Overview

Sustainable development requires that disaster risks are reduced and communities are better prepared for response and recovery. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme supports global efforts to reduce the impact of disasters by working at national and community level to support disaster prevention and risk reduction strategies.

The role of volunteerism in mobilizing and managing volunteers is an important component of any disaster risk management strategy that aims at fostering community recovery, strength and resilience in vulnerable areas. Governments around the world realize this and UN Volunteers actively support governments and local communities with disaster risk reduction and prevention efforts.

UNV supports countries that have an identified risk and high vulnerability to disaster to mitigate the effects of crisis and address its root causes. In the last five years, UNV has been involved in disaster response and risk reduction activities in a number of countries including Ecuador, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 explicitly recognizes the contribution of volunteerism to disaster risk management, particularly in strengthening the capacity of communities to respond to and prevent disasters. Volunteerism is also highlighted as a way of contributing to community resilience, community engagement and good governance for all stakeholders, particularly those most vulnerable to disasters.

“Volunteers have a critical role to play in creating awareness about the sustainable management of natural resources that can prevent and mitigate the impact of disasters. Likewise, communities with more trust, civic engagement and stronger networks have a better chance of recovering after a disaster.”

2011 State of the World’s Volunteerism Report
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

联合国志愿者确保减灾规划和活动涉及目标社区，因为当危机发生时，社区是第一个做出反应的。积极参与社区、国家和地方利益相关者在减灾、恢复和重建活动中的作用有助于在各级建立能力，提高意识，增强灾害准备，并解决社区的需求。

国家型联合国志愿者熟悉该地区的文化和语言，有助于赢得社区的信任，并因此促进更大的参与和志愿服务精神在社区中。

在厄瓜多尔、海地或巴基斯坦等容易发生自然灾害的国家，联合国志愿者参与旨在增强社区减灾能力的项目。

“在厄瓜多尔，沿海的人类聚居地、洪水、干旱、火山或安第斯地区的高地震脆弱性意味着频繁的人员伤亡和经济破坏。这，加上贫困和信息缺乏，使社区对灾害风险非常敏感。对组织和机构发展防止和减轻计划以加强社区减灾策略至关重要。”

Patricio Cajías，国家型联合国志愿者专家，2012年在厄瓜多尔帮助增强国家志愿者组织的减灾能力。

INCLUSION OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS

最脆弱的人群——妇女、儿童和边缘化群体——通常是灾害的最严重影响者。联合国志愿者工作识别脆弱群体的需求，并在灾害风险减灾活动和规划过程中将他们纳入。

联合国志愿者通过与当地的妇女委员会合作或建立当地的妇女组织来解决性别问题。这大大增加了妇女的参与，并确保妇女的需求在减灾规划中得到考虑。

国家型联合国志愿者以在灾害减灾规划中考虑妇女的需求。
Volunteers also help by providing training, for example, to women, youth and marginalized groups, empowering them to participate and reduce both personal and community risks.

The recovery and reconstruction efforts that UN Volunteers supported after the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 eventually evolved into disaster preparedness programmes in Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Indonesia. By the end of 2007, 238 UN Volunteers were mobilized in the region. Of these, 166 were national UN Volunteers, and almost 39% were women.

National and international volunteers contribute — through sound technical skills and a high level of motivation and commitment — to a positive collaboration among stakeholders, governments, UN agencies and NGOs.

Communities at risk, as well as national and local government authorities, are frontline partners in the development of disaster risk reduction initiatives in order to ensure the sustainability of the project. Likewise, it is essential to involve community-based organizations and local volunteer-involving organizations in prevention and mitigation plans. These organizations can play a key role in strengthening local capacities to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters.

In 2007 in Sri Lanka, UN Volunteers worked closely with communities and with the Disaster Risk Management Centres carrying out risk and vulnerability assessments, developing community disaster plans, organizing local task forces and technical training for communities. The efficient response of the Sri Lanka government to the 2008 landslides demonstrated the success of these UNV efforts and an enhanced national capacity in disaster risk reduction. While hundreds of thousands of people were displaced, the loss of life was kept to a minimum.

“The community leaders replicate these workshops in their communities, using support materials produced by the national UN Volunteers. A manual on construction techniques explains the potential risks to consider in deciding where and how to build a house, from earthquakes to droughts or landslides.”

UN Volunteer Anne Seppänen (Finland), Project Coordinator with UNDP in Peru in 2009.
BEYOND 2015

In March 2013, heads of UN agencies, funds and programmes agreed on an action plan that is set to accelerate the integration of disaster risk reduction strategies into all United Nations country level operations in response to rising levels of disruption to millions of lives each year from disasters. The United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience commits to bringing multiple partners together to support the further implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 in “build(ing) the resilience of nations and communities to disasters”.

UNV partners with all agencies in the UN system and adds volunteerism and volunteers to their operational strength. UNV will continue to provide national and international disaster risk reduction specialists and partner with UN Country Teams and Agencies to ensure volunteerism is built into their interventions under the post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action.

For more information about UNV, please visit www.unv.org

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers.

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