

We are  
inspiration  
in action



Sarah Zorc (United States), UN Volunteer Associate Resettlement Officer with UNHCR, following up on the resettlement case of a refugee family in Baan Mai Noi Soi Temporary Shelter Area, Thailand. (Panupong Changchai, 2016)

The Special Voluntary Fund (SVF), an open UNV Trust Fund comprising contributions from a wide range of UN Member States, enables UNV to pilot and deploy volunteer solutions to the world's pressing development and peace challenges. It gives volunteerism a role in some of the United Nations' most innovative development and peace projects and programmes, particularly those that address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2016, the SVF was used as seed funding in 34 new programmatic engagements around the world. It also provided the financing for UNV's flagship initiatives that put volunteers and volunteerism front and centre in tackling sustainable development challenges in the areas of basic social services, community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction, peacebuilding, youth and volunteer infrastructure.

The SVF represents UNV's investment in such programmes and associated projects, and is crucial for UN Volunteers to deliver relevant and creative solutions through existing and new partnerships.

// **UN Volunteers play a critical role in supporting the effective and efficient implementation of the UN Women country programme in Kenya. They provide strategic capacity surge for our work, especially at community level with our implementing partners across the country. Because of the technical assistance they provide, their interventions are really felt [...] They bring in vibrant energy and new innovations to systemic challenges and try to impact people's lives. We find UN Volunteers committed, competent and compassionate in the way they carry out their work.**

Zebib Kavuma, Country Director of UN Women in Kenya

## SVF FUNDING 2016

Contributions to the SVF are critical to delivering UNV's mandate, as demand for the SVF continues to exceed new resources. In 2016, contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund amounted to US \$3,930,000 received from nine United Nations Member State partners.

PARTNER COUNTRIES*	PROGRAMME RESOURCES RECEIVED (Thousands of US \$)
GERMANY	1,990
SWEDEN	974
SWITZERLAND	836
IRELAND	56
CHINA	30
TURKEY	20
CZECH REPUBLIC	12
ISRAEL	10
KAZAKHSTAN	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,930</b>

\*Funding partners are ordered by magnitude of contributions received in 2016.

## ADDED VALUE OF THE SVF

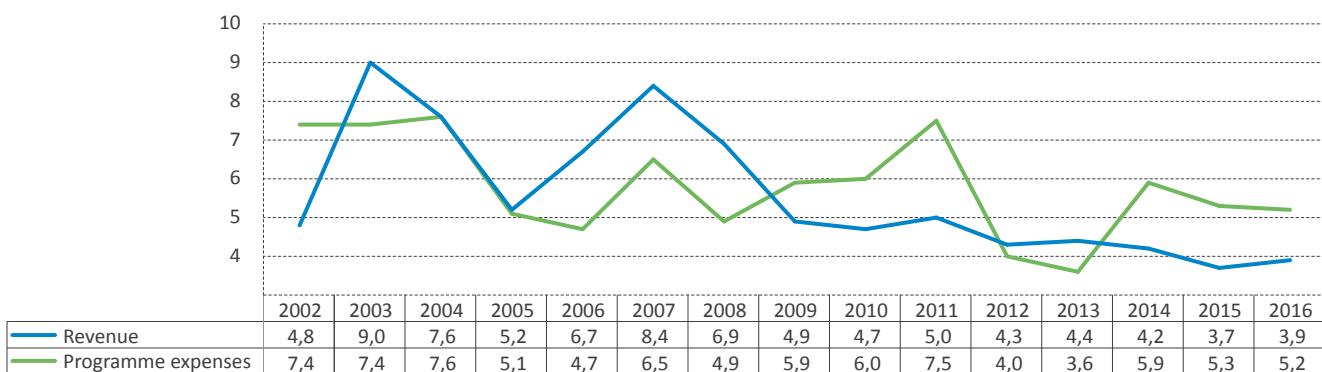
The SVF is essential to leveraging the contribution of volunteerism to achieving peace and development results through joint projects with governments, United Nations entities, civil society and others.

In 2016, US \$6.6 million from SVF funds was allocated to joint projects and initiatives. In line with UNV's strategic intent to allocate the greatest share of resources to least developed countries, the majority of these projects were in Sub-Saharan Africa, followed by Latin America, Asia-Pacific and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Many of these projects employed volunteerism to aid the development of national civilian capacities to address peace, stability, human rights and effective governance based on the rule of law.

Other initiatives engage volunteerism to strengthen civic engagement and ensure inclusion in development processes especially among marginalized groups, including women and young people; build community ownership of climate-resilient strategies through empowering local volunteers; and stimulate entrepreneurship and provide greater market access to local producers through volunteer networks.

One of the most powerful aspects of the SVF is that it helps the United Nations system to scale up development and peace interventions while ensuring greater inclusion and local ownership. UNV's unique 'cascading model' mobilizes highly experienced international UN Volunteers and national UN Volunteers, who then coordinate clusters of local volunteers. In 2016, more than 70,000 local volunteers were deployed – and this number is growing year by year. Not only does this enable broad geographical reach and wide grassroots participation, but by engaging local volunteers in project implementation it also helps to ensure that development interventions are locally appropriate and culturally sensitive.

