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In Astana, Kazakhstan, UN Youth Volunteer for Community Development Han Na Kim (left, Republic of Korea) and Aizada Arystanbek (middle), a national student volunteer, support the MY World offline roll-out on International Youth Day by helping members of the public fill in the MY World survey.

2014 - 2017

UNV STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



// INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has articulated the scope and dimensions of its strategic direction and results for four decisive years in its Strategic Framework 2014-2017.

This Strategic Framework focuses UNV programmatic efforts in five key areas:

- securing access to basic social services,
- community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction,
- peace building,
- youth, and
- 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.

WHY PARTNER WITH UNV?

The fundamental lack of understanding of the role of volunteering and the potential of volunteers in the face of global change must be tackled by UNV and partners in order to bring the value to light in the new development era. This is done through consolidating innovation, advocacy and research.

In the Framework period, UNV will lead in consolidating volunteer knowledge, advocacy and innovation as a convener on volunteer issues.

RESEARCH

Given the critical gaps in the evidence base for the contributions of volunteerism to peace and development, a key focus during this Strategic Framework period will be to work with partners from academia and other volunteer-involving organizations to develop a global research agenda on volunteerism.

This will involve strengthening collaboration and cultivating research in the global South, continuing the publication of the State of the World's Volunteerism Reports, and enhancing the measurement of volunteering at national levels, especially in developing contexts. In this context, consultations will strengthen dialogue in areas that require evidence building to enable the positioning of volunteerism as a credible development paradigm.

INNOVATION

At the heart of innovation at UNV is a commitment to creativity and engagement in addressing local challenges through volunteer action. UNV, as a catalyst, knowledge broker and convener, seeks to leverage volunteer knowledge, research and technology to develop innovative solutions that improve the quality of life at community level.

In the context of the post-2015 development framework, volunteerism is an essential mechanism to strengthen participation. For this participation to be inclusive, diverse and accessible forms of volunteerism are needed to enable people to contribute to peace and development.

In keeping with the Strategic Framework, the goal of UNV is to expand the global reach of the UNV Online Volunteering service, doubling the number of UN Online Volunteers mobilized to 22,000 by 2017.

UNV will also explore innovative methods to ensure the broadest possible participation of people at all levels to influence policy development and monitoring.

In keeping with the Strategic Framework, the goal of UNV is to expand the global reach of the UNV Online Volunteering service. Every year, around 11,000 UN Online Volunteers contribute to peace and sustainable development through the UN Online Volunteering service.

Online Volunteering allows the development community to tap into a wide range of skills and expertise, opening a door to students, retirees and people engaged in the labour market who wish to contribute to a meaningful cause. This includes those in the corporate private sector, for example, who wish to volunteer online while pursuing a demanding career. Online volunteering is also particularly accessible to people with disabilities, who might otherwise have been excluded from such engagement.

Innovative forms of volunteering, combining onsite and online opportunities, have an enormous potential to increase the depth and breadth of civic engagement. Over the next few years, UNV will translate the knowledge and experience of working with new technologies into a more impactful and innovative methodology, bringing on board more voices from civil society on human development.

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"Engagement and voluntary action can strengthen ownership, build individual capacity and help to address challenges in a sustainable way. The expertise of local civil society can be more grounded in national circumstances than the expertise of international research institutions."

UN Development Group report *Delivering the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Opportunities at the National and Local Levels*, 2014



- ▶ The UNV Online Volunteering service (<http://www.onlinevolunteering.org>) allows anyone with an internet connection and the right skills to volunteer for development.

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KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge is one of the fundamental building blocks to bringing the importance and impact of volunteerism to the forefront. Through its programmes and partnerships, UNV offers a strong knowledge base on the value of volunteerism, a broad and effective partnership base, especially in terms of engagement with civil society at all levels; increased capacities to enable volunteer engagement in development processes; a focus on excluded groups and populations; and opportunities to advance South-South collaboration.

UNV will build on this knowledge to support the positioning of volunteerism at national, regional and global levels, in order to contribute to an enabling environment for volunteerism. For example, UNV is developing a concept on volunteer knowledge that aims to tap into volunteer creativity and engagement by supporting innovation and facilitating knowledge sharing and learning around volunteerism. This initiative will contribute to the already existing UNV Learning Strategy, which fosters the creation of opportunities to translate volunteer knowledge into learning. The main objective is to showcase the many ways in which volunteerism and volunteer engagement can strengthen peace and development projects.

POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

As the post-2015 sustainable development agenda takes shape, UNV has significantly contributed to the unprecedented UN system efforts to widen opportunities for dialogue. People from all walks of life were invited to express their priorities for the new agenda through the MY World survey and the consultations organized by the United Nations Development Group. UNV mobilized UN Volunteers and UN Online Volunteers who engaged communities in reflecting on ways to address sustainable development challenges.

Overall, together with stakeholders, UNV has been advocating for the integration of volunteerism into the discussions about the new agenda. In particular, the organization has underlined the importance of volunteer groups as development actors, and of volunteerism as a mechanism to be considered more systematically in development planning and implementation processes, to enhance effectiveness and sustainability.



UN
Volunteers

inspiration in action



UN Volunteer Houssene Sebogo, Civil Affairs Officer with the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti, supporting a cassava production project in the rural area of Jérémie.

INTEGRATING VOLUNTEERING IN THE NEXT DECADE: TEN-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION 2016-2025

In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to “[present] a plan of action to be developed by the United Nations Volunteers programme to integrate volunteering in peace and development in the next decade and beyond [...]” (A/Res/67/138)

In response to this call, UNV has outlined the Zero Draft of a 10-year Plan of Action 2016-2025 to integrate volunteering in policies and programmes through a more purposeful, strategic and collective long-term approach.

This Zero Draft has taken into account a variety of input and feedback received from a wide range of stakeholders since the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) in 2001 and particularly during its tenth anniversary in 2011 and beyond.

It will be developed further through consultations with partners and stakeholders in different regions, including civil society, volunteer-involving organizations and United

Nations Member States. The feedback received during these consultations will enable revising and enhancing the Plan before submission to the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.

“In ten years’ time, we see UNV as developing more innovative practices within volunteering and championing innovative practices from around the world... and as a champion for reverse innovation (innovation that flows from South to North).”

UNV 2014 Partnership Survey feedback

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming and mobilizing volunteers.

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

For more information about UNV, please visit www.unv.org.



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