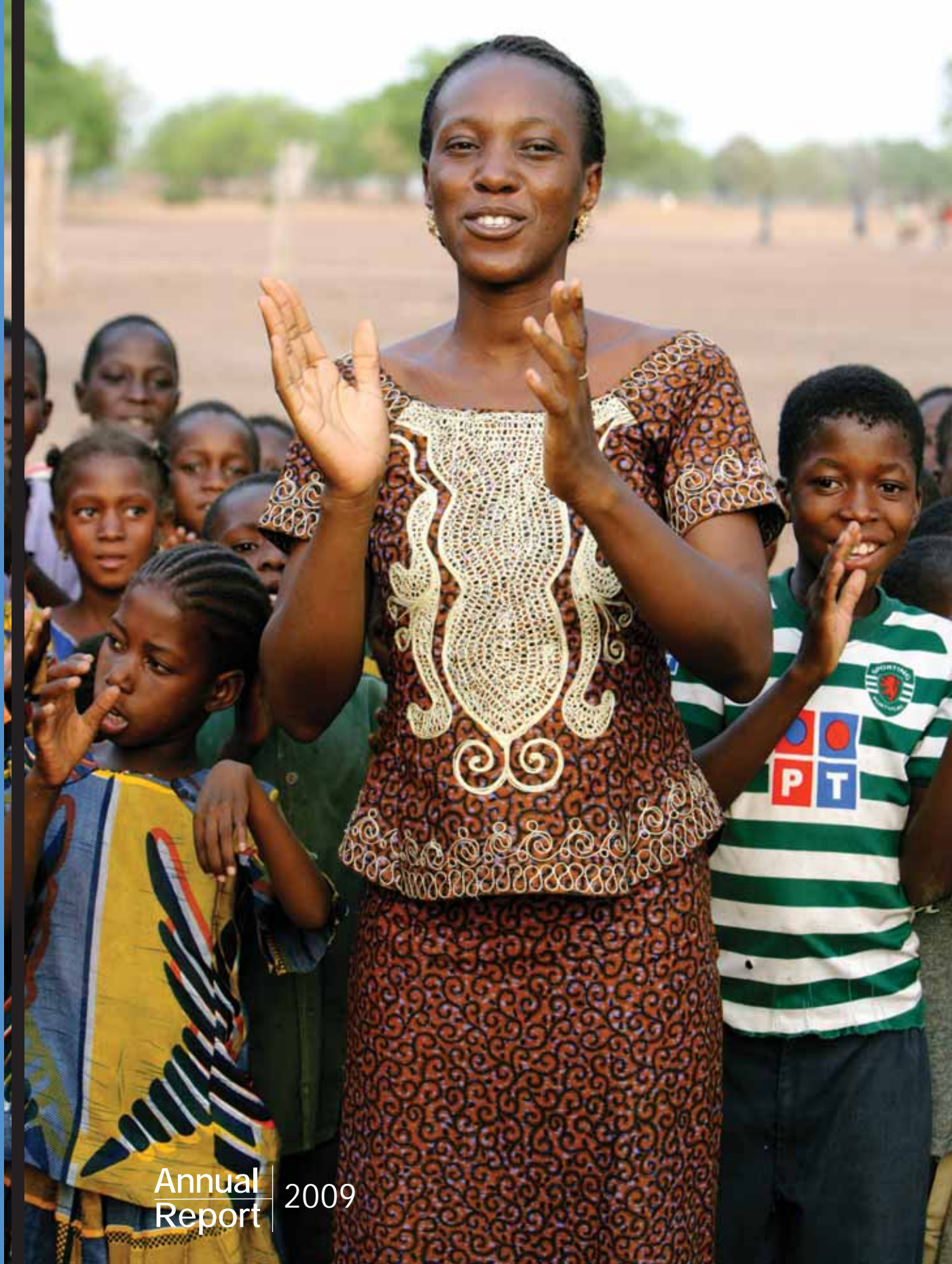


# ENGAGING COMMUNITIES



Annual  
Report | 2009



**UN**  
**Volunteers**

inspiration in action



*Cover photo:* Christine Ouedraogo, a volunteer primary school teacher with the Burkina Faso National Volunteer Programme, is one of an increasing number of young Burkinabé who are getting involved in the development of their country. Christine has more than 50 students in her class in the village of Worokuy in the Boucle de Mouhoun region. (Giacomo Pirozzi, 2010)

## INSPIRING THE VOLUNTEER IN YOU: A COMMON VISION

In 2011, we mark the **tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10)**.

Governments, volunteer-involving organizations, civil society, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the United Nations system and communities are all called upon to get involved in recognizing the achievements of volunteers and the significance of volunteerism for peace and development.

In this spirit, UNV organized a consultative meeting in October 2009 at which participants from around the planet embraced a vision for marking IYV +10. The vision statement, 'Inspiring the Volunteer in You,' expresses common values, shared approaches to volunteering and mutual hopes for the future.

*"In celebrating IYV+10... we invest in enabling the environment for citizen engagement: in the development of volunteering policies and supportive legislation; in volunteer management and support; in measuring the impact of volunteering; and in knowledge building and knowledge sharing about volunteering and what it can achieve."*

*"We engage the will, the positive energy and the innovation of millions of people towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in building social cohesion, mutual understanding and the achievement of community-centred goals."*

The vision statement quoted above is available at **[www.worldvolunteerweb.org](http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org)**  
Further information on page 15.

## ABOUT US

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

**[www.unvolunteers.org](http://www.unvolunteers.org)**



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



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*Farmers El Houssain El Kerdaoui (centre) and El Mahfoud Ihrche (right) discuss climate change and its effect on their oasis at Iguiwaz, Morocco, with Ali Ait Baha (left), a respected elder. El Houssain and El Mahfoud volunteer with the UNV-supported Community-based Adaptation project, contributing towards water-sharing systems and tree-planting initiatives, and sharing their knowledge with local youth. (Baptiste de Ville d'Avray, 2009)*

# Foreword

UNV volunteers work in 128 countries around the world to enable communities to contribute to peace and development. It is the volunteer ethos of UNV which makes it special in the United Nations family.

Volunteerism exists in one form or another in every society and culture. Practised through UNV, it helps inspire people to participate in their own development. In this way, it also helps build social cohesion and capital, capacity, and, ultimately, local leadership and ownership of development approaches and solutions.

While governments and a wide range of other development stakeholders have roles to play in addressing the development challenges of the 21st century, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), they cannot succeed without the participation of citizens and of civil society generally. By harnessing the “spirit of volunteerism”, UNV engages communities and places people at the very centre of its work.

In today's global and interconnected world, networks which share information and expertise can help tackle complex challenges. UNV connects many thousands of volunteers with organizations working to address development issues worldwide through its Online Volunteering service, [www.onlinevolunteering.org](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org).

## Preface



*UNV Executive Coordinator Flavia Pansieri (left) engages with a student at the Monrovia School of the Blind in Liberia on International Volunteer Day, 5 December 2009. Flavia visited the school and participated in the inauguration of a fence built by UNV volunteers and UN staff to improve security for the students. (Philip Sen/UNV, 2009)*

Our UNV Annual Report 2009, 'Engaging Communities', is about the results volunteers deliver together with communities around the world. Coming from 158 countries, 7,545 UNV volunteers contributed their invaluable skills last year – a third of them nationals of the very countries they served in. Often working with community volunteers, they supported more than 20 United Nations organizations and many more local institutions, proving the value of volunteerism for peace and development again and again. Meanwhile, the UNV Online Volunteering service expanded significantly in 2009, engaging the skills of 9,500 more people online. I invite you to read their inspiring stories.

Voluntary action engages communities across the world. I visited Liberia for International Volunteer Day (IVD) on 5 December, the highlight of the volunteering calendar. IVD 2009 fell just 48 hours before the UN Conference on Climate Change began in Copenhagen, and through our 'Volunteering for our Planet' campaign we relayed the message that volunteers around the globe are taking action to protect our planet.

In cooperation with the UNEP 'Seal the Deal' campaign, the 'Volunteering for our Planet' website recorded more than 1.5 million hours pledged for voluntary environmental action between World Environment Day on 5 June and 5 December, an incredible figure.

As Helen says, the MDGs can only be successfully achieved through development organizations cooperating with each other and partnering with communities. And this is where we see the added value of voluntary

As the Administrator of UNDP, I admire the work which UNV volunteers do. They often work in difficult and remote locations.. I thank them for their invaluable contribution to global peace and development. I mourn those UNV volunteers who have lost their lives while serving the United Nations and local communities – most recently in Haiti and Afghanistan.

2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers. Governments, development partners, and the United Nations can celebrate this milestone by recognizing the many UNV volunteers who work to support peace and development.



**Helen Clark**

*Administrator, United Nations Development Programme  
New York, May 2010*



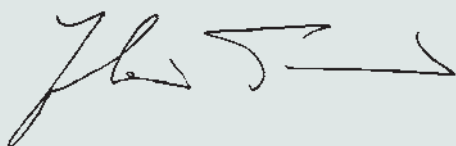
*UNDP Administrator Helen Clark visits a mango farm owned and run by women volunteers in Mali. She is accompanied by Ms Wassa Doumbia (right), President of the Association des femmes pisseurs (an organization of female quality controllers) and Tegegnework Gettu, Director of UNDP Africa Bureau (second from right). (Daniela Adorna/UNV/UNDP, 2010)*

action. From the volunteers who are changing the lives of youth and building peace, to the thousands of people who volunteer for our planet, anyone and everyone can make a difference.

UNV volunteers work at the frontlines of peace and development. In 2009, we lost two of our UNV volunteers in a tragic attack in Afghanistan. Another three died in early 2010 during the Haiti earthquake. Their commitment to peace and development, and their devotion to those in need, remain an inspiration to us all.

UNV is now preparing for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) in 2011. Together with our development partners, we are calling for greater recognition of the contribution and impact of volunteerism and volunteers.

Volunteers are often best placed to reach out to communities, advocating for positive change, integrating sustainability into development programmes, and mobilizing the skills of the people around them. They are the ones who, by engaging communities, transform development from an external intervention to a local accomplishment. To all volunteers advancing development at the grassroots level, I express my personal admiration and appreciation.



**Flavia Pansieri**

*Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers  
Bonn, May 2010*



# Introduction

**Volunteerism is powerful: it is the means of engaging communities. Empowering communities, particularly women, to engage in identifying their needs and potential solutions is imperative to ensure the sustainability and ownership of development progress and results. As the focal point for volunteerism in the United Nations system, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme proactively promotes public inclusion and participation in development.**



*National UNV volunteer Victoria Murga Mamani (right) supports the production and commercialization of traditional handicrafts made by women in the Ticamori community in Bolivia. Victoria's work was part of a project strengthening the social and organizational capacity of women's groups in the Chuma municipality. (Andrew Gillespie, 2009)*

This Annual Report illustrates the impact of volunteerism on development, especially at the community level. Structured around advocacy, integration and mobilization, the cornerstones of our work, it examines how UNV and development partners, powered by volunteerism, achieve human development. Results are highlighted in gender and youth empowerment (chapter one), environment and climate change adaptation (chapter two), as well as health, peacekeeping and humanitarian response (chapter three).

Volunteerism advances progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNV increases awareness and understanding of the MDGs and their implications among development partners, including civil society, local governments and communities. Skilled volunteers effectively involve people in addressing their development challenges and pushing decision-makers to engage more forcefully in effecting change.

Inspired to make change reality, volunteers bridge the gap between development actors and governments on the one hand, and people at the grassroots level on the other. Often from developing countries themselves, they see, hear and feel the needs of the people, and empower them to participate. In 2009, UNV deployed 7,545 volunteers, 80 per cent of whom came from, and served in, developing countries, reflecting South-South cooperation.

With UN reform reinforcing the need for the UN to deliver as one, UNV provides an exemplary model. From its base within the communities, it works in partnership with UN entities, governments and local partners, enhancing capacity and delivering results. From chronic poverty in Niger to local governance in Nepal and disaster response in Haiti, volunteers are an integral part of the response to development challenges, making a lasting impact on the sustainable development of the communities they serve.

UNV develops the capacities of governments and local partners to build volunteer infrastructure, establish an enabling legal environment for volunteerism and mobilize volunteers. In this way, development stakeholders can engage more people in contributing to peace and development results in their communities, for example, by strengthening local government capacity, developing income-generating activities, or raising awareness on health and gender issues.

Women make an essential contribution to governance and peace processes, and to the wellbeing of their communities and families. Cultural attitudes and behaviours often limit their contribution and exclude them from development interventions. While only one of the MDGs is specifically about gender equality, addressing gender inequality is necessary to accelerate progress on all goals.

This is challenging in the face of traditional practice. National volunteers in Asia are breaking these barriers, advocating gender equality and enabling popular participation in development. In 2009, UNV fielded 2,556 national UNV volunteers, benefitting from their knowledge of the local development context and their acceptance by local communities.

UNV pursues gender parity among the UNV volunteers it deploys, while recognizing the challenge posed by non-family duty stations and assignments in complex security situations. In 2009, 37 per cent of all UNV volunteers and 43 per cent of national UNV volunteers were female.

Volunteers are key to developing capacity and enhancing the delivery of services, for example in the health sector. From Africa to the Caribbean, UNV volunteers serve as general practitioners, paediatricians and obstetricians, as well as HIV/AIDS officers, nurses and laboratory technicians. They strengthen planning and management, train and coach local counterparts, and respond to community needs.

Climate change is one of the many challenges faced by communities in developing countries. UNV volunteers support sustainable environment activities and community-based adaptation at all levels. In Namibia, for example, a Zimbabwean UNV volunteer assisted the Namibian delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference in late 2009 in assessing negotiation progress and highlighting national disaster management and risk reduction needs.

UNV volunteers support peacekeeping and special political missions in fulfilling their mandates, and are also essential to humanitarian response. Serving in contexts as diverse as Haiti, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Sudan, they cater to communities uprooted, in conflict and in transit for reasons beyond their control.

Dedicated volunteers also contribute to development online. The UNV Online Volunteering service, which connects volunteers with peace and development organizations through the Internet, witnessed strong growth. In 2009, 9,427 online volunteers completed more than 14,000 assignments, 62 per cent of these benefitting civil society organizations around the world. About 53 per cent of the online volunteers were women and 62 per cent were from the South.

Since the International Year of Volunteers in 2001, the impact and recognition of volunteers has grown steadily. As the world gears up to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, an opportunity presents itself to highlight, once again, the power of volunteerism for development. In the past ten years alone, 27,418 UNV volunteers and 26,034 online volunteers have advanced human development in communities around the world.

Engaging communities continued to be the focus of our volunteers in 2009. This report delivers their inspiration.



