

DELIVERING AT THE GRASSROOTS

2015 Annual Report



**UN
VOLUNTEERS**



National UN Volunteer Civil Engineers Ganesh Paudel (second from right) and Sadhana Tiwari (right) speak with a local man and assess the damage of his collapsed house in the village of Kunchowk VDC, Sindhupalchowk District. It was one of the regions hardest hit by the devastating earthquake of April 2015 in Nepal. Sanu Bhujel (third from right), a local of Kunchowk VDC, assists the two national UN Volunteers. She is one of the many local employed through the UNDP's Cash for Work programme. (Ayush Karki/UNV, 2015)

DELIVERING AT THE GRASSROOTS

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has served as a bridge between the UN, civil society and governments for more than 45 years. We have been working in over 140 countries to deliver development impact and build peace, foster innovation and enhance collaboration. UNV is an invaluable source of skilled UN Volunteers, primarily from the global South, who are ideally positioned to deliver at the grassroots. UN Volunteers offer support and solutions that are locally-appropriate, sustainable and reach a broad base of communities and stakeholders, including marginalized and vulnerable people, to engage them in addressing the challenges of peace and development. Volunteerism embodies the underlying principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind.

// Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires action at all levels – from the local to the national and global levels. Strong national ownership is the foundation of all efforts. If the SDGs are incorporated into national and local plans, policies and budgets, then there is a good chance that action will follow. In other words, the global agenda will work if it is domesticated.

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark

// As we seek to build capacities and to help the new agenda to take root, volunteerism can be another powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation. Volunteerism can help to expand and mobilize constituencies and to engage people in national planning and implementation for sustainable development goals. And volunteer groups can help to localize the new agenda by providing new areas of interaction between governments and people for concrete and scalable actions.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

// Sustainable Development is not possible without volunteers. At its heart, volunteerism is based on people working together to contribute to just and peaceful change in communities across the globe. The act of contributing out of one's own free will, for broader societal benefit, is fundamental to our humanity and to the creation of an equitable and peaceful world. [...] Volunteerism represents a people-centred and rights-based approach to sustainable development that empowers people to determine and participate in their own development as active citizens and to contribute to social cohesion.

The Lima Declaration, October 2014



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

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

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*United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon congratulates Dieudonné Mosi Kikongo Nkoy, a national UN Volunteer Child Protection Specialist with UNICEF on the right, after a capoeira performance in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Dieudonné teaches capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art, to children in rehabilitation camps who were formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups.
(Fabien Faivre/UNV, 2016)*



// FOREWORD

2016 is the year that implementation of the universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) begins. These goals were shaped by people from all walks of life. They commit UN Member States to eradicating poverty, fighting inequalities, building inclusive and peaceful societies, and securing the future of the planet and the well-being of future generations.

The SDGs will guide global development priorities for the next fifteen years, offering an unprecedented opportunity to meet global aspirations for a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future.

The reach and impact of volunteers will be felt across the SDGs. UN Volunteers are well-positioned to reach marginalized and vulnerable populations. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is offering support and solutions which are locally-appropriate and sustainable.

When Nepal experienced a devastating earthquake on 25 April last year with the epicentre close to Kathmandu, UNV responded by rapidly recruiting about 200 national UN Volunteers, funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and fielded them in such vital areas as coordination of the response effort, rubble removal and early reconstruction.

Following the October 2014 unrest in Burkina Faso, UNDP developed an Electoral Support Project to provide technical support to the organization of free and transparent elections. In collaboration with UNV, UNDP deployed 14 international UN Volunteers and 48 national UN Volunteers. These UN Volunteers supported participation in the elections in all regions of the country, including remote locations with difficult access.

UNV's continued dedication over recent years came to fruition in Peru last year, building on a volunteer infrastructure project UNV had initiated in partnership with the Peruvian Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations in 2011. May 2015 saw the launch of a new Department of Volunteerism, together with the new Regulation of the General Law of Volunteerism. This contains tangible benefits for volunteers in Peru, including opportunities for further learning and qualification.

The second State of the World's Volunteerism Report (SWVR), *Transforming Governance*, demonstrated once more how volunteers are champions of change. This report highlights how formal and informal volunteers engage with governance actors to strengthen participation, accountability and responsiveness in peace and development efforts.

Without volunteers, our efforts for global peace and development would fall short. Volunteerism embodies the underlying principle of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. We can no longer view volunteering as simply *nice* to have. Worldwide, we see proof that it is a *must* have.



UNDP Administrator Helen Clark with volunteers who helped organize meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund. Eight national UN Volunteers were assigned to this event and mobilized an additional 800 young volunteers. In sum, this helped teach more than a thousand young people about volunteering, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the critical issues and supporting events related to these landmark meetings. (Alvaro Beltran/UNDP, 2015)

Helen Clark
Administrator,
United Nations Development Programme
New York, May 2016

// PREFACE

It is my pleasure to present the UNV Annual Report for 2015, which showcases the contributions and achievements of UN Volunteers in addressing the challenges of peace and development. This is a report first and foremost about the dedication, skills and unrelenting spirit of UN Volunteers around the world. And there is no time better than now to highlight their efforts given the scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda, the plan of action for people, planet and prosperity.

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that all countries stand to benefit from having a healthy and well-educated workforce with the knowledge and skills needed for productive full participation in society. UNV mobilizes such skilled and committed stakeholders as UN Volunteers who, together with other volunteers, deliver at the grassroots.

In 2015 alone, UNV deployed 6,796 UN Volunteers in 122 countries worldwide. 435 UN Youth Volunteers were sent on assignments around the world. 11,554 UN Online Volunteers have dedicated their time and efforts, proving that anyone anywhere can volunteer. Combined, UN Volunteering reached over 2,000 civil society organizations with additional capacity and new skills, while UN Volunteers on assignment reached out to 60,000 other volunteers and 4.9 million engaged citizens in 132 countries. Expanding our field presence to be closer to our partners, we established regional offices in Bangkok, Nairobi and Panama. The Senegal Regional Office opened in early 2016 to cover West and Central Africa.

We have also diversified our funding, and are reporting in an annex on the UNV Special Voluntary Fund.

The refugee crisis hit home for me, literally. Outside my home in Bonn, Germany, there is a centre where refugees – fellow people, parents and children – have set up home, aspiring for safety and the opportunity for a life of dignity and prosperity. The war in Syria and the related refugee crisis has added a new aspect to our partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNV is responding to the European dimension of the refugee crisis, with the deployment of UN Volunteers with UNHCR in Europe for the first time in over 50 years.

I am particularly proud of the 103 Palestinian refugees, all legal residents of Lebanon, who have been mobilized as national UN Volunteers with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). They are teaching newly arrived refugee children from Syria in schools throughout Lebanon.

A major success I am equally proud of is the rapid response of our UN Volunteer Civil Engineers, who were among the first responders to the earthquake in Nepal in 2015. Their professional expertise and local understanding



UNV Executive Coordinator Richard Dictus listens to a group discussion led by UN Volunteer Associate Field Officer (Protection) Kashif Saleem (Pakistan) at the Mahad internally displaced persons camp in Juba, South Sudan. Richard Dictus visited UN Volunteers in South Sudan in recognition of UNV's contributions to improving the lives of the South Sudanese people. (Hakim George, 2015)

were crucial to UN efforts to assess and secure safe housing for people displaced by this natural disaster.

UNV has built up an extensive track record over the years by responding to humanitarian crises and post-conflict emergencies in countries like Sri Lanka, Liberia, Columbia and Haiti. Over 2,524 UN Volunteers served UN peacekeeping missions in challenging and often remote locations in 2015, supporting peacebuilding and stabilization with dedication and skill.

What I've come to realize is that volunteers will keep giving as long as they have a sense of the impact they are having on the ground, and for as long as they feel supported and valued. When people volunteer their time and energy, they bring with them enthusiasm and passion that can have a ripple effect, encouraging others to volunteer too.

UNV has had many successes and contributions in 2015, and we remain restless in our pursuit of peace and development through the transformative power of volunteerism. On any given day, the work of one volunteer can propel us closer to a more inclusive and equitable world.

Richard Dictus
*Executive Coordinator
United Nations Volunteers
Bonn, May 2016*

// INTRODUCTION

2015 was the first year of the SDGs and UNV is establishing itself as an essential implementing partner in this global initiative. Governments and UN entities have increasingly recognized UNV's unique ability to respond quickly on the ground. UNV has thereby become the partner of choice in the increasingly complex field of global development and peacebuilding.

UNV has a solid track record as a development partner. UNV has served as a bridge between the UN, civil society and governments. We have been working for more than 45 years in over 140 countries to foster innovation and collaboration. We have been an invaluable resource for volunteers from the global South. UNV has developed strong relationships with UN partner entities to deploy global citizens as UN Volunteers and effectively integrate volunteerism in UN system programming. In 2014, 69 per cent of UN partners reported that UN Volunteers and volunteerism made an effective contribution to their programme delivery.

UNV's continued relevance in peacebuilding was evident in the 2015 Report of the High-Level Independent Panel of Peace Operations. The mention of UNV's importance reminds that, while already a crucial player, UNV can be more effectively enlisted in strengthening engagement with national actors and local communities across mission mandates and assisting in national capacity development. UN Volunteers not only engage communities at the local level and build capacity, they also mobilize other volunteers – over 46,000 in 2015 – for the delivery of peace and development results.

The 2015 UN Volunteer Survey determined the number of other volunteers mobilized by UNV-UN partner joint programmes or projects. Disaggregated by strategic priority, there were:

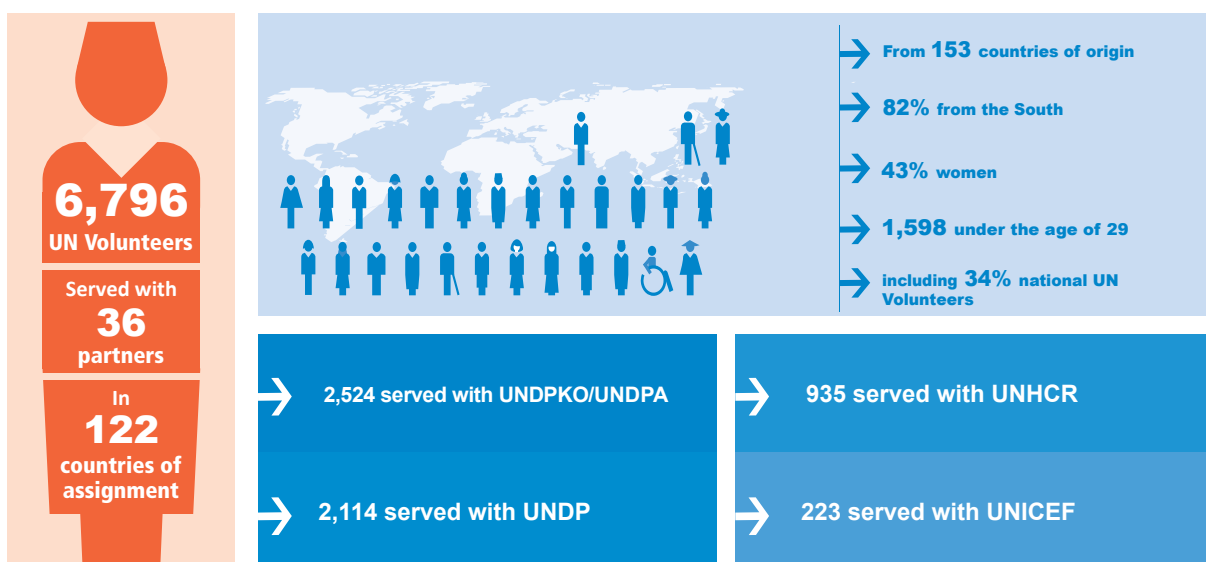
- Nearly 7,000 mobilized for securing access to basic social services;
- Over 22,000 mobilized for community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction;
- About 12,000 mobilized for peacebuilding;
- More than 4,000 mobilized for youth; and
- Almost 13,000 mobilized for national capacity development through volunteer schemes.

Knowledge and innovation remain cross-cutting themes and UNV actively seeks out new opportunities for delivering new initiatives.

Delivering at the Grassroots presents just some highlights of UNV's results and achievements in 2015. The chapters of this report showcase UNV and UN Volunteer interventions spanning the five programme priority areas, as well as knowledge and innovation. The fact files highlight specific success stories and include an additional fact file on celebrating volunteer inspiration in action. This report has a special centrefold feature on **Volunteering for the Sustainable Development Goals** and a reporting annex on the **UNV Special Voluntary Fund**. Financial and statistical information are available at the end of the report.

A South Sudanese woman attends a discussion at the Mahad internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Juba, South Sudan. (Hakim George, 2015)





Chapter One outlines UNV's efforts in **securing access to basic social services**. UNV increased coverage and supported primary health care in **Trinidad and Tobago**. In **Asia and the Pacific**, the additional human resources of international and national UN Volunteers helped move forward the prevention of violence against women and girls through interagency coordination under the *Partners for Prevention*. This is a regional joint programme of UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in **Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam**. The fact file in this chapter showcases UN Volunteers providing **basic education for Syrian and Palestinian refugee children in Lebanon**.

Chapter Two describes how UNV contributed to **community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction**. In **Mongolia**, an international UN Youth Volunteer from the Czech Republic in the UNDP Environment Unit supported identifying the most vulnerable groups and helping them mobilize their own sustainable neighbourhood system for recyclable waste collection. In **Niger**, UN Volunteers contributed to strengthening the capacity of national institutions and community actors to prevent and manage crises and disasters. The contributions of UNV are featured in a fact file on **the Nepal earthquake** and exemplify the power of volunteerism in humanitarian crisis situations.

Chapter Three highlights UNV and UN Volunteers' essential support in **peacebuilding**. With **Somalia and Kyrgyzstan** as examples, UNV partnered with the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), UN Women and other UN agencies in the second Gender Promotion Initiative. In **Haiti**, UNV supported community violence reduction by enabling 100 young people, including 14 women, to take part in vocational training as part of efforts to give youth a meaningful alternative to joining armed gangs. The fact file features efforts by UN Volunteers to provide **electoral assistance in Burkina Faso**.

Chapter Four on **youth** covers how UN Youth Volunteers are impacting peace and development. In **India**, UNV and UNDP partnered to support the rollout of the National Youth Policy and strengthened the country's two biggest youth volunteering schemes. UNV fully funded and supported Organic Green Farming for Youth in **Samoa**, supporting revitalizing school gardening for sustainable food and nutrition security. The fact file features the UNV's efforts towards **supporting the establishment of a National Youth Volunteering Programme in Burundi**.

Chapter Five describes UNV's involvement in **national capacity development through volunteer schemes**. In **the Central African Republic**, UNV took great efforts to mobilize youth and ensure their voice was heard throughout the national reconciliation process at a national youth forum. UNV **Pakistan** successfully organized the consultation on *Volunteerism & Development: Needs of Strengthening Volunteer Network and Provincial Volunteer Policy* in Lahore. This chapter's fact file features the UNV contribution leading to the **launch of the Volunteer Department in Peru**.

Chapter Six highlights **knowledge and innovation** as cross-cutting themes throughout UNV's programmes and projects. UNV produced a second **State of the World's Volunteerism Report**, delivering a unique focus on *Transforming Governance*. The report is the first global review of the role of volunteerism in improving the way citizens are governed and engaged. In **Sri Lanka**, UNDP selected four national UN Volunteers to serve as Youth LEADs to help develop innovative solutions to development problems. The fact file features a **global package of successful initiatives propelled by the efforts of UN Online Volunteers**.

Throughout the report, **UN Volunteer Inspirations** reveal life as a UN Volunteer and the impact and learning experiences these individuals have had on the ground. A final fact file also showcases the **celebrations of volunteers** as they commemorate International Volunteer Day and International Youth Day.



SECURING ACCESS TO BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Securing access to basic social services is the necessary bedrock for any path to achieving the 17 SDGs agreed to by UN Member States at United Nations Headquarters. UNV is uniquely situated to advance improvements to social services given its widespread network of volunteers at the national and community levels. UN Volunteers can be mobilized quickly on the ground and with the trust of local citizens whose priorities they share. To date, UNV's interventions in basic social services have positively impacted areas such as primary health care, prevention of violence against women, education and food security

UN Volunteers not only help to address immediate needs, they lay the groundwork for long-term change. In **India**, UN Volunteers provided rehabilitation and disability support services to children with special needs (see *Malsawm Initiative*, UNV Annual Report 2014). One year later, UNV supported the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities within the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which launched a nationwide campaign called *Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India)*. Two national UN Volunteers support policy development and coordination for implementing the campaign's drive towards universal accessibility.

Throughout 2015, the world continued to grapple with a mounting refugee crisis as millions fled their countries seeking a life safe from persecution and danger, including from intense crisis regions like Syria. Palestinian refugees legally residing in **Lebanon** and serving as national UN Volunteers helped to shatter public misconceptions about refugees by themselves taking on key roles in camps throughout the country. The fact file showcases **UN Volunteers ensuring access to education for Syrian and Palestinian refugee children in Lebanon**.

BOLSTERING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

In response to a shortage of available general practitioners in regional health centres in **Trinidad and Tobago**, UNV, in long-standing partnership with UNDP and the Ministry of Health since 2003, supported the

country's *Primary Health Care Initiative*. The objective has been to improve both the quality and reach of health care services throughout the country. Specifically, the initiative has led to extending health centre hours to 19.00 on weekdays and keeping the centres open on weekends, as well as ensuring wide access of primary health care coverage to all citizens.