## SVF REVENUE AND PROGRAMME EXPENSES 2002-2016

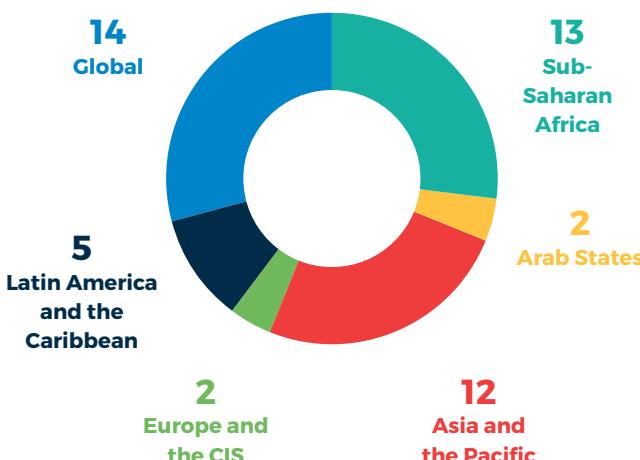


## SVF PROGRAMME RESULTS 2016

In 2016, the SVF enabled UNV to continue to programme in a strategic, focused way with clear intended results and mechanisms for improved project implementation and results-based management. All UNV projects fully complied with UNDP monitoring procedures. Improved volunteer management processes, policies and systems led to shorter recruitment timeframes, and more than 94 per cent of projects mainstreamed gender during the project development, with a benchmark of financial resources established for gender results.

- In **Turkey**, UNV helped to strengthen the social and economic integration of Syrian women through volunteerism.
- In **India**, UNV helped the Ministry of Youth engage more than 100,000 young people in the implementation of national policies and schemes.
- In **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Gabon**, UNV provided critical technical support and training to help the governments establish their own volunteer initiatives.
- In **Colombia**, UNV strengthened local conflict resolution mechanisms through volunteerism.

### NUMBER OF ACTIVE SVF PROJECTS BY REGION - 2016



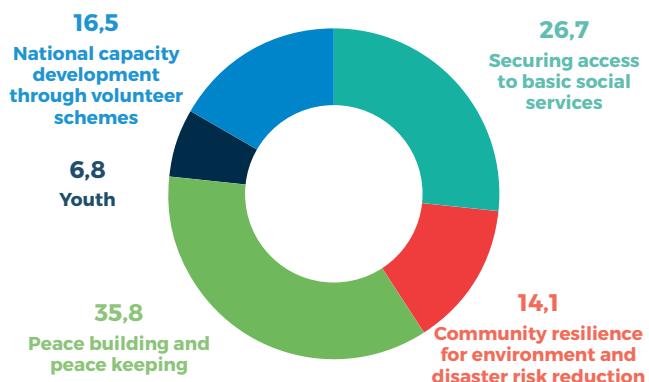
## PROMOTION AND INTEGRATION OF VOLUNTEERISM IN AGENDA 2030

An evaluation in 2016 showed that, at the global level at the global level, UNV successfully positioned volunteerism in Agenda 2030 as a means of implementation. During 2016, UNV also built on earlier work supporting UN Resident Coordinator and country teams on national consultations by continuing to engage with SDG implementation guidance, including providing examples for the 'UNDG Reference Guide on Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda'.

// 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.

The Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General, The Road to Dignity by 2030 (A/69/700).

### UN VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS CONTRIBUTE TO UNV STRATEGIC PRIORITIES - 2016



Note: UN Volunteers selected the UNV strategic priorities their assignments with UN partners contributed to most. This graph ranks the priorities selected by percentage of 2,856 respondents. (Source: UN Volunteer Survey Report 2016)

## DELIVERING KNOWLEDGE AND EVIDENCE

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In 2016, UNV worked with the United Nations, government partners and the private sector to generate over 15 country and regional knowledge publications on volunteerism on issues ranging from the contribution of volunteers in the 2015 Nepal earthquake response to indicators on corporate volunteering in Brazil.

The [2015 State of the World's Volunteerism Report: Transforming Governance](#) generated evidence of the positive role and impact of volunteers in peace and development. The report continues to be disseminated widely, and full translations were made available in Mongolia and China in response to local demand.

In preparation for the 2018 State of the World's Volunteerism Report, a UNV global research project has begun to generate evidence on community resilience and volunteering across 15 countries.

UNV also organized a global conference in Bonn on 'Increasing Resilience of Communities through Volunteering' in partnership with GIZ and FORUM. The event was well attended by 138 delegates from international volunteer cooperation organizations and resulted in an outcomes report that documents learning and best practice from the sector.

## ADVANCING INNOVATION

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The SVF places a critical role in advancing UNV work on new partnerships for innovative volunteer solutions that maximize the contribution of volunteering to the SDGs.

- An '**Innovation Space**' workshop organized in February 2016 brought together a select group of strategic partners from the private sector, government and United Nations agencies, including UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNFCCC.
- UNV launched its new [\*\*online volunteering prototype platform\*\*](#), which offers innovative volunteer-based solutions to development challenges, as well as multiple functionalities for the private sector to engage their employees in volunteerism.
- In Bangladesh, UN Volunteers co-designed and prototyped [\*\*volunteer solutions engaging youth and the private sector\*\*](#) in UNDP initiatives. One pilot involved corporate volunteers from financial institutions providing people living in poverty with basic financial literacy training.

## THE WAY FORWARD

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The critical feature of the SVF is that it enables UNV to be more than just a provider of volunteers to the United Nations system. It helps to build larger partnerships around volunteerism by triggering additional partner resources and broader collaboration. Going forward, SVF will be one of the critical tools to enable the inclusion of volunteers in the achievement of the SDGs through the United Nations system.

UNV seeks to continue its engagement with the current partners contributing to the SVF. Moreover, UNV is actively seeking to increase the pool of partners contributing to SVF to reinforce the importance of volunteerism for peace and development and its critical role to ensure all actors contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.