*National UNV volunteer Yahaya Dina (centre) coordinates an agricultural cooperative run by ex-combatants in Agadez, Niger. Yahaya assists them in managing activities and budget, as well as monitoring and evaluation. (Aly Adamou/UNDP, 2009)*







# Advocating Change

**“In our community, women are restricted from participating in public spheres due to cultural traditions. UNV is doing a great job, promoting gender equality and engaging youth, who now effectively advocate against gender-based violence in our community. We need to promote volunteerism and volunteers in order to facilitate change in our society.”**

*Community member Junaid Ahmed, Pakistan*

**Volunteerism engages communities and individuals in development efforts at the grassroots level. Volunteers raise awareness of the challenges we face and improve community access to information.**

**UNV promotes global understanding and recognition of volunteerism as a means of enabling communities to contribute to peace and development in their immediate surroundings. UNV volunteers empower communities to make change happen, enhancing social cohesion and developing the capacities of communities and individuals.**

UNV volunteers are advocating change in the Asia-Pacific region, which has some of the highest reported levels of gender-based violence in the world. According to Oxfam International (2004), half the women in South Asia face violence at home; a World Health Organization (WHO) survey in 2005 revealed that 62 per cent of women in Bangladesh and 47 per cent in Thailand reported suffering sexual and/or physical violence.

UNV is partnering with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in ‘Partners for Prevention’, a joint regional programme to reduce the prevalence of gender-based violence in 10 countries across the Asia-Pacific region (2008-2011). Focused on primary prevention – stopping violence before it starts –

the programme addresses the root causes of gender-based violence and strives to create societies where this is unacceptable to all.

Working with local partners, national UNV volunteers reach out to communities and mobilize community volunteers to address violence prevention. They also consolidate research, document volunteering contributions and support new studies to strengthen advocacy.

Rajeev Narayan is an Indian national UNV volunteer Network and Outreach Coordinator. He actively participates in violence prevention campaigns, mobilizes volunteers, documents case studies and shares good practices. Based at the Centre for Health and Social Justice in Delhi, he works with Men’s Action for Stopping Violence Against Women, a network of over 100 organizations challenging gender stereotypes.

*UNV volunteers and volunteers from the UN Mission in Liberia, UN agencies and civil society clean up the beach in Monrovia, Liberia, on International Volunteer Day, 5 December.  
(Philip Sen/UNV, 2009)*



## Mainstreaming volunteerism in Sudan

In Sudan, UNV engaged volunteers from within their own communities in tackling the culturally-sensitive issue of female genital mutilation (FGM), involving males and youth as well as women (community volunteer pictured above, photo: Blazej Mikula, 2008). National partners since 2006 have included the Sudanese National Committee on the Eradication of Traditional Practices, the Sudanese Network for Abolition of FGM and the Ahfad University for Women.

The project's community-based approach to awareness-raising and peer education through volunteerism was key to its success, and FGM practice decreased

notably in the targeted communities.

To ensure sustainability, UNV helped establish the NGO Menath, through which local community members are now coordinating their activities. Since the pilot phase ended in 2009, UNFPA and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are replicating the community-based volunteerism approach.

"Volunteers focused on positive messages and engaged religious leaders, men and the younger generation in changing attitudes about what is considered a women's issue," says UNFPA Deputy Resident Representative Athanase Nzokirishaka. "UNFPA believes

in innovation, and this emphasis on volunteering for social transformation opens the door to broader aspects of gender-based violence and new ways of empowering women and girls."

Ending Female Genital Mutilation (2009), a report of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, recognized that UNV and partners, "capitalized on volunteerism and local action to help combat female genital mutilation through awareness-raising and education". The UN Evaluation Group is also using the project evaluation as a model for a handbook on integrating human rights and gender into evaluation processes.

"This volunteer-driven movement works with a chain of volunteers taking responsibility at the individual level and in each district," Rajeev explains. "We count on these men and prepare them for future leadership roles. I have also been assisting young people in monitoring their own gender behaviour. A tremendous change that I

have witnessed is that youth have started engaging in non-traditional roles like assisting their sisters and mothers with housework."

Rajeev's counterpart in Pakistan, Rizwan Latif, is a national UNV volunteer Outreach and Capacity Development Officer serving with Rozan, an Islamabad-based NGO working on emotional health, gender and violence.

"At Rozan, I work on the *Humqadam* (Working Together) project, an initiative to involve males in addressing gender-based violence," he says.

***"Linking masculinity, patriarchy and gender-based violence is a new approach... and volunteers from within this culture are key to sensitizing men and boys on gender equality and issues of violence against children and women."***



"I facilitate awareness-raising sessions at the community level aimed at initiating and sustaining a change in attitudes of males about themselves and their role in society. Linking masculinity, patriarchy and gender-based violence is a new approach in the Pakistani context, and volunteers from within this culture are key to sensitizing men and boys on gender equality and issues of violence against children and women".

The work Rizwan and Rajeev do is not without its challenges. Rizwan acknowledges the difficulty inherent in changing mindsets. "It is great to fight for a cause and involve individuals and groups to bring about change in society," Rajeev says, "I have been able to gain strength, courage and confidence through a clear-cut message: 'Not all men are violent'."

In Morocco, UNV is working with UNDP and the Government to raise awareness of women's rights and ensure that gender issues are considered in all development programmes. UNDP has developed an approach linking so-called 'gender mainstreaming theory' with day-to-day realities faced in project activities. Six national UNV volunteers were fielded as the 'gender-sensitive eyes and ears' of six pilot projects after receiving training in gender concepts, analysis and reporting through a national NGO, the Institute for Training of Development Workers.

Fouzia Chkar and Hasnaa Fassah were placed in projects in their home regions. Fouzia served with a project for the Integrated Management of Forests of the Middle Atlas, Hasnaa with a Civil Society Support Programme designed to develop and strengthen the capacity of Moroccan civil society organizations.

Fouzia and Hasnaa had a common understanding of their challenging task. "We had a huge mission ahead of us," Fouzia says. "On the one hand we had to be consensual and convincing while challenging gender relations within the project team and among beneficiaries in general. On the other hand, we had to support the teams with results-based reporting. We wondered at the beginning: Would they like us? Would they take us seriously? Would our work have any results in terms of gender and women's empowerment?"

The national UNV volunteers engaged both men and women in project activities, calling for an improvement in the status and involvement of women in the communities they worked with. Acting as 'gender experts', they raised awareness, challenged stereotypes and identified opportunities to tackle gender inequalities. Communities reacted positively to the income-generating activities the volunteers put in place and the cooperatives they created to influence the socio-economic status of women.

*National UNV volunteer Rajeev Narayan (centre right) discusses gender equality and male stereotypes in Uttar Pradesh, India, together with community member Sachita Mishra (in red) and Ram Prakash Pandey (in light blue), from partner organization Tarun Chetna. (Anil Tharayath Varghese/UNV/UNDP, 2009)*



The UNV volunteers ensured local ownership and thus the sustainability of the gender-sensitive approach by involving women in the management of the project. Hasnaa reports, "Women were thanking us for our contribution, telling us that they now had more respect because they had more knowledge and experience."

***"The communities I visited had severe challenges in all areas of development. Voluntary service allowed us to take action and this was rewarding. Ultimately, we can all make change happen."***

Fouzia felt personally enriched and empowered by her volunteer experience. "The communities I visited had severe challenges in all areas of development," she says. "Voluntary service allowed us to take action and this was rewarding. Ultimately, we can all make change happen."

*Natalia Gozak (right), a national UNV volunteer E-communities Assistant, and Intel Facilitator Inna Mishurniayeva, train pupils in Kiev, Ukraine, to develop projects benefitting their local community with the help of the 'Skills for Success' programme. (Vladimir Negrebezkiy, 2010)*

There is a great need for substantial progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa. In Senegal, for example, the majority of its estimated 12 million people, especially those in rural areas, live at or near poverty levels. The UNDP Human Development Index 2009 ranks the country 166<sup>th</sup> out of 182 nations in the world in terms of the overall wellbeing of its population.

Keen to involve citizens in development, the Government is in the process of approving a legal framework regulating volunteerism and volunteer deployment. A UNV-supported study identified the need for coordination and project management skills among volunteer-involving organizations in Senegal, so UNV and UNDP are helping strengthen their ability to leverage the power of volunteerism for development.

Nine UNV volunteers work with 23 community grassroots organizations, providing training on the MDGs, volunteer management, project development, and monitoring and evaluation. They helped establish *La Maison des Volontaires* (House of Volunteers), a service centre to match potential volunteers with organizations in need of their services, and three satellite offices. The volunteers participated in an exchange visit with the national volunteer programme in Burkina Faso, learning from experiences there and fostering South-South cooperation.

Within the framework of the project, 1,790 community volunteers are sensitizing communities on the MDGs, disseminating information materials in local languages and sharing knowledge via local radio. By raising





awareness of issues like education and gender equality, they contribute to changing attitudes towards the enrolment of children in school or the role of women.

The UNV/UNDP project also provides small grants to fund community volunteering initiatives. In the city of Ziguinchor, 'third age' volunteers, retired professionals with backgrounds in education, took the initiative to address the needs of their community and volunteered to tutor primary school children after school, benefitting 351 girls and 356 boys. Enjoying the chance to contribute as a volunteer, one of them said, "It is better to be used up in action than to rust in inactivity".

Advocating change requires the expertise and participation of all development partners, including the private sector. In the Ukraine, UNV, UNDP and the Government are working with the technology corporation Intel to engage young people and enhance their skills for the job market.

The Youth Social Inclusion for Civic Engagement project develops the capacity of youth centres, empowering the marginalized from urban and rural areas to take part in society through training and voluntary action. Running from 2008 to 2011, the project is integrating volunteerism across its activities, with the youth themselves planning and organizing initiatives such as awareness-raising campaigns on the environment.

Ten national UNV volunteers coordinate the project, which supports 40 youth centres established by UNDP, and has reached over 3,000 community members. UNV volunteers trained young leaders in project management and team building as well as in how to run art, technology and ecological activities.

One activity conducted by the UNV volunteers was educational geocaching, a high-tech team game based on finding hidden items (caches) using geographical coordinates and GPS devices. From July to October 2009, 512 youth took part in geocaching quests organized with the guidance of UNV volunteers.

These activities promoted interaction and developed a feeling of social responsibility. "In Pryvorotyya, there was a girl with health disorders on our team and one boy kept cheering her on every time she dropped behind," says national UNV volunteer Tamara Repyova. "Success



## Enhancing trust and inclusion in Guyana

One of the poorest countries in the Americas, Guyana struggles with an often delicate political and security climate, caused, in part, by social tensions between ethnic groups.

UNV is working with UNDP and the Government on the Enhanced Public Trust, Security and Inclusion project to strengthen democratic practices and sustainable peace. The project aims to empower 100 young people, aged 18 to 25, to serve as Community Youth Facilitators through the national UNV volunteer programme launched in 2009.

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Kiari Liman-Tinguiri describes the programme as innovative, noting the large numbers of national UNV volunteers. "This is something Guyana should be proud of and the young volunteers congratulated on," he says. "The volunteers come from diverse backgrounds but they all have one thing in common, the desire and potential to be agents for peaceful change at the community level."

To date, about 50 national UNV volunteer Community Youth Facilitators are serving within their own communities. The volunteers receive training in democratic governance, community mobilization, conflict transformation, facilitation and life skills to prepare them for their assignments. They reduce risk by enhancing community dialogue, advocating non-violence and engaging youth in the constructive resolution of conflicts. One of these, Leon Niles, is pictured above (centre) conducting literacy classes in Georgetown (Calvin Bradford, 2010).

UNV volunteer Keeran Williams, a Regional Coordinator in Linden, explains, "I work on a one-on-one basis with these youth, which is a privilege: showing them it's okay to dream, to want more, and to do more. Having come from a poor background myself, with a father who abused alcohol, I provide inspiration to these youth," Keeran continues. "I'm really appreciative to UNV: youth are actually involved in this programme, not just sitting in meetings."

Jean Wintz, a UNV volunteer Community Facilitator in Georgetown, agrees. "This project is making an impact," she says. "When we first came to this neighbourhood, there were fights every day – that's no exaggeration! But the change is being felt: our monitoring shows that school attendance is up, behaviour is changing, and participation is improving. We're training children and youth to be volunteer leaders and set examples, even after we're gone."



*Fatou Diallo (left) is a member of the Unité de transformation et de production des céréales locales Seddo Ndam (Seddo Ndam Local Cereal Processing and Production Unit). Here, she shows cereal products to national UNV volunteer Aminata Diagne Barre. UNV volunteers manage the daily operations of the project. (Harald Franzen, 2010)*

depends on the contribution of each participant. The teams have to cooperate since each member has different qualities, from knowledge of the site to imagination, physical strength and endurance. No matter how the quest finished, teams worked together and this positively influenced their collaboration afterwards."

In Brazil, UNV is supporting UNDP in preparing the next National Human Development Report (NHDR), which started with a national consultation to define its theme. UNV/UNDP engaged in a project with five Brazilian universities called 'Brazil Point by Point', which mobilized 160 local volunteers. The volunteers surveyed more than half a million people, who reported that they considered values such as responsibility, respect, love and reciprocity essential for a better life. As a result, UNDP chose the theme 'Guiding Values for Life' for the report.

A total of 40 national UNV volunteers were engaged in the elaboration of the NHDR and collected primary data for the creation of a new indicator, the 'Human Value Index'. The UNV volunteers were scattered across Brazil, and interviewed 6,000 people on human values, education, violence and demographic variables. Subsequently, they assessed and compiled the data for statistical analysis.

Flávio Comim is the Coordinator of the National Human Development Report at UNDP. He explains, "Rather than paying a private company to do the job, we took on organizing the logistics of a very complex survey ourselves. But the returns were priceless. The UNV volunteers reported a rich array of experiences that called their attention to human suffering and hardship co-existing with happiness, friendship and human solidarity all over the country."

***"The UNV volunteers reported a rich array of experiences that called their attention to human suffering and hardship co-existing with happiness, friendship and human solidarity all over the country."***

UNV works with UN partners in developing countries around the world to advance the development agenda, advocating for more participation and engagement. UNV supports the UN 'Delivering as One' ('One UN') initiative by integrating volunteerism for development in eight pilot countries: Albania, Cape Verde,



Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay and Viet Nam. In Uruguay, UNV forged strong alliances to strengthen civil society, and is supporting the Government in planning for a national youth volunteer programme.

Matías Rodríguez, Director of the National Youth Institute at the Social Development Ministry, explains, "UNV has helped the National Youth Institute to define its role in promoting volunteerism. UNV conducted a survey on volunteerism that facilitated decision-making regarding policies for the promotion, recognition and establishment of a legal framework for volunteerism in the country".

"In 2009, we launched a national roundtable on volunteerism with the full involvement of a range of actors, from UN agencies, a network of public institutions, corporations, civil society organizations, public and private universities and city mayors," says UNV volunteer Antonio Graziano (Italy). UNV also partnered with Civicus: World Alliance for Civic Participation on a national study of volunteerism in 2009, which revealed that around 20 per cent of Uruguayans had volunteered in some way, making an economic contribution equivalent in value to about US \$145 million or one percent of the gross domestic product.

