



UNV volunteer Hemalingam Naidu from Malaysia (in yellow jacket, 1st on left), with the Bangladesh Formed Police Unit after a rapid deployment exercise in Timor-Leste.

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2014 - 2017

UNV STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



PEACE BUILDING

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

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

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

UNV will also focus on building a credible body of knowledge informed by research, innovation and evidence in order to advocate and enhance the integration of volunteerism into peace and development programming.

WHY PARTNER WITH UNV?

Volunteerism generates forms of social capital that are indispensable to peacebuilding, and plays an important role in aiding the development of national civilian capacities to accompany peacebuilding processes. For over four decades, UNV has played an integral part in supporting the work of the United Nations in peacebuilding. Since 1992, in particular, UNV has been supporting the implementation of Security Council-mandated peacekeeping and special political mission mandates, including peacebuilding offices.



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.

Throughout, in promoting social cohesion and resilience in post-conflict affected areas, UN Volunteers assigned to United Nations missions helped mobilize local volunteers within communities by supporting inclusive and rights-based dialogue and inter-community engagement.

Additionally, UNV is working with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to implement rights-based programming initiatives in countries recovering from crisis. In post-conflict environments suffering from severe capacity deficits hampering the delivery of peace dividends, UNV has successfully supported the work of United Nations and national development partners in strengthening local governance structures as part of wider peacebuilding interventions.

For example, by strengthening its partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNV has renewed its focus on community dialogue between refugees and host communities, as well as given voice to displaced or repatriated communities. Volunteers are an inherent component of all UNHCR operations in the field; 935 UN Volunteers served with UNHCR in 2015.



CURRENT AND RECENT UNV PROJECTS RELATED TO PEACE BUILDING

UNV is currently working to define innovative projects within the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

A number of projects were already under implementation in 2013 and several proposals are under review for the 2014-2017 period.

For instance, in Niger, UNV is facilitating access to justice for citizens. In the area of electoral support, UNV supported civic education activities in countries emerging from delicate political transitions (such as Guinea Bissau and Madagascar).

At the end of 2013, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti had 195 UN Volunteers engaged in the areas of electoral and civil affairs, capacity building of police and judicial systems and human rights, particularly addressing sexual and gender-based violence.

Since late 2013, UNV has been partnering with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Burundi to engage adolescents in peacebuilding activities.

Additionally, while accompanying the consolidation of peace through the relevant approaches to specific countries and regional contexts, UNV intends to work on social inclusion as a foundation of peace in this Strategic Framework period.

Since exclusion is one of the most important factors that triggers relapse into conflict, UNV will increase inclusive participation and participatory dialogue in efforts to sustain peace and generate social cohesion.



“We targeted youth because we feel that they are the ones who hold the peace of Liberia in their hands. It is important that they fully understand the benefits they will enjoy from volunteering to sustain the peace in Liberia so that the country can develop in the way that it should.”

Gwendolyn Myers, Executive Director, Messengers of Peace, Liberia





► UN Volunteer Lubna Lasu, a Civil Affairs Expert, speaks about “Volunteerism for Peace and Development” in Grand Bassa County, Liberia, during a 21-day outreach activity leading up to the International Day of Peace on 21 September.

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The target will be achieved through the implementation of specific projects, focusing on human rights promotion, and supporting the establishment of ICT-enabled networks of community monitors. All this will be done by drawing on both on-site UN Volunteers and UN Online Volunteers.

Furthermore, considering the role women play often as custodians of peace within their communities, UNV is committed to working with the UN Women and other United Nations partners to implement the 2010 United Nations Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding, which was endorsed by the United Nations Secretary-General.

THE WAY FORWARD

The dissolution of mutual trust is one of the major consequences of the societal fragmentation in fragile and conflict-affected states. There is also a strong link between ethnic violence and low inter-ethnic or inter-religious civic engagement.

In other words: in the absence of adequate community-level engagement, the chance of lapse or relapse into conflict increases.

However, when individuals or communities in post-conflict situations jointly address common needs through volunteer action, this reinforces mutual understanding and a sense of common obligations, and they emerge with strengthened trust and solidarity.

Volunteering extends society's existing social capital reservoirs by building relationships and widening webs of social interaction.

In the Strategic Framework period, UNV will therefore continue to support the work of United Nations partner agencies through the UNV Global Peacebuilding Programme, which aims to contribute innovatively to peacebuilding across three strategic outcomes:

- 1) Increased civic participation and participatory dialogue in efforts to sustain peace;
- 2) Enhanced ownership of and capacities to engage in peacebuilding processes of local institutions and civil society; and
- 3) Increased effectiveness of the United Nations system in responding to peacebuilding needs.



© UNV Colombia, 2010

In Bogota, Colombia, national UN Volunteers with UNDP Dayana Galindo and Andres Felipe Herrera engage with visitors at ExpoPaz, a peacebuilding fair aimed to nurture debate on public policy issues and peacebuilding initiatives.

Through its global programme in the period of 2014-2017, UNV will focus on the following issues:

- expanding its role to further engage communities within the context of UN peace keeping, peace building and political missions;
- contributing to building local and national capacities, and the compact between states and its citizens;
- rebuilding mutual trust between its citizens;
- supporting emergency relief efforts, early and long-term recovery, leveraging expertise in protection, logistics, water and sanitation, camp management; as well as
- human rights monitoring and community resilience through voluntary action.

In its work in the area of peacebuilding, UNV works in close partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, UNHCR, UNICEF, United Nations Department of Field Support, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, UNDPKO, UNDPA, the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights, UN Women and other partners to impact the sustainability of peacebuilding through volunteerism.

“As a UN Volunteer I try to see beyond my job as an inspector and look at the people we serve. I personally try as much as possible to help the population we meet on our tours. As UN Volunteers, we are here for the sake of the people. I also believe, deeply in my heart, that the role I am playing helps, even if very marginally, to make the world a better place.”

Daniel Amoyaw Asamoah, a UN Volunteer serving with MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

UNV (October 2016)

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. We work with partners to integrate qualified, highly motivated and well supported UN Volunteers into development programming and promote the value and global recognition of volunteerism.

UNV is active in around 130 countries every year. With field presences in over 80 countries, UNV is represented worldwide. UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



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Resilient nations.