

United Nations Volunteers Partnerships Forum (UNV)

Topic: Systematic Volunteerism in Peace and Development

Interventions

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CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| WELCOME LETTER | 3 |
| ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS | 4 |
| INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE | 6 |
| TOPIC: SYSTEMATIC VOLUNTEERISM IN PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS..... | 8 |
| 2.1 Current Situation of International Volunteerism | 8 |
| 2.1.1 Overall situation | 8 |
| 2.1.2 Programs..... | 10 |
| 2.1.3 Online Volunteer Service | 13 |
| 2.1.4 Obstacles | 18 |
| 2.2 Partnership | 20 |
| 2.2.1 Working with UN entities | 21 |
| 2.2.3 Working with nations | 24 |
| 2.2.3 Working with other key partners for volunteerism | 28 |
| 2.3 Recruitment Mechanism..... | 29 |
| UNV POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA | 31 |
| CASE STUDY 1: INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER HQ | 35 |
| CASE STUDY 2: ARAB YOUTH VOLUNTEERING FOR A BETTER FUTURE | 39 |
| CASE STUDY 3: VOLUNTEERISM IN KENYA | 43 |
| REFERENCES | 46 |



WELCOME LETTER

Dear delegates,

Welcome to United Nations Volunteers 2016. We feel honored to be your Dais, and we are sincerely anticipating your outstanding performances during the sessions.

This is the Director of this committee, Han Mingyue, a senior from Institute of Medical Humanities. I feel much honored to make acquaintance with you lively youths, who have giant passion in MUN and own admirable skills in negotiation. Diplomacy is a complicated activity that requires both principle and flexibility. Hope all of you learn how to cooperate with others and fully enjoy yourself here.

This is the assistant director of this committee, Long Jingmiao, a junior from Institute for Medical Humanities. I feel much honored to make acquaintance with you lively youths, who have giant passion for MUN and own admirable skills in negotiation. This is also the second time I have participated in PKUNMUN. PKUNMUN is a precious opportunity to develop our diplomatic skills, so I hope all of you will enjoy the sessions here.

This is the assistant director Luo Mengjin. Freshman of PKUNMUN as I am, I fully believe that MUN, just like what this abbreviation conveys when called in Chinese, will prove to be a meaningful beginning of your dream. Likewise, international volunteerism, our topic this time, is also a challenging and long-term dream of the world. Summon your passion, devote yourself to frame the world dream, and trust me, your own dream will be brought to a higher level after this precious and fantastic MUN committee!

The committee this year primarily concerns issues on systematic volunteerism in peace and development interventions, which will be a little challenging as it covers many aspects. Hope you will understand this issue better after reading this background guide. Some useful literatures are listed at the end of this guide in bibliography. When you act as a representative of your country, do take into account of what the situation of systematic volunteerism is like in your country, especially, what kind of aspects hold your interest and in need of improvement. As a representative of other institutes, it's recommended to study the mission and target of your institute. The observer's role is of vital importance in the sessions. You are encouraged to prepare for your standing points and focusing area and show them clearly during the sessions.

We understand that the upcoming days would be a tough period of time for you in terms of preparing for the conference. If you encounter any questions or problems, do not hesitate to consult any of us. Hope you can enjoy your preparation and we are looking forward to meeting you in PKU.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|----------|--|
| AEC | African Economic Community |
| APPER | Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery |
| AUYVC | African Union Youth Volunteer Corps |
| AU | African Union |
| AVI | Australian Volunteers International |
| AVS | Agency for Volunteer Services |
| BBCP | Bpeace Business Council for Peace |
| CITS | Centre for Information Technology Service |
| CSOs | Civil Society Organizations |
| DESA | Department Of Economic And Social Affairs |
| FDFA | Federal Department of Foreign Affairs |
| GIZ | Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit |
| HDSS | Hazardous Duty Station Supplement |
| IMTC | the Integrated Mission Training Centre |
| IP | intellectual property |
| ITU | International Telecommunication Union |
| JICA's | Japan International Cooperation Agency's |
| JOCV | Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers |
| LPA | Lagos Plan of Action |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goals |
| MINUSTAH | Mission Training Centre of The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti |
| MS | Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke - ActionAid Denmark |
| NEPAD | The New Partnership for Africa's Development |
| NVS | Neighborhood Volunteer Scheme |
| OAU | the Organization of African Unity |
| RECs | Regional Economic Communities |
| SDC | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |

UN The United Nations

UNV United Nations Volunteers

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNDPKO United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNLCP United Nations Language and Communications Programme

UNSC United Nations Security Council

VSA Volunteer Service Abroad

VSO Volunteer Service Organization

WHO World Health Organization



INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide¹.

Volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people in tackling development challenges, and it can transform the pace and nature of development. Volunteerism benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer by strengthening trust, solidarity and reciprocity among citizens, and by purposefully creating opportunities for participation.

Therefore, volunteerism fosters secure and stable environments conducive to the peaceful resolution of conflict. 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, including experienced UN Volunteers, throughout the world. UNV embraces volunteerism as universal and inclusive, and recognizes volunteerism in its diversity as well as the values that sustain it: free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity. UNV strengthens the capacities of national partners, enabling local ownership of peace and development processes and encouraging recognition of volunteers and their cohesive engagement for peacebuilding.

To reach those goals, it requires not only UNV's effort, but also the cooperation and devotion from all relating governments, organizations and individuals. Better and stronger partnerships will be crucial for the delivery of the new global development goals. Therefore, outstanding working relationships are an imperative.² Now is the time to integrate a more explicit recognition of volunteerism, as an expression of public participation and civic engagement, in the discussions about the post-2015 agenda. To respond to that urgent need, UNV demonstrated its commitment to partner engagement by gathering all partners in the United Nations Volunteers Partnerships Forum – the first of its kind.

The main aim of the Partnerships Forum is to strengthen existing partnerships and to build new ones. Partnerships around volunteerism have a key role to play in the post-2015 era, and to foster them, a discussion among different agents is the basis.

That's the reason for more than 100 partners gathering to the first United Nations Volunteers Partnerships Forum on 30 September and 1 October 2014. Convened at the World Conference Centre Bonn, this Forum brings together partners of UN Member States, UN entities, regional organizations, volunteer-involving organizations as well as civil society stakeholders, the private sector and UN Volunteers from around the world. The huge differences among participants provided opportunity for new and innovative partnerships to take place.

¹ "About us" [online] Available: <http://www.unv.org/en/about-us.html>

² "Gina Cesar: Closing Remarks at the United Nations Volunteers Partnerships Forum 2014: Innovation in Volunteer Action" [online] Available: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2014/10/01/gina-cesar-closing-remarks-at-the-united-nations-volunteers-partnerships-forum-2014-innovation-in-volunteer-action-.html>



To equally recognize the importance and listen to opinions of different partners, in this forum, the focus is on the exchanging of prospective and cooperation to initiate innovations. Different participants, regardless of their identity as government or civil society organizations, will share similar rights and responsibilities in the forum.

To make a lasting impact and create the future that all people want, UNV cannot work alone. Through this forum, UNV works with all different kinds of partners and through partnerships at international, national and community level.





TOPIC: SYSTEMATIC VOLUNTEERISM IN PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS

The concept of volunteerism for development centers on optimizing volunteerism's impact on peace and development. Achieving this requires the cooperation and commitment of the public sector, civil society and the private sector with support from the United Nations system and the world community. Individual citizens also have an important role to play through volunteering.

The current conference goal of UNV is to figure out the aspects of volunteerism that need improvement, including volunteer recruitment and training system, cooperation between local governments and international institutions, cooperation between local volunteerism and international volunteerism, and also raising credit of UNV in order to appeal to more initiatives and technical support. UNV aims to build up a more systematic volunteering service framework considering all these aspects together and needs more help in the field of management.

2.1 Current Situation of International Volunteerism

2.1.1 Overall situation

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and 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 volunteer. The UNV programme advocates for environments in which volunteerism can flourish and people have the ability and the right to participate in the development process. We promote the integration of volunteering into the objectives and activities of partners such as governments and development organizations, and we do so to facilitate national ownership of development processes. UNV also mobilizes, and supports others to mobilize, large numbers of people to volunteer in pursuit of human development.

● Establishment and Development

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has long recognized that young people are a powerful force in advancing global peace and development, and it has been engaging them in its projects and programmes since it started in 1970. Over the course of its forty-year history UNV has undertaken technical cooperation activities with governments, civil society and regional entities, advocated for youth volunteerism, and mobilized young volunteers themselves.

While UNV and its partners have made great strides to advance youth volunteering for peace and

development over its forty-year history, a rapidly growing population of young people worldwide and an evolution in the challenges and opportunities that they face have warranted a renewed emphasis on youth by UNV. Added to this, although UNV has historically focused on youth issues at project and youth volunteer mobilization levels, its work has not been driven by a systematic, programme-level approach to youth engagement.

As such, when the Secretary-General of the United Nations called for the “creation of a UN youth volunteers programme under the umbrella of UN Volunteers” in his 2012 Five-Year Action Agenda, UNV interpreted this in the broadest sense, pledging to develop a comprehensive, organization-wide approach to youth engagement. It undertook a thorough consultation with key stakeholders including UN entities, civil society organizations, volunteer-involving organizations, youth experts, and young people, as well as a review of its mobilization of youth volunteers. This was done in order to better understand the realities of young people in the twenty-first century and to analyze best practices and trends with regards to youth volunteerism worldwide. As a result, the UNV Youth Volunteering Strategy 2014-2017 was developed.