In Viet Nam, UNV is also working through the One UN programme to strengthen the capacity of volunteerism for development, promote the greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS and ensure that gender issues are reflected in development.

The Government has a strong commitment to gender equality, and the gender gap in education and the workforce is narrowing. However, traditional attitudes persist, particularly among the rural poor. Tanja Noponen (Finland) is a UNV volunteer Gender Specialist who ensures that women's issues are taken into account in development programming. "Projects cannot meet their goals efficiently if there is no consideration of the different effects on men and women," she says.

"Climate change will affect agricultural and ecological systems," Tanja explains. "Because women in Viet Nam depend on natural resources for their livelihoods, they are more vulnerable to resource scarcity and the impacts of natural disasters. Therefore, gender is a key factor in considering ways to adapt to climate change."



## Meet UNV volunteers... recognized for outstanding service

UNV advocates for recognition of the dedication and contribution of volunteers to development. Every year, UNV volunteers around the world receive awards, symbolizing the appreciation of the partners they work with.

In China, national UNV volunteer Liu Hui, a Communications Officer at the Beijing Volunteers Association, volunteered to provide logistical support for a team of doctors in the immediate aftermath of the May 2008 Sichuan earthquake (Liu Hui pictured above, photo: Gao Wei /UNV, 2008). In 2009, she received an award as one of the 'Beijing Top Ten Volunteers'. Another national UNV volunteer, Canaria Gaffar, was recognized for her work on HIV/AIDS with Aids Care China and named 'Outstanding National Volunteer of 2009'. UNV and UNDP received the 'National Brand [Model] Project of the Year 2009' award in China, recognizing cooperation on an Early Recovery and Disaster Risk Management project.

Linda Germanis (Italy), a UNV volunteer with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), was named 'Outstanding Volunteer' in Thailand. She received the award from Mr Issara Somchai, Minister of Social Development and Human Security, for her work with a volunteer project that helps marginalized people document their lives through photography.

Clement Dubarry (France) and Ana Nunes (Portugal), UNV volunteers with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Jordan, received awards from Princess Basma Bint Talal for their work with refugees. During a celebration at the Princess Basma Youth Resource Center they highlighted the valuable contributions of volunteers to development.

Force Commander Lt. Gen. Babacar Gaye of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) recognized UNV volunteers William Mulongo (Kenya) and Makhtar Ba (Senegal). Working with movement control operations, they had handled loading and off-loading cargo from seven flights a day for four weeks under harsh conditions, including 211 metric tons of incoming cargo.

UNV volunteer Rukaya Mohammed (Ghana) received the Creativity and Innovation Award from UNDP Liberia for raising the profile of the UNV country office.

In Burkina Faso, 79 volunteer teachers working in primary schools received certificates recognizing their service within the context of the National Volunteer Programme from UNDP Country Director Ruby Sandhu-Rojon.

# Advocacy in action

***“The decisions and actions of individuals may seem insignificant in the face of global challenges. But when people choose to devote their time and energy they can, together, make a difference.”***

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, International Volunteer Day 2009

UNV advocates for volunteerism, inspired by the conviction that every individual can contribute skills and knowledge to advance human development. Every year, on International Volunteer Day (IVD), 5 December, we recognize the contributions of volunteers reaching out to governments, civil society, development and private sector partners, and communities all over the world.

With the eyes of the world focused on the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, the ‘Seal the Deal’ campaign of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) aimed to galvanize public support and bring the voices of the people to the leaders. UNV launched a theme-based campaign for IVD 2009, ‘Volunteering for our Planet’, which sought to illustrate environmental action already being taken by volunteers around the world.

An interactive page hosted on the Seal the Deal website registered more than 1.5 million hours volunteered for the planet between World Environment Day (5 June) and IVD. The highest numbers of volunteers registered were from developing countries, including India, Ecuador, Kenya, Pakistan and Nigeria. Actions being taken indicated a heightened awareness of climate change challenges within developing countries, as well as a determination to take practical steps to address them.

Volunteers reclaimed the beaches and coastal cities of West Africa, with thousands of local people allying with UNV volunteers, UN personnel and authorities in cleanup activities in Conakry, Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan and Accra. In Zimbabwe, UNV supported a national tree planting day at the International Friendship Forest, launching the wider Harare Greening Project which

aims to plant two million trees by 2015.

Volunteers in Honduras mopped up the docks at Puerto Lempira, set up waste containers, and raised awareness about the importance of recycling. The Peace Corps, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and UNV joined together in Kyrgyzstan to study and construct solar barrel heaters which they distributed as sources of clean energy for rural people. Assisted by UNV, the Muslim Scouts of Algiers cleaned up a forest, collecting two truckloads full of refuse.

Though International Volunteer Day happens just once a year, it aims to create a lasting impression of the impact of volunteerism. Among the legacies of the UNV ‘Volunteering for our Planet’ campaign was the creation of an online community that has become self-sustaining as volunteers contribute their thoughts and evidence of their actions to improve the environment through volunteerism around the world.

**The General Assembly,  
Invites Governments to observe  
annually, on 5 December, an  
International Volunteer Day for  
Economic and Social Development,  
and urges them to take measures to  
heighten awareness of the important  
contribution of volunteer service,  
thereby stimulating more people in all  
walks of life to offer their services as  
volunteers, both at home and abroad...**  
*A/RES/40/212. International Volunteer Day  
for Economic and Social Development  
(17 December 1985)*

*‘Volunteering for our Planet’ highlighted the grassroots commitment to environmental voluntary action. The 1.5 million hours registered sent a strong message to delegates at the 2009 UN Climate Change Conference. Participants also demonstrated their support at the UNV booth in Copenhagen. (Scott McQuade/UNV, 2009)*





# Marking the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers

***“We engage the will, the positive energy and the innovation of millions of people towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals and in building social cohesion, mutual understanding and the achievement of community-centred goals.”***

*Extract from the vision statement for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers*

The International Year of Volunteers in 2001 put volunteerism for peace and development on the international agenda like never before. Its tenth anniversary in 2011 is another unique opportunity to celebrate the impact that volunteers and voluntary action have around the world.

Activities under consideration for the year 2011 promise to showcase the diversity, breadth and depth of volunteering. The anniversary offers a renewed chance to truly raise the profile of volunteerism for peace and development, and to mobilize a constellation of volunteers from all backgrounds and nationalities. Once again, the United Nations General Assembly nominated UNV to be the focal point to coordinate a common approach, and in October 2009, UNV brought together stakeholders from across the UN and civil society for a consultative meeting at its headquarters in Bonn.

The gathering resulted in a global plan of action for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (‘IYV+10’), including a vision statement and an invitation to join the celebrations. This global call to action encourages stakeholders to reinvigorate the spirit of the International Year of Volunteers and its four pillars: recognition of the contributions of volunteers; understanding of how volunteerism can change the pace and nature of development; continued advocacy and policy development; and enhanced cooperation among volunteer-involving organizations.

Stakeholders are responding. In Namibia, a Volunteerism for Development Coordinating Committee is spearheading national volunteerism policy

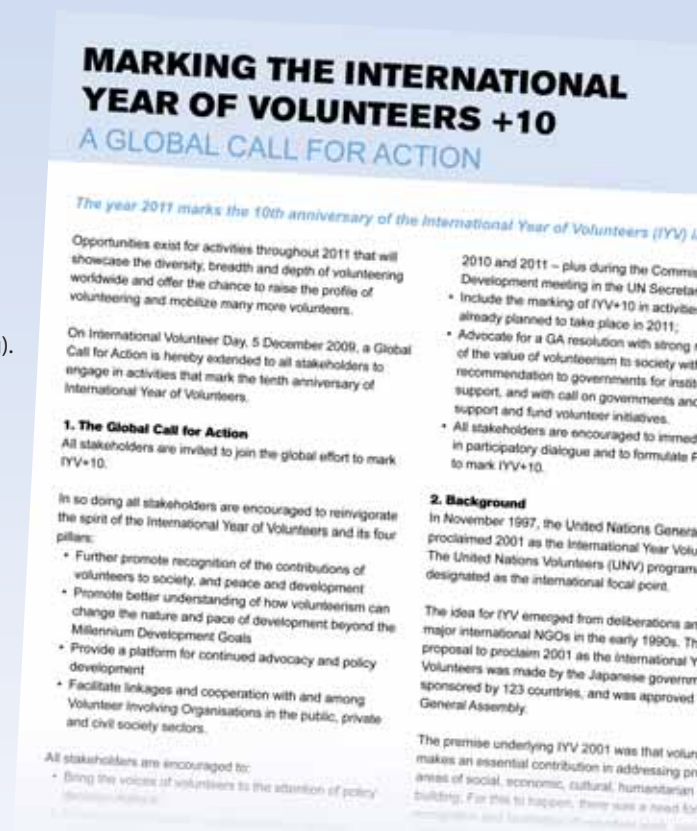
development and plans to commemorate IYV+10. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has established a senior management steering committee to oversee its involvement in IYV+10 at the global level and to facilitate national campaigns.

The year 2011 also promises close synergies with the International Year of Youth, which begins on 12 August 2010, and the European Year of Volunteering designated for 2011 by the European Commission. Planning is underway on joint activities between UNV and the European Commission, such as a regional conference on volunteerism for the MDGs.

UNV and its partners will continue to use the World Volunteer Web as the main platform to facilitate collaboration and make information on volunteerism more accessible to all. Information related to the marking of IYV+10 is also available on this portal ([www.worldvolunteerweb.org](http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org)).

**The General Assembly, Invites Governments, with the active support of the media, civil society and the private sector, as well as development partners and the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to carry out activities focused on marking the tenth anniversary of the International Year, in 2011, at the regional and national levels...**

*A/RES/63/153. Follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers (18 December 2008)*









# Integrating Sustainability

**“Volunteers have a crucial role to play in supporting communities to adapt to climate change. As the world responds to global warming, the role of volunteerism will grow: volunteers will help develop the capacity of communities, contributing to human development and poverty reduction for the sake of future generations.”**

*MacDonald Kadzatsa (Zimbabwe), UNV volunteer Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Namibia*

**Volunteerism enables the participation and inclusion of people at the grassroots level, including the vulnerable and disadvantaged. Volunteers integrate participatory approaches into development implementation.**

**UNV engages communities in sustainable environmental and community-based resource management, addressing food security, combating desertification, and promoting climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction. UNV volunteers support communities in adopting specific response measures, taking into account local conditions and opportunities for alternative coping mechanisms.**

Climate change is affecting development progress. Dependent on natural resources and often ridden by poverty and disease, communities in developing countries are less able to cope with the food shortages, infrastructure damage and land degradation caused by drought, floods and erratic weather patterns. Adapting to the impacts of climate change is critical for sustainable development, and is dependent on local planning and implementation support. Volunteerism is a crucial means of engaging communities in identifying their specific needs and exploring new ways to adapt to the inevitable impact of a changing climate.

UNV is partnering with UNDP and the Global Environment Facility in an innovative Community-based Adaptation (CBA) programme to build resilience to climate change and share lessons learned about managing natural resources (2008-2012). Covering 10 pilot countries, seven UNV volunteers are enhancing

community mobilization and participation, and advocating for the recognition of volunteers. They train community volunteers, supporting them in developing and sharing their own solutions to climate change.

One of these countries is Niger, which ranks 182<sup>nd</sup> on the UNDP Human Development Index 2009. One of the poorest and driest countries of the world, its people depend largely on farming and cattle rearing. Yet climate change is causing erratic rainfall patterns, higher temperatures, more frequent drought periods and intense water scarcity.

UNV is working on a CBA project with *Action pour la Gestion Intégrée des Ressources* (Action for the Integrated Management of Resources), an NGO working with agro-pastoral communities to improve farming techniques, increase soil fertility and plant trees to protect against soil erosion caused by stronger winds and rainstorms. One UNV

*National UNV volunteer Teófilo Quispe (left) is a Technical Assistant and potato producer in Bolivia. Teófilo trains members of Corque municipality, such as the indigenous community leader shown here, in ways of improving production and income. (Nicolas Josserand, 2010).*



## Volunteering for the environment in Uganda

In Uganda, UNV engaged in an initiative to promote youth and community volunteerism for environmental sustainability. The project was designed and implemented by the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre, together with youth groups, NGOs, and national and local institutions (Photo: Joe Burua/UNV/UNDP, 2006).

With UNV support, the project educated youth and community members on environment resource management and conservation. It provided community members in Entebbe municipality with training and information materials in

English and the main local language, Luganda. It also arranged radio talk shows to raise awareness and mobilize more volunteers, and provided gardening equipment and supplies.

At least 1,000 youth and community members were mobilized in nine sites around Lake Victoria and trained on the rehabilitation and protection of the environment and ecosystems. Youth groups Ozone Uganda and the Garbage Gobblers were empowered to establish community cleaning and waste management services.

The project helped change attitudes towards environmental conservation and resource management among the youth and other community members. It resulted in the establishment of community gardens and nurseries, with the planting of over 20,000 seedlings. Community members replicated these practices in their homes and gardens, while youth engaged in re-greening and clean-up activities in schools, churches, mosques and markets.

volunteer engaged about 1,500 participants in project activities. The partner NGO provided training in soil conservation and the safe application of pesticides; techniques which are already yielding larger harvests despite limited rainfall.

"We received training about fertilizing degraded soil, natural regeneration, new farming techniques and the use of quick-maturing seeds because our natural environment has changed," says farmer Alassane Boukari. "The project contributed to reducing the vulnerability of our community and addressing ignorance. Through our participation, we are adjusting to increasingly precarious conditions. We will show solidarity and volunteer whenever and wherever necessary, because this is in our best interest."

***"Through our participation, we are adjusting to increasingly precarious conditions. We will show solidarity and volunteer whenever and wherever necessary, because this is in our best interest."***

Gaidama Abdou served with the national volunteer scheme for the development of Niger before becoming a national UNV volunteer with the CBA programme. "I was recognized as a volunteer by the community and succeeded in encouraging positive behaviour patterns," he says. "Involving the community and respecting their traditions contributes to creating more trust."

Climate change will also impact significantly on rural communities in Bolivia, where increasing temperatures, melting glaciers and more variable precipitation are affecting the ecosystems people rely on. One of the CBA projects in the country focuses on the warm valleys in Saipina in the Department of Santa Cruz, an area of transition between the western high plains and the eastern lowlands. The low-income families in the area rely on their crops for food and income, making them highly dependent on the local river which runs dry for several months when rainfall is low. While there is some irrigation, the methods used are rudimentary.



National UNV volunteer Juan Carlos Soria, an Agronomist, recognizes the challenge. "With the increase in droughts, new ways needed to be found to improve irrigation," he says. "This traditionally had been done by flooding the whole cultivation area, without a controlled irrigation system. Through advocacy and training, communities learned about climate change and the need to adapt and change certain behaviours in order to reduce their vulnerability."