In 2015, 21 UN Volunteer Medical Doctors saw an average of 36 patients per day. Within a year, roughly 190,000 citizens received medical care and treatment from a UN Volunteer Medical Doctor. The typical beneficiaries of this care have been individuals from low- to middle-income backgrounds. A total of three health care centres in the country were staffed solely by UN Volunteer Medical Doctors. Without them, these communities might have gone completely unserved, or residents could have been forced to travel for care.

In the long-run, Trinidad and Tobago's Primary Health Care Initiative will help boost the government's ability to offer adequate health care to all citizens. By working alongside local doctors, UN Volunteer Medical Doctors have shared updated medical techniques, as well as the latest skills in health centre management skills, such as improved bedside care, allotting appropriate time for patient visits and so much more. They do this formally within the health centres and within their communities by volunteering to conduct outreach sessions to ensure that their community members are knowledgeable on preventative care and managing symptoms.

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Partners for Prevention (P4P) works to end violence against women and girls. The programme is jointly administered by UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV. It covers six countries in the Asia-Pacific region: **Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam**. The added value that international and national UN Volunteers have provided to this initiative has leveraged interagency coordination to hasten preventative efforts protecting women and girls from violence.

In Cambodia, P4P engaged adolescents aged 12 to 14 and their caregivers in youth-centred mediation in Kampong Cham. The intervention targets one district in each province, and five communes per district, with the participation of 150 adolescents and 150 caregivers. UN Volunteer P4P National Coordination Officer with UN Women Kayo Takahashi (Japan) encouraged young people to engage in their communities to prevent violence and distributed the manual *Ending Violence against Women: A Guide to Working with Volunteers*.

In Viet Nam, P4P used the *Transforming Masculinities towards Gender Justice* curricula to develop a violence prevention programme entailing the active participation of four male advocacy clubs, with a total of 16 male advocates, in the city of Da Nang. National UN Volunteer Phan Thanh An, based at Da Nang Women's Union, helped set up the clubs and coordinate this community-based volunteer component across two districts of the city. Another national UN Volunteer, was trained as facilitator for the male advocates' meetings and developed her skills in leading discussions and encouraging participants to examine their own stereotypes and take action to prevent violence against women in their communities.

In Indonesia, P4P designed a *Violence-Free Village Initiative* that engaged adolescent girls and boys, parents, religious leaders and other influential community members in participatory group sessions to break down social norms that condone violence against women and girls.

In Bangladesh, *Generation Breakthrough* provided sexual and reproductive health education in school to boys and girls aged 10 to 19 years, and propagated ways to prevent violence against women and girls. P4P and Action Aid also supported a four-day capacity building workshop for six UN Volunteers with UNFPA and 18 UN Volunteers with other UN agencies on preventing violence against women and girls through the promotion of volunteerism. In turn, international and national UN Volunteers have been paired to enhance mentoring and bilateral capacity building.



UN Volunteer Medical Doctor Chakra Rai (Nepal) serves as a Paediatrician at the Arima Health Facility in Trinidad & Tobago as part of the country's Primary Health Care Initiative. (UNV, 2015)



Thiago Resende Xavier

UN VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION

PUSHING FOR ZERO HUNGER IN PAKISTAN

Thiago Resende Xavier (Brazil) is a fully-funded UN Youth Volunteer Programme Policy Officer for Food Security Policy and Coordination in Islamabad. He is supporting the Government of **Pakistan** in the development and implementation of its food security programmes, such as the *National Zero Hunger Programme*. This is implemented with the support of the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other development partners. It is based on the Brazilian *Fome Zero* initiative. Thiago was awarded one of Brazil's first fully-funded international UN Volunteer assignments through a grant by the Sergio Vieira de Mello Scholarship under the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Thiago supported the development and implementation of a National Zero Hunger Programme in Pakistan by drafting project documents and promoting coordination among different stakeholders. He served in the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping team of the WFP office in Islamabad and coordinated input from colleagues across different sectors and UN entities.

As Thiago was also based in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, he supported federal government officials in coordinating with other governmental organizations and development partners. Occasionally, he travelled to Pakistani provinces to create awareness and ownership of the Zero Hunger Programme with regional stakeholders.

"By living in a cultural environment so distant from my own, I'm able to put in perspective my values and improve my ability to empathize with colleagues from different backgrounds. This gives me the chance to reflect about volunteerism, its universal acknowledgement and the impact it can have on peace and development". UN Youth Volunteer Programme Policy Officer Thiago Resende Xavier (Brazil)



REFUGEE TO REFUGEE: UN VOLUNTEERS TEACH REFUGEES IN LEBANON

The crisis in **Syria** has impacted hundreds of thousands of Syrian nationals who have been uprooted and displaced by the conflict. It has also affected Palestinian refugees who once sought long-term refuge in Syria, but are forced to again uproot themselves with many now seeking refuge in **Lebanon**.

The ongoing conflict in Syria has forced many Palestinian refugees from that country, including men, women and children, to flee to Lebanon in search of safety. Hence the country faces the challenge of providing basic social services to refugees from Palestine who have been long-term residents, as well as to the growing numbers of Syrian refugees and newly displaced Palestinians seeking refuge from yet another conflict.

In response to the UNRWA *Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2015*, UNV provided basic education services through the recruitment and deployment of 103 national UN Volunteer Teachers for the children of Palestinian refugees from Syria living in refugee camps in Lebanon. These national UN Volunteers are themselves Palestinian refugees legally residing in Lebanon. The volunteers were rostered and recruited following the massive exodus of refugees from Syria. This initiative is implemented in partnership with the European Commission and the United Kingdom.

The schools are located in the areas of Tyre and Saida, Bekaa, and the North, as well as in different areas throughout Beirut. Around 53 per cent of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon live in the 12 recognized Palestinian refugee camps. Some of the schools are located inside

UN Volunteer Teacher Layal Ammar, talking to her students during recess. Layal is an English teacher for Grade One and Two students at Ramallah School in the Shatila Palestinian refugee camp. (Nadim Bou Habib, 2016)



refugee camps such as the Burj al Barajne Camp in Beirut. Each class has around 28 to 35 students. The national UN Volunteer teachers teach English, Arabic, Science, Math and Social Studies.

Due to the UNV response, UNRWA was able to absorb and accommodate Palestinian refugee children enrolling at UNRWA schools in Lebanon. Adjustments were made to the existing academic system to provide quality education to the children of both Palestinian refugees from Syria and those in Lebanon. As the 103 additional UN Volunteer teachers were able to staff otherwise vacant UNRWA teaching positions, a total of 5,318 children were registered in UNRWA school for the 2015-16 scholastic year.

When the situation allows it, UNV aims to expand its partnership with UNRWA Lebanon and to replicate this initiative in schools supporting Palestinian refugees in other camps. This is the first time that UNV has contracted Palestinian refugees with the status of national UN Volunteers in Lebanon.

UN Volunteer Teachers received induction trainings, mentoring from education specialists and some of them enrolled in a diploma course for teachers to improve their technical qualifications and prepare them to better manage formal academic study. Both Palestinian refugee children from Syria and from Lebanon experienced a smooth academic transition.

// This project is a window open for young professionals [...] This is a very strong tool for the people to be able to build for their lives, especially in this context where their possibilities were limited.

M. Ahmad Mouh, Chief, Field Education Programme, UNRWA Lebanon

// You feel like you want to give the children more, you want to make them laugh. Even to see the smiles on their faces. Being a UN Volunteer, you start to act not only as a teacher but as a mother, as a friend even. You want to give them so much.

Rachel Saadi, national UN Volunteer Teacher in Lebanon

Nasra Islan



UN VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION

PROMOTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE PEACEBUILDING IN KYRGYZSTAN

Following the inter-ethnic conflicts in **Kyrgyzstan** in 2010, the United Nations began implementing a number of projects funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. Nasra Islan (Kenya) was assigned as a UN Volunteer Specialist in Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding in the country. Her role is to provide technical support on participatory and inclusive gender-responsive peacebuilding programming and management to help UN entities and partners ensure gender-responsive peacebuilding interventions.

Nasra is responsible for ensuring that women's priorities and needs are included in peacebuilding initiatives. To this end, she analyzes and monitors the implementation of peacebuilding projects for gender responsiveness. Her expert advice to the UN and the Government of Kyrgyzstan on national law and institutional reforms also helps to ensure that peacebuilding policies and programmes safeguard women's rights.

"As a child, I was brought up in a culture where giving was considered the right thing to do in life. It is through volunteerism that I have grown personally in ways I cannot describe. This experience has allowed me to see things from a new and different perspective. Volunteerism provides me with new opportunities and experience to grow, learn about a new culture and meet new people, while being part of a bigger family where everyone works for the same cause: to better the world we live in". UN Volunteer Specialist in Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding Nasra Islan (Kenya)



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In 2015, UNV began supporting the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience throughout Asia and the Pacific. UN Volunteers, familiar with and often originating from local communities, have been vital to promoting sustainable development. As locals themselves, they are familiar with using locally-appropriate and environmentally-sound practices, including indigenous knowledge in environmental management and capacity development to respond to natural disasters.

Volunteerism has been essential to disaster risk reduction programming by helping to assess a community's needs and driving cooperation strategies with all stakeholders. The disaster risk reduction programme has established a pilot **Youth Volunteer Network** in **Myanmar**. In **Sri Lanka**, volunteers are integrated in the country's Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme. In other regions, local authorities have established volunteer brigades in emergency situations in collaboration with the Disaster Preparedness European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection programme in **Bolivia** and volunteer-run Environment Commissions through the Soy Voluntari@ network in **Peru**.

Because UN Volunteers can be quickly mobilized and can easily recruit local help that is familiar with the country context and priorities, volunteers in disaster response situations provide immediate relief as well as pathways to mid- and long-term recovery measures. For instance, in response to the devastating earthquake of 25 April 2015 in **Nepal**, with the epicentre close to Kathmandu, UNV was able to recruit about 200 national UN Volunteers with vital expertise in coordination and early reconstruction. The contributions of UNV are featured in a fact file on **volunteers as first responders to the Nepal earthquake**.

Darko Petrovic



UN VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION

FORTIFYING PHYSICAL AND COMMUNAL COOPERATION IN MYANMAR

Darko Petrovic (Serbia) is the UN Volunteer Programme Officer responsible for the **Integrated Asset Creation** project that WFP is implementing in Ba Gone Nar, **Myanmar**. The project is situated along a village tract that is comprised of both Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya Muslim communities. In addition to the tensions between these groups, both communities have withstood severe destruction from cyclones and floods.

The Asset Creation project involved broadening and strengthening existing canal structures in the area to reduce the incidence of flooding and enable greater cultivation and better yields of around 200 acres of monsoon paddy fields that would benefit people from both communities. By reaching out to members of both groups and bringing them together, Darko facilitated project discussions led by the Administrator of the Don Chaung Village, a Rakhine settlement, jointly with village elders and locals from neighboring Muslim communities.

These initiatives eclipsed ethnic tensions and encouraged community collaboration and resilience. The project includes the renovation of a 3.1 km village road to improve access to markets, health and education facilities and enhance socio-economic interaction. After a short assignment out of Myanmar, Darko is back in the capital Yangon, now serving as a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for WFP.

"What amazed me was that in the somewhat charged context of Rakhine State, you still find communities where the social fabric is intact and where people prefer cooperation to confrontation. The leadership of the Rakhine village administrator, his constructive interaction with both communities, and his insistence to make the project a success inspires hope. We need to support it".

UN Volunteer Programme Officer Darko Petrovic (Serbia)

TURNING GARBAGE INTO GOLD IN MONGOLIA

Each day the people of Ulaanbaatar, the capital of **Mongolia**, produce 1,100 tons of solid waste without any formal recycling mechanisms in place. With each year, the city's population rises by 10,000 households all looking for a better life, but most resigned to the city's outskirts for lack of space and opportunity.

Enter UNDP's *Turning Garbage into Gold (TG2G)* project, which seeks to address environmental degradation due to weak solid waste management and urban poverty on the city's outskirts. Miroslav Hodecek, an international UN Youth Volunteer from the Czech Republic in the UNDP Environment Unit supported identifying the most vulnerable groups in the target population and helped them create sustainable systems for recyclable waste collection in their neighbourhoods.

In conjunction with Technoj, a local NGO for business incubation, Miroslav and 20 other local student volunteers worked daily to reach out to beneficiaries. Despite TG2G's modest project funding, more than 100 migrant, low-income households from the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar were able to start their own small, but sustainable businesses. Technoj designed selected items and TG2G volunteers trained vulnerable groups on how to make recycled products such as brooms and benches from plastic bottles, among many other product designs.

The programme is currently operational in three of Ulaanbaatar's outer districts: Khan-Uul, Chingeltei and Songino Khairkhan. It includes 20 production groups of around five to six people each. In addition to learning how to make these products, the targeted households successfully secured contractual arrangements to sell certain products in the country's largest supermarket chain. This led a number of national food producers to become raw material suppliers for these enterprises, paving a pathway to further collaboration with UNDP. Several groups managed to set up small businesses through the project and secured government loans to build up small- and medium-scale enterprises.

PREVENTING AND MANAGING CRISES AND NATIONAL DISASTERS IN NIGER

In **Niger**, the *Capacity Building Programme for the Prevention of Crisis and Disaster Management* is a joint project of the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and UNV. This project focuses on strengthening national institutions and community actors to prevent and manage crises and disasters. Through it, UNDP and UNV have helped authorities design one national and eight regional plans, and strengthen the resilience of populations in an effort to prevent conflicts, better manage natural disasters, and help affected populations recover quickly.

UNV was the key UN contributor at the local level, conducting a population vulnerability survey and deploying two international and 10 national UN Volunteers who supported the governorates in crisis management. They also trained 60 national and regional managers on post-disaster evaluation methodologies.

The impact of this programme has been an unequivocal strengthening of national institutions, as well as local and grassroots communities, in the prevention and management of crises and disasters. Specific improvements include newly updated maps of national and regional casualty contingencies, which have been widely disseminated. In addition, the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction has been put in place and is operational. The system of data collection and disaster warning was improved by strengthening technical data gathering through equipment such as 100 rain gauges, four automatic recording stations and 130 smart phones.

The project also ensured that data collection and analysis mechanisms were enhanced with 15 vulnerability monitoring observatories and 32 community systems of early warning and emergency response. Revitalizing the livelihoods of small farmers in crisis-affected regions such as Agadez, Tahoua, Tillabery and Diffa was also taken into consideration, with UN Volunteers providing support for the reconstruction of these farms with a specific focus on training, coaching and mentoring.

A member of the UNDP Turning Garbage to Gold group makes a broom from a plastic bottle in the Ger District of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. (Miroslav Hodecek/UNV, 2014)





FRONTLINE RESPONDERS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

On 25 April 2015, a massive earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale struck **Nepal**, killing more than 8,800 people and injuring over 23,000. Thousands of houses were destroyed and entire villages were flattened. It was estimated that around 2.8 million people required humanitarian assistance and more than 860,000 faced poverty, limited accessibility and homelessness. In the aftermath of the earthquake, volunteers were rapidly mobilized from other parts of the country to provide vital emergency aid on-site. National UN Volunteers were on the frontlines of emergency response efforts, alongside some 300 agencies supporting government-led efforts.

UNV established a Nepal Earthquake Taskforce to coordinate the most effective and essential support on the ground. Its first priority was to secure the well-being of UN Volunteers in Nepal. Soon after, UNV mobilized an initial group of 84 UN Youth Volunteers and specialized UN Volunteers in three Village Development Committees – Irkhu, Kunchowk and Karthalli – of the Sindhupalchowk

district of Nepal. These volunteers served under the UNDP *Debris Management and Demolition* project. Their responsibilities included assessing the structural integrity of every village building and overseeing the safe collapse of buildings that could no longer stand erect. This initiative was a successful collaboration between UNDP, the Government of Nepal and UNV. Prior to their deployment, UN Volunteers received a week-long induction training session led by disaster management experts hired by UNDP. Nine national UN Volunteer Civil Engineers deployed in the pilot phase went on to serve as team leaders.

The team of national UN Volunteers consisted of 37 UN Youth Volunteers and 47 specialists, of whom 13 were women. These UN Volunteers were divided into several teams that were led by national UN Volunteer Civil Engineers who were placed in the pilot phase. As of 18 May 2015, 234 displacement sites had been identified across 134 Village Development Committees in 11 districts. Around 762,000 people received emergency shelter and non-food necessities.

// It feels like having a second family here in the crisis zone when we are far from our own families at home. I am happy to contribute to the well-being of my people in that way, even though it implies being apart from my family. Despite the hardships, this is a very enriching experience and I would like to thank UNDP for providing me an opportunity to join this mission.

Manash Gadtaula, national UN Volunteer Civil Engineer in Nepal



Rishma Pokharel, national UN Volunteer Civil Engineer with UNDP, speaks to a visually impaired man before assessing the damage to his house from the April 2015 earthquake in Nepal. (Lesley Wright/UNDP, 2015)

In just three weeks, national UN Volunteer Civil Engineers demolished over 240 of 900 houses deemed unsafe to live in. A single engineer supervised two to three houses per day. These engineers led a brigade comprised of local community volunteers, and also trained 200 community workers on measuring the width and length of buildings during damage assessment. The community workers took the attendance of workers in UNDP's Cash for Work scheme, reported on progress and supervised the work to ensure continuity after the departure of the UN Volunteer Civil Engineers. A total of 4,321 locals were employed through the Cash for Work programme within the debris management project and supervised by UN Volunteers.

Within weeks of the earthquake, UNV Deputy Executive Coordinator Rosemary Kalapurakal and UNDP Nepal Country Director Renaud Meyer, visited Irkhu where 22 national UN Volunteer Civil Engineers were serving. The national UN Volunteers sacrificed time with their families to reside in tents or campsites with government officials and frontline responders.

