



International Volunteer Year 2026: A Global Celebration of Volunteerism

The International Volunteer Year (IVY) 2026 is in full swing. Launched on 5 December 2025 alongside International Volunteer Day, the global kickoff united governments, UN entities, civil society, academia, the private sector, and millions of volunteers in recognizing the essential role of volunteerism in building strong, inclusive communities.



A Global Call to Elevate Volunteerism

IVY 2026 highlights how volunteerism, whether formal or informal, local or global, strengthens the social fabric, drives community-led action, and fuels progress toward shared global goals. The opening event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York set the tone, with partners reaffirming their commitment to advancing volunteerism worldwide. [Watch the IVY 2026 launch video](#)

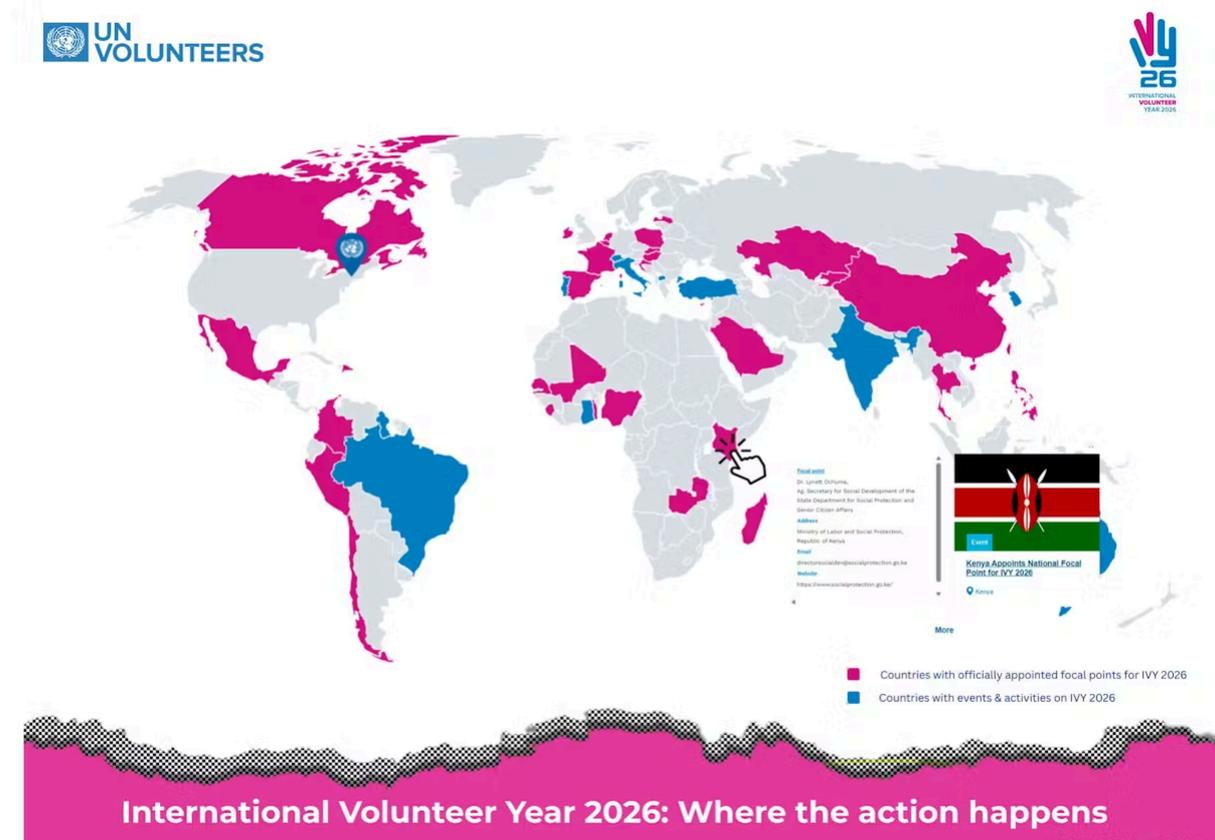
Since December, IVY celebrations have spread across all regions, with events in Belgium, China, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Panama, and many other countries, each offering unique perspectives on service, solidarity, and civic participation.

These events underscore the central message of IVY 2026: Volunteerism is not simply an act of service; it is a driving force for resilience, social connection, environmental care, and cooperation across borders.

