Annual Report 2016
VOLUNTEER SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We are inspiration in action
UNV 2016

Our Volunteers

During 2016, UN Volunteers, UN Youth Volunteers, and UN Online Volunteers delivered results advancing sustainable development. UNV’s roster grew to over 25,000 readily available candidates, including 48% women.

Cover photo: In the aftermath of the earthquake that struck Ecuador in 2016, Julio Peralta served as national UN Volunteer Warehouse Assistant with UNICEF in Pedernales, one of the cities most affected by the earthquake. Experienced in the management of heavy machinery, he helped with the organization and storage of basic items and relief supplies. (Juan Diego Pérez Arias/UNV, 2016)
Words of welcome

UNV has a unique mandate, as it offers people around the world the possibility to engage with the three pillars of the United Nations – human rights, peace and security, and development – through voluntary action. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is ambitious, and calls for action by all. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals depends on national ownership, and on individuals showing solidarity. There is no greater way to do this than through volunteerism.

For UNV, 2016 was a year of consolidation. We worked to further enhance the capacity of our partners to deliver at community level, responding to the call of the Agenda 2030 to ‘leave no one behind’. Last year saw a further decrease in our UN Volunteer numbers, largely attributed to the closing of peacekeeping missions, where UN Volunteers comprise a third of civilian personnel. Looking forward, we will pursue diversification of our partners, as well as revitalization of longstanding relationships.

At UNV, our comparative advantage is our capacity to mobilize a rich diversity of UN Volunteers in over 100 professional areas. During 2016, 6,600 UN Volunteers delivered on site and 12,600 Online Volunteers completed 23,700 virtual assignments.

Our highly specialized UN Volunteers, international and national, serve side-by-side with United Nations personnel, bringing their knowledge and unique perspective. Our increasing number of UN Youth Volunteers are change makers in development and peace interventions in their communities and among their peers. These UN Volunteers operate within a human resources framework that provides for fair and equitable conditions of service. Together with our hosting partners, we look out for the wellbeing, satisfaction, safety and security of our UN Volunteers.

Our UN Volunteers are embedded within the United Nations system, and with UN Member State governments, civil society and communities. They volunteer for prosperity, planet, people, peace and partners. This Annual Report opens a window onto how, together, we are delivering volunteer solutions for sustainable development.
**INTRODUCTION**

UNV’s Annual Report 2016, *Volunteer Solutions for Sustainable Development*, is structured around the themes planet, prosperity, people, peace and partnerships.

Each section showcases our delivery in partnership with the United Nations, UN Member States and civil society, and through our valued UN Volunteers. Links lead you to our website where you can read in-depth about our programme results. Also in each section, you will find a snapshot of the UN Volunteer professional profiles UNV offers in support of the development, peace and humanitarian interventions of our partners.

The partnership section highlights the contributions UNV received from funding partners during the period 2014-2016. It also provides an overview of UN Volunteer mobilization with our key United Nations partners in 2016.

The Statistical and Financial Information, Full Funding and Special Voluntary Fund Reports for 2016 are available in the inner pocket of this folder.

Read more within and online at www.unv.org.
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs have initiated an unprecedented shift in the way policymakers, businesses and citizens view global development challenges. Volunteerism has been acknowledged as a key driver for a transformative societal change towards responsible action and solidarity within and across generations to protect the planet and the people most affected by climate change and climate-induced disasters.

UNV brings stakeholders together across regional, national and institutional boundaries to act collectively. Volunteers have been the backbone of environmental movements, creating the awareness and momentum necessary for action.

**CAPACITY-BUILDING & TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE**

UNV has been supporting implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience in South and East Asia and the Pacific since 2014. In partnership with UNDP, UNISDR and OCHA, 12 specialized UN Volunteers are providing technical and coordination expertise in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

These UN Volunteers utilize their expertise in disaster risk reduction to facilitate policy development initiatives and awareness-raising activities. In 2016, the UN Volunteers supported over 60 disaster risk reduction initiatives and consultations, bolstering the skills of about 7,255 men and women.

In Myanmar, UNV worked with UNDP, UNICEF and the government on data collection informing disaster management. Piloting a disaster risk reduction youth volunteer network in the country, UN Volunteers developed baselines to define a road map for implementation, enhanced collaboration amongst stakeholders, and ensured the inclusion of youth networks and remote communities.