Juan Carlos engaged community members in identifying sustainable response measures. Farmers involved through participatory processes identified the climatic factors affecting agricultural conditions and recommended new approaches. For example, they agreed that inefficient water systems increased their vulnerability and decided to establish standards to regulate water usage for all communities sharing the resource over the course of the year. Project communities also decided to increase their cultivation of *chirimoya*, a native fruit crop, and ensure sustainable production to diversify livelihoods and increase incomes.

Zimbabwe is challenged by acute poverty and mass emigration, exacerbated by the fact that one fifth of the country is susceptible to drought. The Rushinga Environmental Management and Education project (2007-2010) is also being

conducted to tackle desertification. Rushinga District suffers from low annual rainfall and high temperatures. As people cleared forests for arable land and settlements, deforestation increased and erosion and siltation made the soil hard to cultivate.

UNV partnered with UNCCD, UNDP and the Government in the development of a District Environmental Action Plan encouraging the more sustainable management of resources. UNV volunteers reached about 2,000 people and facilitated community participation in the development of the plan, resulting in a strong sense of ownership. The plan provided a framework for implementing the national environmental action programme at the local level, working specifically with youth and communities. About 25 youth were trained in environmental management and proceeded to develop income-generating activities that also addressed environmental challenges.

"The process has been beneficial for the communities, especially the women and youth who are most affected by the rapid depletion of natural resources," says national UNV volunteer Project Coordinator Robson Mavondo. "Involving marginalized groups built local capacity and the spirit of doing something that helps the whole district gave the national volunteers a sense of belonging."

*Community members sell surplus white maize or 'millies' at Ondangwa Open Market in Namibia. The maize was produced as part of a Community-based Adaptation project. For the first time, group members had surplus yields to market and generate income. (Tuhafeni Nghilunanye/ Creative Enterprise Solutions, 2010).*



# Volunteers *in action* for the

Across the world, UNV volunteers engage with development partners and local communities in working towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With only five years to the 2015 deadline, volunteers will be critical catalysts in advancing progress towards these goals.

Meet some of these volunteers, our 'inspiration in action' in the following stories.

UNV played a role in designing the MDG icons. UNV volunteer Dirk Hegmanns (Germany) was co-winner of the UNDP Administrator's Innovation and Commitment Award in 2005 for his work on them as part of an MDG outreach campaign in Brazil. The icons have been widely adopted, transcending language and culture to become the most-recognized global symbols of the eight MDGs.



## GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

**Paolo Faberi (Italy), corporate volunteer in Ecuador**

Paolo, a business administration expert, served as a corporate private sector volunteer in Ecuador. In partnership with UNV, Italian NGO *Seniores Italia* sends expert volunteers to reduce poverty in developing countries. Paolo helped the Nueva Vida Indigenous Women's Association improve agricultural production and commercialize their products.

"The lack of natural resources leads to poverty and food insecurity," says Paolo. "Although people in Chimborazo province were good at vegetable-growing techniques, agricultural over-exploitation had diminished production, and they had little experience selling produce to generate income."

With improved business skills, many women are able to move out of poverty. "The results have been positive," says Paolo, "And the women are determined."



## GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

**Sara McGinty (Canada), serving in Lesotho**

Sara is a UNV volunteer Education Officer working with the Distance Teacher Education Programme of the Lesotho College of Education. She reviews the curriculum of the teacher training programme and proposes improvements. As a result, the college is planning more life skills education, and is prioritizing educating primary students about HIV/AIDS.

"I assess student teachers in the field and integrate their needs into the training programme," Sara says. "Some asked for best practice examples, and UNICEF is now planning to film teachers and share as one of the training modules."

"I am not the usual volunteer," Sara continues. "This assignment gave me an opportunity to work on the ground to strengthen a crucial educational programme."



## GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

**Sara Rodríguez-Argüelles (Spain), working in Bolivia**

Sara is a UNV volunteer working with UNIFEM in La Paz, Bolivia. She works on a project to prevent women from being deceived by trafficking networks. Sara advocates for women's rights and sensitizes women leaders, who then volunteer to provide training and raise awareness among women in their communities.

Sara also raises awareness of the standards of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. She works with UN entities, like the International Labour Organization, to provide vocational training for girls who have been victims of commercial sexual violence.

"All of this constitutes a drop in the ocean," Sara says. "But our contribution can help to breach the equality gap."



## GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

**Dr Aimé Namululi (Democratic Republic of Congo), working in Chad**

Aimé is a UNV volunteer Health Coordinator with UNHCR in southern Chad. When new child refugees arrive, he determines their nutritional status and ensures they are vaccinated and treated for parasites and vitamin deficiency. "The primary cause of death among refugee children under five from the Central African Republic was measles," Aimé says.

Local children had to walk 40 kilometres to the nearest health centre. Dr Aimé and his team opened a new health centre in the village of Beureh, near two refugee camps. Between 2006 and 2009, the general malnutrition rate fell from 10 per cent to below 5 per cent.

"I saw that we could provide better health services to the whole community," he explains. "In the new centre, healthcare is provided to both refugee and local children – what's more, it's a way to bring these populations together."



**UN**  
**Volunteers**

inspiration in action



# Millennium Development Goals



## GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

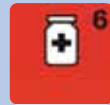
**Chonghee Choi (Republic of Korea), working in Nepal**



Chonghee is a UNV volunteer Community Health Coordination Officer with UNFPA in Nepal. She monitors and evaluates the Female Community Health Volunteer (FCHV) programme, through which around 50,000 women volunteers are improving maternal health in rural areas. Chonghee provides technical advice and analyses results and budget utilization.

Chonghee is helping roll out training for the female community health volunteers. This enables them to share their knowledge with communities, gain income generation skills, and better access Government funding.

"Women in rural Nepal suffer from high maternal mortality and low access to health services," says Chonghee. "I feel very proud to work with these volunteers who are making a difference."



## GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA & OTHER DISEASES



**Tunda Omondi, national UNV volunteer in Botswana**

Tunda is a national UNV volunteer engaged in community capacity enhancement in Botswana, which has one of the highest HIV/AIDS rates in the world. Tunda encourages local dialogue about HIV/AIDS and stigma, and supports policy formulation.

In Kgalagadi District, Tunda formed *Gae la Ngwao* (Home of Culture) for unemployed youth to disseminate information about HIV/AIDS through theatre. Tunda also assisted community members in forming a support group called *Tsaakgatho* (Take a Step) for people living with HIV/AIDS.

"I help people unearth their capabilities and look into available resources within themselves," says Tunda. "Through community conversations, people are empowered to identify their concerns and come up with solutions without external influence."



## GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



**Rao Venkata Rama Rao (India), working in Zambia**

In Zambia, erratic rainfall and drought have compelled farmers to shift from unprofitable crop farming to environmentally-damaging charcoal production. Through the Asia Youth Volunteer Programme, UNV enables experts from Asia to improve

sustainable agriculture and long-term food security in Africa, together with national UNV volunteers.

Rao, a UNV volunteer Agriculture Development Specialist, introduced sustainable practices in Choma. For example, the community now makes organic fertilizer with earthworms and irrigates fields using captured rainwater.

"When we first demonstrated the use of biogas converters to replace cutting firewood, the surprise and happiness of the women gave me immense satisfaction," he says. "I was proud to be helping the environment and sparing the women some of their hard labour."



## GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT



**Carlos Mayans (Spain), serving in India**

Carlos, an ICT Development Assistant in Kolkata, India, is a university volunteer who works in close collaboration with Cisco Networking Academy. UNV university volunteer programmes enable young volunteers to contribute to development for up to

six months. Through a separate UNV partnership with Cisco Systems initiated in 2001, over 110 national UNV volunteers have facilitated increased access to ICT skills and knowledge benefitting individuals and communities in over 40 countries.

Carlos helped the Uddami NGO establish a Cisco Local Academy and provide specially-adapted computer training for students with hearing impairments.

"People with disabilities have difficulty accessing opportunities," says Carlos. "We tackled this obstacle by working in a global partnership for social change. We are helping them become economically independent citizens – of this city, of this country and of the world."

## VOLUNTEERING ONLINE FOR THE MDGs

"I admire the solidarity amongst online volunteers," says online volunteer Ancilla Irwan (Indonesia). "We volunteer for different reasons, but we have the same goal. It is great to volunteer for the MDGs; for all people to cooperate for a better world."

Ancilla was one of 60 online volunteers from 16 countries supporting the outreach activities of the Target MDGs Programme. This joint initiative of UNDP and the Indonesian National Development Planning Agency aims to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the MDGs.

University volunteer Daniela Jines (Bolivia) is a Public Governance Associate responsible for communications with Target MDGs. She involved online volunteers in developing communication tools to engage communities in advocating for the MDGs. The volunteers redesigned and translated the website, researched and wrote articles, created presentations and produced a video.

"Everyone was extremely committed," Daniela says. "So we ended up doing much more than we had initially planned."

Desertification is expanding at an alarming rate in Ethiopia and already affects about 70 per cent of the country. One of the largest populations in Africa, Ethiopia is suffering the impact of widespread poverty and an increasing birth rate. National food production is declining, forcing underprivileged community members, including unemployed youth, to exploit limited woodlands and gather wood and charcoal to sell for a living.

***“Our forefathers toiled the land, our fathers inherited it and nature depleted it. We are now restoring it for the next generations.”***

*National UNV volunteer Gaidama Abdou (centre, in white) trains farmers in Niger to improve agricultural techniques, increase soil fertility and plant trees to combat erosion.  
(Mahamadou Adamou, 2009)*

UNV has worked with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Government of Ethiopia since 2007 on a joint regional programme to involve youth in addressing natural and man-made desertification. The project implements solutions to environment and poverty challenges, and has developed into a sustainable youth volunteer programme recovering the land and benefitting the communities who depend on it.

In 2009, two UNV volunteers supervised 370 youth volunteers, 46 per cent of them women, working on land rehabilitation in two target regions, Amhara and Oromia. UNV volunteers raised awareness of the impacts of desertification on livelihoods and advocated effective mitigation measures. They also enhanced skills by training youth, for example, in agriculture and soil and water conservation. They also successfully supported the establishment and management of four apiculture centres and four nursery sites, as well as the rehabilitation of 530 hectares of degraded land.

The visible progress achieved by the volunteers raised awareness of environmental issues and is having a multiplier effect, with neighbouring communities taking voluntary action and replicating experiences. “We saw what the neighbouring *kebele* [village] was doing in the project, and also wanted to benefit,” explains community member Fasika Hailu. “So we organized ourselves and engaged in the same activities, with our boys and girls working together and taking decisions together.”





“Our forefathers toiled the land, our fathers inherited it and nature depleted it,” says youth volunteer Aberra Getachew. “We are now restoring it for the next generations.” The Youth Association in Amhara Region received the National Green Award from the President for their outstanding efforts in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

UNV has been involving village communities in activities to promote progress towards the MDGs in the Comoros. In compliance with ratified international agreements, the Government declared some parts of the country ‘protected areas’ because of their significant value for the conservation of biodiversity, critical ecosystems and endemic or endangered species. This had an impact on communities living in these areas, who have traditionally depended on the exploitation of natural resources for a living.

Working with UNDP and the Government, UNV strengthened the organizational capacity of *Ulanga*, or traditional community environmental volunteering groups. UNV volunteers supported village communities in pursuing substitute economic activities compatible with biodiversity conservation. They promoted local community volunteerism to reduce poverty, empower women and preserve the coastal sites identified as protected areas.

The 12 UNV volunteers worked with 35 communities on three islands, collecting data and creating sustainable development plans. The volunteers trained local community members in income-generating and community development activities. Women were essential for the sustainable management of priority areas, and participated in field activities related to beekeeping and improved nursery management. The project teams assisted communities on all three islands to raise 17,500 plants, and honey is already being produced and has become a major source of income.

Youth in Kosovo (United Nations Administered Territory under UNSC1244), face the challenge of limited economic opportunities, coupled with lack of access to public services and protection of the rights of minorities. Half of the population is under 21 years of age, and unemployment is high. Without opportunities for education and work, youth in post-conflict regions are more vulnerable to poverty and violence. Voluntary



## Promoting sustainable tourism in Mali

Regarded today as the jewel of tourism in Mali, Dogon country is still the poorest part of the country. This fascinating region combines magnificent landscapes and traditional villages carved out of sandstone cliffsides with the mythology and wooden sculptures of its people.

Increasing tourism created inequalities. Few could benefit from the financial revenues, and local communities were unprepared to cater to the growing numbers of tourists. The cost of living spiralled, ancestral traditions suffered, and natural and cultural sites deteriorated.

UNV worked with the Government to promote sustainable tourism in Dogon country through volunteerism. Partners included the United Nations Capital Development Fund, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF and the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). Twenty-five UNV volunteers engaged the rural community in protecting their cultural heritage, fostering dialogue and interaction between communities and local authorities. They also assisted communities in forming voluntary village committees to coordinate their activities.

Malian national Barri Diakite served as an international UNV volunteer in Benin before joining the tourism project as a national UNV volunteer. “In Benin,” he explains, “we adopted an inclusive approach to project activities. This was important to integrate into the Mali project, because women were excluded and needed to be involved more.”

Nado Napo, Secretary of the Federation of Sangha Women Dyeing Associations, experienced the change first hand. “We were a group of women manufacturing indigo loincloths, breathing the dust clouds raised by the vehicles of tourists passing by,” she says. “With the assistance of UNV volunteers, we grouped into associations, then into a federation of women producers of the loincloths that we sell to many tourists. We are now fully involved in Sangha tourist activity.”

With backgrounds from agriculture and architecture to journalism and microcredit, the UNV volunteers used their expertise to build local capacity. For example, following an inventory-taking of sites and monuments in decay in the 10 villages, UNV volunteers trained youth in traditional stonework and restoration. They also trained tour guides and supported local volunteers in setting up a rural radio station. Pictured above, community volunteers Guiro Fatoumata Kodio (left) and Sanogo Salimata Dolo operate the Sangha rural radio station (Thomas d’Aquin Yaméogo/UNDP/UNV, 2009).

The Government has created a local branch of the Tourism Office in Sangha, a unique example of decentralizing a state agency to the local level. It is now working with UNWTO and other partners to replicate and scale up the project to other regions.



*UNV partners with local organizations like Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo to help youth overcome challenges, including limited educational and employment opportunities. Here, a community volunteer (in yellow) provides English lessons.*

*(Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo, 2008)*

action gives them new chances to learn, grow and become active participants in their communities. The 2006 Kosovo UNDP Human Development Report recommended that authorities listen to the voices of youth, and involve them more in decision-making and policy implementation.

UNV partnered with UNDP and the Government in supporting the implementation of the Kosovo Youth Action Plan, which placed six national UNV volunteers in the Municipal Department of Youth. Running from July 2007 to June 2009, the project aimed to get young people involved in government initiatives and civil society.

