

## Who we are

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development by advocating for recognition of volunteers, the integration of volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing an increasing number and diversity of volunteers, 7 000 to 8 000 per year on the field, and around 300 000 online volunteers. UNV is active in more than 130 countries every year and is represented in around 90 countries through the offices of UNDP.

## Integrating Volunteerism

The 2010 MDG Summit captured through resolution A/RES/65/1, commits governments 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 contribution to achieve the MDGs 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, 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 and new trends, and has underlined the diversity of volunteerism, ranging from social activism to basic service delivery.

In the lead up to the 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 an opportunity to develop a more holistic global thinking, 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, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

## Connecting the dots

**People and communities are the levers of social, economic, and environmental transformation. UNV believes:**

- People and communities should be key drivers at the start, the end, and throughout any new sustainable development framework.
- Well-being indicators, including voluntary civic participation, will ensure more holistic measures of global progress by the post-2015 framework.
- Voluntary action and civic engagement are key people-centred development resources in achieving sustainable economic, social, and environmental progress.

Volunteerism strengthens the intangible assets of any society as it opens spaces for engagement, deepens the individual and collective sense of responsibility, and empowers people to act for the development of their livelihoods and communities.



32 national and international UN Volunteers support national post-2015 consultations and outreach across the globe.

## UNV and the post-2015 agenda

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,
- b) Strengthening national level capacities to support consultations, outreach, stakeholder engagement and collection of good practices;
- c) Developing thematic inputs, position papers and communication tools to support all of the above.

The volunteers are supporting the national consultations and will contribute to the outreach and continued stakeholder engagement to formal and informal civil society groups. They will bring grassroots and local initiatives closer to national level fora after the consultations in the lead up to the inter-governmental negotiations during and after the 2013 MDG Summit.

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**Volunteer Action Counts  
in post-2015**