- **Work in members**

According to the Annual Report in 2014, currently UNV has deployed 6,325 UN Volunteers in support of the development and peace interventions of UN and other partners. These UN Volunteers came from 155 countries and in 121 countries of assignment. 81 per cent were from countries of the South. Among all the volunteers, 41 per cent of them are female. Some 1,190 were below 29 years of age, and 249 were deployed under the new youth volunteer modality.

UNV is now serving with 38 UN entity partners with 2639 UN volunteers serving with UNDPKO/UNDPA/UNMEER, 1917 served with UNDP, and 913 with UNHCR.

For UNV, 2014 marks the first year of a new Strategic Framework, which spans the years from 2014 to 2017. The Strategic Framework 2014-2017 directs UNV efforts and programme resources into five priority areas:

- Securing access to basic social services
- Community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction
- Peacebuilding
- Youth
- National capacity development through volunteer schemes.

UNV also focuses on building a credible body of knowledge and enhancing innovation.

- **International Volunteering Benefits and Management**

UNV is sharpening its focus on adapting to the changing needs of its UN partners, while providing safe and adequate support to UN Volunteers who dedicate their skills to further peace and



development globally. In this context, UNV has instituted a new set of Conditions of Service which benefits international UN Volunteers and UN partners.

UN volunteers will benefit in the field of:

- Consolidated volunteer living allowance creating a fairer standard of living across duty stations globally
- Increased pre-departure and resettlement allowances
- Home leave point system to allow greater flexibility to volunteers
- Extended post-service medical insurance
- New “Well-Being” allowance for UN Volunteers in hardship duty stations
- Phase out Hazardous Duty Station Supplement (HDSS) as an entitlement to align UNV value proposition with the spirit of volunteerism
- Paternity leave offered
- Learning and career support products

UN partners will benefit in:

- Clearer structure of benefits and entitlements
- More efficient and effective provision of volunteer management support and care
- Enhanced well-being for volunteers in hardship situations
- Attraction of stronger talent
- A wider set of modalities and initiatives to respond more flexibly to missions’ capacities requirements

Core reforms of volunteer management include:

- Phase out Hazardous Duty Station Supplement (HDSS) and introduce “Well-Being” Differential based on ICSC hazard classification to assist with R&R related expenses in addition to ameliorate the burdens associated with hardship locations.
- Phase out cash monetization of travel, improving cost efficiency and alleviating administrative burden.
- Discontinue commuting excess annual leave to cash to improve cost efficiency and incentivize use of annual leave to reduce stress and improve volunteer well-being.
- Establish one global base rate living allowance for all UN Volunteers globally aligned and adjusted with ICSC Post-Adjustment Multiplier to ensure greater fairness across assignments.

2.1.2 Programs

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that supports sustainable

human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism, including the mobilization of volunteers. It serves the causes of peace and development by enhancing opportunities for participation by all peoples. It is universal, inclusive and embraces volunteer action in all its diversity. It values free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity, which are the foundations of volunteerism.

UNV delivers peace and development results through volunteerism. To this end, UNV partners with civil society, UN entities, governments and private sectors to advocate for volunteerism, integrate volunteerism into development planning and mobilize volunteers. The enormous potential of volunteerism is an inspiration to UNV and to volunteers around the world.

UNV is inspired by the conviction that everyone can contribute their time, energy and skills to transform their world. According to the Johns Hopkins University Center for Civil Society Studies, the voluntary sector contributes US \$400 billion to the global economy every year. Volunteerism is both a manifestation and driver of social capital and civic participation, involving people in the decisions that affect their lives.

- **Aims and approaches**

The overall aim of the programme is to facilitate the engagement of youth in global peace and sustainable human development through volunteerism, bringing the voice of youth into the development discourse and helping young people to realize their full social, economic and human potential.

To achieve this, the programme is working towards three outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Increased recognition of the contribution of youth to global peace and sustainable human development through volunteerism, and inclusion of youth voices in the development discourse.

UNV is working with partners to achieve better recognition of the value of youth volunteering in global peace and sustainable human development activities and programmes, including the promotion of the value of youth volunteering in general and of UN Youth Volunteers in particular. UNV is also supporting the inclusion of young people in global peace and sustainable human development discourses.

By working with partners on evidence-based advocacy, the contribution of youth volunteering to global peace and sustainable human development can be better understood by policymakers, practitioners, and the public alike. In turn, this will help to drive policies which increasingly integrate youth volunteerism.

- Outcome 2: Improved capacity of stakeholders to support an enabling environment for regional,



national and community youth volunteering for global peace and sustainable human development.

UNV can help bridge effective partnerships between governments, youth-led and volunteering organizations and UN entities, which will lead to greater spaces for youth engagement in global peace and sustainable human development at every level. The effective inclusion of youth volunteering in policy and development programmes at the regional, national and community level creates an enabling environment for youth volunteering initiatives.

UNV is supporting the capacity development of governments, youth-led and volunteering organizations, universities, civil society, UN entities, and the private sector to implement and scale-up formal and non-formal learning opportunities, define norms, create spaces and partnerships for youth engagement, establish youth volunteer schemes, formulate appropriate youth volunteering policies and manage youth volunteers in a safe and responsible manner.

- Outcome 3: Increased and diversified opportunities for young people to contribute to global peace and sustainable human development work, especially of the United Nations, through a United Nations Youth Volunteer modality.

UNV is engaging youth between the ages of 18 and 29 as UN Youth Volunteers to enable them to contribute to global peace and sustainable human development, and also enhance their own skills, expertise and civic engagement capacities under a UN Youth Volunteer modality.

● Focus

To embed volunteerism into peace and development activities, UNV has five main focuses in its programme implementation. First is to deliver basic services. Strengthening the delivery of basic services advances progress towards the achievement of the MDGs, and volunteer efforts increase the efficiency and outreach, as well as ownership and sustainability, of government and civil society programmes. The emphasis UNV places on primary health care and HIV/AIDS is critical, as four of the eight MDGs focus on health. Non-formal education, such as literacy and vocational training, has been identified as one of the best tools for poverty alleviation. UNV will also enhance local governance to promote inclusive participation and engagement of communities in planning, implementing and monitoring local development initiatives.

Second is to achieve sustainable environment and to address climate change. Historically, the environment movement has been driven and motivated by individual volunteers and volunteer-involving organizations, and this continues to this day, with the added urgency to address climate change. UNV will continue to contribute to local climate change mitigation efforts. We believe a focus on climate change adaptation through people-centered approaches is critical to improve food security.

The third focus is to continue its efforts on crisis prevention and recovery. Conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery activities aim to build trust, social cohesion, social co-existence and mutual support. This social capital is essential for reconciliation and consolidating peace, and embodies the



ideals at the core of volunteerism. UNV will continue to focus its efforts on community-based, conflict sensitive development initiatives and local capacity development for peace building and conflict management. The Hyogo Framework for Action explicitly recognized the added value and contribution of volunteerism to disaster risk management, particularly by bolstering the capacity of communities to respond to and prevent disasters.

Forth, is **offering humanitarian assistance**. In recent years, nearly 20 per cent of UN Volunteer assignments, or well over 1500 assignments per annum, have supported the programmes of UN partners in the emergency and humanitarian assistance spectrum. UN Volunteers will continue to support emergency relief efforts, such as information gathering, coordination, protection, shelter, food, health, water, sanitation and logistics. In protracted situations, they will offer ongoing support for camp management, reintegration, human rights monitoring and livelihoods.

Last but not least, **UNV's support**. UNV collaborates with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UN Department of Political Affairs, and UN Volunteers provide both substantive and technical support to UN peace keeping and peace building missions. UN Volunteers are keys to social cohesion, community confidence, local capacity-building and a “light footprint” approach to peace building. They contribute their expertise in civil affairs, human rights, gender and child protection, for example. UNV will continue to play a key role in post-conflict electoral exercises through the mobilization of substantive and technical UN Volunteer expertise.

The UNV' programmatic and operational efforts outlined above are underpinned by the three crosscutting themes: youth, gender and marginalized groups, also defined as the ‘social inclusion pillars’ that sustain our programme approach. Recognizing the enormous potential of young people to contribute positively to their societies, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, in his Five-Year Action Agenda, announced a specific measure to “create a UN youth volunteers programme under the umbrella of UN Volunteers.” In response, UNV will establish a new UN youth volunteer modality, further engage in global advocacy and partnerships for youth volunteerism, and strengthen the capacity of nationally and regionally owned youth volunteer schemes. Often among those most affected by poverty, conflict or disaster, women are the driving force behind peace and development efforts in many communities, particularly those engulfed in or emerging from conflict. UNV recognizes that women's rights are human rights, and a major aspect of the broader gender equity agenda. Therefore, UNV will engage in further research on gender and volunteerism, and gender mainstreaming will remain a priority for all aspects of UNV programming. In collaboration with global partners, UNV will continue to advocate for volunteerism and document the contribution of volunteers to peace and development. Specifically, UNV will build on the momentum created during the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers in 2011, as well as the first-ever State of the World's Volunteerism Report, to advocate that volunteerism, and the values that sustain it, are at the core of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

2.1.3 Online Volunteer Service

The common images of volunteers that usually spring up are those who are making physical efforts in the community, building a house, curing the injured or telling story to an orphaned baby. Nonetheless, on account of the limitations still bounded with traditional forms of volunteering in finance, time,



transportation, security and other aspects, Online Volunteering service has become an essential part of international volunteering by degrees. It still constitutes a recent-born conception compared to the traditional forms of volunteering, though.

