



#GlobalApplause

Give volunteers a hand



GUIDANCE NOTE 5

IVD 2016, volunteerism and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The purpose of this guidance note is to explain why IVD 2016 focuses on global citizens to make a difference beyond national borders, showing how volunteerism can play a more impactful role for peace and sustainable development. The guidance note also provides tools to support the organization of volunteer activities in sustainable development from IVD 2016 onwards.

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

First, what are the SDGs?

The SDGs are part of an ambitious agenda that aims to end extreme poverty, fight inequality, and address climate change. The Sustainable Development agenda, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015, is universal, transformational, people-centred and inclusive. These features are also shared by volunteerism.

Why are volunteers important in achieving the SDGs?

Volunteers are instrumental in achieving sustainable development and 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 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.

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.



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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.

Why does IVD 2016 focus on the applauding volunteers?

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.

On IVD 2016, volunteers will receive global recognition for demonstrating commitment and sharing solidarity around the planet. IVD 2016 is also about beginning a new period in which global citizenry is stimulated by engaging people to aid one another.

Volunteers turn to be global citizens by collaborating abroad, getting to know other political systems, understanding other's needs and living other cultures.

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



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Which kind of activities can volunteer groups and volunteers undertake to help achieve the SDGs?

A UNV toolkit explains in more details the main features of 2030 Agenda, the role of volunteerism for the SDGs and potential activities for volunteers. The toolkit is composed by a Q&A and a selected set of materials, including policy and knowledge documents, communications materials and links.

The toolkit is designed to be used also beyond IVD 2016 for awareness-raising activities and to support substantive contributions to planning and programming at national level.

For example, volunteers can...

...raise awareness about the Sustainable Development Agenda through local campaigns and creative approaches, including in remote areas and with marginalized populations, to contribute to SDG locally;

...deliver technical expertise to complement essential basic services where they are lacking or where they are insufficient, as well as in other areas;

...model behaviors and attitudes, helping the agenda to be truly transformational, and enhancing knowledge and willingness to contribute to SDGs locally;

...mobilize people to develop a sense of opportunity and ownership with regards to the challenges they are facing, to leverage collective action and engagement across all Goals during planning, implementation and monitoring phases;

...develop skills across different goal areas through transfer of knowledge and experience, while facilitating the dissemination of local expertise;

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