As the Year unfolds, there is a growing call for expanded opportunities, stronger support systems, and greater recognition of the life-changing contributions volunteers make every day.

Learn more: <https://www.unv.org/recognition-volunteerism-ivy-2026>

IVY Network Blooms: Over 30 Countries Join the Volunteer Year!



The International Volunteer Year (IVY) 2026 is picking up steam, and so is our global crew of national focal points designated by United Nations Member States! Let's roll out the welcome mat (alphabetically, of course) for our IVY 2026 champions:

- **Africa:** Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zambia
- **Asia and the Pacific:** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Philippines, United Arab Emirates
- **Europe:** Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain.
- **The Americas:** Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru

These countries are now coordinating national activities, engaging partners, and helping make IVY 2026 inclusive, visible, and impactful.

What's Next? With focal points in place, countries are rolling out events, campaigns, and initiatives that spotlight the power of volunteerism—from local community actions to national programmes.

Explore the full list and map on the [IVY Knowledge Portal](#).

UN Entities, Civil Society & Partners Rally Behind International Volunteer Year 2026



In a show of serious volunteer spirit, 35 United Nations entities have officially joined IVY 2026. How? By appointing their very own focal points, aka the go-to heroes for all things IVY2026-related.

We're talking about the likes of ECLAC, ESCWA, FAO, IFAD, IOM, UNDESA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNRWA, WFP, WIPO... and yes, even more acronyms than you can shake a conference badge at.

These focal points will help steer the ship, spark collaboration, and make sure IVY 2026 is more than just a catchy name. So, whether it's coordinating campaigns, sharing stories, and making sure IVY 2026 is a celebration to remember. With this kind of energy, the year is already buzzing with potential.

And it doesn't stop within the UN system. The momentum extends across **civil society, the private sector, and academia.**

From the **World Volunteer Conference in Riyadh** to the **Global Volunteering Forum in Paris**, and many more volunteer-focused events planned throughout the year, IVY2026 is already buzzing with global energy.

2026 is shaping up to be a volunteer-powered adventure like never before.

How to Engage with IVY 2026: Your Guide to Resources and Opportunities



Momentum for IVY 2026 is growing—and so are the tools available to help governments, UN entities, civil society, the private sector, academia, and individuals get involved. Here's a quick snapshot of what you can access 📌

IVY 2026 Resources at a Glance

Communications Guide

Your go-to reference for the IVY 2026 key messages and visual identity. It includes storytelling tips, and guidance for events, media, and internal communication. Access the guide [here](#).

FAQs

A simple introduction to what IVY 2026 is and how different actors can engage. Perfect for sharing with colleagues or partners who are new to the initiative. Read the FAQs [here](#).

For additional resources, visit the [IVY 2026 Knowledge Portal](#) – the global repository for the Year and yours to explore and enrich!

Together, these tools make it easy for every partner to engage meaningfully and help make International Volunteer Year 2026 a truly global movement.

The IVY Logo Is Going Places. Can Your Place Be One of Them?



From the streets of Hanoi to the colors of Lima, from Istanbul's charm to Nairobi's energy—the IVY 2026 logo is appearing everywhere! It's even reached the summit of Tilicho Mountain in Nepal... and gone underwater. Now we'd love to see your version.

A composite image with a blue background. On the left, a diver in a black wetsuit with "DIVE & SAIL" on the chest holds a white banner underwater. The banner features the IVY 2026 logo and the text "INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER YEAR 2026". On the right, there is a white IVY 2026 logo with the text "INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER YEAR 2026" below it. Below the logo is a QR code. At the bottom right, a photo shows two people holding a banner on a rocky mountain slope next to a lake, with a large, snow-capped mountain in the background.

IVY 2026 Trello board

We'd love to see your take!

Looking for the logo? Find it on our Trello board in all six UN languages (and more).

Let's make IVY 2026 unforgettable, one photo (or video!) at a time.

Still reading? Wow. Commitment like that makes you our favorite (don't tell the others).

Who's behind this newsletter?

Just us — the IVY 2026 Secretariat team, operating on caffeine, optimism, and questionable deadlines.



Got thoughts? Love notes? Mild complaints?
Send them all to ivy@unv.org. We read everything. Eventually.



Every contribution matters!

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