● Origin and Development

The first batch of volunteering activities over the Internet dated from late 1990s, with the subsequent steps of the first relatively mature and influential non-profit organization in this area, the NetAid, started in October, 9th, 1999, as a joint venture hosted by the UNDP and Cisco Systems, the foremost network solutions provider in the world. The organization began with two concerts with simultaneous activities designed to appeal to the Internet for raising money and awareness for the Jubilee 2000 campaign.

In 2000, following the successful concerts, NetAid launched an online volunteering matching service on its website in partnership with UNV. The website provided a forward position for NGOs and UN-affiliated projects serving the developing world to recruit and involve online volunteers. Through NetAid, participants could donate money for teen mentoring or training, materials for activities, etc. They could also choose to become online volunteers who provide mostly educational and psychological advice and guidance to the youth living in the regions where the organizations run their projects. The website achieved success in a short time and by October, 2000, the Online Volunteering service provided through NetAid.org from 140 organizations had attracted to 2,000 applicants.³

On January 26, 2004, UNV took over the service programme entirely and began to further develop the service and regard it as a regular component rich in potential. After the transfer, UNV started its long-term positive operation mainly aiming the contribution to MDGs. Thus the mainstream orientation of Online Volunteering service has been settled. Until the fifth birthday of Online Volunteering service, more than 30,000 people had joined the Online Volunteer service since its inception while the number of engaged organizations rose up to 600.⁴

● Current Situation and Mechanism

At present, the main mission of Online Volunteering Service of UNV has been confirmed as connecting volunteers with organizations working for sustainable peace and development. By seizing the opportunities provided, more and more volunteers contribute their skills and knowledge over the Internet to help organizations address practical challenges. In 2012, UN Online Volunteers recruited 11,037 participants who contributed through 16,196 online assignments in various areas.⁵

³ "Online volunteering makes gains for developing countries" [online] Available:

<http://www.unv.org/en/what-we-do/thematic-areas/online-volunteering/doc/online-volunteering-makes-gains.html>

⁴ "Connected' development: Five years of Online Volunteering" [online] Available:

<http://www.unv.org/en/what-we-do/thematic-areas/online-volunteering/doc/connected-development-five-years.html> (2005.1.26)

⁵ "Un Strategic Framework: 2014-2017" [online] Available: <http://www.unv.org/en/about-us/strategy.html>

Apart from UN Online Volunteering service, other NGOs have launched similar service projects over the years, which seems to have considerable progress in this initiative as well. VolunteerMatch.org, the leading organization in online volunteering matching program, has about 5,000 online volunteering opportunities available at any given time, while another famous organization, Idealist.org, has more than 1,400.⁶

However, considering that volunteering online still remains unfamiliar to the applicants, many organizations involved might not exactly mention the words "online volunteer," on their websites or in organizational literature. For instance, the non-profit organization Business Council for Peace (Bpeace) recruits business professionals and asks them to donate their time mentoring entrepreneurs in conflict-affected countries, including Afghanistan and Rwanda, but the majority of these volunteers interact with Bpeace staff and the oriented entrepreneurs only online rather than face-to-face.

After 15 years of experience and improvement, Online Volunteering Service has formed an efficient and convenient working mechanism. Taking UN Online Volunteering service as an example, the whole system operates in 7 steps with brevity and clarity:

- (1) Organizations that comply with the eligibility criteria submit their online volunteering opportunities.
- (2) UNV publishes them if they are in line with the opportunity criteria.
- (3) Applicants search for opportunities that match their profile and interests, and submit their applications to the organization that posted the opportunity through the website.
- (4) The organization selects the applicants with whom they would like to collaborate.
- (5) If the application is successful, the applicants will collaborate with the organization over the Internet.
- (6) The participants submit feedback upon completion of the assignment.
- (7) The organization issues the participants a certificate of appreciation.

This mechanism has set explicit access standards for both the volunteers and organizations, whereas they are also both given wide options based on the unique popularity and networks of UN Online Volunteering service. As has happened in other areas, various options over the Internet have improved the efficiency and accuracy of the choices of both the organizations and the applicants to a great extent.

Although there are several other rapidly-thriving matching organizations followed this way and have created satisfactory accomplishment, Online Volunteering service are still only regarded as a subsidiary part of the Online Volunteering Matching service for this organizations. As for the newly born organizations, the credibility and the popularity which constitute necessary in this mechanism are still hard to possess. Thus, with poor resources of networks as well, these organizations tend to struggle in the online area and even go backwards to the micro organizations such as a club existing in a community or university.

● Advantage and Challenge

6 Patrick Sullivan "Online Volunteers: Don't Ever Call Them Virtual" [online] Available: <http://www.thenonproffitimes.com/news-articles/online-volunteers-dont-ever-call-virtual/> (2015.3.3)



Differed from volunteer teams appearing in the local community, online volunteers are professionals, students, homemakers, retirees, people with disabilities and expatriates from across the globe who support the organizations over the Internet. This group of participants is composed of a much more diversified crowd than the usual volunteer teams. What they have in common is a strong commitment to making a real difference to developing communities and countries, then proceeding to, the globe. It is worth mentioning that the proportion of female participants in Online Volunteering service exceed that of male participants, with a difference by 20%, whereas that of females in the traditional forms of volunteering assignments only occupies 41% of the total.⁷

The tremendous attraction to such a varied bunch stems from a wide range of advantages of Online Volunteering service. Due to its simple basic requirement of only computer and Internet and the comfortable working condition, people who can hardly get free from their busy schedule, financial shortage or family obligations are now able to virtually reach far around the world, in addition, taking advantage of the intrinsic function as a gateway establishing contacts and relationships in a multicultural environment and expanding one's networks for someday they might be able to volunteer abroad.

The all-around flexibility also brings about great advance in the quality and effectiveness of technical aid, expertise assistance and other intellectual areas, for the work is enabled to be applied through the Internet with suitable actors selected from a wide range of online participants rather than only in the worksite with the usual volunteer teams. Among the annual Online Volunteering Award presented by UN Online Volunteering service, most projects proved to be successful are related to translating, consulting, system-designing, artistic creating and IT assistance and particularly, teaching and mentoring, due to the severe absence of education and scientific and technological knowledge in the developing world. In these projects, the experts, entrepreneurs and the intelligent students make an active and precious addition to the regular staff of the local organizations. Apart from the local organizations, help recipients also include the local branches of the large international organizations including Red-Cross, Professional Education Organization International and UN department such as UNESCO, UNDP, WHO, UNDESA and UNHCR as well. While mainly making contribution to the MDG1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and MDG2 (Achieve universal primary education), which directly enhance the quality of life of local population, a number of the projects also add brilliance and intelligence to the operation of the local organizations and strengthen their capacity of devoting to peace and development as well, especially in the developing world, which, furthermore, reflects the implementation of MDG8 (Develop a global partnership for development).

Despite the fact that the greatest achievement of Online Volunteering service defined by UNV is concerning the word "connection" (It has connected the NGOs working in the South with the a wider range of potential volunteers and vice versa), as that pointed out by the managers of Idealist and other organizations, one of the biggest challenges for an online service project is the loss of connection and relationships. Participants who do not work face-to-face feel less connected to their managers and the organizations, thus resulting in the thin sense of goodwill and camaraderie. Having noticed this hidden problem, UN Online Volunteering service tends to make volunteers team up and work together in recent years. Nevertheless, for other organizations with fewer applicants, this problem undoubtedly

⁷ "UNV Annual Report 2014" page 28

makes the continuous operation more difficult. In accordance with the philosophy “If they feel connected, they tend to stay longer”, managers of online volunteers must work particularly hard to establish and strengthen that connection. In this regard, an international organization named iCouldBe puts forth a variety of efforts to keep their volunteer mentors engaged and coming back, such as monthly communications, training, private administrator areas on the platform where the mentors can get support, and regular “thank you” s.

In developing countries such as China and India, where fundamental conditions have been equipped and focus of international volunteering have been withdrawn, organizations, whether governmental or non-governmental, that provide Online Volunteering service are faced with unique challenges. The identification of online volunteers in these countries has not been widely acknowledged by the authority, let alone been ensured and supported. Therefore, the lack of credibility and suspicion of the civilians blocks their way of further development in popularity and modality of assistance. The huge blank of interactions and collaborations among international organizations, local organizations and local governments in Online Volunteering service is still waiting to be filled.

- **Foreground**

With increasing concern and promotion in Online Volunteering service, volunteering online is likely to continue its rapid growth in popularity, particularly with the younger generation, whose lives are already networked and constitutes 61% of UN Online Volunteers at present.⁸ Since the college students and high school students have quickly embraced this technology altruism, it can be supposed that Online Volunteering service will attract more fresh participants with the course of time.

UN online volunteers will still be the flagship in this area, with its greatest appeal reflected on the pool of 300,000 potential online volunteers and organizations. In the 2014-2017 Strategic Framework of UNV, doubling the number of UN online volunteers has been determined as one of the foremost goals. UNV will persist with the expansion of the global reach of the UN Online Volunteering service and explore innovative methods to ensure the broadest possible participation of all members of society. To harness this largely untapped and vast resource for peace and development, UNV will further pilot, and where possible scale up, diverse forms of online and mobile volunteering.

Partnerships with other organizations are also a fundamental factor of the further development of Online Volunteering services. At the moment, UN entities still play the leading roles of the cooperative organizations with Online Volunteering service, with 26 of them served and supported by 3,547 online volunteers.⁹ Accompanied with the participation of more energetic emerging force, new operational partnerships with other organizations that are operating over the Internet can be accomplished, which will eventually give the greatest impetus to the development of Online Volunteering service.

