



Volunteerism is key to social, economic and environmental transformation

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has a long history of integrating volunteering into global and national strategies, policies and plans for peace and development. Recognizing the important role of volunteering for peace and development, the post-2015 agenda offers a historic opportunity for UNV to advocate for volunteerism and the values it stands for, as an inherent component of any future global development framework. **To achieve sustainable economic, social, and environmental progress, volunteering and civic participation provide a cross-cutting value added in all programming, regardless of the thematic focus.** Volunteerism forms the backbone of national and international civil society organisations as well as many social and political movements. It is a powerful force in the public sector and is increasingly a feature of the private sector. UNV supports meaningful consultations on the new global framework and calls on Governments and UN entities to enable civil society to substantively engage the formulation and implementation of the next generation of internationally agreed development goals.

Therefore:

1. **Volunteerism is universal and strengthens civic engagement, social inclusion, solidarity and ownership.**
2. **Volunteerism should be part of a new measuring framework that goes beyond GDP and demonstrates progress in human well-being and sustainable human development.**

What we do

UNV aims at increased recognition and integration of volunteerism and related concepts in national and global post 2015 policies and discussions in a number of ways:

- a) engaging **with key constituencies, mechanisms and institutions** related to the development of the new framework including the sustainable development goals and **support national level discussions** and events related to the new framework, including the UNDG-led national consultations in 50 to 100 countries;
- b) **strengthening national level capacities** to support consultations, outreach, stakeholder engagement and collection of good practices;
- c) **developing thematic inputs and position papers;**
- d) **developing communication tools** to support all of the above.

National and international UN Volunteers have been **supporting the national consultations and will contribute to the outreach and continued stakeholder engagement** to formal and non-formal civil society groups. They will continue to bring closer grass-roots and local initiatives to national level fora after the consultations in the lead up to the inter-governmental negotiations after the September 2013 High Level Event at the General Assembly. Various national level events and workshops are conducted with stakeholders at national level in order to **leverage stakeholders' voices, share good practices and strengthen capacity** to relate to the new framework at national level.

Dedicated UN post-2015 Volunteers are based in the following countries: **Algeria, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Viet Nam, Zambia.**





Rio+20, MDGs and post-2015 agenda

The **2010 MDG Summit** and its related documents, captured through resolution A/RES/65/1, committed to include a broader civil society stakeholder constituency including: “...*non-governmental organizations, voluntary associations and foundations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels, to enhance their role in national development efforts as well as their contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.*”.

The tenth anniversary of the **International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) in 2011** was an opportunity for UNV to convene a wide range of international and national stakeholders and UN partners, governments, civil society, the private sector and academia around issues pertaining to volunteering and civic participation, formulating recommendations for its further integration into policies and legislation.

The **State of the World’s Volunteerism Report (SWVR)** demonstrated the universality, scope and reach of volunteerism along with new trends in the twenty-first century. It has underlined the diversity, and universality of volunteer actions ranging from social activism to basic service delivery.

General Assembly Resolution A/Res/66/67 adopted on December 5th 2011 requested the UN Secretary General to further integrate volunteering in peace and development over the coming decade.

In the lead up to the **2012 Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development**, UNV launched the website “**Volunteer Action Counts**” capturing volunteer actions from around the globe. The UN Secretary General explicitly underlined “*the 64 million individual actions captured by the initiative spearheaded by the United Nations Volunteers.*”

The **Rio+20 Conference** has also provided the opportunity to develop a more holistic global thinking on sustainable development, integrating the notions of social development, environmental protection and economic growth, moving beyond GDP and including social and environmental indicators. The [Rio+20 Outcome document](#), through its paragraph 43, also underscored that sustainable development requires the “*meaningful involvement and active participation of Major Groups ... as well as other stakeholders including... volunteer groups*” .

General Assembly Resolution A/Res/67/138 “*Integrating volunteering in the next decade*” adopted on December 20th 2012, furthermore welcomed “*the creation of momentum in developing common platforms to increase support for volunteerism*” and called upon the integration of volunteering in all relevant issues of the United Nations. It also requested the Secretary General to “*report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, on the plan of action to be developed by UNV to integrate volunteering in peace and development in the next decade and beyond*”. Acting on this resolution will take UNV into a new phase.

Who we are

The United Nations Volunteer programme (UNV) contributes to peace and development by advocating for recognition of volunteers, working with partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing an increasing number and diversity of volunteers, 7000 to 8000 per year, throughout the world. UNV is active in more than 130 countries every year and represented in 90 countries through the offices of UNDP. In addition, UNV manages an online volunteer service, which interacts with about 300,000 registered users.

