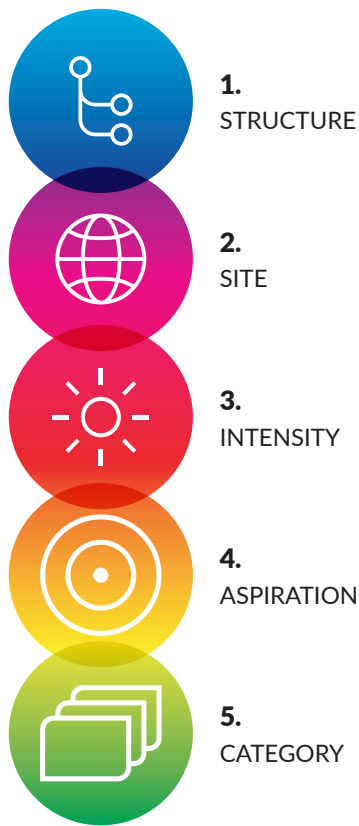


Volunteering practices in the 21st century

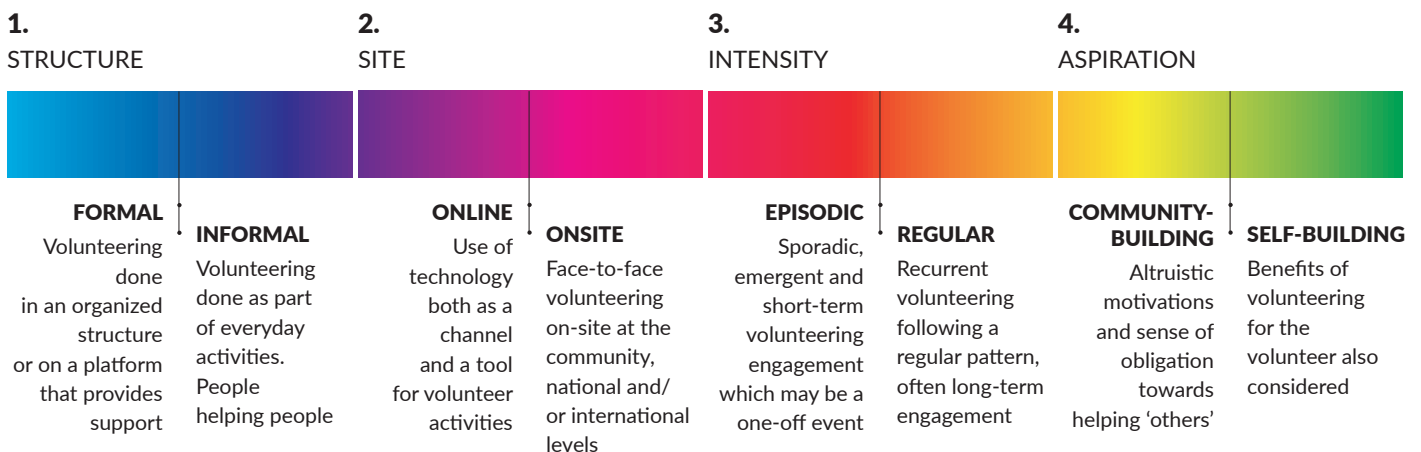
Everywhere, every day, people are volunteering to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While volunteering practices are diverse, dynamic and ever-changing, we have identified five key components common to most volunteering activities.

Five components

These components manifest in different configurations and intensity depending on how and why volunteer work is done



The components are not mutually exclusive but cover a spectrum



VOLUNTEERING IN THE 21ST CENTURY: WHAT HAS CHANGED?

In 1999, the United Nations looked at how people volunteer all over the world and came up with four categories: (i) mutual aid/self-help, (ii) philanthropy, (iii) advocacy/campaigning and (iv) participation. Since that typology's publication, rapid and widespread changes in the social, political, economic and technological landscapes across the globe have produced new issues for people to volunteer for, new tools for volunteers to use and new channels for people to volunteer through.

After two decades, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is updating these categories in light of the changes by expanding what they may look like as they are practiced in different contexts. UNV also added a fifth category – volunteering as leisure – to account for volunteer work done to express a person's interests and better recognize the benefit of volunteering to the individual volunteer.

VOLUNTEERING CATEGORIES IN 2020

Again, these categories are not mutually exclusive, one volunteering activity could have aspects of each type.



WHAT'S NEXT?

This framework aims to provide new ideas for practitioners, policymakers, researchers and volunteers to re-imagine volunteering for the 2030 Agenda. What configurations of volunteers are relevant to the changes you want to see in your community? How do these relate to different targets under the Sustainable Development Goals? And how can we integrate volunteering in all its different forms into the Decade of Action as a force for change? The United Nations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will be discussing these issues and more at the Global Technical Meeting on 'Reimagining Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda' at the High-level Political Forum on the SDGs in July 2020.



for more information visit
www.volunteerSDGs.org