⁸ “UNV Annual Report 2014” page 28

⁹ “UNV Annual Report 2014” page 28



2.1.4 Obstacles

The post-2015 Volunteering Working Group aims to support a more systematic integration of volunteerism as an enabling factor for the implementation of the sustainable development goals, including through related indicators to measure the achievements of some of the goals. It also aims to scale up efforts to make the impact of volunteering more visible in the post-2015 process.

Many bold questions about development and the practice of governance are being raised in different development forums. With the end of the MDGs, the world is reflecting on successes and failures and is on the cusp of finalizing a new global development framework – the Sustainable Development Goals. While there have been many successes, flaws in the MDGs are now openly acknowledged: they include the challenges of good governance and accountability and the lack of fuller engagement of people in the development process.

Governments need to take concrete steps to help the world's volunteers actively contribute to the decisions that affect people's lives. Governments are called on to:

- Engage more volunteers in the process of crafting policies and putting them into action
- Integrate volunteers formally into national development frameworks and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) strategies
- Enact laws and policies to provide the necessary 'enabling environment' for volunteers to operate
- Engage more volunteer women, youth, and marginalized groups in local and national decision making

The report also calls on private sector and civil society leaders to do more to incorporate the contributions of volunteers, especially those from under-represented groups.

● Collaborations

Collaboration, alliances and building multi stakeholder partnerships are essential for volunteerism to succeed.

Collaboration between governments and civil society has led to successful adoption of laws and structures, as in Honduras, where the government partnered with volunteer networks to ensure the participation of volunteers in consultations on the law, or in Peru, where the government is working with volunteer networks across the country to involve as many people as possible, or in Togo, where the government works closely with youth networks to ensure that the voices of young women and men are part of the process. Enabling closer interaction between governments and CSOs can create channels for volunteer engagement to enhance the capacity of governments to implement policy.

Civil society has also sought to build alliances with government, the private sector and other actors, engaging volunteers for a common cause. In Bangladesh, in the case of Naripokkho, a key success factor to the scaling up needed to achieve national impact depended on alliances and partnerships, as well as on working with the media. The collaboration of government and state institutions created trust and respect, and the way Naripokkho worked with the media ultimately brought visibility to domestic

violence and led to a change in legislation for women experiencing it. This can also be seen in the nationality laws in the Arab region, where finding key allies in governments, parliaments, religious authorities and the media was the key to success in all countries.

As communities gain in understanding and knowledge of the changing nature of the rules of engagement, especially through collective action at the local level in informally claimed spaces, they can see the value of building alliances and partnership as a necessary strategy for addressing the governance-related development issues that transcend local, national and global boundaries. As volunteers use their time, knowledge and expertise to address social, economic and environmental global challenges, they can complement, challenge and question government and wider civil society efforts. At the global level, volunteer groups with common agendas collaborate across borders and express voice and participate in global venues. Many opportunities exist for promoting supportive global agreements, policies, conventions and volunteer standards. These, in turn, can add legitimacy, knowledge and resources to local and national efforts.

For civil society, it is interesting to note that in situations where the variety and power of governance actors at the global level make accountability a challenge, policies and strategies that enable alliances among stakeholders and across levels seem to be the most beneficial and inclusive for all parties. Global mass movements, whether virtual or direct, involving mostly informal volunteer activists, can sometimes exert sufficient public, media, or peer pressure on closed spaces to encourage some accountability when working in collaboration with others.

- **Deepening understanding through research is critical**

There is a conversation on what volunteers bring to support participatory, accountable and responsive governance processes at different levels and in different spaces. But the data challenges remain real and must be addressed if the potential of volunteerism as a resource is to be fully realized over the coming years. One challenge is to define and describe the immense range and diversity of volunteer forms across the world. A second is capturing the size, scope and scale of different kinds of volunteerism through quantitative measures. A third is capturing the nuances, distinctions and complex contributions through more qualitative case studies rooted in the diverse contexts. All three would benefit from further interrogation. Also required is a serious commitment to better data collection, including qualitative data that are culturally grounded in how volunteerism is defined and practiced in different countries.

Measuring the contribution of volunteers to development is clearly important. So is enabling volunteers to monitor and report on development locally, nationally and globally. To this end, technology coupled with people's willingness and determination to engage in development, to hold governance actors to account and to ensure responsiveness provides another opportunity to engage citizens as volunteer monitors and reporters of progress against any development agenda. Millions of people participated in the MY World survey, and volunteers facilitated community engagement to ensure maximum engagement. As more people have access to both Internet technology and mobile phones, the opportunity should be grasped to ensure that governance at all levels is participatory, accountable and responsive.



- **Training system**

UNV has no settled training system for recruited volunteers. UNV does not store volunteers for one of the any voluntary programme but aim to organize targeted ones for specific programme. Accordingly, UNV's training parts depend on any of the programme. Examples are as follows.

On February 2012, three UNV Training Officers from the Integrated Mission Training Centre of The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), together with the United Nations Language and Communications Programme (UNLCP) which serves the UN community in New York, organized the Training of Trainers on writing English correspondence and reports in a peacekeeping mission.

The objective of this workshop, which took place in the Integrated Mission Training Centre (IMTC) in Log Base, MINUSTAH (Port-au-Prince) was to become more familiar with the uses of each type of written communication in the United Nations. It included several sections on editorial conventions related to abbreviations, capitalization, editing tips or spelling.

Once the training was over, the participants had to pair off and carry out these workshops for various sections and locations in Haiti or the Dominican Republic.

Training from UNV, as a whole, usually is one-off and prompt oriented, always focusing on activity introduction, task allocation, language training and cultural induction. UNV currently has no systematic focus, but a training system is worth consideration, which indicates a fully prepared training plan for all aspects in terms of sports, rescue, international convention, etc.

Critical Thinking

In terms of volunteer recruitment, should UNV recruit under the distinction between national volunteers and non-national volunteers? How can international volunteerism build up cooperation with national? Also, local government, committees and international institutions need to make efforts together, but in what way?

2.2 Partnership

UNV works in partnership with UN entities and UN Member States, as well as civil society and VIOs in order to bring more people to actively engage in peace and development. The added value of UN Volunteers and volunteerism to UNV's partners is that they contribute to stronger engagement with communities, civil society organizations, and youth. Likewise, partners gain a

better ability to reach marginalized people, increased access to services, strengthened South-South engagement and that well-qualified UN Volunteers can be rapidly deployed. Within the UN system, UNV is unique as its program work is implemented not only directly in partnership with, but largely in service for other UN entities, to deliver peace and development. To this end, UNV will build, strengthen and explore partnerships that will:

- (1) leverage its overall resources for development;
- (2) mobilize recognition for volunteerism;
- (3) provide innovation for widening inclusion of people in peace and development.

2.2.1 Working with UN entities

UNV is well known for the recruitment and mobilization of volunteers, but UNV does more to help UN entities work towards development and peace. The partnerships of UNV with UN entities are therefore increasingly diversified.

While cost-efficiency is often one consideration in the deployment of volunteers worldwide, UN Volunteers bring the spirit of volunteerism and add value to global development work. At the heart of UNV is the conviction that voluntary action by millions of people is a vastly under-recognized and under-utilized resource. If fully harnessed, it will strengthen efforts in tackling development challenges worldwide.

UNV works with UN entities in a number of areas, for example, preventing and recovering from crisis, combatting HIV/AIDS, promoting environmental protection for sustainable development, fostering democratic governance, reducing human poverty, and working towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

- **Working with UNDP**

UNV's relationship with UNDP is essential in both programmatic and administrative terms.

As UNV is administered by UNDP, it is fully aligned to UNDP's governance and administrative structures and reports to the UNDP Executive Board. UNV Field Units in 86 countries (as of 2013) are wholly integrated into the operational structure of the respective UNDP Country Offices and are represented by the UNDP Resident Representative. Programmatically, UNDP and UNV have shared values, a common history and the goal of supporting countries to achieve eradication of extreme poverty and a significant reduction in inequality and exclusion. There is a strong complementarity between UNV's focus on volunteerism and a strong fit with UNDP's upstream, policy work, which is reflected in the fact that UNDP is one of UNV's biggest program partners, accounting for 25% of all UNV programs.



UNV is a key resource for community level presence, organization and action; reinforcement of social cohesion and local capacities through volunteers and voluntary work; development of volunteerism in local-level service delivery; specific aspects of South-South and triangular cooperation based on exchanges of skilled people to close critical gaps; outreach through deeper use of the UNV online volunteering service; and creation of opportunities in youth volunteering. Through systematic integration into UNDP's main areas of work, UNV will programmatically add value to key areas of mutual priority, in particular but not exclusively in:

- (1) Creation of opportunities for youth leadership and engagement through volunteerism;
- (2) Capacity building for monitoring, analysis and reporting on development interventions; and in other areas such as
 - a) Rule of Law (RoL) and Citizen Security;
 - b) Resilience to Natural Disasters and Man-Made Crises.

● Working with UN Entities

At the country level, UNV Field Units interact with UN entities to strategically and meaningfully integrate volunteerism into their areas of delivery. As part of this process, UNV works with UN entities to identify opportunities where volunteers add specific and unique value – with a deliberate effort to ensure equality of and equity in opportunities for people to engage in. In programs and projects which align with UNV's programmatic priority areas, UNV will proactively invest its resources with UN entities to demonstrate the potential that integrating volunteerism can have in creating a catalytic impact for development outcomes.

For example, UNV's partnership with DFS/DPKO has played a notable role in the attainment of peacekeeping and peace building objectives in a rapidly changing environment. It has been very successful in meeting objectives and has contributed to the achievement of DFS/DPKO peacekeeping mandates in a number of countries, primarily through the rapid engagement of highly skilled and motivated UN Volunteers. UNV will pursue global agreements with UN entities that strategically leverage volunteer modalities in their business models and support an enabling environment for their effective programmatic inclusion of UN Volunteers.