"UNV and UNDP are partnering jointly in this debris management project because this is one of the first things that needs to be done before the other teams can come in for shelter, water and sanitation, health and so forth. It is noteworthy that of the 80 plus UN Volunteer Civil Engineers, more than 30 are youth and 13 are women. In fact, one of the three teams is led by a woman. Also remarkable is that these demolition and debris clearance volunteers are able to accomplish so much, living in such difficult conditions," shared UNV Deputy Executive Coordinator Rosemary Kalapurakal.

Given UNV's effective rapid response, the agency was invited by Nepal's newly established National Reconstruction Authority to contribute to recovery and reconstruction efforts, in partnership with other UN entities and the government. By the end of 2015, 188 UN Volunteers – 160 of whom were national UN Volunteers and 100 UN Volunteer Civil Engineers – were serving the Nepal recovery efforts.



Mona Ouda and Diana Abu Ramadan

UN VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION

NATIONAL UN VOLUNTEERS HELPING TO REBUILD GAZA

National UN Volunteer Engineers Mona Ouda and Diana Abu Ramadan from Gaza, **State of Palestine**, are two of four female engineers who are part of UNDP's **Rubble Removal Programme** in the Gaza Strip. The project removes debris from homes and other structures destroyed in the ongoing conflict with Israel. UNDP has been working to clear rubble so that local residents can access basic services and avoid injury from buildings on the verge of collapse. Once crushed, the rubble will be recycled and used to build roads.

As women, Mona and Diana are a minority in the traditionally male-dominated field of engineering. Yet both women, along with their male colleagues, supervised and led the process of removing rubble in more than 1,500 locations along the Gaza Strip including Shujayia, Gaza City, Middle Area, Rafah and Khan Younis. By being a part of this effort, Mona and Diana's specialized professional contribution through volunteerism has made a noted difference, not just in their contributions towards ensuring community safety but in the mainstreaming of women in engineering. Thanks to their volunteerism, Gazans are able to return to their homes with safety and dignity.

"As a woman, it is challenging not only due to the nature of the work, but also due to the emotional burden, as we remove the homes of other women. I felt I was not only an engineer, but also a woman supporting other women and I am proud of it. In a place like Gaza, with such high poverty and unemployment, volunteering for me and my colleagues is really something special. I enjoy it, as I serve my people." Mona Ouda, national UN Volunteer Engineer from Gaza

"I challenged societal norms and my family when I studied engineering and later by working in this field. My experience as a UN Volunteer has been amazing. I am working to help others improve their livelihoods. I am also contributing to protect the environment as the recycled rubble will be reused for roads." Diana Abu Ramadan, national UN Volunteer Engineer from Gaza



PEACEBUILDING

UNV and UN Volunteers have had a significant presence in peacebuilding contexts including, but not limited to, peacekeeping and special political missions since the early 1990s. The 2009 Secretary-General's Report on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict encouraged UNV to identify the capacities of community members to rebuild in post-conflict environments. UN Volunteers advance peace in some of the most challenging contexts imaginable. As of December 2015, 2,321 UN Volunteers were serving in missions of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, 139 in missions of the UN Department of Political Affairs, and 64 served in emergency health missions, supporting the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response.

UNV's continued relevance in peacebuilding was evident in the 2015 Report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. This makes clear that UNV can be more effectively enlisted in strengthening engagement with national actors and local communities across mission mandates and assisting in national capacity development. The Panel has also been recommended to work closely with UNV to further integrate UN Volunteers into the community liaison efforts of missions, including through their greater use across occupational groups, and to further develop local capacities.

UNV's goal is to expand its role in contributing to sustainable peace by increasing civic participation and participatory dialogue, strengthening both local and national capacities for peace, and enhancing the UN

system's work on peacebuilding. UNV's contributions have taken the form of emergency relief support, early and long-term recovery and human rights monitoring. In 2015, UN Volunteers advanced gender-responsive peacebuilding, repatriation and reintegration support for youth refugees, and electoral assistance. UN Volunteers have gone beyond the traditional duties of peacebuilding and become irreplaceable envoys for building bridges and establishing trust within communities. The fact file in this chapter features the **provision of electoral assistance in Burkina Faso**.

PUTTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS ON THE PEACEBUILDING MAP IN SOMALIA

UNV partnered with the UN PBSO and UN Women in the second **Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI2)** which has the aim of deepening the integration of women's empowerment and gender equality in the overall peacebuilding portfolios. **Somalia** is one of five countries chosen for this initiative to advance greater implementation, monitoring and evaluation of GPI2 projects. UNV has contributed by deploying national and international UN Volunteer experts on gender and peacebuilding in these selected countries.

National UN Volunteer Gender Programme Analyst Judith Otieno has been working with women in Somalia to tackle gender inequality through the **UNDP Strengthening Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Somalia** programme. The Somali civil war has severely hindered women's fair treatment, access to justice and overall human rights protection. The UNDP Gender Team, which is based in Kenya for



Volunteers facilitate community conversations on gender issues in Somalia. (UNV, 2015)

security reasons, takes regular trips into Somalia to promote women's empowerment through policies, political representation, education and skills training. Other partners of this project are UN Women, United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, UNFPA, Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, Ministry of Labour and Family Affairs, Ministry of Development and Family Affairs, and other civil societies.

The team also supported the formulation of gender-responsive policies in Somalia. The Puntland Sexual Offences Bill was approved by the Permanent Committee of the Parliament on 9 February 2016 and has now become law. The Female Genital Mutilation policy was launched in Puntland on International Women's Day in 2015. Judith contributed towards a UNV Gender Mainstreaming awareness workshop organized for UN Volunteers serving with the UNV Kenya and Somalia Programmes in October 2014. She also facilitated a Gender Mainstreaming session during the UNV regional retreat with participation by over 150 Volunteers serving with UNV Kenya, Uganda and Somalia programmes.

This UNDP Gender team was awarded the UNDP Honourable Silver for Gender Seal Assessment in 2014. In addition, Judith was awarded the UN Volunteer of the Year award for championing gender equality.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR AT-RISK YOUTH IN HAITI

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) **Community Violence Reduction** (CVR) section initiatives have enabled 100 young people, including 14 women, to take part in vocational training as a meaningful alternative to joining armed gangs. In 2015, a total of 100 young people took building or construction-related courses at the Centre de Formation Professionnelle de la Réforme in Clercine, **Haiti**. Four UN Volunteers review and assess proposals and reports submitted by vocational training implementation partners prior to approval by the CVR's chief and mission fund disbursement.

// One always has this impression that peacebuilding is just about operations and military but to be honest, it's about so much more. It's about helping a community come together and heal, with hope for the future. Who else has that special vantage point other than volunteers? I think, as a volunteer, people are more receptive and open to sharing their experiences and being willing to work together with me.

Nicolaos Cosmas (Greece), UN Volunteer Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in Haiti

One programme beneficiary inspired his entire community with his success. At 26, Sterling Jean Philippe was one of 75 disadvantaged youth to enrol in a CVR-sponsored six-month training that he used to study dressmaking. He managed to broaden his team to include two professional tailors and three apprentices, thanks to small business grants.

Inspired by the success of Sterling, the town of Gonaives worked with CVR to expand the project. Municipal authorities built 12 youth development spaces on public land to serve as repair shops for cell phones, motorcycles and computers, as well as workshops for screen printing and beading. At the end of their training, each participant received all the tools required to support their new profession. Apart from technical apprenticeships, participants in these courses also attend literacy classes, and are instructed in conflict reduction and community leadership.

An agreement to aggregate resources and expertise for the training institutions was signed by the Secretary of State for Vocational Training. The agreement calls for the continuation of CVR work in troubled neighbourhoods.

Jane Strapola Awuor Mala



UN VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION

KEEPING THE PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

Jane Strapola Awuor Mala (Kenya) served as a UN Volunteer Peace and Security Specialist assigned to the UNDP **Community Security and Arms Control** project in **South Sudan**. The project's goal is to engage the local community in devising and implementing security plans that pre-empt conflict and preserve peace. Jane supported the project's aims of fostering dialogue and community engagement. As a technical team leader, Jane provided support to the Peace and Reconciliation Commission at national and state levels, to build capacity and strengthen approaches, methodologies and tools for peacebuilding and conflict transformation. She also supported programme development and implementation through research, analysis, programme monitoring and coordination of activities. An outcome of the project was the establishment of the National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation in April 2015. As a member of the Community Security and Arms Control project team, Jane's efforts lay the groundwork for community members to strengthen their own spheres of influence and rely less on external support.

"Being a woman is not a problem, it is about what one can offer. Engaging in volunteerism in my youth taught me that there is a lot to learn as a young person and one gains much more by engaging." UN Volunteer Peace and Security Specialist Jane Strapola Awuor Mala (Kenya)



PROVIDING ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE IN BURKINA FASO

Following the October 2014 protests against the ruling regime in **Burkina Faso**, a transitional government took charge with the mandate to organize free and transparent elections by the end of 2015. UNDP developed the *Projet d'Appui aux Elections (PAE or Electoral Support Project)* to provide technical support to all main parties involved in the organization of elections. The main partner was the Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante (CENI or National Independent Electoral Commission), but the PAE's actions also engaged other actors such as government officials, political parties, civil society organizations, women's groups and the media.

Considering the need for electoral expertise at the provincial, communal and district layers of the CENI, the

PAE was well supported by UN Volunteers in the field who provided technical, administrative, logistical support and advice.

In collaboration with UNV, UNDP-PAE recruited 14 international UN Volunteers and 48 national UN Volunteers and ensured their rapid deployment. The international UN Volunteers, deployed in regional capitals, ensured the coordination of the national UN Volunteers who were deployed in the provinces. Due to their deployment in the provinces, national UN Volunteers helped to promote the creation of a community of election practitioners.

The Electoral Support Project also recruited an international UN Volunteer to serve as a Communication



UN Volunteers with the UNDP Electoral Support Project, assist Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante (CENI or National Independent Electoral Commission) commissioners in supervising an open-air voting station under a baobab tree in the south-central region of Kombissiri, Burkina Faso. (UNV, 2015)

and Reporting Officer in Ouagadougou. During their deployment in the field, UN Volunteers visited all provincial and local representations of CENI – Commission Electorale Provinciale Indépendante (CEPI) and Commission Electorale Communale Indépendante (CECI) respectively – in their duty area. They created a strong network of contacts with several stakeholders, such as election administration officials, political parties' representatives, administrative authorities, security personnel, civil society organizations and human rights associations, national and international election observers, and religious leaders.

UN Volunteers proved to be an effective presence in all regions of Burkina Faso, including remote locations with difficult access. With their support, the CENI and all its administrative levels managed to organize free, fair, transparent and peaceful elections. Voter turn-out reached 59.9% for both elections.

Before, during and after election day, UN Volunteers provided wide-ranging support to all administrative levels of the CENI. They facilitated information sharing between the CENI and its provincial and communal layers. They collaborated in the creation and elaboration of polling staff training materials and provided support during the selection, recruitment and training of polling staff. UN Volunteers cooperated in the production of voter information materials and assisted the international and national election observers. Furthermore, volunteers supported the Communal Results Tabulation Centers (Centre Communal de Compilation des Résultats).

UN Volunteers gave advice to the CEPI and CECI members on selection, recruitment, training and payment of polling staff and electoral personnel; the tracking of polling stations; and the packaging of electoral material. Some 26 of the 48 national UN Volunteers led the trainer tutorials and trained polling staff, while international UN Volunteers coordinated training activities. Thanks to their specialized backgrounds, UN Volunteers helped to define the role of local commissioners throughout all phases of the electoral cycle.

Throughout the process, UN Volunteers were involved in monitoring and analyzing the political and electoral environment. They produced weekly reports, statistical tables, information reports and other electoral documents. When possible, they shared them with CENI members and local stakeholders. Furthermore, UN Volunteers laid the groundwork for future elections by collaborating with CECI to create a national polling staff database. By the end of the voting period, satisfaction among the range of stakeholders was unanimous and highlighted in local media outlets.



Carlot Duplessy

UN VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION

TRANSITIONING PEACEKEEPERS IN AND OUT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Carlot Duplessy (Haiti) joined the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (MONUSCO) as a UN Volunteer Movement Control Assistant. To date, there are over 18,000 uniformed personnel deployed to MONUSCO. Peacekeeper contingents are deployed for a period that varies from six to eight months before being replaced with a new contingent. The deployment and repatriation of contingents take place in Entebbe, Bujumbura or Kigali, where MONUSCO has movement control liaison offices.

Carlot's role as UN Volunteer Movement Control Assistant involves coordinating flights for the rotation of military contingents or troops being deployed and repatriated from Rwanda. Troops transiting through Kigali are sent by India, Guatemala, Ukraine, Bangladesh, Uruguay, South Africa, Senegal and Malawi. He also coordinates ground and convoy movement as well as MONUSCO high priority flights through liaisons with the Rwandese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

When contingents arrive in Kigali, Carlot assists them with administrative procedures at the border. In light of the high volumes during contingents' rotation, Carlot has to carefully manage the deployment of some men and the repatriation of others, all on the same airplane with a maximum capacity of 272 seats per flight. Prior to his UN Volunteer assignment, Carlot worked for nine years at MINUSTAH.

"I am the only UN Volunteer deployed to Kigali in Rwanda. I believe that one of my responsibilities is to encourage members of the community to provide technical support and enhance capacity through volunteerism. Through a community service called Umuganda which can be translated as 'coming together in common purpose to achieve an outcome', I try to organize meetings with students to talk about community development. I really would like to leave Rwanda knowing that I made some positive impacts on the community I live with". UN Volunteer Movement Control Assistant Carlot Duplessy (Haiti)



YOUTH

The UN Youth Volunteer Programme, established by UNV in 2013, was designed to engage youth in global advocacy and partnerships for youth volunteering, and to develop the capacity of national and regional schemes to support the empowerment of young people. In 2015, UNV deployed 435 UN Youth Volunteers from 49 countries under the youth modality, 263 of them women. These youth have brought their boundless enthusiasm and commitment to 72 countries of assignment.

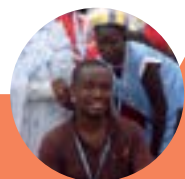
In **Viet Nam**, a UNV **Youth Consultation Workshop on Volunteering for the SDGs** brought together 30 youth at the One UN House in Hanoi where they learned project management skills on planning volunteer-based SDG initiatives in their communities. It also builds personal and professional skills that can boost one's employment stock and civic profile. In 2015, the Arab region witnessed young people as drivers of positive change, benefited from youth vocational skills training, and embraced ground-breaking new legislation that supports the development of a national youth volunteer programme.

In 2015, 15 young volunteers from **Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia** and **Yemen** were awarded the **Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future award**. Held in Dubai, the event was attended by hundreds of leaders from business and media sectors, non-governmental

organizations and the UN. UNV recognized five 18-29 year old youth volunteers through a unique partnership with Middle East broadcaster MBC Hope. These youth – two men and four women, including one woman with a disability – were recognized for driving positive change in their communities and for their innovation, commitment and tireless dedication. These youth were part of the **UNV Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future** project and UNV was involved in the selection and vetting process of the award winners.

UNV's mandate links closely with the recent UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security. Adopted in December 2015, it recognizes the value and contribution of youth in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. When national governments support youth volunteer engagement in a structured manner, it brings

Rex Laissezfaire



UN VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION

DEVELOPING YOUNG LEADERS IN KENYA

International UN Youth Volunteer Associate Community Services Officer Rex Laissezfaire (Malawi) is assigned to UNHCR in its Dadaab refugee camp in **Kenya**. Due to a strict policy of restricted movement for refugees outside camps, most youth spend all their time in the camps where, unfortunately, livelihood opportunities are scarce. UNHCR and the governments of Kenya and Somalia entered into a tripartite agreement that provides a framework for voluntary repatriation of Somali nationals. Rex works closely with partner organizations that provide mentorship and leadership programmes to young people to help them make informed choices about repatriation and acquire vocational skills for a smooth transition upon their return.

In each of the five Kenyan refugee camps, Rex has helped strengthen and fully establish youth participation structures, or youth umbrellas, with their own distinctive leadership configurations. The structures are generating behavioural improvements as young refugees recognize their roles and responsibilities.

"One thing I have learned in working with the refugee youth in Dadaab is their willingness to voluntarily engage, especially peaceful coexistence and awareness raising activities. I enjoy carrying out my UN Youth Volunteer functions which help make opportunities available for the youth generation in Dadaab refugee camps". UN Youth Volunteer Associate Community Services Officer Rex Laissezfaire (Malawi)

the added value of engaging young people to actively participate and contribute to national development goals in forward-thinking, sustainable and locally-appropriate ways. The fact file features the path towards establishing a **National Youth Volunteering Programme in Burundi**.

STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORKS FOR YOUTH IN INDIA

The Indian Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, UNV and UNDP worked to advance the country's 2014 National Youth Policy by strengthening the two biggest youth volunteering schemes in **India**, *Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)* and *National Service Scheme (NSS)*, which together reach more than 11 million young people across the country.

NSS and NYKS are India's main government schemes coordinating more than ten million volunteers.

Strengthening NYKS and NSS is a project under UNV's *Global Youth Volunteer Programme* that UNV is conducting in partnership with the Indian Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and UNDP. The project supports the efforts of young people to realize their full social, economic and human potential and aims to instil a strong sense of civic engagement in youth who are well poised to transform their communities.

To support youth volunteering infrastructures, action plans were prepared for the implementation of the 2014 National Youth Policy. One hundred volunteers and experts participated in the consultation. The action plans target the almost 500 million young people in India along with volunteers throughout the country. In order to make this a reality, the project partners recruited a project team consisting of a Delhi-based project cell and 29 national UN Volunteer District Youth Coordinators placed at one district in each of the 29 states of India. The number of beneficiaries is expected to be more than 100,000 youth in 29 districts (including about 15,000 youth volunteers who can be mobilized in these 29 districts).