UNV volunteers built the capacity of NGOs and interacted directly with young people to promote MDG-based voluntary activities, like mobilizing 200 youth for World Environment Day 2009. To

ensure sustainability, the volunteers helped Municipal Departments of Youth take the lead on implementation as the project came to an end.

National UNV volunteer Burim Korqa says his term with the project was one of the most important experiences in his life. "I met different people with different religious and national backgrounds, and from different cultures," he says. "I am convinced that voluntary action has a lot to offer young people like myself. I invite all of Kosovo's young people to work on a voluntary basis, because getting involved in the development of their country will help them to find better futures."

In the aftermath of the 2007 earthquake in Peru, the focus was on immediate recovery. By 2009, attention had turned to reconstructing the areas affected and putting measures in place to ensure that such serious damage did not happen again. It was therefore essential to involve communities in the planning process, and volunteerism was the key to this process.

UNV worked with UNDP and partnered with local governments and civil society to make

***"I am convinced that voluntary action has a lot to offer young people like myself. I invite all young people to work on a voluntary basis, because getting involved in the development of their country will help them to find better futures."***



reconstruction sustainable in the Ica region. In the provinces of Cañete, Chincha, Ica and Pisco, 13 national UNV volunteers organized workshops, training 279 community leaders on legal issues and construction techniques that take disaster risk and environmental considerations into account.

"The community leaders replicate these workshops in their communities, using support materials produced by the national UNV volunteers," explains UNV volunteer Project Coordinator, Anne Seppänen (Finland). "A Legal Guidance Manual, for example, makes people aware of their rights, providing information on how to formalize house ownership so they have access to government subsidy programmes if there is another natural disaster. A manual on construction techniques explains the potential risks to consider in deciding where and how to build a house, from earthquakes to droughts or landslides."

Through the training of volunteer community leaders, UNV also makes a major contribution to the communities, encouraging civic engagement and boosting recognition of how local volunteers participate in the development of their own communities. Walter Jiménez is a young volunteer leader who took part in the first workshop delivered by the UNV team in Chincha. "I have been able to share the manuals providing legal advice and construction techniques with my college friends," he says. "They congratulated me for my decision to participate in this initiative, which helps raise awareness and contributes to local capacity-building."

Along with then-UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Jorge Chediek, the local authorities of Cañete, Chincha, Pisco and Ica submitted certificates to more than 200 volunteer community leaders in February 2009, recognizing their role in promoting appropriate construction techniques. "Now you, the volunteers, are facing the real challenge," Mr Chediek said during the award ceremony. "Having received the necessary training and tools from the project, you now have to be the actors for the construction of a society that is less vulnerable and more sustainable."



## Meet UNV volunteers... enabling peace

UNV volunteers contribute to the efficient functioning of the humanitarian and peacekeeping operations of key UN partners. From human rights to civil affairs, communications to technical support, they contribute to building and sustaining peace at the community level.

Joyce Kamara (Sierra Leone) performs a vital role as the link between the Liberia Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the UN Mission in Liberia, reporting on procedures and working closely with witnesses. "I listen to every individual witness and document what they say and how they are treated," says Joyce (pictured above, photo: Scott McQuade/UNV, 2008). "This includes ensuring special protection mechanisms are in place for vulnerable groups, like withholding the identities of children or allowing women to give their testimonies in private."

Hearing about the atrocities of the civil war is emotionally draining. "I went through many things during the war in Sierra Leone, so it is difficult to listen to these stories," Joyce says. "A lot of these women are relieved to have someone to talk to. This is part of the healing process, and helps them move on with their lives."

In Western Sahara, Edward Leposky (USA) is a UNV volunteer with the UNHCR Confidence-Building Measures programme. "This unique UNHCR programme enables Sahrawi refugees in the camps near Tindouf, Algeria, to maintain contact with relatives in Western Sahara," he explains.

Edward directly facilitates family visits. "There's an immediate sense of fulfilment from witnessing the emotional outpour when family members receive one another for the first time in decades," he says.

Other UNV volunteers have less interaction with communities but provide critical technical support for their wellbeing. Sathish Basavaraju (India) works as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Assistant for the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

"I provide updated and reliable maps for the mission and train mission staff on navigation skills and GPS," he explains. "Landmine experts, for example, rely on accurate information to help communities settle in cleared areas," he says. "Being a UNV volunteer has given me an opportunity to share my expertise and use GIS both for the organization and local communities."

# Developing national volunteer capacity

***"We value the support of UNDP and UNV to set up an infrastructure for volunteerism in the Gambia. We are really trying to mobilize the force of volunteerism to support national efforts towards the realization of poverty reduction objectives and the MDGs."***

*Former Director General Abdou Touray, National Planning Commission, the Gambia*

UNV is committed to facilitating enduring solutions so that countries can harness the power of volunteerism for peace and development. More than just mobilizing national UNV volunteers, UNV helps to build capacity through volunteer schemes that address national development challenges.

An example is the *Programme National de Volontariat au Burkina Faso* (Burkina Faso National Volunteer Programme – PNVB). Since the programme began in 2006, the number of young Burkinabé

getting involved and actively contributing to development has exploded. By the end of 2009, a total of 946 people had served via the PNVB, volunteering their skills for development in their own country.

Managed by the Government, UNV and UNDP, the national volunteer programme is the result of a joint project aimed at deploying a growing but underutilized group of educated citizens to participate in development. One of the key areas in which most of them are

involved is combating illiteracy in rural areas. The scheme began with just 80 volunteers who had trained at the National School for Primary School Teachers, but had not yet completed their qualification.

With a population of around 13 million in 2005, Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world. Education is a major challenge, with a literacy rate of about 28 per cent. UNV volunteer Hélène Agnelli (France), the former Programme Coordinator,





explains, "Literacy is a key area of the MDGs and our partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Employment responds to an urgent need," she says. "These volunteers make a significant contribution to their country."

One such national volunteer, Christine Ouedraogo, took charge of a classroom in Worokuy, a remote village in western Burkina Faso. She shares, "Volunteering is a way for me to help my country advance and education is the basis of development. There is a great shortage of teachers in Burkina Faso and my students were already one month behind when I arrived last November. Without this opportunity to work, I would have been unemployed. I am happy to do good for others and with 72 students in the class, I am really busy."

Most volunteers are involved in combating illiteracy in rural areas, though the general programme has since expanded to include health, governance and the environment. With a roster of 3,000 qualified candidates now interested in volunteering, six regional volunteer centres have been established to manage volunteers working across the country.

The national volunteer programme is designed to be self-sustaining. At first, UNV volunteers acted as regional coordinators, but were gradually replaced by graduates of the PNVB itself. A law on volunteerism was adopted by the National Assembly in 2007; and 2009 saw another milestone for sustainability when management of the programme was officially handed over to an independent national body that will continue to be funded by the Government of Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso is just one example. UNV is also helping to strengthen the capacity of existing volunteering institutions, as is the case in Mauritius, Mozambique and Senegal. In Liberia and Niger, UNV

helped set up entirely new structures for recruiting, training and fielding volunteers, and new initiatives are underway in Cape Verde, the Gambia and Mali.

In strengthening or developing national volunteerism, UNV brings together government, civil society and international organizations. A feasibility study is conducted to determine the general environment for volunteerism in the country. UNV offers expert advice on creating necessary policies and legislation, and works with stakeholders to reach a common understanding of how to develop the volunteer programme. It also promotes South-South cooperation, helping countries take advantage of good practices and lessons learned from national volunteer programmes elsewhere.

In the Gambia, for example, there are large numbers of potential volunteers but limited opportunities for people to contribute to development in a structured way. The majority of the population is young, with 63 per cent under the age of 25. The formal sector is very small, employing just over 10 per cent of the workforce. UNV supported UNDP and the Government of the Gambia in conducting a country-wide feasibility study that highlighted the added value of volunteerism for the achievement of national development goals. The development of a national volunteer infrastructure, and related policies and legislation, is currently underway. UNV also facilitated a study visit from the Gambia to Burkina Faso to learn from the positive and successful experiences there.

The unique experience and expertise that UNV can offer is attracting even broader interest. Both the African Union and the Southern African Development Community are now working with UNV on regional and continental volunteer programmes.

## National UNV volunteers advance development at home

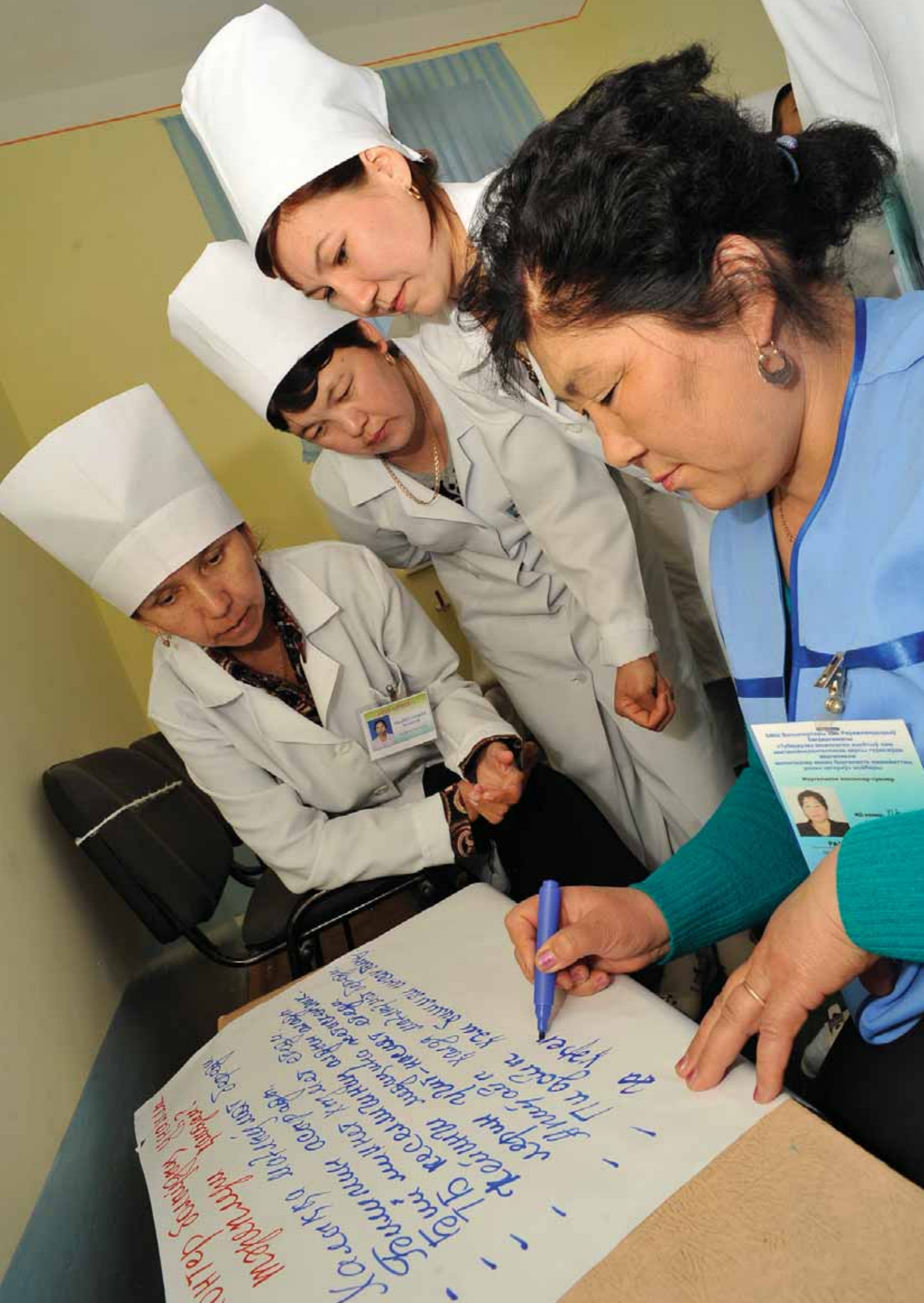
UNV introduced the national UNV volunteer modality in the early 1990s to strengthen local capacities and national commitment to peace and development. It enables professionals to contribute to the development of their own countries and communities as volunteers and by promoting volunteerism. National UNV volunteers collaborate with international UNV volunteers and other development professionals, enhancing mutual learning.

National UNV volunteers undertake more than 2,500 assignments every year. During 2008-2009, a comprehensive review of the national UNV volunteer modality was conducted to identify strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations to further strengthen implementation. Information was collected through a global stakeholder survey and case studies of 11 countries.

The review concluded that national UNV volunteers had great potential to support national development priorities and the achievement of the MDGs, by strengthening local individual and institutional capacities and promoting participation through volunteerism. The review recommended more deliberate inclusion of women and marginalized groups in recruitment, creating networks to foster knowledge-sharing and team building, and supporting former national UNV volunteers to continue volunteering for development beyond UNV.

The review will aid UNV in enhancing its existing national UNV volunteer modality to advance peace and development activities at the local level.

*National volunteer Christine Ouedraogo serves as a volunteer teacher in the village of Worokuy, Burkina Faso, while waiting to receive her teacher qualification certificate. (Giacomo Pirozzi, 2010)*





# Mobilizing Skills

**“UNV volunteers helped us enhance the delivery of healthcare services and address the deficit of healthcare professionals. This cooperation yielded excellent results, with positive feedback received from staff and patients alike. We look forward to continued collaboration with UNV, as their specialized medical professionals help us build local capacity and advance our goals in health through the transfer of technology and know-how.”**

*Minister of Health Jerry Narace, Trinidad and Tobago*

**Volunteerism mobilizes communities to engage in local development by promoting greater awareness about development issues and strengthening community leadership. Volunteers are at the forefront of efforts to respond to community challenges and emergencies.**

**UNV works with partners to mobilize more than 7,500 highly skilled UNV volunteers and many more community volunteers every year. From humanitarian relief to health, and peacekeeping to electoral support, UNV volunteers support peace and development activities by developing capacity and providing technical expertise.**

Communities in developing countries are often challenged in gaining access to healthcare services. In 2009, about 850 highly skilled UNV volunteers served in medical professions, reaching out to address the needs of disadvantaged and remote communities. In rural Uzbekistan, UNV is working with the Government, UNDP, WHO and local partners on an innovative project to engage communities in combating tuberculosis (TB) through local volunteerism.

Spanning 2009-2011, the initiative serves a population of 1.2 million people scattered across 640 villages in Karakalpakstan, in the northwest of the country. The project is mobilizing 3,000 community volunteers, 2,000 of whom had been recruited as this report went to press. Six UNV volunteers serving with the project have equipped 30 Community Volunteer Trainers with

the skills they need to enhance the capacities of the community volunteers. The latter are being trained to report TB symptoms, assist in treatment, monitor incidence rates and disseminate educational material in the villages.

