Mobilizing Talent

UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme envisions a world in which volunteerism is recognized and valued within societies as a way for all people and countries to achieve peace and development; a world in which societies fully embrace volunteerism in their efforts to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities and exclusion.

Volunteerism is an opportunity for everybody, including marginalized groups, women and youth, to have their voice heard and their actions recognized. Volunteerism strengthens social cohesion and trust by promoting individual and collective action, leading to sustainable development for people by people.

UNV engages people at all levels in peace and sustainable development.

We are linking volunteerism with the problems facing youth, like unemployment, exclusion and education. We are showing how youth, through volunteerism, can regain confidence, skills and work to make a positive change in their homelands, their societies, themselves and their families.

Noha Tarek, national UNV Youth Coordinator in Egypt

Our Vision

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UNV has outlined a Strategic Framework for 2014-2017 that focuses on harnessing the power of volunteers and volunteerism to support the achievement of internationally-agreed goals. The Framework guides UNV’s work over the coming four years and calls for working more systematically with United Nations partners to jointly deliver projects and programmes that can make significant impacts on peace and development worldwide. It also aims to help countries more effectively integrate volunteerism within national frameworks, enabling better engagement of people in development processes.

The UNV Strategic Framework 2014-2017 directs UNV efforts and programme resources into five priority areas:

• securing access to basic social services
• community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction
• peace building
• youth
• national capacity development through volunteer schemes

UNV will also focus on building a credible body of knowledge informed by research, innovation and evidence in order to advocate and enhance the integration of volunteerism into peace and development programming. Throughout, innovation is a cross-cutting pillar of our work.

UN Volunteers are global citizens motivated to contribute to peace and sustainable development. Working with United Nations partners, governments, civil society, regional organizations and the private sector, UN Volunteers use their experience and talent to bring people to the forefront of development and give them a voice.

UN Volunteers make important contributions and are willing and able to work in all development and peace situations, including some of the most difficult and remote contexts. Volunteers are catalysts of change and also constitute a flexible, cost-effective resource in ensuring scale, impact and sustainability in United Nations peace and development interventions.

UNV supports peace and sustainable human development around the globe through the promotion of volunteerism and mobilization of volunteers. It is active in 122 countries and has field units in more than 90 countries and a number of regional offices. Every year, UNV directly mobilizes almost 7,000 UN Volunteers to serve either in their own countries or abroad. These UN Volunteers contribute to the peace and development projects and initiatives of 36 United Nations system partners. About 82 per cent of UN Volunteers come from countries of the global South. More than 30 per cent of UN Volunteers are assigned within their own countries.

UNV also operates an Online Volunteering service, which connects United Nations entities, civil society organizations and public institutions directly with highly capable and motivated individuals who provide their support over the internet.

**WHAT WE DO**

**OUR PLAN**

**OUR VOLUNTEERS**

**WORKING TOGETHER**

UNV works with a wide variety of partners to achieve collective goals. It collaborates with United Nations partners, governments, civil society and regional and private sector organizations. UNV is in a unique position to advance the mandates and goals of UN entities and Member States by:

• tapping into the commitment, solidarity and civic engagement that are the pillars of volunteerism;
• broadening the participation of people, including young men and women, and increasing development capacity and impact on the ground;
• achieving the sustainable development goals and engaging stakeholders in development debates, such as the ongoing consultations on the post-2015 development agenda; and
• meeting surge capacity requirements in times of disaster or epidemics through flexible and contingent UN Volunteer assignments.

**OUR VISION**

"I am especially grateful to United Nations Volunteers who support efforts to prevent conflicts, help societies recover from fighting, promote sustainable development, assist in crisis situations and carry out numerous other projects for the greater good. Their work has advanced the Millennium Development Goals, and I am confident they will also contribute to progress on the post-2015 development agenda." Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

**Helen Clark, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme**

"We are proud to cooperate closely with UNV as it seeks to channel volunteers and volunteerism to help tackle climate change and environmental degradation and to promote sustainable development."

"Eric St. Pierre, 2015"

**Giovanni Felipe, national UN Volunteer Refugee Registration Officer, with the family of Alhassan Ag Boubacar, 7-year-old from the Fouta-Dioura Mobile Agent, and Ahmmad Kholido (3 years old) and Hamad (5 years old) in a Mbori refugee camp, Bubaque Flac, (Eric St. Pierre, 2014)"