In 2016, the 29 UN Volunteer District Youth Coordinators will begin the implementation of activities. Future plans include engaging with the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth and Development on generating research activities and information sharing on youth volunteerism through online and offline platforms.

In a separate initiative, UNV and Youth Ki Awaaz Action organized and live-streamed a parliamentary debate bringing together six competitively-selected university students in New Delhi to present ideas on how to support the government in achieving the SDGs.



More than 300 youth from schools and colleges gathered at India Habitat Centre to celebrate International Youth Day in New Delhi, India. (UNV, 2014)

SOWING THE SEEDS OF A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN SAMOA

In **Samoa**, UNV spearheaded a sustainable gardening initiative that is making strides towards poverty eradication, the provision of nutritious food and a sustainable and high quality of life for the local populace. At the same time, this initiative is safeguarding long-term environmental sustainability by growing fresh and organic fruits and vegetables, promoting healthy diets and fostering volunteerism through the employment of volunteer youth gardeners alongside parents, students and teachers. The medium-term development goal of the project is to enhance the ability of primary schools to increase and sustain agricultural production for better nutrition through the use of sustainable agricultural practices maintained by volunteer activities.

The project, ***Sowing Our Future: Organic Green Farming for Youth***, was managed and implemented by UNV, and in kind support was provided by the UNDP Multi-Country Office in Apia, Samoa. Technical assistance was provided by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) volunteers on the Agro Ecology concept of the project. In kind assistance was also provided by the Ministry of Health through their Nutrition Division.

The results to date have been outstanding. Children and youth aged 10 to 14 had the opportunity for hands-on practical experience in building an organic vegetable garden from scratch. The benefits of involving school kids and parents went far beyond the planting and cultivation of the land. The support of JICA volunteers helped the project educate the community on the theory and practice of organic community farming.

UNV also supported the participation of unemployed young people in the development of the project. They picked up new skills and knowledge for use at home and in the workplace. In addition to the immeasurable benefits of a healthier lifestyle, the gardening project has lent young people skills that are sure to stem rural youth unemployment and poverty by identifying income potential from the cultivation of unused land.



INSPIRING A GENERATION OF VOLUNTEERS IN BURUNDI

The draft law on national volunteering in **Burundi** was formally launched by the Burundi Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports, and UNDP in July 2015. The legal framework formalizes volunteering in Burundi by embedding volunteering in local institutions and guaranteeing equal access to volunteer opportunities for youth and minority communities. The process of drafting the law was conducted with the involvement of all stakeholders such as UNDP, UNV, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture and Independent Provincial Committees.

The **National Youth Volunteering Programme** (NYVP) in Burundi, under the auspices of the government, is supported by UNDP and UNV jointly to improve the access of young Burundians to volunteer opportunities for social cohesion, employment, peacebuilding and development purposes. The programme was launched in three pilot provinces: Ngozi, Gitega and Bujumbura Rural. Eight national UN Volunteers, nine international UN Volunteers, 250 young volunteers and 497 youth from local communities participated in the programme.

Community members share experiences during a volunteer outreach service session held in Burundi. (UNV, 2015)



Since November 2014, the NYVP has mobilized a total of 254 young volunteers (40 per cent of whom were female) over two rounds of volunteer recruitment. In the first round, 104 young volunteers were placed in 72 organizations in several areas around Gitega, Ngozi and Bujumbura. These young volunteers carried out actions that led to remarkable changes in their community. Their impact ranged from ensuring that 350 victims of human rights violations and prisoners received legal assistance from three volunteers, to supporting antenatal care training for 1800 people.

The value of the NYVP infrastructure was evident by the multiplier effect that just a few volunteers could produce. For example, three youth volunteers provided psychosocial assistance to 44 groups of women. A single youth volunteer coordinated the planting of 169,800 shrubs throughout 55 hectares of Gashikanwa and 43 hectares in Ruhororo. Two volunteers trained 900 farm families on modern conservation methods while five volunteers helped set up 73 groups of village savings and credit associations for 1825 members (of whom 61 per cent were women and 20 were disabled). Their reach and impact is staggering.

Thanks to the efforts of this first round of volunteers, the lives of over 25,000 local Burundians were improved in tangible and sustainable ways. Such was the success of this first round of NYVP placements, that a second round of 150 young volunteers was mobilized.

// 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

Jina Park



UN VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION

CREATING A GARBAGE LAB IN UZBEKISTAN

Jina Park (Republic of Korea) was assigned as a fully-funded UN Youth Volunteer Community Outreach Specialist for the UNDP *Social Innovation and Volunteerism* project in **Uzbekistan**. She managed a project team of nine national UN Volunteers and a group of dedicated local youth volunteers. With the support of her team, Jina launched a three-day workshop called Garbage Lab, which gathered together approximately 40 young people, including youth with disabilities. The lab aimed to raise environmental awareness of recyclable materials and how they can be reused to make furniture. The Garbage Lab won a scale-up fund competition organized by UNDP Eastern Europe and Central Asia to facilitate the Lab's implementation nationwide, and garnered much local media coverage.

Apart from her UN Youth Volunteer duties, Jina taught Korean and gathered volunteers to help revitalize a playground, which locals later named after her. They painted wall murals, installed a see-saw, made tigers and minions from tires, and constructed a bench for parents. The skills Jina gained from her assignment have helped her in her current job as a rural development manager.

"My greatest satisfaction as a volunteer was when one girl who participated in the labs started to volunteer in her own community. Being inspired to extend help, she became a volunteer teacher at the national library of Tashkent and continued do-it-yourself labs with her friends. For the rest of my life, I will always be grateful for the time I served as a UN Volunteer". UN Youth Volunteer Community Outreach Specialist Jina Park (Republic of Korea)

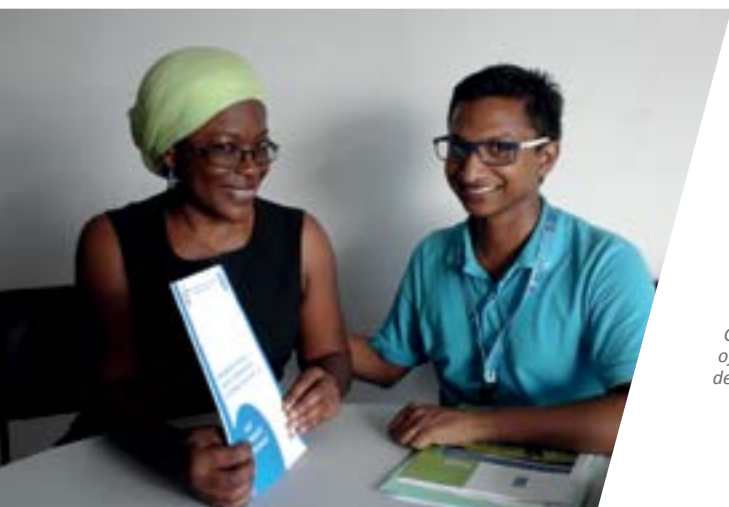
// Volunteering for me is a value that characterizes the personality of someone who is willing to put his skills to help others yet still gain experience. I learned a lot in volunteering.

Augustin Ung'i-ye (Democratic Republic of Congo) is a UN Volunteer Civil Affairs Officer in Côte d'Ivoire. Based at the San Pedro office, Augustin's scope includes representation of the Mission at the local level, conflict management and reconciliation support, as well as management of quick-impact projects for local populations. For example, he has been managing an agriculture project in Sassandra Sous-Préfecture (in Bas-Sassandra District). Here, he is seen on a field monitoring and evaluation mission with two beneficiaries of the project. (UNV, 2015)



// I am proud of the work that I achieved as a UN Volunteer, since we managed to change misconceptions about HIV to reduce stigma and discrimination, especially at higher levels when parliamentarians and magistrates are involved in the revision of discriminatory laws in order to protect people living with HIV.

UN Volunteer HIV/AIDS Specialist George Biack (Cameroon, left) contributes to capacity building of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) persons on HIV and human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo. George and her team have assisted about 3,000 people living with HIV and 300 LGBTI through legal counselling. They have also trained 410 judges, 477 parliamentarians and 350 lawyers and police officers on HIV/AIDS. George has also been supported by UN Online Volunteers who are experts on the topic of HIV, such as LGBTI epidemiologists and specialists in translation, infographics and the development of educational tools. (UNV, 2015)



// Being a UNV at UNMIK enabled me to plug in my skills and knowledge of the region and to link them with local and international stabilization efforts. The lucky coincidence that became my driving force at UNMIK was the adoption of the Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security in December 2015, and my further appointment as a Youth Focal Point. Being a UN Volunteer is a great opportunity to develop organizational, negotiation and diplomatic skills, while being linked to the network of international and local actors. It is a great combination of professional experience at the UN level and a unique opportunity to engage into socially meaningful initiatives.

Iana Minochkina (Russia) is an international UN Volunteer Political Affairs Officer at the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Part of her role involves engaging Kosovar and Balkan young people in local and regional stabilization efforts. (UNV, 2015)



VOLUNTEERING FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



“Volunteering fosters creativity, draws strength from our passions and connects us to those who need us most. Volunteerism is a global phenomenon that transcends boundaries, religions and cultural divides. Volunteers embody the fundamental values of commitment, inclusiveness, civic engagement and a sense of solidarity [...] The newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals offer another opportunity for individuals to show solidarity through volunteerism. All of us can contribute to realizing the 2030 Agenda’s vision of ending poverty.”

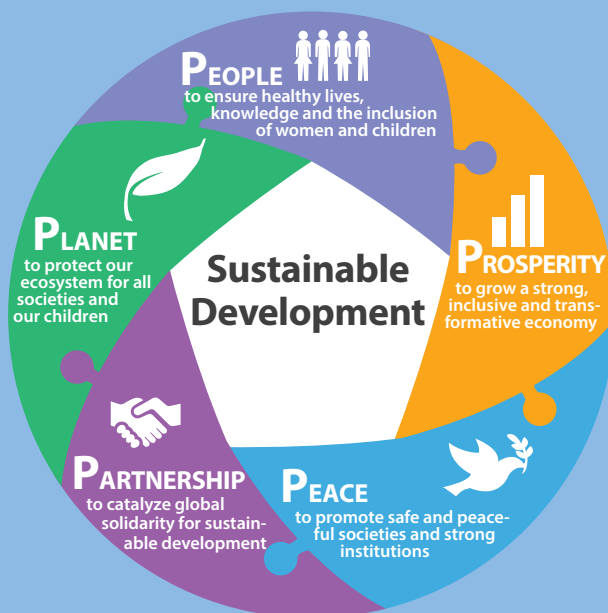
VOLUNTEERISM AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, are universal, inclusive and a bold commitment to people and the planet.

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that traditional means of implementation need to be complemented by participatory mechanisms that facilitate people's engagement and capacity to benefit other people and the planet.

Volunteer groups and associations can be brokers of for engagement, connecting institutional initiatives with volunteer action at community level. It is crucial that volunteerism is integrated into policies and plans involved from the planning stage when governments and institutions align their plans to the SDGs.

Volunteerism strengthens civic engagement, social inclusion, solidarity and ownership. It increases the reach, scale and inclusiveness of action from the local to the national level and beyond, by building capacities, ownership and connections between local communities and national authorities for achieving the SDGs.



The 2030 agenda is:

- transformative
- universal and inclusive in nature
- applicable to all countries and stakeholders

“Can you imagine a world without volunteers? It would be a poorer world because... volunteering is about action and service, about active citizenship, social cohesion, partnership and relationships. Its impact on local, national and global development can be transformational.”

Dr Gill Greer, CEO, Volunteer Service Abroad (New Zealand)

MILESTONES: INTEGRATING VOLUNTEERISM IN KEY GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

2011

The 10th anniversary of the international Year of Volunteers (IYV+10): UNV mobilizes a wide range of stakeholders and UN partners around volunteering and civic participation, leading to resolution A/Res/66/67.

The Declaration of the 64th DPI/NGO Conference of 1,300 NGO representatives, underlines the need to incorporate citizen engagement and volunteering in all plans for sustainable development.

2012

The RIO+20 Outcome Document: sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of all major groups...including volunteer groups (A/Res/66/288).

The Report of the Secretary-General to the 67th UNGA: volunteering can significantly contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), foster social cohesion and enhance social inclusion[...]. Volunteerism should be an integral part of the post-2015 development framework (A/67/153).

The UNGA resolution “Integrating volunteering in the next decade” requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its 70th session [in 2015], on...a plan of action to be developed by [UNV] to integrate volunteering in peace and development in the next decade and beyond... (A/Res/67/138).

2013

The UNGA resolution that sets up the **High Level Political Forum (HLPF)** recognizes volunteer groups as relevant stakeholders with whom Member States will interact in their discussions about achieving sustainable development (A/Res/67/290).

The Report of the Secretary-General to the 68th UNGA mentions volunteer groups for implementing the transformative actions of the post-2015 development agenda (A/68/202).

The final report of the consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, “A Million Voices”, contains numerous references to the relevance of volunteering for the post-2015 framework.

The final report of the UNDG II round dialogues, “Delivering the Post-2015 Development Agenda”, highlights **volunteerism** as a complementary means of implementation.

The Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General, The Road to Dignity by 2030: “As we seek to build capacities and to help the new agenda to take root, **volunteerism** can be another powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation. **Volunteerism** can help to expand and mobilize constituencies, and to engage people in national planning and implementation for sustainable development goals. And **volunteer** groups can help to localize the new agenda by providing new spaces of interaction between governments and people for concrete and scalable actions.” (A/69/700).

2014

2015

The UNGA resolution “Integration volunteering in peace and development: the Plan of Action for the next decade and beyond” (A/RES/70/129) welcomes the Secretary-General report (A/70/118), including the Plan of Action (section IV of the report).

The UN post-2015 Summit adopts the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs. Volunteer groups are mentioned among the means of implementation of the new agenda (A/70/L.1, op45).

The UNGA resolution on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda mentions volunteers among the contributors to the implementation of the post 2015 agenda within a new global partnership for sustainable development (A/RES/69/313).

ADDED VALUE OF VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

Volunteers can contribute to SDG achievement by...

...raising awareness about the 2030 Agenda through local campaigns and creative approaches, including in remote areas and with marginalized populations

...delivering technical expertise

...facilitating spaces for dialogue and action through participatory forms of engagement during planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Agenda at local and national level

...monitoring SDG progress through citizen driven qualitative and quantitative data collection

...facilitating knowledge sharing and transfer and leveraging local expertise

...complementing essential basic services where they are lacking or where they are insufficient

...modelling behaviours to inspire others and enhance willingness to contribute to SDGs locally

Volunteer action adds value to peace and development efforts by...

...widening inclusive spaces for engagement, including for remote and marginalized populations, as well as for youth and women

...enhancing capacities and developing skills

...building trust as well as 'bridging social capital' between diverse people who are not used to interacting with each other

...developing a sense of opportunity and ownership for local challenges, leveraging collective engagement

...strengthening local governance and accountability through increased people's participation

...building resilience and preparedness, enhancing knowledge and a sense of responsibility for one's community

...building an enabling environment for volunteerism as a form of civic engagement

Volunteerism mobilizes people to leverage collective action and engagement across all Goals. It is intrinsically rooted in Goal 17 and contributes, inter alia, to:

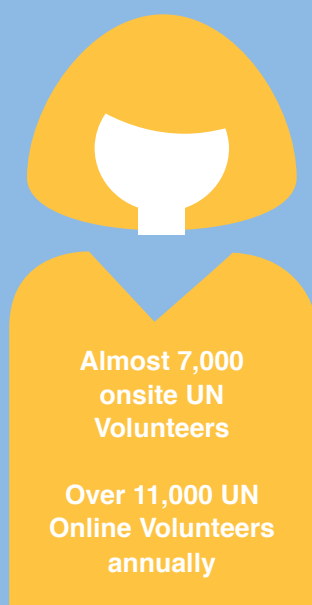


POTENTIAL OF UNV

The Sustainable Development Goals call for a paradigm shift, and UNV has unparalleled relevance in fostering participation in and ownership for the new agenda. The 2030 Agenda recognizes that traditional means of implementation need to be complemented. This is where UNV's relevance is key.

Through UNV's different volunteer modalities and initiatives, UNV has contributed to UN dialogues and consultations by widening community-based participation and supporting volunteer groups in achieving recognition and integration of volunteerism in the post-2015 context.

The combined action of international, national and community volunteers strengthens international exchanges, South-South and regional cooperation; and can trigger a ripple effect, inspiring others and reaching the most remote communities.



UN Volunteers increase the reach and inclusiveness of UN and governmental action.



In 2015, 46,263 other volunteers not directly contracted by UNV were mobilized as a result of UNV/UN joint programmes



In 2015, UNV had a positive impact on 5.7 million beneficiaries

"The Inequalities discussions have also highlighted the important role of civic engagement and volunteering as a way for all people, and particularly the most vulnerable, to foster their sense of responsibility and self-worth, and provide opportunities for them to concretely impact their livelihoods and play a constructive role in their communities."

United Nations Development Group, A Million Voices: The World We Want, 2013

UNV AND THE 2030 AGENDA

Never has UNV's mandate been closer to the priorities of a global development framework than with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. The world is realizing that sustainable development is only possible when development gains 'leave no one behind'. The very nature of volunteerism is a vehicle for achieving sustainable development. Volunteerism **enables people to participate** in their own development, **strengthening social cohesion and trust** by **promoting individual and collective action**, leading to sustainable development for people by people.