“The UNV, UNDP and WHO partnership to combat tuberculosis in Uzbekistan creates needed change through volunteerism and community engagement,” says Dr Michel Tailhades, WHO Resident Representative in Uzbekistan. “The role of volunteers in raising awareness is already well documented, for example in WHO’s global polio immunization campaigns. As an integral part of the UN strategy to promote human security and achieve the MDGs, this project’s strategic focus on community volunteerism is an example for future development projects.”

*Uzbek Community Volunteer Trainer Rametova Zulfia (right) and her peers are mobilizing 3,000 community volunteers to combat tuberculosis. Here, she works with a dentist and two nurses (from left to right) to document prevention, recognition and treatment processes. (Leonid Kudreyko, 2010)*



## Mobilizing volunteers to 'Teach India'

Partnering with the private sector can provide unique opportunities to engage more people in volunteering for development. In India, UNV supported the Times of India newspaper and the Times Foundation in mobilizing volunteers to contribute their skills to teach the less fortunate. 'Teach India' was an innovative, volunteer-based initiative to address illiteracy in under-served urban areas. A third of the population of the country is illiterate and about 42 million children do not attend school.

Four national UNV volunteers helped manage 'Teach India' in Delhi, Chennai,

Kolkata and Mumbai, cooperating with NGOs, schools, civil society, media and the private sector in implementation, publicity and funding. They assisted in screening thousands of applications and matching volunteer teachers to implementing partners. About 100,000 women and men were subsequently deployed as volunteer teachers in 2008-2009, teaching two hours a week to inspire interest in learning and promote self-esteem. Pictured above, retired banker Dolly Saini teaches mathematics to children at the Adharshila Welfare Centre in Delhi (Vasundhara Jolly, 2009).

The campaign looked beyond the social divide, bringing volunteers with different social, political, economic and educational backgrounds together with communities in need. This enhanced social inclusion and heightened awareness of the impact volunteering can have. "Teach India' opened people's eyes and made them realize they can give back to society," says national UNV volunteer Joshua Immanuel. "It made them aware of communities in need, especially children deprived of educational opportunities and facilities."

UNV volunteer Gemma Carnacete (the Philippines) is a Primary Health Care and Community Mobilization Specialist. "We produced materials to dispel misunderstandings, myths and stigma about TB, and the community volunteers conducted house-to-house health education," she explains. "Last year, 444 TB cases were registered, resulting in 57 deaths. We are looking for a decrease in new cases and more rigorous treatment, because if it is left untreated, the disease can develop into a more virulent strain."

***"Volunteers are helping TB patients manage their daily challenges and improve adherence to treatment. Their efforts to increase the awareness and knowledge of the population are highly welcome."***

The NGO *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF – Doctors Without Borders) focuses on treating patients with the more advanced drug-resistant form of TB, and is an informal technical partner of the project. "Strengthening the existing volunteerism structures in the Karakalpakstan society facilitates early case detection and reduces stigma," says Andreas Bröder, Head of MSF in Uzbekistan. "Volunteers are helping TB patients manage their daily challenges and improve adherence to treatment. Their efforts to increase the awareness and knowledge of the population are highly welcome."

The UNV volunteers have also been working to engage different target groups within the communities, "because," as Gemma explains, "TB is a social problem. It is not just for those who are ill."



The skills and experience UNV volunteers bring help countries face obstacles to achieving the MDGs, including those related to health. In Malawi, UNV is working with the Government and UNDP to address an acute shortage of medical doctors and support the health delivery system. In 2009, about 50 UNV volunteer doctors served under the project, saving lives, training young graduates on the job and lecturing at the Malawi Medical College.

Many of them take on huge responsibilities. UNV volunteer Dr Elisabeth Muviri (Democratic Republic of the Congo) is the sole doctor in charge of 400 patients at Kasungu District Hospital in 2009. "I cover the rounds and wards and perform surgery, working with medical assistants and nurses," she explains. "In the maternity ward, 15 babies are born during the day, and another 10 during the night." Elisabeth also supervises junior health workers on preventive healthcare, provides on-the-job training, and is on stand-by for emergency calls. "Is it too much?" she asks. "Yes, but the need is too great."

The Chief Medical Officer at Mzuzu Hospital, Dr Bright Khosa, has been serving in the public health sector for the past 31 years. "We have a severe challenge, with so few Malawian medical doctors in the country," he says. "We called in UNV

volunteer doctors to develop capacity, not just fill a gap. We hope that more capacity building of nationals can be done, for example, if graduate doctors are made to stay at least five years after graduation. They owe that to their country. Then they can also benefit from the skills and training of these volunteer doctors."

Although the health sector of Trinidad and Tobago is one of the best equipped in the Caribbean, the lure of employment opportunities and training abroad, as well as local private practice, left many vacancies in the public healthcare system. UNV and UNDP have partnered with the Government since 2003 to address the short- and long-term needs for specialist medical professionals, general practitioners, health service managers and technical personnel.

UNV volunteer Dr Shahana Sharmin (Bangladesh) served as a General Practitioner in southern Trinidad from 2005-2009. When she first arrived, doctors were usually available for a few hours a day, although the public healthcare facilities were open longer. Shahana and other international UNV volunteer doctors set an example by giving the communities they catered to their full time and attention. The improved service also reduced the need for secondary and tertiary medical care of complications in cases that would otherwise have gone untreated.

*UNV volunteer Medical Doctor George Pape (right) from the Netherlands, attends to Elinah Phiri and responds to her mother's questions at Mzuzu Central Hospital in northern Malawi. (Eldson Chagara, 2009)*



At its peak, the project fielded 100 international UNV volunteer doctors across Trinidad and Tobago. As future attempts to strengthen the capacity of the healthcare system will focus on knowledge transfer, training and policy and planning capabilities rather than health service delivery, the number decreased to 30 UNV volunteer doctors in 2009.

***“Volunteers are from the local communities and understand the needs. With their support we are able to identify the key drivers of HIV/AIDS in the districts and model our responses based on this information, coming up with innovative ways to fight this pandemic.”***

UNV is working with the Government and UNDP in Zambia to respond to the challenges posed by the HIV pandemic within the framework of the Joint UN Programme of Support on HIV/AIDS (2007-2010). UNV volunteers are supporting the National Aids Council to mainstream HIV/AIDS, gender and human rights in district development plans.

“A great capacity challenge lies at the sub-national levels,” says Rosemary Kumwenda, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative and HIV/AIDS Advisor.

“Effective HIV/AIDS response requires a grassroots approach. The community level, districts and the provinces need to take the epidemic into consideration in all their strategies and plans. Therefore, they need to be able to monitor and coordinate HIV/AIDS responses in their areas.”

UNV fielded 72 national UNV volunteers to support district level planning, coordination, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the national HIV/AIDS strategy.

Dr Ben Chirwa, Director General of the National AIDS Council explains that the Government decentralized its response, establishing District AIDS Task Forces coordinated by UNV volunteers in 72 districts. “Volunteers are from the local communities and understand the needs. With their support we are able to identify the key drivers of HIV/AIDS in the districts and model our responses based on this information, coming up with innovative ways to fight this pandemic,” he says. “UNV’s work is critical, mobilizing communities, supporting implementation and ensuring monitoring and reporting on what is happening in the districts. We now have district plans and programmes and are treating over 270,000 people.”

*At Claxton Bay Health Centre in Trinidad and Tobago, UNV volunteer Medical Doctor Shahana Sharmin (centre) from Bangladesh works with Lydia Benoit (right), the District Head Nurse and receptionist Maria Nanan. (Anthony Harris, 2010)*





Beyond addressing HIV/AIDS, UNV volunteers are providing communities with technical support to develop poverty reduction and community response projects. The Tuyakumbele Youth Project in Choma, for example, is reaching out to 4,000 young people. Chairman Joseph Banda says, "UNV volunteers are coming from an HIV/AIDS angle to address our cross-sectoral challenges. We have already trained 1,400 young men and women in skills and in HIV/AIDS, and they are now training others. We are convinced that this is a best practice, and are proud to say we are open to the world to come and learn from our experiences."

UNV works to advance development, also in crisis settings. Skilled UNV volunteers support humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping and post-conflict electoral operations. UNV support is critical in 17 of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping (DPKO) missions: a third of the international civilians serving with DPKO are UNV volunteers. The largest single group serve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), supporting the mandate of MONUC, itself the UN's largest peacekeeping operation. In 2009, over 700 UNV volunteers were assigned to MONUC and another 131 worked with UNDP, UNHCR and other agencies.

UNV volunteers serving with MONUC come from 89 countries and work in 27 duty stations across the country. In 2009, UNV volunteers served in newly-established Joint Protection Teams, working hand-in-hand with the military to help protect civilians from violence and human rights abuses. The UNV volunteers build relationships with key stakeholders, putting in place early warning systems and reaching out to local authorities or armed groups.

Kristen Petillon (France), a UNV volunteer Associate Protection Officer, recalls a mission in Walikale, North Kivu. Minutes after arriving, his Joint Protection Team discovered that a nearby village was at risk of being caught in the crossfire between two factions. "Our team and the 'Blue Helmets' negotiated a ceasefire and asked for a temporary zone of separation and a retreat of the armed units from their positions in the village," Kristen recalls. "Moreover, the team – thanks to some delicate negotiations – extracted two child soldiers from one of the groups."

UNV volunteer Charlotte Songue (Cameroon) coordinates the UN Joint Human Rights Office in



## Advancing peace in the Sudan

UNV volunteers serving in the Sudan advance peace through their contributions to peacekeeping and development activities. Assignments in Sudan accounted for nearly 15 per cent of all UNV volunteers deployed in 2009: 414 UNV volunteers served with the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), 424 with the United Nations/African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and a further 195 with UNDP, UNHCR and other UN entities.

Many of the UNV volunteers supported the groundwork for the 2010 electoral process. Over 140 served with UNMIS, assisting the National Elections Commission in training electoral staff, providing civic and voter education, organizing logistics and conducting operational planning. Another 100 supported logistics and administration. Pictured above, Italian UNV volunteer Training Officer Erica Masiero (second from left) engages in a mock polling exercise as part of electoral staff training in Kassala, Eastern Sudan (Andrea Schüchner/UNV/UNDP, 2010).

"The holding of elections is a key milestone on the road to lasting peace and tranquillity," says Electoral Operations Officer Bashudev Bhandari (Nepal). "Offering guidance, advice and sharing experience with our counterparts are part and parcel of a UNV volunteer's obligation – which I am enjoying."

Through their assignments, UNV volunteers forge links between the UN and the people. Abraham Mabor Makeny, one of 24 national UNV volunteers with UNMIS, is a Civil Affairs Officer in Rumbek. "The conflict created a culture of war, impaired relationships, created mistrust and encouraged counterattacks in which properties and lives were lost," he says. "As a national UNV volunteer, I can count on the vast network of people I know to spread a message of peace."

UNV volunteers were also at the heart of tangible development and construction efforts. Eight UNV volunteers worked with the UNMIS Roaming Roads Maintenance Programme, upgrading 94 kilometres of the crucial Kaya to Juba road, linking Southern Sudan to Uganda and the DRC. "The impact of their work has immediate results in the areas where they operate," says Logistics Officer Noel Ngaha from the Regional Joint Logistics Operations Centre. "It is work like theirs that will leave a lasting impression in the communities."

During 2009, UNV also supported UNAMID in preparing the ground for peacekeeping operations in Darfur. Seven UNV volunteer HIV/AIDS Officers conducted essential training for the 14,000 African Union troops, and 62 others maintained the 4,000-strong transport fleet. A UNV volunteer Geophysicist and three Hydrogeologists struck water at Shagra near El-Fasher and opened two water wells, improving water supply for the local community.



*Irish UNV volunteer Eoin Young (left), a UNV volunteer Public Information Officer with the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, confers with mission spokesperson Madhodje Mounoubai during a press conference in Kinshasa. (Myriam Asmani/MONUC, 2010)*

the Equateur Province. She helps institutions promote and protect human rights through awareness-raising workshops. "We give civil society organizations the tools to better understand their rights and duties," she says. In her four years as a UNV volunteer, Charlotte has been able to see the direct impact of her work. "In the community, people are now speaking out against sexual violence, and there are more denunciations of abuses and illegal actions."

The protection of civilians and the full implementation of MONUC's mandate would not be possible without accurate information gathering, analysis, and distribution. Three UNV volunteers support the Joint Mission Analysis Cell, an integrated civilian and military structure, in handling information, conducting analyses and providing advice to allow informed decision-making. Six others work with the Public Information Division, ensuring efficient communication from the mission to the communities it serves.

***"Being called a volunteer is a special gift in itself, because it is more of a blessing to give than to receive. I can bring change to somebody's life. I, as an individual, can impact someone's life positively by the little things I do."***

UNV volunteers also play an essential role supporting the operational needs of the mission 'backstage'. Linda Achieng (Kenya) is a UNV volunteer Administrative Assistant with the MONUC Transport Section. "Being called a volunteer is a special gift in itself, because it is more of a blessing to give than to receive," she says. "I can bring change to somebody's life. I, as an individual, can impact someone's life positively by the little things I do."

In 2009, more than 1,000 UNV volunteers were assigned to UNHCR, representing 17 per cent of its field presence. UNHCR is the third largest partner of UNV; the number of UNV volunteers serving with UNHCR every year has almost tripled since the partnership began in 2000. UNV volunteers often work at the local level, linking community services to the needs of the people.

In Myanmar, UNV works with UNHCR to assist approximately 200,000 people along the Thai border and in the south-east of the country. The local knowledge and language skills of 14 national UNV volunteers have helped to build confidence among communities and development partners. Their activities focus on improving livelihoods for these vulnerable populations, in particular women and 'extremely



vulnerable individuals', such as the elderly and people with disabilities.

Khin Pwint Oo ('Ma Pwint') is a national UNV volunteer Community Social Services Specialist who works directly with such communities. In consultation with beneficiaries, Government officials and UN agencies, she and her team conduct needs assessments, leading to small projects to help people change their lives. For example, Ma Pwint and her colleagues developed plans to help ethnic minorities produce their own food and generate additional income from fisheries, animal husbandry and vegetable gardening.

"On-the-job training on organic fertilizer production and use was successfully carried out in a displaced community in Thandaung Township," adds Saw Terry, also a national UNV volunteer Community Social Services Specialist. "The UNV volunteers and UNHCR enabled people to make use of organic fertilizer on their own. We also conducted further discussions with vulnerable women in the Mon region about raising pigs, and held discussions with another women's group about the benefits to farming of draft cattle or even mini-tractors."

In addition, public health specialists "lend their hands" in support of community-based health initiatives, Ma Pwint says. "For instance, national UNV volunteers are engaged in the distribution and demonstration of modern child-delivery medical equipment and offer guidance on health needs."

