



Marie Dibangue (Cameroon, centre) is a UN Volunteer Community Violence Reduction Officer. She serves with the Community Violence Reduction Section of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Here, she engages students in Martissant, Port-au-Prince, during a sensitization activity about child protection.

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2014 - 2017

UNV STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



// YOUTH

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?

Youth Volunteering is a two-way street that enhances learning, skills development and personal growth in youth volunteers, and shows them the power of individuals to change the world. It also creates a sense of empowerment, boosts self-esteem and fosters the development of community spirit, especially among marginalized youth. Youth volunteers can have a revitalizing effect on global peace and development processes, as they bring energy, passion and creativity, and are often the first to come up with innovative solutions to the world's most pressing issues.



UNV'S MANDATE ON YOUTH

UNV has been actively engaged in youth and youth volunteering since 1976, when the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/Res/31/131 mandating UNV to promote and advance the role of youth in development through volunteerism. Subsequent General Assembly resolutions and UNDP Executive Board decisions have further confirmed and expanded this mandate.

UNV YOUTH VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY 2014-2017

The UNV Youth Volunteering Strategy 2014-2017, released in September 2013, shapes UNV's vision and approach to youth engagement. It considers young people themselves as engaged actors and agents of change. As such, youth empowerment is prioritized, with emphasis on skills development, knowledge sharing and youth participation in decision-making. The strategy is guided by principles of inclusion, youth ownership, partnerships, and youth voice, aiming to give young people of all backgrounds access to volunteering opportunities. It actively promotes South-South cooperation.

UNV/UNDP YOUTH TRUST FUND

Subsequently, UNV and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) established a dedicated trust fund to support youth volunteerism. The fund also enables UNV to support youth volunteering initiatives which directly enhance the engagement of youth in voluntary activities and strengthen the capacity of governments to develop their own national and regional youth volunteer schemes.

UN YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

The UN Youth Volunteer Programme, established by UNV also in 2013, is the implementing framework of the strategy. It engages youth in global advocacy and partnerships for youth volunteering, and develops the capacity of national and regional youth schemes. The UN Youth Volunteers Pro-

gramme is a major UNV initiative to facilitate the engagement of youth in global peace and sustainable human development through volunteerism, bringing the voice of youth into the development discourse and helping young people to realize their full social, economic and human potential.

It was developed following a year-long consultation with the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), youth-led networks, international volunteer-sending organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. Through the programme, UNV and its partners are working to create enabling environments for youth volunteerism around the world, advocate for the recognition of youth voices through volunteerism, and directly mobilize thousands of young volunteers to support the work of UN partners around the world.

UN YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME IN ACTION

UN YOUTH VOLUNTEER MODALITY

May 2014 saw the launch of the UN Youth Volunteer modality, which is one of the first outcomes of the UN Youth Volunteer Programme.

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 addition, in partnership with leading universities around the world UNV is enabling university students to volunteer with UN projects and programmes.

UNV's UN Online Volunteering service also creates opportunities for young people to volunteer for peace and development via the internet.

UN partners who wish to learn how UN Youth Volunteers can help them deliver quality development results are encouraged to contact UNV.

“Young people are not asking for support – they are asking for investment. Such investments enable them to navigate their life transitions safely, develop their human capital to its fullest potential and participate in efforts to deliver a world of equality, opportunity and human rights for all.”

Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth



▶ Participants in the national consultation on youth volunteering in Morocco.

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UNV PROJECTS GEARED TOWARDS YOUTH

Another outcome of the programme is UNV's work to increase the recognition of the contribution of youth to global peace and sustainable development, include youth voices in the development discourse, help partners to create enabling environments for regional, national and local youth volunteer schemes.

UNV YOUTH PROJECTS

Over the years, UNV has worked with UN partners and Member States at national, regional and international levels to create an enabling environment for youth participation through volunteering. Towards that end, it has launched successful programmes ranging from establishing youth centres and volunteer initiatives to working on youth policies and legislation.

The Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future project, launched in 2011 in response to the Arab Spring, enabled young people to take an active part in societal transformations through volunteering. This regional project is active in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

A partnership in Togo between the Togolese Ministry of Youth, UNDP, UNV and France Volontaires, has mobilized more than 4,000 young people to support the country's development.

In El Salvador, UNV supported a pioneering South-South partnership with Brazil whereby Brazilian UN Volunteers trained young people in El Salvador in disaster risk reduction and food security, and performed critical emergency relief duties during a major tropical storm.

Other UNV youth projects include:

- Social Innovation and Volunteerism in Uzbekistan
- Reinforcement of Cultural Aspects of Outreach Settlements through University Volunteer Service in Guatemala
- Young Football Volunteers in Ukraine
- Youth Employability and Retention Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- University Volunteer Scheme for Youth Empowerment and Development of Papua, Indonesia
- Economic Community of West African States Youth Volunteers Programme



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▶ National UN Youth Volunteer Speech Therapist Margaret Hmangte provides therapy to Paumuanlian, a 10-year old child with a speech impairment. Margaret is one of four national UN Youth Volunteers providing services to children with special needs as part of the Malsawm Initiative in Churachandpur district, a remote tribal area of India.

RAISING AWARENESS OF SPECIAL NEEDS IN INDIA

In Churachandpur, India, a remote tribal area, few services are available for persons with disabilities. Under the Malsawm Initiative, UN Volunteer Special Educator Dipak Prasad, UN Volunteer School Administrator Kaylie Lalrokim, UN Volunteer Physiotherapist Shakeeb Ahmed Khan, and UN Volunteer Speech Therapist Margaret Hmangte help the community operate a special needs school.

Thanks to the speech and language therapy UN Volunteers provided, children with special needs improved enough in their language skills to prepare for entry into mainstream schools. The value and success of this initiative is evident by an almost 100 per cent increase in the special needs school enrolment, which jumped from 13 students to 25.

UN Volunteers and school representatives collaborated with local officials to remove stigma and successfully integrate children with disabilities. UN Volunteers trained 40 parents, nine Malsawm Initiative teachers and 10 teachers on physiotherapy, speech therapy, special education and inclusive education.

“At a personal level, volunteerism has helped me realize the importance of team work in developmental issues, and made me realize disability is a human right issue. We have solidarity for our fellow citizen in faraway places, which may act as a building block for promoting peace and development... I believe this spirit of volunteerism will help to unite society with their differences intact!”

Shakeeb Ahmed Khan, national UN Youth Volunteer Physiotherapist, India

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).



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.