Over the next fifteen years, UNV will ensure that volunteerism moves from the 'nice-to-have' periphery into the centre of development practice by

ensuring volunteerism is applied by decision-makers and practitioners, including UNV's own internal and external audiences

honing its value proposition for the achievement of the SDGs to the UN system and specific agencies

co-creating solutions through volunteer modalities and initiatives with development partners

Upon mandate by the UN General Assembly, UNV developed a plan of action to integrate volunteering into peace and development policies and programmes for the next decade and beyond, 2016-2030 (A/RES/70/129). The plan strategically aims to

strengthen people's ownership of the development agenda through enhanced civic engagement and enabling environments for citizen action;

integrate volunteerism into national and global implementation strategies for the post-2015 development agenda; and

measure volunteerism to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the engagement of people and their well-being and be part of the monitoring of the SDGs.

“UNV will support the implementation of the plan of action [...] coordinate the work to consolidate and disseminate good practices and lessons learned, promote successful volunteer actions and ensure that the differentiated impact of volunteers on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is documented as part of regular national policy, planning and implementation practices.”

A/RES/70/129: Integrating volunteering into peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond

// Supporting women in recovery is rewarding and humbling. Working with the community also provides a balance to the technical work in the office. I believe that the biggest challenge for achieving gender equality is gender stereotypes. Also, men and boys need to be allies for gender equality. There is a lot of work that remains to be done, but I am glad to be able to continue supporting women's empowerment and gender equality in Ecuador thanks to the UNV programme.

UN Volunteer Democracy, Civil Society and Public Administration Specialist Jasmin Blessing (Germany) serves with the UN Women country office in Quito, Ecuador. She is the focal point for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Jasmin monitors CEDAW implementation in Ecuador, as well as provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice. Apart from her duties, Jasmin gives weekly yoga classes to women fleeing from gender-based violence to the local shelter. (UNV, 2015)



// On a personal note, I find it highly distressing to see children, elders and others living in tents without sufficient food. However, I am happy to stand with them and live in the camp while we help them bring their livelihoods back to normal. Sharing in their grief and being part of building sustainable development for Nepal is very heart-warming.

Hotrika Joshi, a national UN Volunteer Civil Engineer in Nepal, was part of a UNDP demolition project. UN Volunteers identified safe places for residents to resettle in transitional shelters before the monsoon arrived and conditions worsened. (Ayush Karki/UNV, 2015)



// Communication is fundamental for good functioning of the camp. A fluid exchange of information reinforces trust between UNHCR, our partners and the community. Being a UN Volunteer in such a harsh context as Azraq camp gives me a better understanding of what the refugees might be feeling and how I can communicate support. I have found that they truly want to get involved in supporting their community with their skills to make things better for all. I try to be a conduit for that as much as possible.

Olga Sarrado Mur (Spain) is a UN Volunteer Associate External Relations and Mass Information Officer with UNHCR at the Azraq camp in Jordan. Here, she is seen speaking with 15-year-old student Hussam. He learnt English within just three months at the camp and in turn, helps his peers by practicing with them after school hours, so that they too can succeed in their examinations. Olga met with Hussam at one of the camp's community centers to help him prepare to share his experiences with a visiting delegation. (UNV, 2015)



NATIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH VOLUNTEER SCHEMES

UNV and its network of volunteers have created a robust global infrastructure for volunteer efforts, and boosted local capacity to support these initiatives. As a result, several hundreds of thousands of volunteers have engaged meaningfully with communities, whether at home or abroad, and brought about real development progress. In 2015, UN Member States requested that UNV support the establishment of national volunteer schemes. UNV's goal is to support the development of new national and subnational volunteer schemes, and to enhance the capacity of local partners to deploy and manage volunteers more effectively.

UNV deepened its South-South collaboration in 2015 by co-hosting the [International Volunteer Service Exchange Conference](#) with the Beijing Volunteer Service Federation in **China**, with over 18 middle-income Member States participating. The conference resulted in an agreement to explore South-South collaboration, possibly through deploying joint humanitarian response teams of volunteers from the South, in the South or through sharing expertise on the implementation of large-scale youth volunteering programmes.

Similarly, UNV facilitated triangular South-South cooperation from China and Hong Kong through the [UNV-Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Programme](#). In 2015, this translated into the deployment of ten fully-funded UN Youth Volunteers in Southeast Asia.

Volunteer infrastructure is necessary to leverage the power of volunteerism in achieving development goals and also to ensure that appropriate support is provided to those participating in volunteer schemes, and their rights affirmed. The fact file for this thematic area features the

// The government will provide all support in adopting the policy on volunteerism. I endorse the vision of UN Volunteers. Volunteering is the best investment which bears never ending interests.

Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs Khalil Tahir Sindhu (Pakistan)

launch of the Volunteer Department in Peru, which will significantly improve the impact of local volunteerism.

PROMOTING VOLUNTEERISM AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO TAKING UP ARMS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Since the beginning of the conflict between the ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka armed groups in the **Central African Republic**, many young people have joined armed factions because they lack employment or income-generating activities and experience high levels of dissatisfaction and frustration.

At a national reconciliation meeting during the 2015 Bangui National Forum, UNV's field presence realized that the voices of young people were not being included. Together with the local network of young volunteers for peace, UNV approached the government with this concern. In response, the Ministry of Reconciliation supported UNV's initiative to include young voices in a separate reconciliation dialogue, which led UNV to mobilize resources, participants, national speakers and partners for a three-day [National Youth Forum \(Colloque de la Jeunesse Centrafricaine\)](#). More than 300 members of youth associations from all over the country met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to debate themes such as the electoral process, disarmament, pan-Africanism, non-violence, transitional justice and national reconciliation.

The [Réseau des Volontaires de la Paix](#) is the result of a strong collaboration between the participants of a series of training sessions on peace and social cohesion for youth

UN Youth Volunteers assigned to UNDP Madagascar attend training in preparation for manning Youth Centres across the southern part of the country. (UNV, 2015)



and the UNV programme in the country. Building on their personal motivation and engagement, UNV supported their registration as a formal network, provided funds for additional capacity development and coached them to absorb and deliver several projects and activities related to Goal 16 of the SDGs, which advocates for peace, justice and strong institutions. With UNV backing, the network has grown from 250 to 600 members who not only develop their own projects, but are now regular partners with UN agencies.

LAUNCHING PAKISTAN'S FIRST POLICY CONSULTATION ON VOLUNTEERISM AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2015, UNV successfully organized a consultation on *Volunteerism & Development: Needs of strengthening Volunteer Network and Provincial Volunteer Policy in Punjab* in Lahore, **Pakistan**. The Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs, UN Resident Coordinator, Secretaries of State, Members of Parliament, non-governmental, civil society and volunteer-involving organizations, corporate sector representatives, youth organizations and other stakeholders unanimously endorsed the needs of the volunteer policy and the need to form a volunteer network in Punjab. About 65 high-level officials attended the consultation, which had the overriding objective to establish a sustainable volunteer network among the development community for the purposes of establishing a strong working group to promote sustainable peace and development.

Participating lawmakers, senior government officials, civil society, academia, corporate sectors, media and youth organizations, as well as UN agencies subsequently endorsed the need for a volunteer policy and formed the *Punjab Volunteer Working Group*. This working group will be responsible for forming the Punjab Volunteer Network and drafting Policy on Volunteerism under the leadership of the Punjab Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Department.



Esraa Mohammed

UN VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION

ADVANCING EDUCATION FOR REFUGEES IN EGYPT

Esraa Mohammed first volunteered as a member of the Model United Nations UNDP committee at her university in **Egypt**. She later became an Education Assistant for UNHCR, where she provided support to Syrian refugees as part of a UNHCR project implemented by Catholic Relief Services. Through her daily interactions, she learned of the harrowing journeys of refugees from Syria to Egypt.

In April 2015, Esraa began her assignment as a national UN Volunteer Education Assistant with UNHCR in Egypt. She was involved in determining if refugees could be eligible for educational grants while simultaneously advocating with the government to make education accessible to them. Besides researching educational grants for refugees, she managed the administrative aspects of UNHCR's Albert Einstein German Refugee Initiative Fund (Deutsche Akademische Flüchtlingsinitiative Albert Einstein, DAFI) Scholarship set up by the Government of Germany to help refugee teens complete their education.

"Among all the people I met, I will never forget one. He was a school drop-out, who had been suffering from cancer for three years. After his recovery, he went back to school. Around the same time, I published a grant by the German Government for Syrian refugees living in Egypt to join Egyptian universities, and was involved in screening applicants and selecting the final candidate. I still hear him jumping with joy when he received the good news. He joined the Faculty of Engineering at Alexandria University. I would never have been able to be part of such an inspiring opportunity if I hadn't been a national UN Volunteer". National UN Volunteer Education Assistant Esraa Mohammed (Egypt)



SUPPORTING THE LAUNCH OF PERU'S VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT

UNV has been partnering in **Peru** to develop volunteerism and support the country in establishing legislation and structures for volunteers. Some of the relevant milestones along this journey included the creation of a volunteer programme to support the recovery of affected people from the 2008 earthquake of Ica, the 2009 implementation of a public sanitation programme to support affected families in Santa Barbara, the 2011-2013 incorporation of volunteerism as a function of the Department of Public Charity of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, and the 2011 creation and facilitation of the Soy Voluntari@ National Network for cross-sector collaboration.

In 2015, the Peruvian government upped the ante and created a specific department for volunteerism, independent from the Department of Public Charity with specific functions and a budget for strengthening volunteerism nationwide to focus on development, welfare and social inclusion.

On July 22, the new Department of Volunteerism under the command of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, together with the new Regulation of the General Law of Volunteerism, was officially launched in a ceremony at the Presidential Palace in the presence of the Peruvian President.

The new volunteerism regulation establishes a National Volunteering Commission to formalize regional volunteerism, register volunteer-involving organizations nationwide, and help volunteers qualify for housing and obtain scholarships, as well as health insurance, among other incentives. UNV has accompanied the process by presenting and promoting the Volunteerism Department and the new Regulation in seven regions of Peru where the Soy Voluntari@ National Network is present. This is a network of public, private, national and international

Volunteers celebrate the launch of the new Department of Volunteerism under the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations in Peru. (UNV, 2015)



Dashti Shuker and Noor Mosa discuss the role of volunteering in their community, during the UN Youth Volunteer Assignment Preparation Training (APT) taking place in Erbil, Iraq. The majority of the participants in this training were UN Youth Volunteers recruited under the project UN Volunteers Capacity Development and Support to the Kurdistan Regional Government through Volunteering led by UNDP. The APT is a standard face-to-face training provided by UNV to all its UN Youth Volunteers, enabling them to acquire soft skills essential in the work of the UN and to better integrate into their volunteer assignments. (UNV, 2015)



organizations grouped together with the aim of implementing and promoting volunteerism through policies and programmes in Peru. As a facilitator of Soy Voluntari@, UNV has assisted the new department in promoting and mobilizing volunteerism to address the effects of the oceanic and climatic phenomenon El Niño in four regions of Peru.

To further enhance volunteer infrastructure in Peru, UNV launched an important research project documenting the Soy Voluntari@ methodology of cross-sector collaboration as an innovative way to create inclusive spaces and promote synergies among Latin America's public, international, private and civil society sectors.

In addition, the network received the People's Voice Award in September 2015 for outstanding work and a "Longstanding contribution to MDG implementation through volunteer action", presented by the UN Millennium Campaign, in collaboration with UNV and other strategic partners.

Finally, during 2015, UNV expanded the Soy Voluntari@ network in Lambayeque and Cusco to incorporate more than 50 entities from the diverse sectors that are organized in commissions. These two new networks received training and motivation from UNV to incorporate the 2030 Agenda in their development programmes and clearly present the SDGs to their communities. As a result, UNV trained 233 representatives and instructors who are replicating the trainings to engage volunteers about the purpose of the SDGs.



Lilian Byansi

UN VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION

UN VOLUNTEER HELPS SAVE UN IN MALAWI OVER US \$3 MILLION

Lilian Byansi (Uganda) served as the UN Volunteer Joint Procurement Coordinator in **Malawi**. Largely through her efforts, the United Nations in Malawi was able to save US \$1,168,838 by late 2015, with expected savings of US \$3,689,164 by the end of the Business Operations Strategy period in 2016.

Lilian was responsible for supporting the UN Delivering as One in Malawi in its efforts to simplify and align operational activities for development, a process of reforms that were launched in 2007 and that are being undertaken across the UN system. UN agencies in Malawi were committed to increasing their efficiency and effectiveness by harmonizing their business practices and operations. The purpose of Lilian's assignment was to introduce innovations to support UN agencies in Malawi in joint procurement and contribute to the Business Operations Strategy.

As a result of Lilian's efforts alongside her colleagues, Malawi was recognized as a pioneer country via the United Nations Global Market, due to improved access to and distribution of procurement information, including uploads of long-term agreements and standard operating procedures. For every initiative, a monitoring mechanism was developed to maintain the agreed service levels, with improvement plans in some cases to ensure uninterrupted service standards. From Malawi, Lilian went on to distinguish herself through a detail assignment in Tanzania where she assisted UNDP with procurement and logistical matters related to the country's general election.

"This assignment was certainly a challenge for me, and it was also exciting. It is rewarding to see the results of my work being shared with the UN in Malawi and globally, and to know that I have made a significant contribution to development." UN Volunteer Joint Procurement Coordinator Lilian Byansi (Uganda)



KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

UNV emphasizes knowledge and innovation in its work to build the financial, human resource and organizational infrastructure that makes it possible to quickly deploy volunteers for peace and development work in every corner of the world. Improvements in knowledge-based expertise and innovative technologies further advance UNV's comparative advantage in the development arena, as the only UN entity with a broad and embedded network of volunteer experts on call.

In an effort to support the work of UN Volunteers on the ground, a 2015 *Capacity Development Learning Facility* meeting was held in Gao, **Mali**, and attracted about 20 national and international volunteers from the surrounding regions. The workshop covered topics such as gender, justice and social cohesion, among many others. For the first time, volunteer-involving organizations proactively attended the workshop.

Since its launch in the year 2000, the UN Online Volunteering service has continued to grow – with now over 480,000 registered users from some 180 countries – and avails volunteer opportunities and development impact via the internet. The fact file features some of the **success stories of UN Online Volunteers contributing from the comfort of their homes.**

REPORTING ON TRANSFORMING GOVERNANCE IN SECOND STATE OF THE WORLD'S VOLUNTEERISM REPORT

In 2015, UNV produced its second-ever SWVR and delivered a unique focus on *Transforming Governance*, which is the first global review of the role of volunteerism in improving the way citizens are governed and engaged. The report provides evidence from around the world on how formal and informal volunteers engage with governance actors to strengthen participation, accountability and responsiveness in peace and development efforts.

Through the SWVR, UNV promoted a global conversation about the role of volunteerism in governance as a critical factor for successful implementation of the SDGs. The report contributed to the positioning of UNV as a leader on volunteerism for peace and development and provided UNV and its field units a tool for advocacy and partnerships.

Drawing on evidence from countries as diverse as **Brazil, Kenya, Lebanon and Bangladesh**, the UN report shows how ordinary people are volunteering their time, energies and skills to improve the way they are governed and engaged at local, national and global levels.

Better governance across the board is a prerequisite for the success of the SDGs, which were agreed upon at United Nations Headquarters in September 2015. Building on the SWVR publications, UNV enhanced and deepened engagement with academia, research institutions and civil society, civic society, volunteer experts and researchers. UNV coordinated events in Washington and Nairobi that brought together around 80 stakeholders from various sectors to explore how to measure volunteerism within the context of the SDGs. The events fed into the workshop on *Strategic Directions for Global Research on Volunteering for Sustainable Development 2015-2030*, which brought together around 70 stakeholders from governments, academia, civil society and volunteer-involving organizations in Bonn. These events provide a clear direction for UNV to pursue the knowledge agenda in the coming years.

NATIONAL UN VOLUNTEERS SELECTED AS UNDP YOUTH LEADS IN SRI LANKA

The UNDP *Youth LEADs Programme* was initiated in 2015 with the selection of four national UN Youth Volunteers charged with finding innovative solutions to existing and emerging development challenges. Countries such as **Sri Lanka** have been advocating the value of volunteerism in taking a stronger lead towards sustainable development. The programme provides an opportunity for youth to familiarize themselves with UNDP's work, infuse new thinking into the organization and contribute to sustainable development. A pilot of this initiative took place under the overall guidance and supervision of the

UNDP Sri Lanka Country Director. In the trial, four Youth LEADs, recruited under the UN Youth Volunteer Modality, will support the UNDP Sri Lanka Country Programme for a duration of 12 months in its youth-related policy, programming, advocacy, innovation and outreach work.

Youth Leads have since worked on HackADev, Sri Lanka's first social innovation hackathon. "HackADev was unique because it brought together hundreds of young people to ideate and create techno-social solutions that addressed some of our most complex human development challenges," says national UN Youth Volunteer UNDP Youth LEAD Isuru Somasinghe. The winning HackADev team is currently working with UNDP and the Parliament of Sri Lanka to develop an app that links the public with parliamentarians.

The twelve-month Youth LEADs pilot will culminate with a summit on Foresight and Innovation for Sustainable Human Development. "Looking back, we would have never imagined to engage with the plethora of private sector, professional and civil society organizations we have to date, and we couldn't be happier to see all our work coming together at the Summit," reflects Sulaiman Rameez, a UN Youth Volunteer UNDP Youth LEAD.

UNDP and UNV in Sri Lanka have subsequently shared the success and knowledge from the Youth LEADs Programme with other UNDP country offices, leading to the piloting of similar initiatives in other countries. As the successful pilot winds down, UNDP Sri Lanka is now kick-starting the second phase of the Programme.

// Being a Youth LEAD has been a valuable opportunity to be part of UNDPs effort to combine youth, innovation and sustainable development.

