The UNV Online Volunteering (OV) service allows organizations and volunteers to team up to address sustainable development challenges anywhere in the world, from any device. Online volunteering is fast, easy, and most of all, effective. Skilled, passionate individuals join forces online with great organizations working toward sustainable development goals, and everyone wins.

The OV service can support the UN country team in Lebanon by providing flexible Online Volunteer capacity, free of charg, to support its rapid crisis response. Hundreds of such volunteers have supported the World Health Organization (WHO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and other first responders across the UN system, by contributing to COVID-19 preparedness, response and long-term recovery efforts.

Online volunteers can support you in multiple ways, including with outreach, communications, resource mobilization, research, data collection, strategic planning, analyses and much more.

HOW DOES THE OV SERVICE WORK?
1. Create an organizational account or use an existing one on www.onlinevolunteering.org
2. Publish volunteer opportunities to attract people you need
3. Select and manage online volunteers from all over the world

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I NEED HELP?
UNV Field Unit in Lebanon
unv.lb@undp.org

Mr Kevin Schmidt, Programme Assistant for Online Volunteering – Arab States
kevin.schmidt@unv.org
ONLINE VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Bolstering the UN response to Libya’s humanitarian crisis

As the crisis in Libya unfolded, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) lacked information about the situation inside the country. OCHA activated the Stand-By Task Force (SBTF), an organized group of more than 150 Online Volunteers skilled in crisis mapping. They assisted in the creation of the Libya Crisis Map, an online tool displaying live information relevant to relief efforts, such as health needs, security threats or movement of displaced persons/refugees.

As the humanitarian situation deteriorated, OCHA mobilized an additional 150 volunteers via the OV service to keep the site running. Different teams engaged in media monitoring, geo-location and/or analysis, established workflows and processes.

In this way, the Online Volunteers ensured that the website ran for three months. Through a simple interface, users could quickly find thematic areas of interest in a geographical area relevant to their needs, to perform basic gap analysis and receive alerts about incoming new information and reports.

Online Volunteers on the frontlines of the response to COVID-19 in Peru

UNV supported UNDP, under the lead of the Peruvian Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion, in mobilizing 20,000 Online Volunteers to assist 400,000 senior citizens. The volunteers inquire about COVID-19-related symptoms, check on mental health and support systems via telecommunication services.

Through this initiative, Online Volunteers ensure that the elderly and other vulnerable groups are able to remain isolated, while maintaining their health and wellbeing and further flattening the curve of new infections.

Supporting COVID-19 preparedness through digital dashboard of hospital bed utilization

As countries are struggling to provide COVID-19 patients the care they need, many hospitals are facing a shortage of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds. Many have set up field hospitals to free up ICU and hospital beds, while others lack resources to do so.

As the UNDP Health and Development Team help countries strengthen their resilience and response to disasters, including this pandemic, the UNV OV service has supported UNDP in providing countries with estimates and projections about how many ICU beds are available and filled due to the pandemic.

Online Volunteers supported the creation of an online dashboard to monitor estimates of hospital bed utilization rates around the world. The dashboard keeps track of hospital bed utilization and capacity in each country, as well as active COVID-19 infections, and use a colour code that indicates countries approaching their full capacity.