Hadijah Nab Unde (right) is a national UN Volunteer with UNDP in Uganda. On International Volunteer Day 2016, Hadijah interviewed vegetable vendor Katusabe Deborah, among others, about her views on volunteerism and the SDGs. “I personally don’t understand the Goals,” Deborah said. “But now that you have explained, I think I can contribute to the Global Agenda by volunteering to clean up my environment.” (UNV, 2016)
**PARTICIPATORY MONITORING & DATA COLLECTION**

Volunteers are well-placed to gather intelligence and contribute to planning, preparedness and response in the event of destabilization, humanitarian crises and natural disasters. They can play a vital role in gathering intelligence through participatory monitoring and data collection, for instance on climate vulnerability or disaster risk assessment.

UNV has deployed 15 national and international volunteer researchers to collect evidence on the contribution of volunteerism in fragile communities, and post-conflict environments. One UN Volunteer in the Amazonian community of Rurrenabaque, Bolivia, will be conducting research on volunteers transferring sustainable livelihoods knowledge and ancestral farming practices between indigenous people and farmers. Another will be doing field research in a deprived area of Athens, Greece, with high unemployment and low access to basic services, where volunteering initiatives have sprung up in response to social problems.

Their research will feed into the next State of the World’s Volunteerism Report (SWVR) on the theme of “Resilient Communities: The Role of Volunteerism in a Turbulent World”, due to be released in 2018.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY**

UNV supports disaster recovery and reconstruction by enhancing local capacity to cope with rebuilding efforts and longer-term community needs.

Volunteers are often the first responders to natural disasters, as was the case in the emergency response to the earthquake of April 2016 in Ecuador. In collaboration with a number of UN partners on the ground, UNV mobilized UN Volunteers with extensive experience in the field of emergency response and early recovery, as well as protection and women’s empowerment.

Ten national UN Volunteers with UN Women trained women as construction workers and helped them rebuild their communities. UN Volunteers serving with IOM also provided mentoring and entrepreneurship training that allowed women and their families to generate income and improve their living conditions.
The United Nations Secretary-General’s report, ‘Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals’, has highlighted increasing labour productivity, reducing income inequality and investing in infrastructure and innovation as crucial to economic growth and development – the conditions needed for prosperity for all. Volunteerism enables higher levels of productivity and engagement to reduce inequalities and foster inclusive growth and prosperity.

Through its large-scale mobilization of people at the community level, volunteerism expands the scope and reach of development, while also providing people with the opportunity to build technical capacity and enhance skills. Volunteers engage women and youth to share experiences and increase access to opportunities, thus enabling livelihood development and stability.

**AWARENESS-RAISING & ADVOCACY**

UNV has significant experience in promoting gender equity and in ensuring gender-sensitive budgeting and advocacy for the inclusion of women in decision-making processes. UN Volunteers support poverty reduction strategies and economic empowerment, particularly of women.

In India, volunteers are fostering sustainable livelihoods for women and youth. Through a UNV-UNDP project, community youth volunteers were mobilized to conduct campaigns to create awareness about women self-help groups and financial literacy. The volunteers linked women with institutions and banks where training and loans are provided for livelihood activities, including handicrafts and soap making.

In Malawi, UN Volunteers with the Women’s Economic Empowerment Unit of UN Women collaborate with partners and the private sector to promote women’s empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community, also monitoring business and entrepreneurship trainings.

The regional Partners for Prevention programme in Asia and the Pacific encourages men and boys to reflect on gender stereotypes, challenge misconceptions and change attitudes towards women and violence against women. Male advocates in Da Nang, Viet Nam, organized a contest on make up for women by men to enhance empathy and understanding. (Phan Thanh An, Thao Hoang/UNV for UN Women, 2016)
In Sri Lanka, UN Volunteers teamed up with the Scouts to celebrate International Youth Day 2016, convening a workshop on the SDGs. (Vihanga Kariyawasam Photography, 2016)

**CAPACITY BUILDING & TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE**

UNV promotes inclusion, participation and youth empowerment. UN Volunteers enhance youth capacities by building skills, enhancing employability and increasing community engagement.

In Sri Lanka, UNV’s role in the ‘V Force’ (Volunteer Task Force) has empowered local youth leaders, brought communities together and created a space for communication between volunteers and UN partners to share ideas, mobilize resources and implement development initiatives.

Similarly, in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Guatemala, UN Volunteers trained youth for the SDGs, providing them with valuable opportunities for leadership and participation, and enabling them to cascade the training and awareness raising to their peers and communities.

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER INFRASTRUCTURE**

UNV partners with governments to develop national volunteer infrastructure, much of this aimed at increasing youth employability. UN Volunteers provide skills training, increase confidence and bolster experience, enabling youth – through volunteerism – to break out of the poverty cycle.