Archana Heenpella, national UN Youth Volunteer UNDP Youth LEAD in Sri Lanka



Shenrui Li

UN VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION

USING SPACE TECHNOLOGY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

How might space technologies play an important role in the implementation of the SDGs? Think of their potential to guide and inform policies for all stages of disaster management. Shenrui Li, a national UN Volunteer Programme Officer based at the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response in China, worked on the application of satellite-based navigation systems in disaster risk reduction throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Shenrui was able to cull satellite images that documented wide-scale destruction by natural or human forces. The space technologies were also instrumental in detailing cities that were off the electrical grid due to any range of factors from severe storms to armed attacks. Before joining UNV, Shenrui interned in monitoring and evaluation at UNDP China, where he also helped remotely coordinate Nepal earthquake relief efforts.

Shenrui was responsible for coordinating with the National Disaster Risk Centre of China and the China Satellite Navigation Office to integrate the country's home-grown BeiDou satellite navigation satellite system into disaster management systems throughout the Asia-Pacific region. He was also responsible for the evaluation of the Global Navigation Satellites System (GNSS) in the context of disaster risk reduction. During this assignment, he analyzed the terminal requirements of BeiDou and its availability for the Asia-Pacific region, and he developed a universal application guideline to integrate GNSS into disaster management mechanisms globally, which will largely contribute to strengthening disaster risk reduction capacities in China and among its neighbours.

"This UNV position is meaningful work. Serving as a UN Volunteer gave me a great opportunity to learn from experts and engage with real-world issues. I would definitely like to encourage more talented youths with relevant background to join the UNV team and to consider participating in constructing the capacity of space technology that brings the benefits of space to humanity". National UN Volunteer Programme Officer Shenrui Li

National UN Volunteer UNDP Youth LEAD Joanne Kotelawala (centre) participates in a Capacity Development and Learning Facility Training for UN Volunteers in Sri Lanka. (UNV, 2015)



VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS FOR POSITIVE IMPACT FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

Thanks to targeted outreach, the percentage of UN Online Volunteers supporting UN partners rose from 33 per cent in 2014 to 42 per cent in 2015. Nearly 40 per cent of UN Online Volunteers are professionally employed or otherwise engaged in the private sector. They leverage their expertise and skills for peace and development on a voluntary basis, and on their own time.

VOLUNTEERING ONLINE FOR ICT INNOVATION

In 2015, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) engaged a team of seven UN Online Volunteers to research new trends and global best practices in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in preparation for the ITU Telecom World 2015 Event in Budapest, Hungary. Online volunteers mapped over 700 relevant initiatives undertaken by governments, universities and the private sector to promote ICT innovation hubs, clusters and parks in 115 countries.

// This was true teamwork and full of new ideas that enhanced our way of doing things. The volunteers did extensive research that was invaluable for the ITU.

ITU-UNV Collaboration Coordinator Jose Maria Diaz Batanero

UN ONLINE VOLUNTEERS RAISE AWARENESS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN THROUGH THE ARTS

The traditional belief in sorcery is used to justify violence against women in **Papua New Guinea**. Inhumane treatment of innocent women accused of sorcery is common in rural parts of the island as sorcery is thought to account for unexplained deaths or misfortunes in a family or village. For more than 12 years, Seeds Performing Arts Theatre Group has been using theatre to raise awareness on issues affecting the local rural population, including violence against women. The performances constitute an effective way to inspire and implement social change, as the play's content is based on local needs and culture. Opening up digital media to increase outreach, Seeds teamed up with a group of UN Online Volunteers to develop a screenplay for a video about the specific gender-based violence associated with witch hunting.

Collaborating with UN Online Volunteers from **France, Ireland, Israel, the United Kingdom and South Africa**, Seeds was able to produce a rich screenplay underlining the link between sorcery-related violence and gender discrimination as part of their ***Women NOT Witches*** campaign. UN Online Volunteers provided advice on how to communicate the message in a relevant and entertaining way in order to target both women and men and reach communities, including village chiefs and religious leaders who play a crucial role in trials on witchcraft in informal village courts.

Other members of the online volunteer team carried out research, wrote articles and web content, edited promotional materials for outreach, and drafted reports for donor agencies. UN Online Volunteer Robyn Santa Maria (Australia) helped cement a new partnership between Seeds Theatre Group and Oxfam in the country.



In addition, the Seeds project director was invited to a panel on gender-based violence for the Human Rights Film Festival that toured the country. The volunteering experience made Robyn reassess her work in the private sector: “I am so much more aware that my ability to help is not limited by geography”, she states. “I can use my skills from anywhere in the world to affect change, even if it’s in only a small way”.

Seeds has recently received positive feedback on two grant proposals drafted by UN Online Volunteers from the UN Trust Fund and the National Endowment for Democracy, and extended one of its contracts with the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission/Australian Agency for International Development to raise awareness on good governance. Currently, UN Online Volunteers are working to create more human rights-focused web content for Seeds and further enhance the organization’s website while developing Seeds’ own capacity to update and manage it.

THE USE OF BIG DATA FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

In 2014, UNDP launched an **Innovation Facility** to offer collaborators around the world technical and financial support to devise novel approaches to increasingly

complex development challenges. The facility supported an initiative of UNDP offices in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Arab States, in partnership with UN Global Pulse and UNV, through which countries have the opportunity to explore how new sources of data can measure key development indicators and mobilize volunteer citizen expertise in the field of data.

UN Online Volunteers offer crucial support wherever they are based for gathering data which can then inform policies and services, as they did in collaboration with UN Global Pulse in classifying tweets, developing taxonomies and disaggregating data. For example, Tunisia, through the Tunisian National Statistics Institute, is working with real-time online data (e.g. news, blogs, online forums, social media) to see how such data can complement traditional statistics to monitor citizens’ perceptions and attitudes towards government. This initiative is expected to help the government improve its monitoring of the progress of SDG 16 towards a peaceful inclusive society, access to justice, as well as accountable and inclusive institutions.



David Bzhania

UN VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION

SETTING UP A VIRTUAL HELPDESK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

David Bzhania (Russia) serves as a UN Volunteer Network Technician for MONUSCO. He is responsible for planning and implementing new technologies for the mission.

David implemented an innovative service desk called INeed in Goma which efficiently resolves various ICT-related issues that UN staff, UN Volunteers and uniformed personnel might encounter during their daily work. Following the same procedure used by the UN in New York, David helped to set up the INeed application for individuals to sound a technology help desk call that will generate a ticketed service request for a technician to solve and close. For this, David attended a training session in Entebbe and he became the focal point for the Goma implementation. He was subsequently put in-charge of the Goma service desk and greatly improved the working conditions of his colleagues.

“It is rewarding to know that I am helping the Congolese community. I previously worked for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia but I really wanted to look at our world from a different perspective. When I was younger, I would have never imagined working as a UN Volunteer for one of the biggest UN peacekeeping missions in the world and serving the community I am living with”. UN Volunteer Network Technician David Bzhania (Russia).

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEER INSPIRATION IN ACTION

Our UN Volunteers around the world leave positive and indelible marks on the partners and beneficiaries they engage in peace and development interventions. Often, they go above and beyond their expected duties by taking the initiative to further contribute to the communities that they have integrated into. It is their dedication that makes UNV unique, and we celebrate this when we mark key events such as International Youth Day (IYD) and International Volunteer Day (IVD), among others.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2015

On 12 August, UN Volunteers around the world celebrated IYD and its theme of youth civic engagement. Young people bring energy, passion, innovation and creativity to the world's most pressing issues. They can help revitalize global peace and development processes and act as essential catalysts for change.

YOUTH REBUILDING DARFUR

In **Sudan**, youth volunteers have been key to the daily struggle to rebuild their war-torn society. Youth unemployment in Darfur is estimated to exceed 40 per cent. Darfur hosts large groups of at-risk youth who lack sustained employment opportunities and thus might engage in armed violence to earn their livelihoods.

The *Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur* project, as part of the *Darfur Livelihoods Recovery Programme*, is a joint initiative led by UNDP with the support of the Governments of Sudan, Republic of Korea and UNV, in cooperation with Darfur universities. The project promotes environmentally-sustainable poverty reduction and private sector development through the establishment of a youth volunteer-led scheme with the ultimate goal of rebuilding Darfur. Three national UN Volunteers are serving in the Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur project as youth volunteer coordinators. They are based in El Fasher, Nyala and El Geneina and are in charge of the project implementation, coordination and monitoring and evaluation in different parts of Darfur.

UN Volunteers Sara Hummad, Yagoub Fadoul, and Amna Tameem supported partners in ensuring the timely implementation of planned activities. They conducted monitoring and evaluation activities, and gave lectures on volunteerism, communication skills, HIV/AIDs, project management and reporting. The UN Volunteers have also actively promoted the volunteer spirit among youth volunteers and the target communities, serving as role models and encouraging youth volunteers to serve their communities with pride.



UN Volunteers Jaisy Anto and Bharosa Basnyat celebrate International Volunteer Day in South Sudan under the theme "The World is Changing. Are You?". (Hakim George, 2015)

Among the beneficiaries were three internally-displaced women named Asia, Mariam and Safia. They learned how to use simple equipment to make juice from local fruits under the Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund. The trio was then selected to attend additional training on business development and planning organized by the Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur project. With their proposal, they were awarded a small start-up grant to set up a small juice-making and handicraft business. They bought raw materials and the tools required to make and sell their produce in Nyala. This led to agreements to sell their juice in bigger markets twice a week. Their business allows them to pay for their children's schooling and household expenses.

The project celebrated IYD (12 August 2015) and IVD (5 December 2015) by organizing radio panel discussions and an environmental awareness week that engaged more than 800 community volunteers. From the beginning of 2016, an additional field support activity is foreseen, engaging 150 trained youth who will be deployed to rural communities for nine months as youth volunteers to empower at least 10,000 community members in 45 communities in five Darfur states.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY 2015

The theme for IVD 2015 was "Your world is changing. Are you? Volunteer!" The goal was to continue the dialogue about how volunteerism is vital to the success of the SDGs.

IVD was marked in 2015 by around 120,000 people in 80 countries, with people celebrating with official gatherings, volunteer fairs, sports events, performances, free health checks and environmental clean-up activities, just to name a few. Creativity in celebrating IVD and its theme was endless. The social media campaign around the SDGs and volunteerism gathered people from around the world posting how they have taken action for sustainable development.

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY IN IRAQ

Together with UNV, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) celebrated the passion, commitment and enthusiasm of a vibrant group of 25 young Iraqi volunteers in Baghdad, Iraq. Locally known as the Friends of UNICEF, the group was formed – under the guidance and leadership of the UNAMI Youth Advisor and Public Information Office – to support UNICEF programmes which focus on issues related to children.

Since its inception in February 2015, the group has participated in several UNICEF water and sanitation activities in Baghdad to promote water conservation, efficient use of water, and improved hygiene practices. Rising to the challenge of advocating for peace and security in Iraq, the Friends of UNICEF joined the Publication Information Office in marking International Peace Day on 21 September through a social media campaign. Interacting with the public at three venues in

// Volunteerism is priceless. Every person who gives freely of his or her time and knowledge, without expecting anything in return, will realize that engaging in voluntary service brings one a unique sense of satisfaction – maybe even happiness. Volunteering is based on humanity which is present in every person; the will to serve people in a good way to achieve a suitable society for living. Helping others is a duty I believe in and I try to do as much as I can for their benefit to let them be happy and satisfied.

Amer, a local youth volunteer in Iraq who took part in IVD celebrations in 2015

Baghdad – Zawraa Park, Baghdad National Theatre, and Mansoor Mall – Iraqis expressed their hopes and sent out messages for partnership, peace, dignity and a safe and brighter future for Iraq.

Later, on 26 November, an awards ceremony was organized in collaboration with the UNV Iraq office and held at the Institute for War and Peace Reporting to mark the first IVD in Iraq. An important part of the theme of this year's IVD was acknowledging the specific role and added value volunteers bring towards achieving the new SDGs. The event not only showcased the dynamic and incredible volunteer contribution of the Friends of UNICEF youth group, but it also highlighted – in the broader context – the critical contribution of volunteers in the context of the SDGs. This was of particular relevance as the General Assembly adopted the UN Resolution on "integrating volunteering into peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond".

As part of further IVD celebrations, UNV and the Iraq Global Youth Organization collaborated with the University of Technology in Sulaymaniyah holding a round-table discussion on "Volunteerism and the SDGs". Over sixty volunteers, students, senior university staff members and UN Agencies attended the discussions.

2014-2015 REPORT UNV SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND

The new Sustainable Development Agenda calls for a greater focus on innovation, participation and flexibility. The global development landscape has changed dramatically since the SVF was first established in 1970, and continues to change at a rapid pace. This brings challenges for traditional development actors, but it also brings profound opportunities for organizations that are agile and able to adapt.

UNV is reorienting itself to be an innovative, creative and cutting-edge UN agency that is able to mobilize people, enable participation and catalyze change. Continued investment in the SVF is essential to preserving UNV's agility, ability to identify new development solutions, deepen the global understanding of volunteerism and invest in positive change.

The SVF, therefore, is the primary source of funding for piloting and scaling UNV initiatives that test and demonstrate the relevance and added value of volunteerism and of volunteer contributions to peace and development and in response to national development objectives.

SVF DISBURSEMENT 2014-2015

The SVF is an indispensable component of UNV funding. Many SVF-funded projects are highly innovative, respond to critical development challenges, and are quite often pilot projects. They demonstrate the relevance of volunteerism to sustainable development and are in line with the five new global programmes outlined in the 2014-17 UNV Strategic Framework.

Developing a new pipeline of SVF-supported joint UN programmes and projects at the country level has enabled UNV to engage more systematically in the UN common country programming processes. It has also shaped, in consultation with governments and civil



His Excellency Ruben Armando Escalante Hasbun, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the UN speaks at the UNV launch of the second State of the World's Volunteerism report in New York. (Joel Sheakoski, 2015)

National UN Volunteer Project Manager George Gachie (Kenya) shares a moment with another UN Volunteer in Kibera slums, after introducing a visiting consultant to the community where he is leading a Participatory Slum Upgrading Project (PSUP) for UN-Habitat. Launched in 2008, the PSUP is a joint effort of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the European Commission and UN-Habitat. (UNV, 2015)



society, the role that volunteers and volunteerism can play in tackling sustainable development challenges and providing solutions. According to the 2014-2015 report to the Executive Board of the UNDP, UNFPA and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), 50 project concept notes have been endorsed, with US \$5 million from the SVF invested in joint projects strategically leveraging a significant 18-fold multiplier effect, by engaging a total financial envelope of nearly US \$90 million in commitments from partners. It is anticipated that as these projects are implemented, UN partners will provide more effective development solutions integrating volunteers and volunteerism, and scale up and replicate accordingly.

SVF DONORS

Contributions to the SVF, critical for continued innovation in integrating volunteers and volunteerism with UN partners through seed funding, and for the production of knowledge products, declined by 11 per cent in the 2014-2015 biennium. For this period, the SVF received US \$7.9 million from UN Member States, including the governments of **Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Czech Republic, China, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Switzerland, Sweden and Thailand.**

UTILIZATION OF SVF FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

To ensure that the money contributed to the SVF generates maximum impact on the ground, a strategic approach is used to select projects for funding. Projects funded by SVF comply with the UNV Strategic Framework and contribute to achieving the organization's priority objectives. Moreover, in the interest of coherence of UN interventions on the ground, projects are also selected on the basis of the added value they can offer to the

efforts of partner entities within the UN system and to the achievement of the partner countries' national development priorities, as reflected in UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF).

GOVERNANCE

In the field, UNV strives to integrate results and indicators related to volunteerism into UNDAFs, *UN Delivering as One* plans and partner entity country programmes. UNV operates in a complex and mutually-reinforcing environment of UN organizations to which it contributes the unique added value of volunteerism.

All projects funded by the SVF are approved by UNV's Programme Advisory Board and Project Appraisal Committee. The main purpose of all UNV interventions is the achievement of development results through UNV's work with UN partners. Results-based management is applied at various levels. Like all UNV projects, those funded through SVF comply with the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures monitoring and evaluation systems. This will translate into even more strategic planning, as well as more efficient and effective use of SVF funds.

SVF GOING FORWARD

Continued investment in the SVF is essential to preserving UNV's agility, ability to identify new development solutions, deepen the global understanding of volunteerism and invest in positive change. UNDP Governing Council decision 92/35 by the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS expanded the SVF mandate to facilitate the impact of volunteerism and, as such, was a strong show of support for UNV from UN Member States. The SVF is a critical resource for UNV, enabling the organization to make strategic investments through seed

funding; to develop creative and innovative solutions to development challenges, and to meaningfully contribute leading research and knowledge products to the global volunteering community. The flexibility of the SVF allows UNV to make strategic investments where UNV sees an opportunity to make a transformational, innovative or unique impact.

Seed funding and scaling

The SVF will continue to be leveraged by UNV to make targeted investments in areas where volunteerism has a transformative impact. Under UNV's five global programmes, the SVF will continue to better leverage volunteers and volunteerism in achieving results linked to the achievement of the SDGs in the priority areas of basic social services, community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction, peacebuilding, youth, and national capacity development through volunteer schemes, all with a cross-cutting theme of knowledge and innovation.

The SVF represents UNV's investment in such programmes and associated projects, and is crucial for new partnerships to deliver relevant and creative solutions. In **Gabon**, for example, modest resources were invested toward a feasibility study and project drafting for a National Volunteer Scheme. This has led to a nearly US \$5 million cost-sharing agreement with the Government and a joint UNV, UNDP and UNFPA programme for the establishment of a volunteer infrastructure initiative in support of the youth in the country. A similar initiative is under exploration in **Cameroon**, again with UNV placing seed-resources into a feasibility study.

