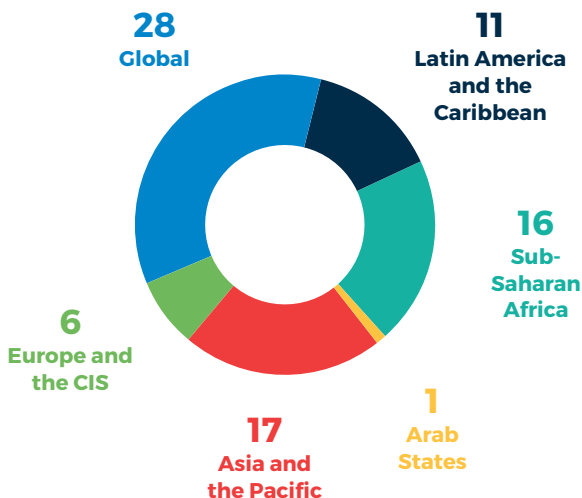
In Burundi, UNV supported the establishment of a legal framework for volunteer engagement, as well as a national volunteer corps, and the creation of a National Volunteers' Centre with satellites in every province.

Promotion and integration of volunteerism in Agenda 2030

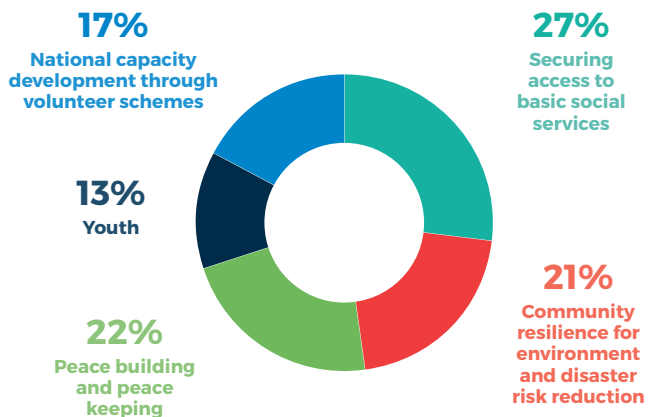
During 2017, UNV continued to position volunteerism in Agenda 2030 as a means of implementation. UNV provided strategic inputs into SDG implementation guidance, including the 'UNDG Reference Guide on Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda'.

Seventeen of 42 UN Member States highlighted the role of volunteers in their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the SDGs in July 2017. Through SVF funding, UNV, in collaboration with the Volunteer Alliance Group, directly supported countries in linking volunteerism and the SDGs in their VNRs. The Group was also active at the HLPF, delivering a statement on behalf of volunteers as a recognized ECOSOC stakeholder group, and hosting a side event.

NUMBER OF ACTIVE SVF PROJECTS BY REGION - 2017



UN VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS CONTRIBUTE TO UNV STRATEGIC PRIORITIES - 2017



Note: UN Volunteers selected the UNV strategic priorities their assignments with UN partners contributed to most. This graph ranks the priorities selected by percentage of respondents (Source: UN Volunteer Survey Report, 2017)

Research and evidence on volunteerism

In 2017, UNV continued to develop research and evidence to support UN Member States and partners, funded by the SVF. The primary focus during 2017 was the completion of a 15-country field work project on volunteerism and resilience for the triannual State of the World's Volunteerism Report (SWVR) 2018 involving 1200 research participants.

Twenty-four volunteer researchers worked closely with academic advisors and UNV staff to complete standardized research on communities' own perceptions of how volunteerism helps or hinders community resilience. To complement this primary data, new secondary analysis was also developed on global measurement of volunteerism and on national volunteer infrastructure trends. The SWVR will be launched at the High Level Political Forum on the SDGs in July 2018, followed by regional launches later in the year.

To increase accessibility of national and global measurement data on volunteering, UNV signed a partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on volunteerism measurement. The project has reviewed implementation of the 'ILO Manual on the Measurement of Volunteering' since its publication in 2011, and will use UN Member States' experiences to develop and pilot new tools and resources.

Two events were held during 2017 in Moscow and Beijing to improve research collaboration between academia and practitioners. In Moscow, UNV and the Higher School of Economics brought together 40 stakeholders from the Russian Federation, Moldova, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan for a two-day seminar.

UNV, Beijing Normal University and Beijing Volunteer Federation organized an event in June 2017 with participants from across China, leading to the creation of a research and evidence working group. Based on these events, guidance will be published on developing national 'evidence maps' on volunteering, with a call for online volunteer academics to implement these analyses in 2018.

UNV published ten research and evidence products over the course of the year, including an issue brief on volunteerism and mapping and monitoring environmental hazards prepared for the COP23 climate negotiations in Bonn. Other publications include a literature review on volunteerism and resilience, and a study on youth employment in Cambodia.

Innovative achievements in 2017 financed by SVF included:

Establishment of the V-Hub for innovation in Bangladesh UNDP, giving volunteers the opportunity to engage more effectively with UN partner agencies.

Design of a pilot on volunteer skills certification using online corporate volunteers in two UN Peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mali, due to start in 2018.

Under the Plan of Action to Integrate Volunteering (A/RES/70/129), UNV established the Secretariat in Bonn in 2017. In line with resolution A/70/118, guidance for National Situation Analyses on Volunteering by UN Member States and an accompanying civil society advisory note were disseminated following consultation and inputs from UNV's stakeholders. National Analyses will be used to develop inputs for regional stakeholder meetings in 2019 and the Global Technical Meeting in 2020, providing evidence to governments on how to integrate volunteering across a range of national development priorities.

The way forward

The SVF allows UNV and partners to make long-term investments in volunteerism for peace and development.

UNV seeks to continue and strengthen its engagement with the current partners contributing to the SVF, as well as to increase the pool of contributing partners. Increased and predictable investments will enable UNV to further scale up and promote the impact of volunteerism and volunteers globally and in priority countries, while widening opportunities for marginalized groups through volunteering to leave no one behind.