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Nafi Ndong (right), manager of the micro-finance institution 'Thiapy', with Rigobert Diouf, President of the Association des Handicapes pour le Development du Baol. UNV helped local handicapped people establish their own shop in Bambé, Senegal.

2014 - 2017

UNV STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



// NATIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH VOLUNTEER SCHEMES

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 development of volunteer schemes to promote the contribution of volunteerism constitutes an important element of nationally-led and owned multi-sectoral peace and development programmatic interventions.

UNV's strength lies in its ability to act as a bridge between governments, civil society, the private sector and United Nations entities. Interventions to support national youth volunteer schemes, for instance, have fostered strong partnerships, generating complementary skills, resources and expertise. This has increased the development impact of partnerships.

UNV looks back on an excellent track record as a catalyst and multiplier for volunteerism. Since the year 2000, we have provided advisory services for volunteer infrastructure to around 45 countries every year. Through UN Volunteers and UNV projects, as well as UNV-assisted volunteerism schemes, collaborations and networks, hundreds of thousands of volunteers have engaged with communities.

UNV also helps promote the establishment of volunteer schemes that address national development challenges through national approaches.

UNV PROJECTS RELATED TO NATIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH VOLUNTEER SCHEMES

A broad range of activities contribute to capacity building at the national and regional levels:

National and regional volunteer schemes to facilitate formal volunteering placements for national/regional volunteers across a wide range of sectors

Examples include projects in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Togo and regional initiatives such as the Economic Community of West African States Volunteers Programme.

Among other successes, these resulted in the adoption of West Africa's first law on volunteerism in Burkina Faso or the training and mobilization of youth volunteers from Brazil to respond to a devastating tropical storm in a El Salvador.

Strengthening the capacity of volunteer-involving organizations or coordinating bodies

By providing technical assistance and resources, UNV and its partners have helped these entities to perform their activities more efficiently and effectively across various sectors.

Projects in Senegal, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, China, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Peru and Benin have helped lead to greater volunteer mobilization and more effective developments.

In Senegal, the project also stimulated transfer of knowledge between generations by strengthening a volunteer association, comprising retiree volunteers, complementary to the youth scheme.

Regional-level UNV projects to build the capacity and skills of young people

Through UNV's Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future project, initiated as a response to the popular uprisings in the Arab region, UNV is empowering youth in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen to participate meaningfully in socio-economic development through volunteerism.

For the first time in the region, UNV is creating safe spaces for young women and men to speak openly and honestly to government, civil society and United Nations stakeholders about their experience, expectations and hopes for youth volunteerism.

It is also equipping partners with the skills and knowledge to design and manage equitable and inclusive youth volunteer programmes and creating a shared culture of volunteerism for development.

// “Personally I think very highly of the National Volunteer Programme of Burkina Faso. Given the results after the five years of the project phase, I think it’s a useful programme — above all for the volunteers themselves. They have the opportunity to expand their talents and capabilities, as well as the opportunity to exercise good citizenship by improving their employability... The support of PNVB for education, for example, is clear, without which many children, particularly in the remote areas, would never have been able to get to school.”

Professor Justin Koutaba, former Minister for Youth and Employment

Christine Ouedrago, a volunteer primary school teacher with the Burkina Faso National Volunteer Programme volunteers for the development of her country.



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Nested projects, which build the capacity of volunteers in a particular sector, as part of wider projects

UNV components of projects in Ecuador and Peru, for instance, build capacity of volunteer-involving organizations and volunteers in disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management.

As part of a UNDP project in Nepal, UNV helped focus attention on capacity building of volunteers and volunteer-involving organizations to support citizen participation in development planning and local governance, with an additional focus on supporting legislative change.

Similarly, in Nicaragua, national volunteers were recruited and deployed in 52 municipalities to support local government capacity building around eradicating hunger and enhancing food security.

The [UN Youth Volunteers Programme](#) is also working with partners around the world to scale-up existing national and regional initiatives and develop new ones. We are building on successful projects that, for instance, supported the adoption of laws on volunteerism, trained and mobilized youth volunteers.

THE WAY FORWARD

Historically, governments, civil society and, to varying degrees, the private sector have all played important roles in ensuring support for volunteerism as a means of building civic participation and addressing peace and development goals.

Three key factors are of particular relevance in this connection:

1. A favourable policy and regulatory framework;
2. Recognition and promotion of volunteerism for peace and development; and
3. Committed national leadership.

UNV's experience in this field has led to growing demand from United Nations Member States that we support the establishment of national/regional volunteer schemes to address specific development challenges.



UN
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▶ Eduart Koci (right), a national UNV Community Exchange worker, meets with a youth association in the village of Driza in Fier, Albania.

// Based on its experience in the area of national and regional capacity development through volunteer schemes, and true to its mandate, UNV will expand its support to programme countries in the Strategic Framework period.

In particular, we will focus on assisting the initiation of national and subnational schemes and enhancing the capacity of local partners to mobilize and manage volunteers more effectively.

“These different youth projects, especially those regarding volunteerism, are very important to our youth these days. We strongly believe in youth volunteerism as it is the foundation for young people in different fields. Volunteerism helps in developing youth and honing their talents, leading to strengthening their relations on different levels.”

Samy Al-Majaly, President of the Higher Council for Youth in Jordan

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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