Innovation

The SVF is critical for continued innovation and systematic impact in integrating volunteers and volunteerism in peace and development efforts. UNV continues to reorient itself within an evolving development landscape towards being a partner- and innovation-focused organization, poised to deliver greater results. The SVF upholds the key pillar of innovation for UNV by enabling the agency to develop, pilot and scale innovative new approaches to its programming and research agenda. For example, in **Viet Nam**, alongside capacity building activities for volunteer leaders and the National Volunteer Awards, UNV provided SVF funding and collaborated with the Youth Union and the Viet Nam Volunteer Centre to develop an online matching platform to facilitate volunteering.

Knowledge sharing and products

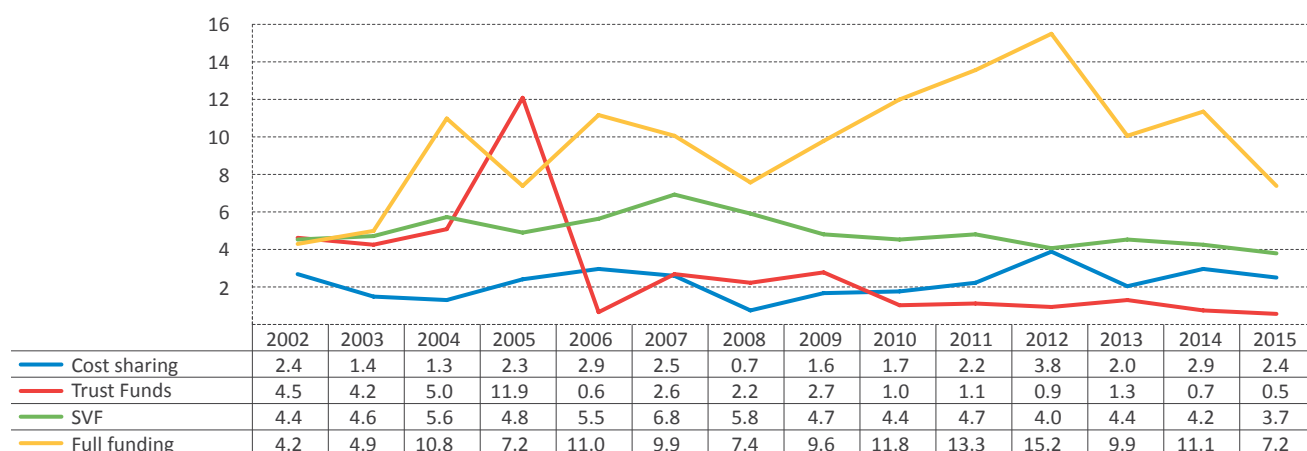
By recognizing UNV's comparative advantage in the global development arena, UNV is constantly improving knowledge-based expertise, leveraging innovative advisory solutions and developing leading knowledge and research products. In 2015, UNV contributed to 16 studies on volunteerism, supported workshops on Participatory Methodology for Assessing the Contribution of Volunteering to Development and developed knowledge products such as the 2015 State of the World's Volunteerism Report, *Transforming Governance*. The SVF will enable UNV to continue carrying out crucial research in the context of volunteerism for peace and development, in support of the new global research agenda on volunteerism.



Stepanka Pechackova (Czech Republic) is a UN Youth Volunteer Communications, Outreach and Youth Officer with the UNV Field Unit and UNDP Country Office in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. She often gives presentations to local school children to promote volunteerism. (UNV, 2015)

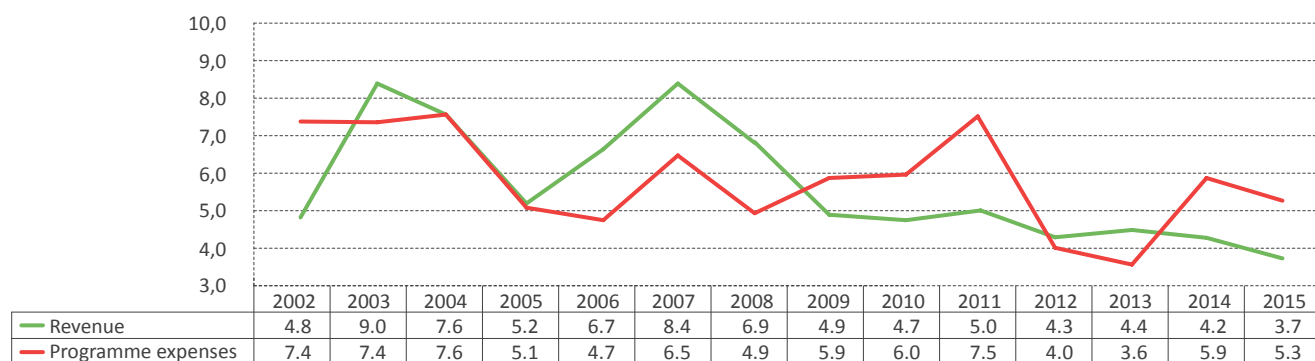
SVF Revenue and Programme Expenses – 2014-2015

UNV FUNDS: REVENUE 2002-2015* (Millions of US \$)

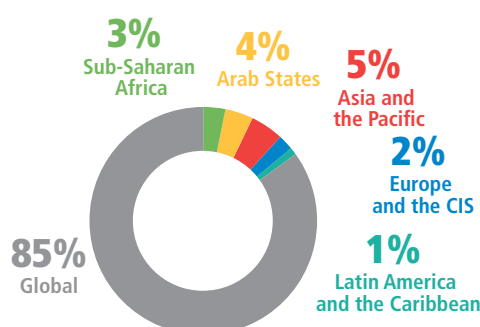


*Interest and miscellaneous income not included.

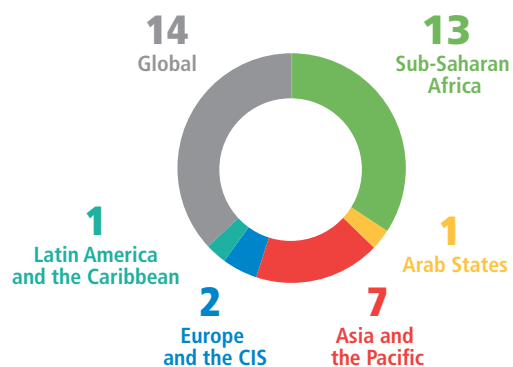
SVF: REVENUE AND PROGRAMME EXPENSES 2002-2015 (Millions of US \$)



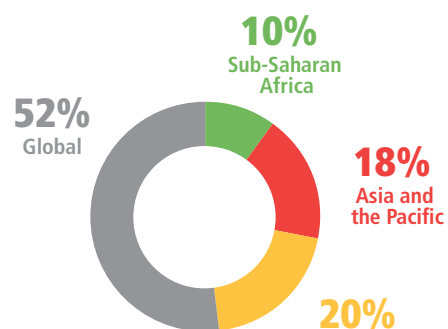
SVF PROGRAMME EXPENSES BY REGION – 2014-2015: US \$11.2 MILLION



NUMBER OF ACTIVE SVF PROJECTS BY REGION – 2014-2015



SVF PROGRAMME EXPENSES ON YOUTH – 2014-2015:
US \$2.6 million



Friends of UNICEF, a local Iraqi youth volunteer group, interacted with the public in Baghdad as part of International Volunteer Day 2015 celebrations. Iraqis expressed their hopes and sent out messages for partnership, peace, dignity and a safe and brighter future for Iraq. (UNAMI, 2015)



Status of SVF-funded projects active during the period 2014-2015 (Thousands of US \$)

COUNTRY	PROJECT Title (Including Business Unit/Budget Dept/Project Number)	UNV Programme Results	2014-2015 Expenses	Total Project (All year Expenses + Budgets)
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				
Regional – Africa	ECOWAS: Youth Ambassadors for Peace – 50999	Outcome 09 – Youth/Capacities	269	354
Burundi	BDI10: National Youth Volunteers for the Achievement of the MDGs – 86684	NA (tagged to field unit results)	235	500
Mozambique	MOZ10 – B0358: Establishment of a National Volunteer Agency – 74799	NA (tagged to field unit results)	130	168
Niger	NER10: B0362 National Crisis and Disaster Prevention and Management Programme – 69815	NA (tagged to field unit results)	107	202
Guinea Bissau	GNB10 – B0340: Reinforcement of the Capacity of Civil Society Organizations to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – 76890	NA (tagged to field unit results)	81	288
Mauritania	MRT10: National Volunteer Scheme – 88629/30	NA (tagged to field unit results)	78	265
Swaziland	SWZ10 – B0376: Swaziland HIV/AIDS – 78848	NA (tagged to field unit results)	60	213
Regional – Africa	UNV Support to Ebola outbreak response – 92566	Outcome 06 – Basic Social Services/ Local Capacities	45	45
Lesotho	LSO10 – B0344: Support to the implementation of a National Volunteer Corps of Young Graduates – 71140	NA (tagged to field unit results)	28	280
Cabo Verde	CPV10 – B0312: Appui à la mise en place d'un Programme National de Volontariat au Cabo Verde – 71937	NA (tagged to field unit results)	16	346
Zambia	UNV/UNCCD Framework – 53037	Outcome 07 – Disaster Risk Reduction/ Capacity development	15	56
Rwanda	RWA10 B0366: Delivery as One to meet Development Needs and Rights of Rwandan Adolescents and Youth 2009-2011 – 71981	NA (tagged to field unit results)	3	44
Ethiopia	ETH10: National Volunteer Scheme – 89707	NA (tagged to field unit results)	–	50
Subtotal			1,067	2,811
ARAB STATES				
Regional – Arab States	Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future – 85604	Outcome 08 – Youth/Contributions	257	453
Regional – Arab States	Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future – 85602	Outcome 10 – Youth/Opportunities	140	194
Regional – Arab States	Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future – 85603	Outcome 09 – Youth/Capacities	111	168
Subtotal			508	815
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC				
Sri Lanka	Support to Volunteerism: Volunteer Orientation and Information Centre – 51172	Outcome 08 – Youth/Contributions	195	614
Nepal	UNV10 with ASL to B0422: Support for the Local Governance and Community Development Programme in Nepal, Phase II – 88539	Outcome 09 – Youth/Capacities	195	292
Regional – Asia	UNDP1 – B0441: Partners for Prevention, Phase I – 62541	NA (tagged to field unit results)	93	551
Regional – Asia	Partners for Prevention, Phase II – 93008	Outcome 06 – Basic Social Services/ Local Capacities	91	309
Viet Nam	UNV10 B0438: Strengthening the Capacity of the Viet Nam Volunteer Information Resource Centre for Promoting Volunteerism for Development, Phase II – 88183	Outcome 10 – Youth/Opportunities	91	400

COUNTRY	PROJECT Title (Including Business Unit/Budget Dept/Project Number)	UNV Programme Results	2014-2015 Expenses	Total Project (All year Expenses + Budgets)
India	Strengthening National Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme in India – 95970	Outcome 13 – National and Sub-National Capacities	22	113
India	Strengthening National Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme in India – 95968	Outcome 13 – National and Sub-National Capacities	10	214
India	Strengthening National Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme in India – 95972	Outcome 13 – National and Sub-National Capacities	–	71
India	Strengthening National Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme in India – 95971	Outcome 13 – National and Sub-National Capacities	–	73
Indonesia	IDN10 – B0408: People-centred Development Project, Phase II 76143	NA (tagged to field unit results)	(25)	177
Subtotal			672	2,814
EUROPE AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES				
Uzbekistan	UZH10 – B0584: Social Innovation and Volunteerism in Uzbekistan – 83372	NA (tagged to field unit results)	125	197
Ukraine	UKR10 – B0582: Youth Football Volunteers – Sports and Volunteering for the MDGs – 81158	NA (tagged to field unit results)	67	141
Subtotal			192	338
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN				
Peru	UNDP1 – B0522: Joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative, Phase II	NA (tagged to field unit results)	124	124
Subtotal			124	124
GLOBAL				
Global	Advisory Services – 84493	Outcome 12 – Volunteer Infrastructure/Enabling Environment	1,551	3,354
Global	State of the World's Volunteerism Report, Phase II – 88078/79	Outcome 11 – Volunteer Infrastructure/Volunteerism Integration	990	992
Global	UNV10 B0172: Programme Officer Empowerment Mechanism III – 15365	Other	969	6,103
Global	Youth – 95457	Outcome 08 – Youth/Contributions	746	2,264
Global	Rio+20 – 85861	Outcome 12 – Volunteer Infrastructure/Enabling Environment	576	794
Global	Volunteer Management – 84491	Outcome 11 – Volunteer Infrastructure/Volunteerism Integration	488	563
Global	UNV Online Volunteering service – 84492	Outcome 11 – Volunteer Infrastructure/Volunteerism Integration	482	828
Global	Peacebuilding – 95461	Outcome 01 – Peacebuilding/UN Capacity	359	2,670
Global	UN Youth Volunteer Programme – 82945	Outcome 09 – Youth/Capacities	325	469
Global	Volunteer Learning – 84713	Outcome 12 – Volunteer Infrastructure/Enabling Environment	291	532
Global	Knowledge Management – 84648	Outcome 12 – Volunteer Infrastructure/Enabling Environment	251	505
Global	Rio+20 – 85851	Outcome 12 – Volunteer Infrastructure/Enabling Environment	222	244
Global	Rio+20 – 85858	Outcome 12 – Volunteer Infrastructure/Enabling Environment	217	378
Global	Rio+20 – 85860	Outcome 12 – Volunteer Infrastructure/Enabling Environment	178	237

COUNTRY	PROJECT Title (Including Business Unit/Budget Dept/Project Number)	UNV Programme Results	2014-2015 Expenses	Total Project (All year Expenses + Budgets)
Global	Youth – 95470	Outcome 10 – Youth/Opportunities	157	1,049
Global	Support to Peacebuilding – 89075	Outcome 01 – Peacebuilding/UN Capacity	139	139
Global	Disaster Risk Reduction – 95459	Outcome 03 – Disaster Risk Reduction/UN Effectiveness	127	1,695
Global	Youth – 95464	Outcome 09 – Youth/Capacities	106	899
Global	UNV Facility for Evaluation – 15131	Other	94	552
Global	Support to Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction – 89133	Outcome 07 – Disaster Risk Reduction/Capacity development	85	85
Global	Basic Social Services – 95458	Outcome 06 – Basic Social Services/Local Capacities	82	1,253
Global	Support to Basic Social Services – 89132	Outcome 02 BSS UN Capacity	80	80
Global	Peacebuilding – 95456	Outcome 05 – Peacebuilding/Local Ownership	52	169
Global	Disaster Risk Reduction – 95467	Outcome 03 – Disaster Risk Reduction/UN Effectiveness	30	210
Global	Field Unit personnel capacity development – 84092	Outcome 12 – Volunteer Infrastructure/Enabling Environment	24	57
Global	Rio+20 – 85859	Outcome 12 – Volunteer Infrastructure/Enabling Environment	16	65
Global	Disaster Risk Reduction – 95463	Outcome 07 – Disaster Risk Reduction/Capacity development	7	236
Global	Youth – 95468	Outcome 09 – Youth/Capacities	7	327
Global	Basic Social Services – 96159	Outcome 06 – Basic Social Services/Local Capacities	–	100
Global	Youth – 96120	Outcome 10 – Youth/Opportunities	–	170
Global	Basic Social Services – 95465	Outcome 06 – Basic Social Services/Local Capacities	–	201
Global	Peacebuilding – 95987	Outcome 01 – Peacebuilding/UN Capacity	–	310
Global	Peacebuilding – 95462	Outcome 05 – Peacebuilding/Local Ownership	–	71
Global	Gender Promotion Initiative – 94825	Outcome 01 – Peacebuilding/UN Capacity	–	42
Global	Gender Promotion Initiative – 94824	Outcome 05 – Peacebuilding/Local Ownership	–	60
Global	Gender Promotion Initiative – 94823	Outcome 04 – Peacebuilding/Inclusive Participation	–	20
	Subtotal		8,651	27,723
GRAND TOTAL			11,214	34,625

ACRONYMS

ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme

STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2015

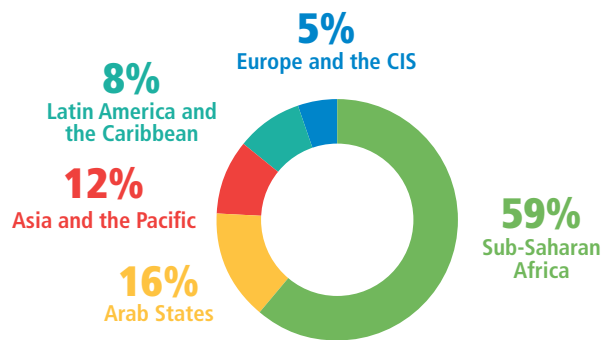


Mohammad Abbas, national UN Volunteer Reception Coordinator for UNHCR in Egypt, assists with the queries of a registered refugee in Cairo. Out of the 120,000 registered applications, he helps to identify the most vulnerable cases in order to best utilize the capacity of services available. (UNHCR, 2015)

STATISTICS

Number of UNV assignments	7,053
Number of individual UN Volunteers	6,796
Countries of assignment	122
Countries of origin	153
Origin of UN Volunteers	
From countries of the South	5,604 82%
From countries of the North	1,192 18%
Gender	
Female	2,905 43%
Male	3,891 57%
Types of assignment	
International UNV assignments	4,669 66%
National UNV assignments	2,384 34%