National UNV volunteer civil engineers are also invaluable to UNHCR's activities, notes Ma Pwint. "This was particularly important after Cyclone Nargis in 2008," she says, "when UNV volunteers assisted affected communities in the delta and Yangon areas." The UNV volunteers provided materials and helped in building low-cost shelters for vulnerable people.



## Meet UNV volunteers... responding to disasters

UNV volunteers are often well-placed to provide immediate assistance in the aftermath of natural disasters. The fact that they work directly with communities, and often live in their direct vicinity facilitates early warning and response.

In Botswana, national UNV volunteer Kebonyemodisa Watota stepped in when the communities he worked with were hit by the worst flooding in 30 years. Watota (centre, photo: UNV, 2009) knew the communities through his HIV/AIDS awareness-raising activities under the Community Capacity Enhancement Programme. His local knowledge and language skills thus proved invaluable in assisting the Botswana Defence Force and Red Cross volunteers as they assessed the situation in the villages of Kauxwi and Xakao.

The aid workers also needed Watota to help persuade distressed and confused local people to temporarily move from their ancestral homes to higher ground. "As a UNV volunteer, I facilitated dialogue during the meetings," he says. "This was possible because I had already been working with the villagers, so I was not new to them and this accelerated dialogue. I stayed with them for three nights after relocation to assure them that the new place was safe."

In China, national UNV volunteers were quick to offer their help after the Sichuan earthquake happened. Liu Lei, the only UNV volunteer serving nearby at the time of the disaster, was the first to volunteer as a field interpreter for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Fellow UNV volunteer Gao Wei was serving with the Beijing Youth League at the time, and immediately volunteered to assist its disaster relief mission with equipment supply.

Like Watota in Botswana, Lei's local knowledge proved invaluable. He recalls the first days after the disaster. "My first task was to collect further information about the location, population and number of casualties, and I liaised between international aid agencies, local authorities and affected communities." Lei's efforts ultimately helped the Red Cross work more closely with other NGOs and facilitated the arrival of targeted aid.

# Engaging the development community online

***“Online volunteering is a unique way of contributing to the good of mankind without necessarily leaving your immediate environment. I am a legal practitioner with three little kids. I may not be able to get involved in peacekeeping in war-torn areas or other UN activities in troubled spots around the globe. However, I feel elated that within the confines of my little corner, I can help in resolving vital global issues by researching and making recommendations on issues concerning women and children.”***

*Gertrude Ene Onuoha, an online volunteer from Nigeria, supported the Saratoga Foundation for Women Worldwide with research on women and the MDGs in Ghana*

Mobilizing volunteers and engaging communities goes beyond sending specialists to the field. The UNV Online Volunteering service engages the global online community, mobilizing people to volunteer for peace and development.

To tap into this vast reservoir of expertise, organizations register on the UNV Online Volunteering service

website – [www.onlinevolunteering.org](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org) – and advertise the services they require, from project design to communications and promotional products. Online volunteers then scan these opportunities to see which they are best suited for, and contact the organizations to offer their support. Development organizations select those volunteers whose skills and experience best match

their needs, and work with them over the Internet.

The process costs the users nothing, and is monitored from UNV headquarters in Bonn to ensure quality control. The Online Volunteering service also mobilizes a diverse range of people. In 2009, about 62 per cent of online volunteers were themselves from the





South. About 53 per cent of the 9,427 online volunteers who completed assignments in 2009 were women, and about 200 online volunteers reported disabilities. The UNV Online Volunteering service leverages a wide range of expertise, and often builds lasting capacity for grassroots organizations.

In Pakistan, the Grace Association aims to “empower and improve the quality of life of marginalized and vulnerable communities in the least developed parts of the country” and grew to a stage where it needed outside help. In response to the NGO’s call on the Online Volunteering service website, people from Pakistan itself to Jordan and the United States of America formed a team of 10 online volunteers that worked on developing grant proposals and augmenting the Grace Association’s communications and branding.

Their contribution was critical in improving the Grace Association’s services, notes founder and volunteer manager Khadim Hussain, as they helped develop projects, access Internet-based resources and link with international organizations and networks. For example, the team helped the Grace Association register with the Association for Education of Young Children in the United States of America. “The educational resources to which our staff subsequently got access enabled us to start an early learning class at the Grace public school,” Khadim says, “and with the money raised through *globalgiving.org* we were able to purchase wheelchairs.”

Laura Gamboa-Cavazos (Mexico) helped the Grace Association to research and contact potential partner organizations. She also worked with Grace Association staff, developing their skills and knowledge in teaching young children. “Online volunteering has many advantages and rewards,” she says. “Most incredible is the chain of people

*Khadim Hussain is founder and director of the Grace Association in Islamabad, Pakistan, which has benefitted from the UNV Online Volunteering service. A team of 10 online volunteers supported the NGO by developing grant proposals and enhancing its communications and branding. (Waqas Anees, 2010)*

who want to make a difference. I have two best friends who I met through online volunteering, and the sharing of knowledge, information, education and culture has been enormous. Once you start, you will never want to finish. You keep looking for other organizations to help.”

Another 10 online volunteers, mostly architects and engineers, assisted the NGO *Ingénieurs sans frontières* (Engineers Without Borders) in Cameroon. These supported the design of a Knowledge Centre for Development, for example, researching potential partners and creating the architectural plans for the building. The Knowledge Centre aims to foster the promotion of science and technology in African development.

“Online volunteers played a crucial role in allowing us to better conceptualize the project and to define our strategy,” says Emilienne Lionelle Ngo-Samnick, who coordinated the online volunteers. “By sharing their skills, the online volunteers strengthened the organizational and technical capacities of Engineers Without Borders and its staff.” Online volunteers also created a modern website for the NGO, and provided online training and a manual so that the Engineers Without Borders staff could manage the website without further support.

In 2009, online volunteers undertook 172 per cent more assignments than the previous year, completing a total of 14,313 assignments. About 6,500 of these were in education, including designing and delivering free online courses for refugees. Another 2,500 assignments were related to the youth sector, such as the design of a youth action guide to promote youth involvement in community development, and 2,000 others supported the promotion of the MDGs and researched global development issues. About 92 per cent of organizations rated their interactions with online volunteers as ‘good’ or ‘excellent’. The website received more than half a million visits in 2009, almost double the figure for 2008.

## Sharing innovation in Brazil

UNV supported the development of a Portuguese-language volunteering portal based in Brazil that has helped promote the use of the Online Volunteering service. The initiative, launched by the NGO *Instituto Voluntários em Ação* (Institute for Volunteer Action – IVA), strengthens the capacity of local non-profit organizations to mobilize and manage online volunteers, and promotes volunteerism.

Bruna Bruno, a national UNV volunteer working with IVA, coordinated workshops to train the staff of volunteer centres from five Brazilian states on the use of the portal and management of online volunteers. She also designed materials for volunteer centres to use in replicating the training for partner organizations in their respective states. The number of NGOs registered on the service increased following the training and volunteer placement is also steadily increasing. More than 80 per cent of the organizations involved have expressed their satisfaction with the services provided by the online volunteers.

Bruna has also used the portal herself to support an environmental awareness-raising campaign run by UNEP. “Through IVA’s portal, I was able to work with 297 online volunteers on the production, translation and distribution of UNEP promotional materials encouraging civil society to assume responsibility for environmental preservation,” she says.

# Glossary

<b>CBA</b>	Community-based Adaptation
<b>DPKO</b>	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System
<b>IVA</b>	Institute for Volunteer Action (Brazil)
<b>IVD</b>	International Volunteer Day
<b>IYV+10</b>	Tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MONUC</b>	United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>NHDR</b>	National Human Development Report
<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>UNAMID</b>	United Nations/African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIFEM</b>	United Nations Development Fund for Women
<b>UNMIS</b>	United Nations Mission in Sudan
<b>UNSC</b>	United Nations Security Council
<b>UNWTO</b>	United Nations World Tourism Organization
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization





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# **STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2009**

## **Our mission**

Volunteering brings benefits to both society at large and the individual volunteer. It makes important contributions, economically as well as socially. It contributes to a more cohesive society by building trust and reciprocity among citizens. 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.

# United Nations Volunteers

## UNV volunteer statistics worldwide - 2009 Annual Report

Countries	National	Sent	Received
Afghanistan	5	43	165
Albania	8	7	14
Algeria	2	4	12
Angola	–	9	5
Argentina	9	10	–
Armenia	1	3	2
Australia	–	42	–
Austria	–	13	–
Azerbaijan	–	3	–
Bahamas	–	1	–
Bangladesh	43	41	14
Belgium	–	90	–
Belize	–	–	1
Benin	4	88	7
Bhutan	–	27	9
Bolivia	130	3	16
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	6	11
Botswana	12	2	12
Brazil	58	29	6
Bulgaria	–	5	–
Burkina Faso	33	33	18
Burundi	–	91	88
Cambodia	10	10	34
Cameroon	17	148	6
Canada	–	72	–
Cape Verde	7	2	8
Central African Republic	5	27	36
Chad	–	24	224
Chile	1	2	2
China	24	6	12
Colombia	41	15	26
Comoros	15	6	5
Congo	17	11	7
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	41	191	795
Cook Islands	–	–	1
Costa Rica	1	3	1
Côte d'Ivoire	–	83	351
Croatia	6	6	1
Cuba	–	4	2
Cyprus	–	1	–
Czech Republic	–	22	–
Denmark	–	9	–

Countries	National	Sent	Received
Djibouti	2	2	14
Dominica	–	1	–
Dominican Republic	10	2	12
Ecuador	29	11	42
Egypt	73	17	9
El Salvador	–	2	–
Eritrea	–	47	19
Estonia	–	1	–
Ethiopia	266	81	31
Fiji	4	6	6
Finland	–	52	–
France	–	108	–
Gabon	–	–	10
Gambia	1	17	10
Georgia	–	4	5
Germany	–	54	–
Ghana	21	112	8
Greece	–	10	–
Guatemala	12	6	22
Guinea	3	79	18
Guinea-Bissau	1	5	17
Guyana	44	2	6
Haiti	6	64	250
Honduras	18	3	15
Hungary	–	2	–
India	153	155	2
Indonesia	91	32	20
Iran, Islamic Republic of	–	4	–
Iraq	–	11	1
Ireland	–	57	–
Israel	12	2	8
Italy	–	245	–
Jamaica	1	5	–
Japan	–	78	–
Jordan	–	11	15
Kazakhstan	11	2	6
Kenya	127	206	42
Korea, Republic of	–	23	–
Kosovo	14	6	95
Kyrgyzstan	8	5	5
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2	3	51

**National:** National UNV volunteers serving within the country or territory. For example, during 2009 there were five Afghan national UNV volunteers engaged within Afghanistan.

**Sent:** Nationals of the country serving abroad as international UNV volunteers. For example, during 2009 there were 43 Afghan nationals on UNV volunteer assignments in other countries and territories.

**Received:** International UNV volunteers of other nationalities serving in the country or territory. For example, during 2009 there were 165 international UNV volunteers working in Afghanistan.



Countries	National	Sent	Received
Lebanon	8	11	5
Lesotho	2	2	13
Liberia	38	172	280
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	13	–	4
Lithuania	–	3	–
Madagascar	13	21	9
Malawi	34	11	80
Malaysia	–	16	6
Maldives	–	1	1
Mali	8	39	16
Mauritania	18	4	19
Mauritius	–	1	3
Mexico	2	17	1
Micronesia, Federated States of	–	–	1
Moldova	–	2	–
Mongolia	7	3	6
Montenegro	3	–	–
Morocco	9	13	39
Mozambique	44	8	25
Myanmar	14	16	15
Namibia	22	2	21
Nauru	–	–	2
Nepal	17	117	71
Netherlands	–	24	–
New Zealand	–	10	–
Nicaragua	51	1	16
Niger	89	75	29
Nigeria	13	82	3
Norway	–	10	–
Occupied Palestinian Territory	27	7	1
Pakistan	18	76	7
Palau	–	–	1
Panama	5	–	6
Papua New Guinea	–	1	7
Peru	21	11	11
Philippines	4	264	10
Poland	–	7	–
Portugal	–	33	–
Romania	2	15	–
Russian Federation	5	28	3
Rwanda	42	88	26
Saint Helena	–	1	–

Countries	National	Sent	Received
Samoa	1	–	1
Sao Tome and Principe	–	1	1
Senegal	7	36	14
Serbia	4	16	–
Seychelles	–	1	1
Sierra Leone	–	208	31
Singapore	–	4	–
Solomon Islands	–	–	16
Somalia	–	3	29
South Africa	1	11	37
Spain	–	81	–
Sri Lanka	36	42	10
Sudan	85	29	948
Swaziland	–	–	4
Sweden	–	28	–
Switzerland	–	58	–
Syrian Arab Republic	75	2	17
Taiwan	–	1	–
Tajikistan	–	17	1
Tanzania, United Republic of	83	77	37
Thailand	–	6	30
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2	5	1
Timor-Leste	14	38	262
Togo	7	37	13
Trinidad and Tobago	–	6	53
Tunisia	–	5	2
Turkey	21	9	2
Turkmenistan	–	1	1
Uganda	46	142	25
Ukraine	16	21	3
United Kingdom	–	60	–
United States of America	–	84	–
Uruguay	2	6	5
Uzbekistan	5	5	8
Vanuatu	1	–	3
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	10	4	6
Viet Nam	19	2	31
Yemen	15	2	38
Zambia	121	28	29
Zimbabwe	11	39	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,513</b>	<b>5,032</b>	<b>5,032</b>

The designations employed and the presentation of material in these lists do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations, UNDP or UNV concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