In Lesotho, where the unemployment rate is 35 per cent, poor access to quality education, gender inequality and significant threats from the HIV/AIDS pandemic have left a generation of young people with limited economic opportunities. UNV and UNFPA, together with partners and civil society, has helped to build the employment skills of young people and ensure they have access to information on health and gender issues.

UN Volunteers created a coordination mechanism for volunteer-involving organizations, subsequently used to develop a country-wide talent acquisition platform and entrepreneurship support network.

**UN VOLUNTEER PROFILES**

**AWARENESS-RAISING AND ADVOCACY**
- UN Youth/University Volunteer in Communication, Outreach and Advocacy

**CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE**
- Youth Employment Advisor
- Training Officer
- Project Management
- Infrastructure Development
- Capacity-building

**PARTICIPATORY ASSET MONITORING**
- Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
- Programme Assistant

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER INFRASTRUCTURE**
- Youth Networks and Volunteering Specialist
- Youth Volunteering Coordinator
- UN Youth Volunteer in Youth Networks and Volunteering

**ENHANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY OF THE UN SYSTEM**
- Financial Management Associate
- Gender Outreach and Mainstreaming Specialist
VOLUNTEER SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE PEOPLE

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global to-do list, and the key to sustainability lies at the community level. Through volunteerism, every global citizen has the opportunity to contribute to the SDGs - regardless of economic status, gender, education level, ethnicity, disability or unemployment. By volunteering, people actively take on responsibility for their own community, solidifying local ownership of development goals.

AWARENESS-RAISING & ADVOCACY

UNV mobilizes local volunteers who understand their communities’ way of life and speak their language. Volunteers act as a bridge between the community and the United Nations, government and other development actors. They ensure the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups and integration of their needs in planning and implementing development interventions.

UNV partners with UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women on the Partners for Prevention Regional Joint Programme on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls in Asia and the Pacific. Currently in its second phase, this programme focuses on engaging with men and boys to address violence against women in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER INFRASTRUCTURE

UNV strengthens national volunteer networks, which are a strong asset for localizing and advancing sustainable development progress. UN Volunteers instil a strong sense of civic engagement and facilitate greater participation in development and peace.

In 2016, UN Volunteer District Youth Coordinators with UNDP in India developed the capacity of rural youth clubs in 29 districts, conducting youth development and volunteering programmes that benefited more than 124,000 young people.

Florence Honvo Bello (centre, Benin) serves as UN Volunteer Training Officer for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) (Fabien Faivre/UNV, 2016)
UNV supports partners in establishing baselines and leveraging data for monitoring service.

**UN Online Volunteers** from across the globe engaged with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs to process research surveys carried out across UN Member States for the UN E-Government Survey. Almost 100 UN Online Volunteers, speaking more than 66 languages, contributed to data collection and analysis. The survey, conducted every two years, assesses the use of information technology to provide public services to citizens.

Rachel Saady, a Palestinian refugee serving as national UN Volunteer Teacher with UNRWA in Lebanon, teaches English at Nablous School in Saida (Nadim Bou Habib), 2016.

UNV mobilized Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as national UN Volunteer Teachers with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Refugees themselves, these volunteers provide education for a marginalized segment of people fleeing the conflict in Syria: Palestinian refugees, now twice displaced from Syria to Lebanon.

UN Volunteers have been participating in the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism, which was established under Security Council Resolution 2165 to facilitate cross-border operations for Syria. UN humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners use routes across conflict lines and border crossings to deliver humanitarian assistance. UN Volunteers serving on the border in Turkey inspect UN aid consignments going into Syria, ensuring that assistance is reaching people in need through the most direct routes.
VOLUNTEERS FOR PEACE

Building lasting peace, providing justice and strengthening governance institutions requires inclusive national ownership. Participation and social cohesion underpin UNV’s programmatic approach to peacekeeping and peacebuilding. As a natural link between stakeholders, UN Volunteers engage communities, including women, young people and marginalized people, in dialogue to build and sustain peace.

Over the past 25 years, UNV has supported United Nations peacekeeping operations, becoming a large-scale provider of qualified personnel serving with the United Nations Departments of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Political Affairs (DPA) and Field Support (DFS). UN Volunteers account for about one-third of all international civilian personnel and are the backbone of UN peacekeeping operations.

ENHANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY OF THE UN SYSTEM

In 2016, 2,490 UN Volunteers served with peacekeeping missions under DPKO, DPA and DFS. They played key roles in mission support, democratic governance, human rights monitoring and transitional justice, political affairs, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, crisis prevention and recovery, as well as electoral support. The largest contingent of UN Volunteers, some 507, supported the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, while 464 served the mission in South Sudan and 282 the mission in the Central African Republic.