● List of UNV's partner in UN

Here is a list of some of UNV's current and previous UN Family partners.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

International Trade Centre (ITC)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The United Nations (UN)

UNAIDS

African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID)

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)

United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP)

The United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV)

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)



World Food Programme (WFP)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

World Health Organization (WHO)

2.2.3 Working with nations

For many international volunteer service programs, a more recent development has been adding national volunteering schemes to their activities. The purpose of these is to draw on the knowledge of people familiar with local languages and cultural issues while building sustainable local capacities and contributing to development. This builds useful complementarity with international volunteers who, in addition to skills, sometimes provide concrete donations and resources, either directly or through links with external organizations.

UNV works in partnership with development stakeholders worldwide. Partnering with UNV attracts donors for a variety of reasons, key among these being the great contribution that volunteers make to advance the ideals of the United Nations. Supporting UNV enables donors to increase the visibility of their international engagement and development assistance.

Partnership refers to a collaborative relationship between UNV and another organization or entity characterized by:

- (1) An expectation of mutual benefits;
- (2) A commitment to shared outcomes which have been jointly defined;
- (3) A clear definition of each of the partners' roles and contributions; and
- (4) The existence of a framework to discuss and review progress towards shared outcomes.

Here is a list of some of UNV's partnership among countries.

Australian Volunteers International (AVI)

AVI connects people and organisations internationally to learn from each other and achieve shared goals within our strategic priorities. AVI's work in people-centred development, particularly through volunteering, is central to this. AVI works with individuals, organisations and communities in response to locally identified priorities.

The Belgian Development Cooperation

Belgium strives for a peaceful and secure world where poverty is a thing of the past and where



there are development opportunities for all. Our efforts therefore complement those of the international community to achieve sustainable development and a fair world.

Agency for Volunteer Services (AVS)

AVS, founded in 1970, is a non-profit organization mainly financed by funds from the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, The Community Chest of Hong Kong and The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. With the vision to build a civil society and caring community, AVS is dedicated to playing a proactive and pivotal role in the promotion and development of volunteerism, and to develop partnership with all sectors of the community to provide value added and quality volunteer service.

Czech UNV National Focal Point

Since 1995, Czech volunteers have been actively involved in UN development programs and peace missions. More than 190 Czech volunteers in total have operated in developing countries and crises areas throughout the world so far. Around 20 volunteers are sent every year to Africa, Asia and the Balkans; 35 percent of them are women.

Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (MS) - ActionAid Denmark

MS ActionAid Denmark fights poverty by promoting the political empowerment of the world's poor. MS supports long-term development work, education programmes and campaigns as well as exchange of experience and knowledge between people. MS is part of ActionAid International.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs concentrates on foreign and security policy, trade policy and development policy as well as on significant foreign policy issues and international relations in general. The Ministry also assists other branches of government in the coordination of international affairs.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in France

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the government of France is the chief foreign affairs ministry in the country. The Ministry handles France's relations within the United Nations.

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Germany

The aim of development cooperation is to give people the freedom to shape their own lives, by making their own decisions and taking responsibility for them, without suffering material hardship.



With this aim in mind, the German government is seeking with its development policy to help make globalization an opportunity for all. The sectors that German development cooperation will focus on in particular in the future will be education, health, rural development, good governance and sustainable economic development. The guiding principle in all efforts is the protection of human rights.

GIZ An innovative partner for the global challenges of tomorrow in Germany

The wide range of services offered by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH are based on a wealth of regional and technical expertise and on tried and tested management know-how. They are a German federal enterprise and offer workable, sustainable and effective solutions in political, economic and social change processes.

Most of their work is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). However, GIZ also operates on behalf of other German ministries and public and private bodies in Germany and abroad. These include governments of other countries, the European Commission, the United Nations and the World Bank. They are equally committed to helping their clients in the private sector attain their goals.

Facts and figures

GIZ operates throughout Germany and in more than 130 countries worldwide. Their registered offices are in Bonn and Eschborn. They have more than 17,000 staff members around the globe, some 70% of whom are employed locally as national personnel. GIZ's business volume was about EUR 2 billion as at 31 December 2011.

Irish Aid

Irish Aid is the Government of Ireland's programme of assistance to developing countries. Ireland's development cooperation policy is an integral part of Ireland's wider foreign policy. Our aid philosophy is rooted in our foreign policy, in particular its objectives of peace and justice. Our development cooperation policy and programme reflect our longstanding commitment to human rights and fairness in international relations and are inseparable from Irish foreign policy as a whole.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministero Affari Esteri) in Italy

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the government of Italy is the chief foreign affairs ministry in the country. The Ministry handles Italy's relations within the United Nations.



Seniores Italia - Partner per lo Sviluppo ONLUS

Seniores Italia - Partner per lo Sviluppo ONLUS is the leading Italian non-profit organization of voluntary senior experts. Their mission is to support short-term advisory services provided by senior volunteers in different areas of intervention such as agriculture, industrial design, manufacturing processes, banking, energy, infrastructures, social and health services, and urban requalification.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the government of Japan is the chief foreign affairs ministry in the country. The Ministry handles Japan's relations within the United Nations.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

JOCV was established in 1965 to provide official Japanese overseas assistance programs abroad at a grassroots level. The JOCV Program is one of Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA's) principal activities as part of its international cooperation carried out on behalf of the Japanese government.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in the Republic of Korea

The The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Korea is in charge of diplomacy, external economic policy, overseas Korean nationals, international situation analysis and overseas promotional affairs.

Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) in New Zealand

VSA is a home-grown Kiwi volunteering organization and has placed more than 3,000 skilled New Zealanders on volunteer assignments overseas since 1962.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway

The essential task of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to work for Norway's interests internationally: to safeguard the country's freedom, security and prosperity. The United Nations have always been a mainstay of Norway's participation in the international community. Norway gives priority to the efforts to make the UN a strong and effective organization that serves as a cornerstone for an international legal order and a worldwide security system. An important issue for Norway is the progress of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Today, Norway is one of the five largest voluntary contributors to the United Nations development efforts. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs handles Norway's relations within the United Nations.



The two departments constitute the development co-operation branch of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. The Development Co-operation Department is responsible for planning development co-operation activity, while the practical implementation of the projects and their monitoring, as well as the volunteering program, is the responsibility of the Department of Implementation of Development Programs.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Switzerland

SDC is Switzerland's international cooperation agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). In operating with other federal offices concerned, SDC is responsible for the overall coordination of development activities and cooperation with Eastern Europe, as well as for the humanitarian aid delivered by the Swiss Confederation.

Volunteer Service Organization (VSO) in UK

VSO is the world's leading independent international development organization that works through volunteers to fight poverty in developing countries. VSO's high-impact approach involves bringing people together to share skills, build capabilities, promote international understanding and action, and change lives to make the world a fairer place for all.

Peace Corps in USA

The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to 1960, when then Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. From that inspiration grew an agency of the federal government devoted to world peace and friendship. Since that time, nearly 200,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 host countries to work on issues ranging from AIDS education to information technology and environmental preservation. Today's Peace Corps is more vital than ever, working in emerging and essential areas such as information technology and business development, and committing more than 1,000 new Volunteers as a part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Peace Corps Volunteers continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities.

2.2.3 Working with other key partners for volunteerism

UNV already engages successfully with many partners in support of its mandate, both in programmatic engagements at the country level as well as in regional and global programming, knowledge building and advocacy for the importance of volunteering for peace and development. In order to further enhance partnerships effectively, a reinvigorated strategic approach will be

implemented to support the objectives of this Strategic Framework during 2014-17. Specifically, UNV will:

- (1) reaffirm the excellent relations with traditional partners which has allowed it to innovate and grow;
- (2) additionally focus on particular partnerships with the emerging global south, working with these countries to seek to add value; and
- (3) seek to develop new partnerships with civil society organization and the private sector, acknowledging that this will require a longer-term view, as UNV breaks new ground, to ensure it is done successfully.

2.3 Recruitment Mechanism

● International Volunteer

An international UN Volunteer is a UN Personnel member recruited and governed under the International UN Volunteer Conditions of Service. After an applicant is notified of having been selected for an international UN Volunteer assignment, he or she will be considered a selected candidate. The candidate will not become an international UN Volunteer until successful completion of the volunteer recruitment process.

Once the selected candidate has indicated acceptance of the assignment, he or she will be sent the international UN Volunteer Letter of Offer (hereinafter the “Offer”). The Offer will contain a standard text, including the duration and entitlements for the respective international UN Volunteer assignment. The selected candidate is duly required to complete and sign all forms, date and sign the Offer and submit all documents to the recruitment focal point within seven days of receipt.

People who want to apply for international volunteers should be equipped with eligibility criteria, including nationality and residency status, age limits and maximum periods for international UN Volunteering.

● National Volunteer

A national UN Volunteer is a person recruited under the National UN Volunteer Conditions of Service. The recruitment process and criteria of national volunteer are very much similar to that of international volunteer but have slight difference. For example, the age limits are different between two kinds of volunteers, with age of 25 in international volunteer while 23 in the other kind.