UNV ASSIGNMENTS BY REGION



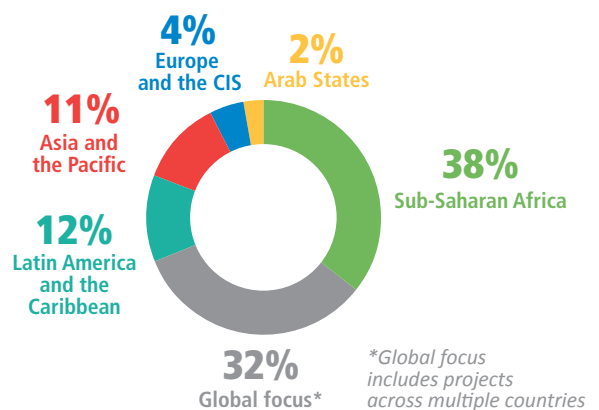
NUMBER OF UNV ASSIGNMENTS WITH MAIN PARTNERS

UNDPKO/UNDPA	2,648
UNDP/UNV	2,186
UNHCR	951
UNFPA	234
UNICEF	226
WFP	157
UN WOMEN	133
UNRWA	111
UNEP	67
OCHA	59
OHCHR	52
UN-Habitat	40
Others	189
Total:	7,053

ONLINE VOLUNTEERING SERVICE

Number of online volunteering assignments	19,423
Number of UN Online Volunteers	11,554
Origin of UN Online Volunteers	
From countries of the South	6,701 58%
From countries of the North	4,853 42%
Gender	
Female	6,765 59%
Male	4,789 41%
Number of registered organizations	2,709

ONLINE VOLUNTEERING ASSIGNMENTS BY REGION



TREND IN THE NUMBER OF UN VOLUNTEERS SINCE 1998



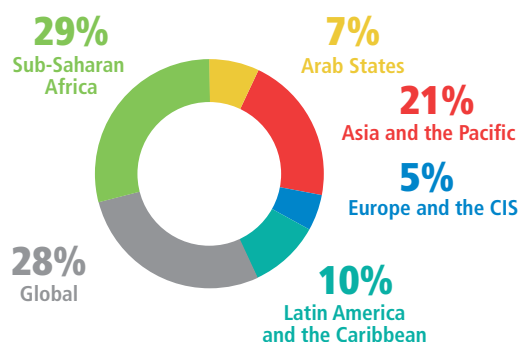
UNV Financial Volume

TOTAL FINANCIAL VOLUME – ALL SOURCES OF FUNDS (Thousands of US \$)

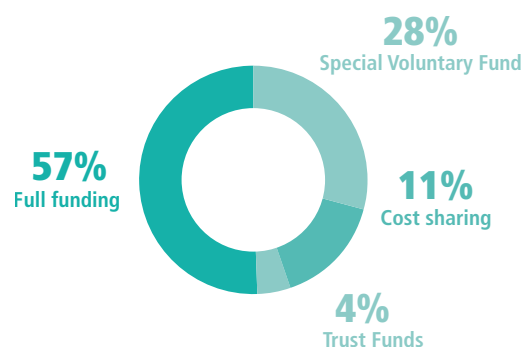
	Institutional resources	UNV resources*	United Nations entities	TOTAL
TOTAL FINANCIAL VOLUME	15,909	18,749	166,559	201,217

*UNV resources comprise the Special Voluntary Fund, cost sharing, trust funds and full funding of UNV assignments.

UNV RESOURCES – BY REGION



UNV RESOURCES – BY SOURCE OF FUND



FINANCIAL VOLUME – UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES (Thousands of US \$)

UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES	Total	% of Total
UNDFS/DPKO/DPA United Nations Department of Field Support/Department for Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Political Affairs	98,381	59%
UNDP United Nations Development Programme	26,624	16%
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	21,491	13%
WFP World Food Programme	4,818	3%
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund	4,783	3%
UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund	2,844	2%
UN WOMEN United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	1,279	1%
OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	1,246	1%
OHCHR Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	979	1%
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme	806	0%
WHO World Health Organization	769	0%
UNRWA United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	713	0%
UN-Habitat United Nations Centre for Human Settlement	425	0%
UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services	424	0%
UNOV United Nations Office in Vienna	310	0%
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization	221	0%
United Nations	116	0%
IFAD International Fund for Agriculture	101	0%
IOM International Organization for Migration	50	0%
UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	28	0%
Other	154	0%
TOTAL	166,559	100%

Contributions to UNV

PROGRAMME RESOURCES RECEIVED FROM PARTNER COUNTRIES (Thousands of US \$)

PARTNER COUNTRIES	Special Voluntary Fund	Other Resources	Total	% of Total
Germany	2,008	3,123	5,130	39%
Switzerland	845	1,081	1,926	15%
Republic of Korea		1,850	1,850	14%
Japan		1,150	1,150	9%
Sweden	688		688	5%
France		610	610	5%
Ireland	54	481	535	4%
Norway		435	435	3%
Luxembourg		409	409	3%
Czech Republic	12	188	200	2%
China	30		30	0%
India	30		30	0%
Bahrain	18		18	0%
Israel	15		15	0%
Bangladesh	2		2	0%
Thailand	1		1	0%
Lao People's Democratic Republic	1		1	0%
TOTAL	3,704	9,328	13,033	100%

OTHER PROGRAMME RESOURCES RECEIVED (Thousands of US \$)

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS	Other Resources	Total	% of Total
Economic Community Of West African States	394	394	53%
Agency for Volunteer Service (funded by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region)	200	200	27%
Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan	83	83	11%
One UN Plan Fund	65	65	9%
TOTAL	742	742	100%

www.unv.org

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



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

United Nations Volunteers

UN Volunteer statistics by country

Countries	National	Sent	Received
Afghanistan	-	9	114
Albania	-	7	2
Algeria	5	5	6
Andorra	-	1	-
Angola	-	1	5
Argentina	-	9	1
Armenia	6	-	1
Australia	-	37	-
Austria	-	9	-
Azerbaijan	-	1	-
Bangladesh	23	47	28
Barbados	1	1	-
Belarus	-	4	-
Belgium	-	68	-
Benin	69	59	5
Bhutan	-	31	1
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	39	2	11
Bosnia and Herzegovina	36	4	13
Botswana	-	4	2
Brazil	7	41	3
Bulgaria	-	8	-
Burkina Faso	78	42	29
Burundi	12	80	58
Cambodia	3	-	26
Cameroon	68	160	24
Canada	-	81	-
Cabo Verde	2	2	8
Central African Republic	1	16	220
Chad	9	71	67
Chile	1	5	-
China	29	14	1
Colombia	16	21	33
Comoros	-	3	7
Congo	2	11	17
Cook Islands	-	-	1
Costa Rica	-	4	-
Cote d'Ivoire	8	104	199
Croatia	-	9	-
Cuba	-	6	1
Czech Republic	-	21	-
Democratic Republic of the Congo	10	177	635
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	-	-	1
Denmark	-	7	-
Djibouti	2	-	9

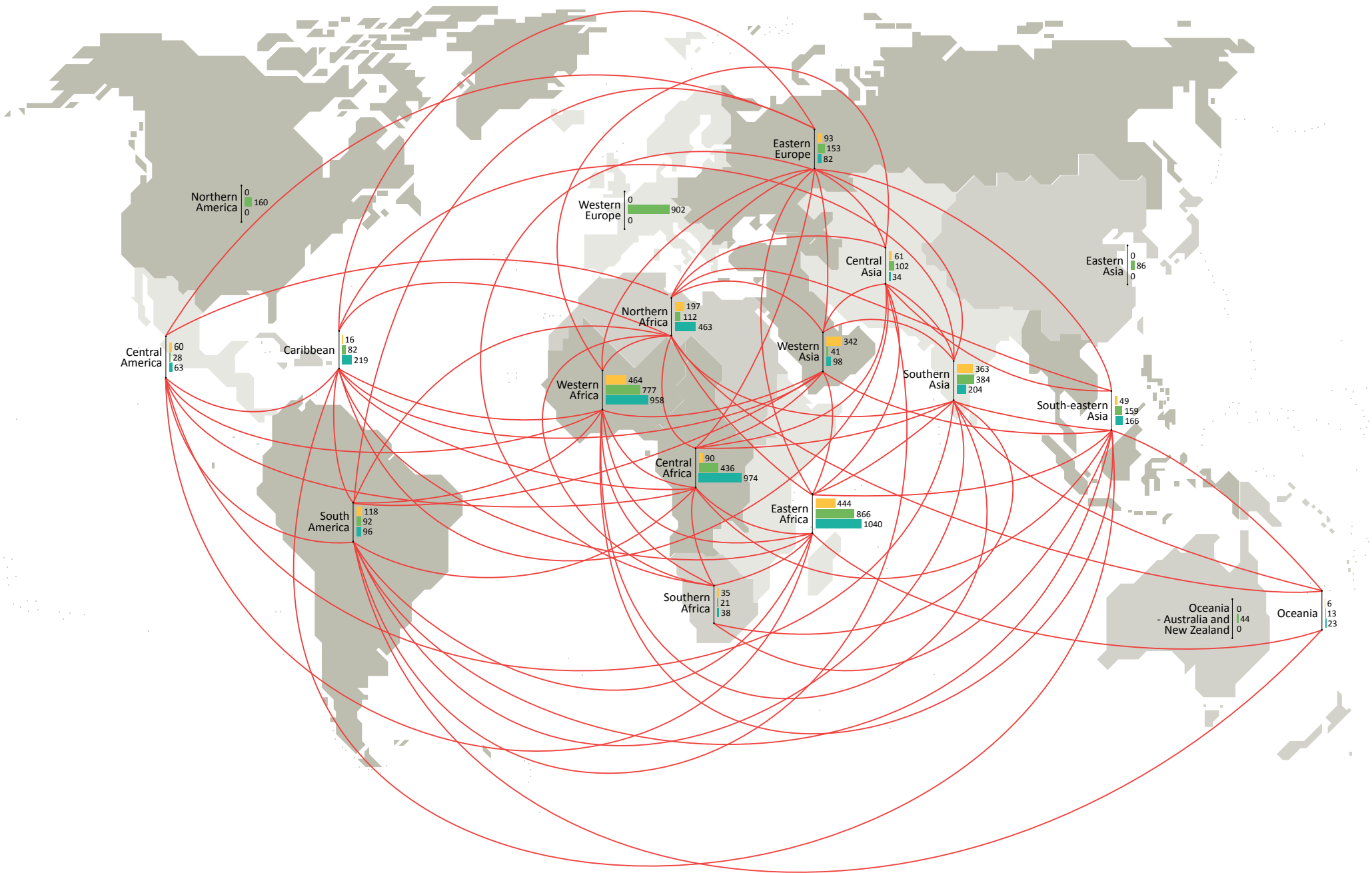
Countries	National	Sent	Received
Dominican Republic	4	3	5
Ecuador	24	3	19
Egypt	109	13	45
El Salvador	4	1	9
Eritrea	-	30	4
Estonia	-	2	-
Ethiopia	30	96	42
Fiji	5	13	9
Finland	-	49	-
France	-	182	-
Gabon	-	-	3
Gambia	7	18	12
Georgia	-	6	4
Germany	-	72	-
Ghana	7	84	17
Greece	-	15	-
Guatemala	6	4	20
Guinea	11	38	43
Guinea-Bissau	9	4	32
Guyana	1	-	-
Haiti	7	64	181
Honduras	25	1	18
Hungary	-	11	-
India	98	85	8
Indonesia	10	23	14
Iran (Islamic Republic Of)	8	5	1
Iraq	28	1	22
Ireland	-	46	-
Italy	-	115	-
Jamaica	1	4	2
Japan	-	85	-
Jordan	12	13	27
Kazakhstan	6	3	2
Kenya	187	181	53
KOSOVO (as per UN Security Council Resolution 1244)	18	5	48
Kyrgyzstan	4	8	8
Lao People's Democratic Republic	-	1	19
Latvia	-	1	-
Lebanon	155	6	8
Lesotho	21	-	8
Liberia	44	102	269
Libya	-	-	4
Lithuania	-	3	-
Luxembourg	-	2	-

National: UN Volunteers serving within the country or territory. For example, during 2015 there were no Afghan national UN Volunteers engaged within Afghanistan.

Sent: UN Volunteers of the country serving abroad as international UN Volunteers. For example, during 2015 there were 9 Afghan nationals on UNV assignments in other countries and territories.

Received: UN Volunteers of other nationalities serving in the country or territory. For example, during 2015 there were 114 international UN Volunteers working in Afghanistan.

UN VOLUNTEERS PROMOTING SOUTH-SOUTH DEVELOPMENT



UN Volunteer statistics by region

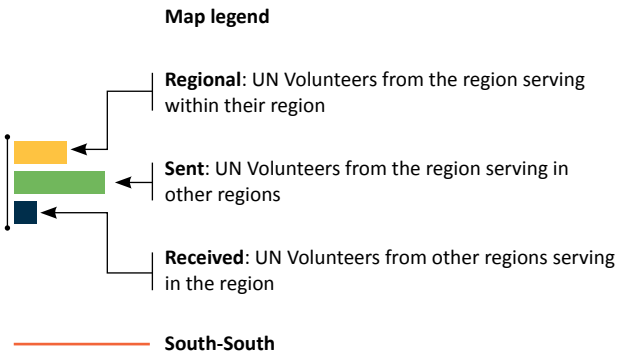
Regions	Regional	Sent	Received
Caribbean	16	82	219
Central Africa	90	436	974
Central America	60	28	63
Central Asia	61	102	34
Eastern Africa	444	866	1040
Eastern Asia	-	86	-
Eastern Europe	93	153	82
Northern Africa	197	112	463
Northern America	-	160	-
Oceania	6	13	23
Oceania - Australia and New Zealand	-	44	-
South America	118	92	96
South-eastern Asia	49	159	166
Southern Africa	35	21	38
Southern Asia	363	384	204
Western Africa	464	777	958
Western Asia	342	41	98
Western Europe	-	902	-
Total	2,338	4,458	4,458

Regional: UN Volunteers from the region serving within the region. For example, during 2015 there were 16 Caribbean UN Volunteers engaged within the Caribbean.

Sent: UN Volunteers from the region serving in other regions. For example, during 2015 there were 82 Caribbean UN Volunteers on assignment in other regions.

Received: UN Volunteers from other regions serving within the region. For example, during 2015 there were 219 UN Volunteers from outside the Caribbean working within the Caribbean.

The terms used are drawn from the United Nations Statistics Division.



The lines on the map (left) indicate the movement of international UN Volunteers from their home regions to their assignments around the world. Close to 82 per cent of UN Volunteers come from the South and most also serve in the South.

Countries	National	Sent	Received	Countries	National	Sent	Received
Madagascar	57	16	39	Somalia	13	2	54
Malawi	9	23	27	South Africa	4	14	24
Malaysia	-	9	3	South Sudan	20	15	608
Maldives	-	-	2	Spain	-	126	-
Mali	31	20	208	Sri Lanka	39	36	7
Mauritania	34	4	12	State of Palestine	74	2	16
Mauritius	-	2	3	Sudan	46	78	371
Mexico	8	16	6	Sweden	-	14	-
Mongolia	-	2	8	Switzerland	-	59	-
Montenegro	6	1	1	Syrian Arab Republic	-	8	-
Morocco	21	7	13	Tajikistan	4	11	7
Mozambique	31	6	24	Thailand	4	-	31
Myanmar	1	6	24	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-	2	-
Namibia	10	3	4	Timor Leste	-	16	22
Nauru	-	-	1	Togo	21	38	5
Nepal	160	91	28	Tonga	-	-	1
Netherlands	-	30	-	Trinidad and Tobago	3	4	29
Netherlands Antilles	-	-	1	Tunisia	16	9	14
New Zealand	-	7	-	Turkey	62	5	18
Nicaragua	17	2	10	Turkmenistan	-	1	-
Niger	104	48	35	Uganda	23	194	29
Nigeria	3	63	2	Ukraine	18	16	8
Norway	-	23	-	United Kingdom	-	55	-
Pakistan	35	80	15	United Republic of Tanzania	17	43	33
Panama	1	-	13	United States	-	79	-
Paraguay	-	-	1	Uruguay	-	3	-
Peru	29	5	13	Uzbekistan	18	9	7
Philippines	11	101	9	Venezuela	-	3	2
Poland	-	10	-	Viet Nam	20	2	18
Portugal	-	23	-	Western Sahara	-	-	14
Republic of Korea	-	55	-	Yemen	5	5	2
Republic of Moldova	-	2	2	Zambia	13	16	19
Romania	-	19	-	Zimbabwe	14	62	6
Russian Federation	1	16	1	Total	2,338	4,458	4,458
Rwanda	16	97	25				
Samoa	1	-	9				
Sao Tome and Principe	-	-	3				
Senegal	16	44	37				
Serbia	14	10	3				
Sierra Leone	20	107	45				
Singapore	-	1	-				
Slovenia	-	1	-				
Slovakia	-	1	-				
Solomon Islands	-	-	2				

The designations employed and the presentation of material in these lists do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations, UNDP or UNV concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



UN Volunteer Teacher Sanaa Hussein interacting with students of her Grade 3 Arabic course at the Jefnah School in Taalabaya. The camp is located in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon. 103 National UN Volunteer Palestinians are providing basic education services to children at UNRWA refugee camps throughout the country. (Nadim Bou Habib, 2016)

UNV CONTACT DETAILS

For general information about UNV contact:

United Nations Volunteers

Postfach 260 111

D-53153 Bonn

Germany

Telephone: (+49 228) 815 2000

Fax: (+49 228) 815 2001

www.unv.org

UNV Office in New York

Two United Nations Plaza

New York, NY 10017

Telephone: (+1 212) 906 3639

Email: UNVOfficeNewYork@unv.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/unvolunteers

Twitter: www.twitter.com/unvolunteers

YouTube: www.youtube.com/unv

For information about becoming a UN Volunteer, visit the UNV website: www.unv.org

For more information about the UNV Online Volunteering service, visit: www.onlinevolunteering.org

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2015 Annual Report



**UN
VOLUNTEERS**