UNV protects the interests of women affected by conflict and promotes the critical role of women as peacebuilders. UN Volunteers enhance the UN system’s implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and strive for more inclusive and gender-responsive peacebuilding outcomes.

UNV is supporting the UN Peacebuilding Fund’s second Gender Promotion Initiative, in partnership with the UN Peacebuilding Support Office and UN Women. UN Volunteers are strengthening capacity and supporting the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects in Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Nepal, and Somalia.

National UN Volunteer Engineer with UNDP, Muna Ouda, helps to rebuild Gaza, managing the removal of debris of destroyed homes and other infrastructure in the State of Palestine (UNV, 2016)
UN VOLUNTEER PROFILES

AWARENESS-RAISING AND ADVOCACY
Advocacy and Communications Associate
Civil Society Outreach Officer
Community Development Advisor
Community Mobilization Facilitator
Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Advocacy Specialist
Electoral Civic Education Officer
Education and Peacebuilding Officer
Gender Advocacy Specialist
Human Rights Coordination Assistant
Local Governance Specialist
Outreach and Coordination Assistant
UN Youth/University Volunteer in Communication, Outreach and Advocacy

PARTICIPATORY MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION
Citizen Participation Specialist
Community Services Associate
Crisis Prevention and Recovery Analyst
Data Analysis Assistant
Drug Control Coordination Officer
Human Rights Monitor Specialist
Humanitarian Affairs Reporting Officer
Small Arms Monitor
UN Youth Volunteer in Child Protection and Human Rights

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER INFRASTRUCTURE
Gender and Volunteer Affairs Advisor
Volunteering and South-South Cooperation Specialist
Volunteer Management Specialist
UN Youth Volunteer in Youth Networks and Volunteering

ENHANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY OF THE UN SYSTEM
Gender-responsive Peacebuilding Specialist
Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor
Women, Peace and Security Specialist

CAPACITY-BUILDING & TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE
UNV strengthens ownership in long-term development and peace processes by mobilizing local experts. National UN Volunteers propel solutions to challenges of their communities.

As part of UNDP’s Integrated Support to the Devolution Process in Kenya, 40 UN Volunteers deployed to 37 counties have improved the planning and management of county services, their allocation of funds and the accessibility of community services.

In the State of Palestine, UNV is supporting reconstruction and promoting gender equality by deploying women engineers as part of UNDP’s Right to Education programme. The UN Volunteer Engineers supervise the reconstruction of educational facilities, including sub-contractors and inspection of materials against agreed specifications. Besides sharing their knowledge, the UN Volunteers gained experience and skills, enhancing their employability.

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AWARENESS-RAISING & ADVOCACY
Tapping into community volunteering during the peacebuilding process supports the rebuilding of societal trust and confidence, aiding national authorities in working towards sustainable peace. UNV and UN Volunteers play an instrumental role in helping communities reconcile and nurture social cohesion after conflict.

In support of peacebuilding in Colombia, UNV and UNDP are partnering on Volunteers for Peace, a project which aims to advance peace education and community-based reintegration through volunteerism. UN Volunteers are strengthening the capacity of young volunteers and activists and bolstering their awareness of the peace process, and empowering them as ambassadors for peace.
UNV thanks its UN Member State partners for their generous contributions in support of volunteerism for sustainable development and peace.

UN Member States are listed by magnitude of contributions received during the three year period 2014-2016.*

* Amounts indicated are in thousands of US dollars.

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<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td>5,150</td>
<td>4,358</td>
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<td><strong>Rep. of Korea</strong></td>
<td>1,540</td>
<td>1,850</td>
<td>2,494</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Switzerland</strong></td>
<td>2,150</td>
<td>1,926</td>
<td>1,276</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Japan</strong></td>
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<td>1,150</td>
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<tr>
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<td>610</td>
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<td><strong>Argentina</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td><strong>India</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Israel</strong></td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td><strong>Turkey</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Lao</strong></td>
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</table>
UNV is as strong as its partnerships. UN Volunteers deliver for our United Nations partners on sustainable development - from eliminating poverty, empowering women and youth, and playing critical roles in peacekeeping missions and humanitarian response, to advocating for climate change mitigation and the rights of marginalized people.

Refer to our partnering publications and data snapshots for detailed information on our collaboration with key UN entity partners on www.unv.org/resources-outreach-unv-partners.