● Principles

The following general principles must be adhered to in the recruitment process:

- UNV applies the standard UN principles of competitiveness and transparency and of giving equal opportunities to women and minorities.
- Where demands for recruitment of national volunteers are large, UNV will generally establish a local roster of candidates for national volunteer assignments. In addition, special outreach activities will be undertaken to identify suitable candidates for a volunteer assignment. In all cases, candidates must undergo a competitive interview process to ensure the transparency of the system. The UNV Field Units will be responsible for constituting interview panels in close consultation with the Host Agency.
- To ensure that women and minority candidates get adequate opportunities to apply, the UNV Field Unit ensures that advertisements and application forms are accessible to them (e.g. not only through the internet), and that oversight measures are in place to support inclusion of applicants from marginalized groups.
- Promotional work should focus on networking and outreach into the volunteer community of the programme country, rather than the standard channels that might be used by the UN offices, as emphasis must be on attracting volunteers and not mirroring UN staff recruitment activities.
- In addition to technical qualifications, candidates are judged on their motivation to serve others rather than a desire for financial reward. In the interview process, the UNV Field Unit pays particular attention to the candidate's track record, motivation and attitude to volunteerism, as well as to other personal qualities such as team spirit and leadership that are likely to make them successful in their assignments as UN Volunteers, while the Host Agency representative assesses the technical skills of the candidate.

● Other volunteer opportunities

The UNV Online Volunteering service is a platform that puts volunteers into contact with organizations around the world. Hundreds of volunteer opportunities are available on www.onlinevolunteering.org for volunteers to engage in development activities over the Internet and to provide online support to the work of grassroots organizations, international NGOs, governments and United Nations agencies. Note that online volunteers are not UN Volunteers.

UNV POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

In 2013, while the discussion of UN Post-2015 Development Agenda processing in full swing, UNV also published its 2014-2017 Strategic Framework, which constituted the first framework of its kind for UNV. This Framework seeks to integrate the most recent developments in the external environment and focuses on UNV's efficiency and effectiveness in achieving organizational results. Furthermore, to further engage stakeholders and partner with them was also regarded as another keynote of this Framework. In general, this Framework articulates the scope and dimensions of UNV's strategic direction, results and associated resource requirements for the period 2014-2017.

● Strategic Priorities for 2014-2017

Having concluded the results and lessons of the work in recent developments, UNV determined five programmatic priorities in this Framework:

- Securing access to basic social services
- Community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction
- Peace building
- Youth
- National capacity development through volunteer schemes

- (1) Securing access to basic social services and protection are core tasks of many UN entities' mandate and activities. In 2012, 28% of UN Volunteers devoted their time and passion into related programs, with 10% of UNV's fund invested in the same year. During this Strategic Framework period, four elements, including primary health care, HIV/AIDS, education as well as the enhancement of local governance to promote inclusive participation and engagement of communities, will be attached importance to.
- (2) The great contribution of volunteering by bolstering the capacity and resilience of communities to respond to and prevent disasters has been witnessed and recognized by the world. Having rich experience in this area, UNV determined to continuously contribute to community resilience for local climate change mitigation efforts in the 2014-2017 period. Climate change adaptation and innovative approaches to disaster reduction will be the two main strategies applied simultaneously.



- (3) In 2012, UN Volunteers comprised 30% of the international civilian capacity within 18 peace keeping and peace building missions where UNV is engaged. Apart from continuous partnerships within those missions every year, UNV will particularly play the role of catalysts for civic engagement and social cohesion in the local communities where the intervention of UN Volunteers is feasible. Moreover, as the supplementary means, emergency relief efforts, recovery leveraging expertise and human rights monitoring will be deemed as where UNV provide effective service as well.
- (4) Returning an encouraging answer to the exact measure, to “create a UN youth volunteers programme under the umbrella of UN Volunteers.”, which UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon announced, UNV promptly launched a new Youth Volunteering Strategy in 2012. In order to help implement this strategy, a new flagship program has been launched in 2014, with three main objectives including the engagement in global advocacy and partnerships for youth volunteering, capacity development to youth schemes as well as the modality enhance youth’s role in the work of UN while providing volunteering opportunities as the agents of change.
- (5) Playing the part as one of the leading volunteering organizations, the function of UNV as a multiplier for the development of global volunteerism has increasingly been amplified due to its prominent accomplishment since its establishment. In the 2014-2017 period, UNV will expand its support to program countries by assisting in the initiation of new national and subnational schemes and enhancing the capacity of local partners to mobilize and manage volunteers more effectively.

Besides all five priorities listed above, **gender equality and societal transformation** will be two targets especially concerned in the cross-cutting considerations, with its specific focus on ensuring the commitment to gender equality and gender balance in operational engagements and institutional processes, recognizing the role of women as a driving force for peace and development and promoting societal transformation across all areas program delivered.

● **Partnerships in the New Framework**

As for the accomplishment of the anticipative outcomes of this Framework, it is largely significant for UNV to gain full support from the relevant partners and maintain the associations during the period 2014-2017. To this end, UNV will build, strengthen and explore the partnerships that will its overall resources for development, mobilize recognition for volunteerism and provide innovation for widening inclusion of people in peace and development.

While continuously strengthened interaction and cooperation with UN entities, especially the UNDP, where UNV is administered, working with other key partners for volunteerism will weigh heavier than before. The Framework anticipate that UNV can play a broader role to leverage capacities and widen opportunities for integrating volunteerism at multiple levels, international, national and subnational, which need the assistance and endeavor of a multitude of stakeholders and partners besides the existing ones already engaged. Therefore, a reinvigorated strategic approach will be implemented during the period 2014-2017, so as to effectively leverage the partnerships to a higher degree. To be specific, UNV will basically take the following three measures:

- (1) Reaffirm the excellent relations with traditional partners which has allowed it to innovate and grow;
- (2) Additionally focus on particular partnerships with the emerging global south, working with these countries to seek to add value;
- (3) Seek to develop new partnerships with foundations and the private sector, acknowledging that this will require a longer-term view, as UNV breaks new ground, to ensure it is done successfully.

● **Positioning Volunteerism in the Post-2015 Development 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.” stated UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in his report of the Secretary-General, The Road to Dignity by 2030, on the Post-2015 Agenda.

The recognition from the Secretary-General is only the pinnacle epitome of the unprecedented opportunity for volunteerism to thrive rapidly and become a regular mechanism to reach a broader participation of civil society into peace and development in the new era. In this context, UNV has embarked on the task of positioning volunteerism in the global peace & development discussions and supports the post-2015 Volunteering Working Group since its creation. As 2015 has come finally and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been firmed up, UNV, accompanied by its partner organizations, is proactively carrying out the plan of shaping the role of volunteers and volunteerism in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Although MDGs undoubtedly reached a success in galvanizing people around articulated targets for the first time, still they have fallen short of their attention to some issues in some countries because those countries' development efforts have not sufficiently reflected the needs of all



aspects and all citizens. According to this experience, the new post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals largely requires the empowerment of volunteerism. During the implementation of the new SDGs, volunteers and volunteering organizations can help “localize” the new agenda as well as “globalize” the particular needs, whereby a wider and deeper engagement of people can be achieved effectively and the voice of them can hold governance actors to account. In details, the engagement of more women and marginalized communities and the addressing of objectives across all phases of the implementation of the programs constituted two main measures that repeatedly recommended during the relevant discussion of UNV.

Nevertheless, the contribution of volunteerism towards the SDGs will never be restricted merely as a convoy role, and UNV, as well as its partners, is deemed to be an effective and vibrant actor in future operation. In the latest internal discussion of UNV, seven themes of activities have been concluded and presented, which defined a series of recommended orientations with the summary of:

- (1) to complement essential basic services
- (2) to mobilize people to develop a sense of ownership and awareness
- (3) to encourage participatory forms of monitoring implementation and accountability
- (4) to support local large scale data collection through capacity building
- (5) building trust between diverse people
- (6) building resilience and preparedness
- (7) building skills across different areas

The agreement of the Post-2015 Development Agenda is due in September, whereas the critical role of volunteers and volunteerism has obtained a consensus in the former discussion. While the subsequent operation of UNV will definitely attach great significance to the coordinating task with the Agenda, a large portion of the measures that UNV may take to make contributions to the SDGs seems to be consistent with those underlined in its 2014-2017 Strategic Framework, which indicates that the work on both the Agenda and the Framework can be linked somehow, and this will be one of the main themes of the following discussion and exploration of UNV and its partner organizations.

Critical Thinking

UNV currently has no storage to keep volunteers but it will be more convenient to dispatch if it owns a specific prepared volunteering resource. It is a controversial topic but worth discussing. Disadvantages and advantages should be considered by both sides. Furthermore, if storage is built, how will the management be set?

CASE STUDY 1: INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER HQ

● Brief Introduction

Following a volunteer trip to Africa in 2006, Dan Radcliffe began the foundations of IVHQ with the aim of making volunteering abroad more accessible through providing affordable and responsible volunteer programs. Based in New Zealand, IVHQ has grown to become the world's leading volunteer travel company, working in over 30 countries around the world and placing thousands of international volunteers abroad every year. IVHQ is trying to improve the education level of local country and the attitude towards education of local people. At the same time, they also hope volunteers can apply volunteer experience to serve for their own country's people.

