



#GlobalApplause

Give volunteers a hand



GUIDANCE NOTE 1

The purpose of this guidance note is to define International Volunteer Day, its message and the theme for IVD 2016.

What is the International Volunteer Day (IVD) and what role does UNV play?

The International Volunteer Day (IVD), on December 5th, was designated by the United Nations in 1985 as an international observance day to celebrate the power and potential of volunteerism. United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to coordinate IVD.

IVD is viewed as a unique chance for volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, to share their values, and to promote their work amongst their communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations agencies, government authorities, and the private sector.

IVD recognizes volunteers worldwide and their contributions to sustainable development. In 2012, in response to evolving experiences and recommendations, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme spearheaded a Five Year IVD Strategy, with the aim to make IVD a more globally recognized and grassroots 'owned' international day.

UNV actively promotes the value and global recognition of volunteerism.

International Volunteer Day celebrates the power and potential of volunteerism.



What is the theme for IVD 2016?

IVD 2016's theme **#GlobalApplause – give volunteers a hand**, recognizes volunteers worldwide and all they do in making peace and sustainable development a reality.

Join us in giving volunteers a hand - #GlobalApplause.

We are orchestrating a round of #GlobalApplause to recognize all volunteers everywhere and the contribution they make.

In this year's IVD campaign, you will get to know stories of volunteers worldwide and how they make a difference in their surroundings. You will also be invited to congratulate them with virtual applauses, by emoji or even by video and gifs.

On IVD 2016, we not only celebrate volunteerism in all its facets - but also pay special tribute by applauding volunteers who contribute to peace and sustainable development worldwide.

Join us in recognizing the individuals who are engaged in volunteering their time, energies, and skills to change the world for a better future. Also, join in on IVD 2016 by highlighting the potential that volunteering makes so that global sustainable development can be a reality.

Here is what you can participate in:

- Join our applause campaign. On our website, you can download instructions to record and upload short videos of yourself applauding volunteers, the one you like the most, or several. You can also post it on your social media account and tag it with #GlobalApplause and even comment how and where you are contributing to a changing world. The goal on December 5th is to share positive attitudes and stories of all kinds of volunteers.



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You can also:

- Become an IVD 'Brand Ambassador' yourself or encourage other volunteers to promote IVD and its messaging;
- Salute, through our corporate UNV social media accounts, those volunteers and volunteer organizations committed to spreading the message for IVD;
- Use the nature of volunteering - an activity between people - to spread the brand and message of IVD, as well the importance of this attitude;
- Uphold IVD 2016 as an awareness and recognition campaign on volunteering - one that starts on December 5th, 2016 and develops through 2017.

What are the sub-theme messages for IVD 2016?

(The following messages should be used as the basis for all external engagement and as a guide for any in-country or global op-ed development, general pitches to media and as the basis for social media copy.)

1. Volunteers are instrumental in achieving the Global Goals. Thanks to volunteers, in times of crisis and change, the very best in people and communities shines through.

Volunteerism supports efforts to achieve sustainable development in communities worldwide.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for long-term attitude and behaviour changes. Volunteers facilitate changes in mindsets by raising awareness or championing those changes and inspiring others.

It simply is not possible to attain the SDGs without a wide range of people engaged at all stages, at all levels, at all times. This can be done through volunteerism.



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Volunteers are on the ground providing basic services to combat poverty, hunger, education and exclusion and to make sure sustainable development has a trickle-down effect reaching everyone.

Volunteers are often the first on the ground and the last to leave in humanitarian crisis and emergency relief efforts.

Volunteers help leave no one behind by reaching out to people, including those marginalized or difficult to reach, to bring people's voices and knowledge to projects that build capacity and sustainable development. This is crucial to build ownership and localize the SDGs.

The universal nature of volunteerism is a vehicle for achieving sustainable development.

Volunteerism enables people to participate in their own development and strengthens social cohesion, leading to sustainable development for people by people.

Volunteers are motivated by values like those of justice, equality and freedom as expressed in the United Nations Charter.

Volunteerism promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development by moving people to get involved in their futures.

2. Volunteerism can give everyone a voice.

Local, community volunteering gives marginalized people, like women and youth, a voice about their futures.

When volunteers raise their voices, they can influence and shape societies' cultural and social norms and values. Volunteers can widen the parameters of debate, putting new ideas on policy agendas and challenging the status quo.



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3. By showing up and stepping up, volunteers are true global citizens.

The natural strength and resilience found in all of us is exemplified through volunteers, their commitment and passion acting as a beacon of hope. Volunteers are the best of us.

Volunteering facilitates the exchange of international and local expertise. Volunteering creates agents of change in both spheres of the globe and makes true global citizens.

Through global solidarity, global engagement and by creating global citizenry, volunteerism sets a course for a better world.

4. Volunteering embraces common values and a sense of one humanity

Volunteerism at the local level enables people to develop the skills to engage and participate beyond the household or village, in particular, expanding participation of young people through volunteerism is indispensable for the long term stability of societies, as it strengthens social integration, while enhancing personal development and skills.

The ethos of volunteerism is infused with values such as solidarity, reciprocity, mutual trust, belonging and empowerment, all of which contribute significantly to quality of life.

Volunteers make contributions to society by generating well-being for people and their communities. More than one billion people volunteer globally, the majority of them serving in their own countries. Many are at the forefront of efforts to improve the lives of people in their communities by being engaged and encouraging others to do so as well.

Volunteerism is a basic expression of human relationships. It is about people's need to participate in their societies and to feel that they matter to others.



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Please look for ideas on celebration in Guidance Note 2!

You are already the facilitator and the agent of change in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). You were there to shape the SDGs agenda and you already are its most committed advocate. IVD 2016 is there to tell the world about you and your achievements.

Have you applauded a volunteer today? Or have you been inspired by one? Share it with the world.

You are an important part of making this day a success, and we thank you!