● Main Programs

In Africa

| Ghana | Kenya | Madagascar | Morocco | South Africa | Tanzania | Uganda | Victoria Falls | Zambia |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Teaching | Teaching/Teaching Maasai | Teaching | Teaching English or French | Teaching | Teaching | Teaching | | Teaching |
| Orphanage | Childcare | | Childcare | Childcare | Orphanage | Orphanage | | Childcare |
| Medical | Medical/Medical Maasai | | | | Medical | Medical | | Medical |
| | HIV/ AIDS | | | | | HIV/ AIDS | | |
| Sports Education | Sports Education | | | Sports Education | | Sports Education | | |
| Construction /Renovation | | Construction | | | | Construction / Renovation | | |
| Agriculture | | Marine Conservation | | | | | Wildlife Conservation | |
| | Women Education | | Working with Women | | | | | |
| | Special Needs | Forest Conservation | Ramadan | Surf Outreach | | | | Elderly Care |
| | Music | | | Computer Training | | | | Community Development |



In Asia

| Bali | Cambodia | China | India - Delhi | India - Dharamsala | Nepal | SriLanka | Thailand | Vietnam - Hanoi | Vietnam – Ho Chi Minh |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Teaching English | Teaching | Teaching English | Teaching English | Teaching English | Teaching English | Teaching | Teaching English | Teaching English | Teaching English |
| Kindergarten | Orphanage/ Childcare | Childcare/ Special Needs | Orphanage | Childcare | Orphanage | Childcare | | Caring for Disabled/ Orphanage | Caring for Disabled/ Orphanage |
| Healthcare Education | | | Healthcare | Healthcare | Medical | Medical | | | Medical |
| Turtle Conservation | | | | | | Turtle Conservation | | | |
| | Working with NGOs | | | | | Wild Elephant Conservation | Community Development | Working with Local NGOs | |
| Conservation/ Renovation | | | | | | Temple Renovation | Outdoor Work | | |
| Environmental Education | Computer Support | | Slum Teaching | | Remote Health Post | Elderly Care | | | |

● Strength of these programs

• Experience

Every year, IVHQ places thousands of volunteers on programs abroad. Their directors and staff have traveled to the site of volunteering programs and experienced these programs first-hand, have lived in the accommodations and eaten the food that the volunteers are served and have visited the placements and inspected the projects that the volunteers are working on. IVHQ have helped thousands of IVHQ volunteers prepare for their trips and IVHQ understand what it is like to travel abroad. It is the experience and principle that has helped establish IVHQ as the world's most trusted volunteer organization.

• Responsibility

The implementation of responsible volunteer travel practices is paramount to any high-quality international volunteer program. IVHQ understands the importance of ensuring their volunteer programs are sustainable and responsible, therefore, a department of dedicated risk and

responsibility advisors who oversees this aspect of their programs has been established. IVHQ's Responsible Volunteer Travel Policy is discussed with IVHQ volunteers during their in-country program orientation before they begin volunteering. In addition, all volunteers are required to read, understand and sign the IVHQ Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy before they can begin their program.

- **Quality**

IVHQ and local teams are motivated to provide top-quality programs and support services for IVHQ volunteers. Since 2007, IVHQ have grown to become one of the world's largest volunteer companies and their growth has been built on volunteer feedback. Each year, IVHQ send thousands of volunteers abroad, and an insight into their experiences can be found in our Volunteer Abroad Reviews.

- **Safety**

Traveling to a foreign country and experiencing a different culture can be a slightly daunting experience sometimes, but when volunteers are volunteering and living among the local community, this apprehension can often be compounded beyond expectation. While safety can hardly be totally guaranteed wherever IVHQ are in the world, IVHQ and its partner organizations do all they can to ensure volunteer program is as safe as possible. Volunteers are placed in trustworthy institutions and accommodations, all of which have been screened by our local teams. IVHQ conduct risk management audits on our frequent visits to programs, while providing our local teams with risk management guidelines to help minimize risk for our volunteers.

- **Appeals to volunteers**

- **Affordability**

By working directly with local organizations in the countries where programs are based, IVHQ is able to provide high quality volunteer programs at affordable rates.

- **Support from IVHQ**

From the moment volunteers pay registration fee, volunteers will receive ongoing support from IVHQ until the day they finish volunteer program. Once registered on an IVHQ program, volunteers will gain access to a number of features within My IVHQ to help volunteers prepare for the trip, including information booklets and checklists. Volunteers will also be connected with a dedicated IVHQ Program Coordinator who is directly responsible for managing program and helping volunteers prepare for trip. Once volunteers reach volunteer program destination, the local team of IVHQ will takeover the initial support role and become the first point of contact until the day volunteers depart the program. While IVHQ Program Coordinator becomes a secondary layer of support at this stage, he/she will remain in touch with volunteers via email and will be accessible should volunteers require assistance.



- Friendship

Volunteers on IVHQ programs often form life-long friendships with their host families and the people they assist while volunteering. However, they also form strong bonds with the other volunteers on their programs. Although many volunteers come from very different cultures and backgrounds, the experiences that these volunteers share forge strong ties that can last a lifetime. As one of the world's largest volunteer organizations, sending thousands of volunteers abroad annually, IVHQ volunteers are always in the company of other international volunteers.

- Loyalty

Loyalty is one of the foundations that IVHQ has been built on. IVHQ make registration fee refundable so if volunteers change mind (no later than 60 days before program start date), volunteers will receive money back. IVHQ show strong loyalty to the communities in which IVHQ work, IVHQ sets up sustainable long-term partnerships with local organizations and institutions, which allow long-term prosperity for the people in the communities where our volunteers are placed.

- Enjoyment

IVHQ recognizes that there is more to a great volunteer travel experience than simply volunteering. While IVHQ are focused strongly on providing top quality volunteer programs, IVHQ also realize that many IVHQ volunteers are first-time travelers to their program destinations and wish to take time out for sightseeing and to explore. To accommodate this, our local teams have established partnerships with local travel companies to provide volunteers with access to high quality and often discounted travel and tour activities.

Critical Thinking:

1. Should volunteers pay for volunteering?
2. What should organizers do before implement the volunteer program?
3. How to find support from local government or local organization?
4. How to guarantee the safety and interest of volunteers?
5. Can "volunteer travel" be taken as a kind of volunteering?

CASE STUDY 2: ARAB YOUTH VOLUNTEERING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

With the signature of Egypt attached on the agreement of the implementation of this regional project on February 3rd, 2013, “Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future”, which gained the support and participation of other four countries including Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen was launched in response to the transformational change and youth bulge in the Arab region. This project is evolving smoothly at present and a half year implementation will be continuously carried out in the upcoming 2016.

● Barriers and Objectives

At the beginning of the programming of this project, While youth volunteering presents an unprecedented opportunity for the Arab world, where volunteerism usually only consisted of religious activities and charity, to positively harness the potential of the youth of skill cultivation as a booster of the socio-economic development, significant barriers of many aspects were revealed in the five target countries.

- Economic Barriers

Considerable youth unemployment and the unclear connection between volunteering to the employment were mutually aggravating and the lack of financial support made the CSOs unable to operate, especially in the rural areas.

- Socio-cultural Barriers

Consistent exclusion of youth and women in social processes and the absence of a “culture of volunteering” affected the motivation of youth volunteerism, while the awkward positions that the CSOs held and the lack of role models of volunteering also constituted an impediment to further development.

- Institutional Barriers

The necessary financial and structural demands of the civil society sector especially the informational networks were still a long way below fulfilling for a more comprehensive engagement and the lack of legal and policy framework presented a huge challenge and reduced the quality of youth volunteerism.

Four expected outputs as follows were listed in line with the overall intended outcome that “youth in the Arab region are empowered so that their capacity to participate meaningfully in socio-economic development is strengthened through volunteer engagement”:

- (1) *Awareness of the role of volunteerism in socio-economic development and participatory governance increased.*



- Engaging various stakeholders including schools, tertiary institutions, family units, religious organizations and private companies
- Harnessing the influence of mainstream and social media and building interactive online platform
- Finding influential people as well as the success stories of volunteering to establish the role models of volunteerism

Prior to all above, a regional report of the definition, perception and policy recommendations should be issued as a fundamental preparation, with special emphasis on respecting the existing local traditions of volunteerism by adding utmost precautions and neutrality into the process of message transmission.

(2) *Institutional frameworks for volunteerism strengthened in the target countries and the region*

- Starting a national assessment of youth policies and supporting those existing provide legal recognition of volunteers and volunteering
- Offering technical assistance and for the drafting of the new practical and inclusive laws, policies and strategies
- Enhancing the capacity of proactive engagement of youth in legal and policy development and facilitating dialogues with youth and key decision makers engaged.

(3) *Capacity of youth organizations and CSOs to promote youth volunteering enhanced*

- Strengthening the capacity of organizations including both educational ones as well as civil society by identification, publication of knowledge products and development of policies and tools.
- Supporting the establishment of a volunteering center, database and information and knowledge sharing both online and offline after the assessment of feasibility.
- Designing and conducting effective training program and workshops additionally with the regard of gender sensitive volunteer recruitment and management.

(4) *Formal structures for youth inclusion through volunteerism strengthened*

- Designing gender-sensitive and inclusive youth volunteering programs and supporting the establishment of youth leaderships.
- Bridging the gaps among volunteerism, educational systems and employment by establishing skills development volunteering schemes in cooperation with the private sector and universities.

The linkage between education and employment constituted a key priority of the whole project due to the essential need of development in the Arab world.

In line with regional strategies of UN and UNDP, the programs specifically built on the respective

national strategies and the UNDAF outcomes in the five initiative countries with a possibility of the expansion to other countries in the Arab world. Besides the coordination with UN entities, the program also implemented in partnerships with leading youth organizations the Ministries of Youth in target countries mostly for the purpose of their accurate research and effective strategies as well as the support in the practice of the particular activities.

- **Two levels of implementation**

Reckoned as an ingenious regional program designed by UNV and with the participation of UN, national governments and CSOs, Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future was never provided a precedent for imitation. Thus, the methodology of how to promote the youth volunteering in way of a combination of regional coordination and cooperation, national reformation and implementation, and the development of the various organizations, which had various distinction, was deemed as the central problem of the designing and implementation of this program. Considering the particular situation and needs of each the target country, the program was implemented at two levels including a regional level and a national level. In the part of the regional level, capacity development, publication and dissemination of knowledge products, creation of regional networks and exchange of volunteers were defined as the focus with priorities, while the significance was attached to the national policies enhancement, institutional frameworks, and the capacities of both governments as well as youth networks and opportunities at the national level.

As the innovative parts of the whole project, a series of activities in the light of the four expected outcomes have been initiated and carried out in first two years of the implementation, which were given high attention and approval in the UNV Annual Report of 2013 and 2014 and reached remarkable achievement and recognition in practice. In accordance with the division of two levels, a list of feasible activities that were originally included in the design of the program was also classified into regional, national and national/regional, three types in all. Elaborate as the list of activities was, during the implementation of this program, more innovative forms of activities appeared continuously.

As for the regional level, in 2013, a Training of Trainers Programme in Volunteer Management was held in Rabat, Morocco, as a step of tactic towards the third expected outcome. This activity adopted the form of mentoring transmission and gain notable effectiveness around the five pilot countries. All the young participants, both male and female, from 15 organizations with a diversity of nationalities and careers formed a vibrant environment filled with communication, debating, situation management and problem solving, and thereafter, the environment was reproduced again for more organizations held by the initiative participant organizations in their respective nations, which ensured the advanced skills were acquired, shared and further progressed in an active circulation among the five pilot countries as a creative and effective model of regional cooperation. The activities carried out in this way reached the goals of capacity development and networks creation, whereby adequate guidance and great vitality of more smaller-scale activities held in each nation separately were created.



Under the framework of the regional coordination, a number of national activities were held based on as well as in the concert with the regional activities. Also in 2013, for the purpose of achieving the first expected outcome, a large-scale awareness-raising venture called the Caravan of Volunteerism was organized with the participation of 200 civil society organizations and 30 youth centers. In each locality, the staff from youth organizations, in partnership with the schools and community leaders, will work together to conduct a series of youth volunteer activities and awareness-raising actions, such as rehabilitating public spaces, cleaning up green areas in the community or organizing training workshops. The Caravan travelled across 8 governorates of Tunisia, with a fruitful result of mobilization of over 3,000 young people across the country thanks to the direct interaction which significantly boosted the awareness of the role youth volunteers can play in the betterment of their community.

On May 28th in 2014, as a first display of the project results at the international platforms, youth from Arab states took part in UNV's first Regional Youth Volunteering Forum taking place in Marrakesh, Morocco. The forum gathered some 100 youths, youth experts, and stakeholders, with 40 participants of them coming from other countries in the region except for the pilot five countries.

In 2014, UNV brought together all its projects on youth under the Global UN Youth Volunteers Programme, which largely scales-up and replicates better practices. Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future, as a leading regional projects and successful components of the new large-scale programme, will continue to contribute to the development of volunteerism in the Arab region, and nearly be bound to make a great change in the regional history.



CASE STUDY 3: VOLUNTEERISM IN KENYA

With the stabilization of the epidemic of Ebola, 155 heroic volunteers sent by the government of Kenya returned from Sierra Leone and Liberia on June 21, 2015. They were welcomed with an honorable ceremony hosted by the President Jomo Kenyatta. In the second half of 2014, 700 volunteer doctors and nurses were dispatched to the Ebola-hit West African countries for assistance. This event constituted a milestone for the African countries that they eventually proved to be able to provide solutions to their problems, quoted from the President of Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta, while, furthermore, manifesting the progress of the volunteering in Kenya, from aid receiving to aid providing, which, to some extent, signs the dawn of South-south cooperation in volunteering.

● History and Outcome

It is widely acknowledged around the world that unprecedented development of non-governmental organizations has emerged in the last three decades, which is described as a “global associational revolution”. As a country have better economic condition in Sub-Saharan Africa, Kenya has not been the exempt as well, thus the volunteerism thriving. As far as in 2000, 114,000 volunteers had already approximately made up 6 percent of the adult population in Kenya, higher than the average of other developing countries.¹⁰ Up to 2010, almost 1.0 million Kenyan volunteers constituted still 6 percent of the population¹¹. Despite a noticeable gap towards the world North in number, steadily and actively have Kenyan volunteers provided qualitative service and made distinct contributions in the democratic construction and social cohesion, from which the a tradition of volunteering derived.

The management in the fragmented environment of post-election violence in 2008 shows an optimal example of how well-organized volunteerism function and contribute as a critical part for peace in Kenya. In cooperation among Kenyan government, UNDP and UNV, the Neighborhood Volunteer Scheme (NVS) was initiated in response to the tensions following the disputed elections. Anchored on volunteerism, this scheme enrolled and trained 928 “neighborhood volunteers”, whose efforts to deliver basic services and counsel to local people made significant impact in the districts where the scheme was implemented.¹² Within one year of the initiation, NVS has resettled and reintegrated 65% of the displaced people and the implementation of this scheme was taken over by the Kenyan government in 2010, absorbed as a modality of community volunteering into the mainstream administrative structure for peacebuilding in Kenya, which also indicated that volunteerism has become more valued by the government in Kenya. Rooted in the neutral and

¹⁰ Karuti Kanyinga and Whinnie Mirullah, Institute for Development Studie, University of Nairobi, “*The Non-profit Sector in Kenya, What we know and what we don’t know*”

¹¹ UNV, “*Valuing Volunteering in Africa*”, 2011.10

¹² UNV, “*Peacebuilding and Volunteerism, Considerations for post-2015 development agenda*”, 2014.1



unbiased role that volunteers played in conflict situations, this scheme eventually help reduce and recover from the conflict by bringing diverse people together with highlighted effectiveness.¹³ Based on the experience in 2008, the government of Kenya successfully prevent the recurrence of large-scale conflict in the 2013 election with the participation of, both local and international, volunteers into communities.

● Current Situation and Policy

Apart from VSO, Peace Corps, Red Cross and other international organizations, as well as UNV that have made contributions in Kenya for decades, on the other hand, the emergence of a number of creative local programs represents the current developing trend of volunteerism in Kenya, which reflected the character of the developing and post-conflict country.

Youth, defined between 18-35 years of age by Kenyan Law, constitutes 33% percent of the population in Kenya. Annually, 500,000 youth joins the labor market and over 75% of them will remain unemployed because of their inadequate skills and the limited jobs. To this end, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of Kenya initiated and established a National Youth Volunteer Scheme in July, 2011, with the partnership of VSO Jitolee. The first phase of this activity involved 30 Kenyan youth and 29 youth from UK, who addressed community development for local organizations such as schools and hospitals¹⁴. Hence, the unemployed youth promote peace and the culture of volunteering, while facilitating the entry into a job by enhancing skills.

Another example is a youth exchange program entitle the “Tuelewane Project” hosted in partnerships between Kenyan Ministry of Youth and UNDP-Kenya in 2012, focusing on the education and training on peace and conflict resolution in conflict-prone communities. Youth participating in this project will appointed to accomplish the voluntary tasks including community clean-ups, religious activities, engagement with community radio to spread messages of reconciliation, etc. This series of cross-community activities proves to be effective in peacebuilding and conflict preventing due to the interaction and dialogue it creates among the communities.¹⁵

Besides the examples listed, volunteering activities also covers a wide range of developing areas in Kenya in poverty reduction, primary education, health, environment, gender equality and peace building, which has made fruitful contributions to the MDGs in Kenya. As for the international volunteering in Kenya, in accordance with a research designed by Benjamin J. Lough, professor of University of Illinois, Urbana- Champaign, most Kenyan civilians once helped recognized that the

¹³ Benjamin J. Lough, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, “*Participatory research on the contribution of international volunteerism in Kenya: provisional results*”, 2012.1

¹⁴ [Available] online:

<http://www.volunteeractioncounts.org/iyv/content/unv-world-volunteer-web/content/aroundtheworld/Kenya.html>

¹⁵ Benjamin J. Lough, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and Jacob Mwathi Mati, University of Witwatersrand, “*Volunteerism for Peace in East Africa*”, 2012.

international volunteers strengthened their capacity of development by providing advanced resources and creativity. They found out that, in comparison with the local project paid staff, the volunteers tended to be more trustable and accountable because they have more interactions and closer relationships and always valued human rights, gender equality and diversity more while working for the community.

In Kenya, both the government and the civilians rather welcome the intervention of international volunteers, yet the development of domestic volunteering reaches a bottleneck, which the volunteerism in most developing countries have to be faced with. In order to provide guidelines on efficient and effective coordination, management and sustenance of volunteerism in Kenya, the Ministry of Labor Social Security and Service introduced a series of policy in February, 2015, which formed an institutional support for the volunteerism at a national level.

This policy concluded numerous aspects of the development of volunteerism, and above all, it stated that a National Volunteerism Board, whose chair will be a key volunteer organization, should be established and particularly in charge of volunteerism in Kenya, with the resolution of the establishment of a volunteerism coordinating institution called National Volunteer Secretariat within the Ministry responsible for Volunteering activities. Both the duty of these institution have been defined in this policy as well as more specific issues including funding, legislation, information systems and monitoring. The publication of this policy revealed the determination of the government of Kenya to put volunteerism on the agenda and endow it with formalization and significance, and thereafter making long strides in the development of volunteerism in Kenya subsequently.

Critical Thinking:

Today we are used to discussing the impact of volunteerism at three levels, local, national and global, whereas a new volunteering perspective of regional resolution and effect are derived from recent practice and experience, with the example of the cases of Arab world and Kenya. How do you judge the potential of this sort of trend? And what should be further researched and discussed if wider application is possible?



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Other websites recommended:

- <http://www.peacecorps.gov>
- <http://www.globalvolunteernetwork.org>