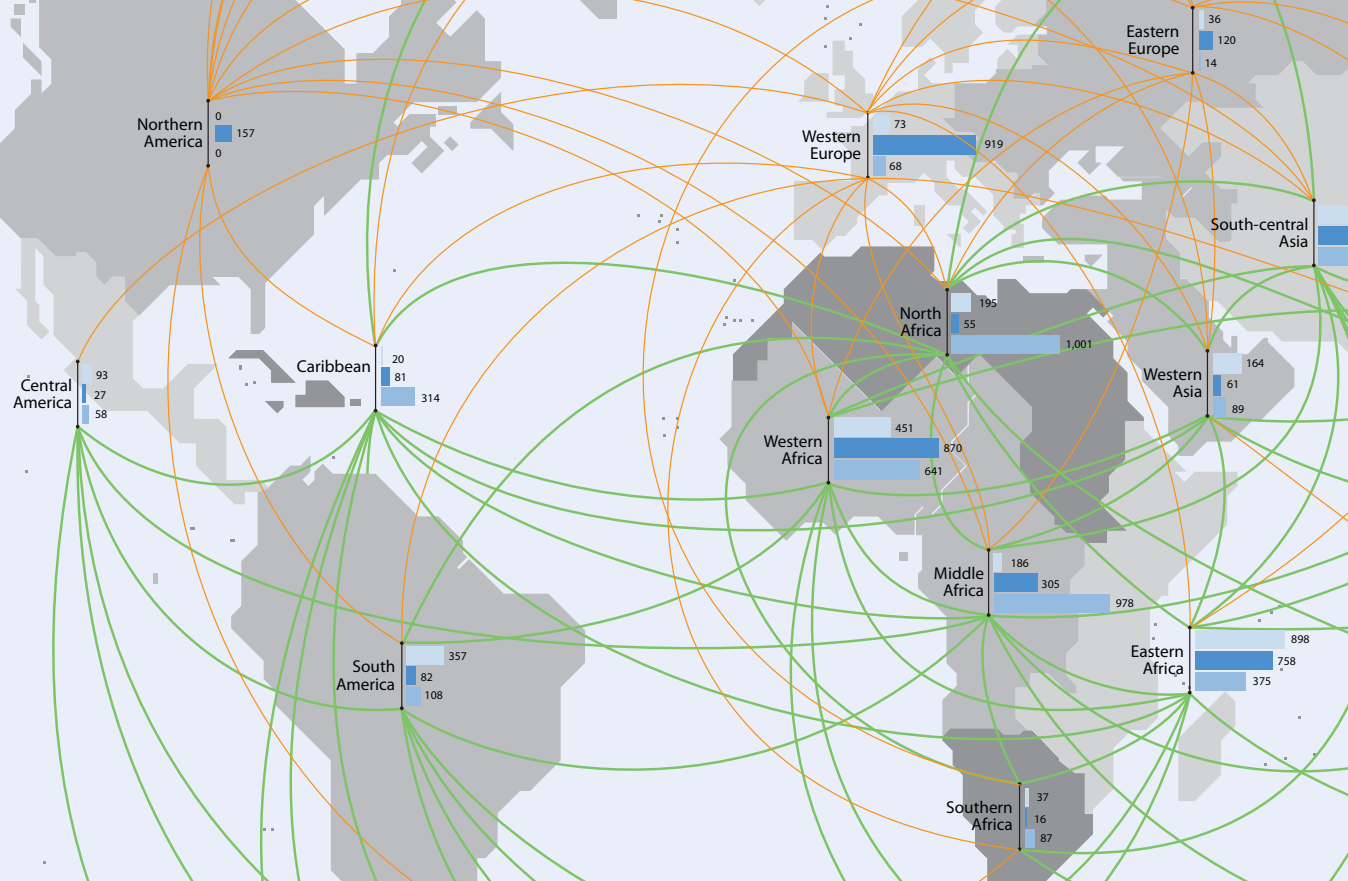


**UN**  
**Volunteers**

inspiration in action

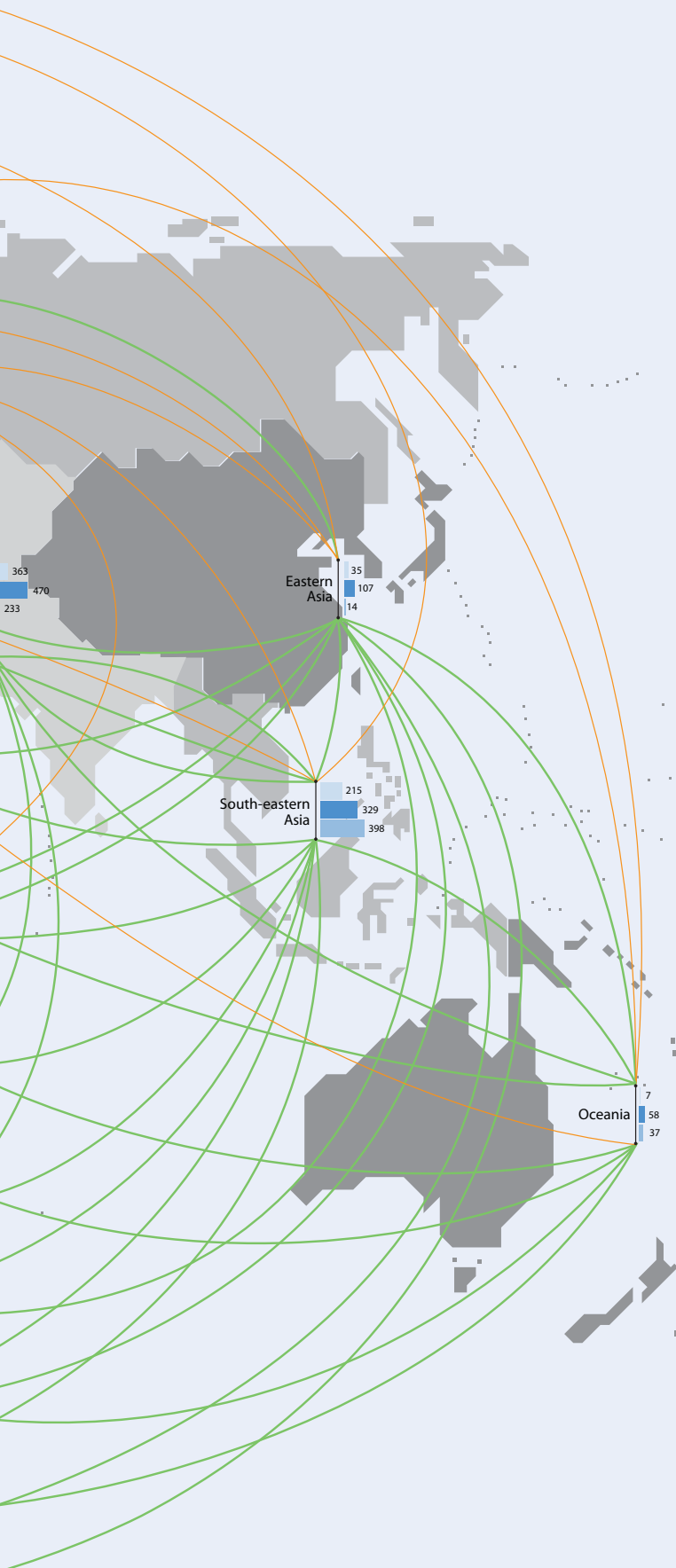
[www.unvolunteers.org](http://www.unvolunteers.org)

## North-South (28%)



## South-South (72%)





## UNV volunteer statistics worldwide - 2009

Annual Report

Regions	Regional	Sent	Received
Caribbean	20	81	314
Central America	93	27	58
Eastern Africa	898	758	375
Eastern Asia	35	107	14
Eastern Europe	36	120	14
Middle Africa	186	305	978
North Africa	195	55	1,001
Northern America	–	157	–
Oceania	7	58	37
South America	357	82	108
South-central Asia	363	470	233
South-eastern Asia	215	329	398
Southern Africa	37	16	87
Western Africa	451	870	641
Western Asia	164	61	89
Western Europe	73	919	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,130</b>	<b>4,415</b>	<b>4,415</b>

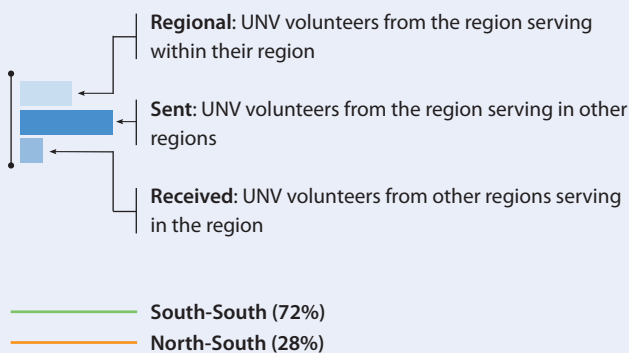
**Regional:** UNV volunteers from the region serving within the region. For example, during 2009 there were 20 Caribbean UNV volunteers engaged within the Caribbean.

**Sent:** UNV volunteers from the region serving in other regions. For example, during 2009 there were 81 Caribbean UNV volunteers on assignments in other regions.

**Received:** UNV volunteers from other regions serving within the region. For example, during 2009 there were 314 UNV volunteers from outside the Caribbean working within the Caribbean.

The terms used are drawn from the United Nations Statistics Division.

### Map legend



The lines on the map (left) indicate the movement of UNV volunteers from their home regions to their assignments around the world. Close to 80 percent of UNV volunteers come from the South and most also serve in the South.

## Statistics

<b>Number of UNV assignments</b>	<b>7,716</b>	
<b>Number of individual volunteers</b>	<b>7,545</b>	
Countries of assignment	<b>128</b>	
Countries of origin	<b>158</b>	
<b>Origin of UNV volunteers</b>		
From developing countries	<b>6,018</b>	<b>80%</b>
From other countries <sup>a</sup>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>20%</b>
<sup>a</sup> High-income OECD, Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)		
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	<b>2,777</b>	<b>37%</b>
Male	<b>4,768</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>Types of assignment</b>		
International UNV assignments	<b>5,160</b>	<b>67%</b>
National UNV assignments	<b>2,556</b>	<b>33%</b>

### NUMBER OF UNV ASSIGNMENTS WITH MAIN PARTNERS

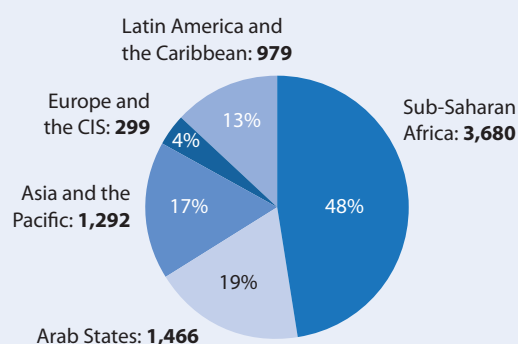
United Nations <sup>b</sup>	3,078
UNDP/UNV/Government	2,776
UNHCR	1,042
WFP	233
UNICEF	119
UNFPA	81
OHCHR	49
UNEP	37
UN-HABITAT	25
UNAIDS	24
Others	252
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,716</b>

<sup>b</sup> United Nations includes UNDPKO, DESA and OCHA

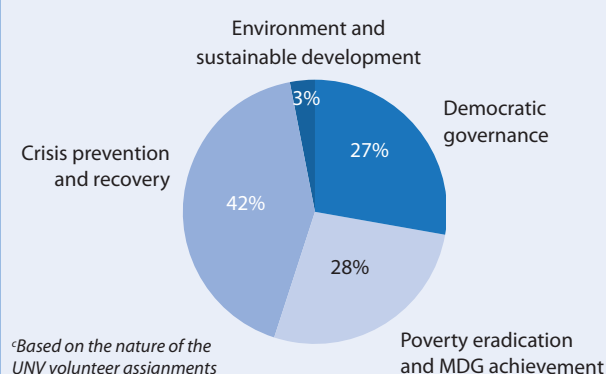
### ONLINE VOLUNTEERING SERVICE

<b>Number of online volunteering assignments</b>	<b>14,313</b>	
<b>Number of online volunteers</b>	<b>9,427</b>	
<b>Origin of online volunteers</b>		
From developing countries	<b>5,855</b>	<b>62%</b>
From other countries	<b>3,572</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	<b>5,032</b>	<b>53%</b>
Male	<b>4,395</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Number of registered organizations</b>	<b>1,349</b>	

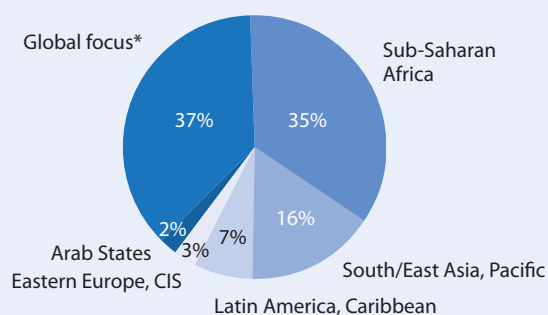
### UNV ASSIGNMENTS BY REGION



### UNV PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES<sup>c</sup>

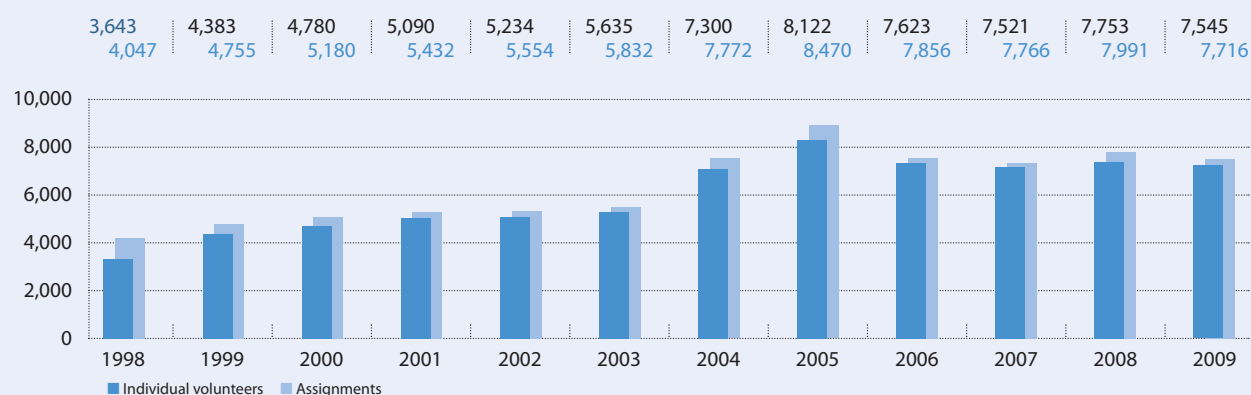


### ONLINE VOLUNTEERING ASSIGNMENTS BY REGION



\*Global focus includes projects across multiple countries

### GROWTH OF THE UNV PROGRAMME SINCE 1998





## Contributions to UNV in 2009 (Thousands of US\$)

DONORS COUNTRIES	Special Voluntary Fund	Other Resources*		TOTAL
		Government	Other	
Argentina	–	200.0	–	200.0
Austria	66.1	52.8	–	118.9
Belgium	514.4	1,432.3	–	1,946.7
China	30.0	–	–	30.0
Czech Republic	–	202.7	–	202.7
Denmark	–	262.0	–	262.0
Finland	–	1,749.7	–	1,749.7
France	–	520.8	–	520.8
Germany	2,530.7	755.1	–	3,285.8
Ireland	–	718.9	–	718.9
Israel**	10.0	–	–	10.0
Italy	34.6	657.4	–	692.1
Japan	–	2,989.4	951.4	3,940.8
Korea, Republic of	–	200.0	–	200.0
Luxembourg	–	460.7	–	460.7
Norway	–	432.0	–	432.0
Panama	0.5	–	–	0.5
Slovenia	–	94.8	–	94.8
Spain	–	988.9	–	988.9
Sweden	580.5	–	125.0	705.5
Switzerland	690.9	127.2	–	818.1
Syrian Arab Republic	4.8	–	–	4.8
Thailand	1.5	–	–	1.5
Turkey	10.0	–	–	10.0
United Kingdom	–	9.1	–	9.1
United States of America***	100.0	–	372.8	472.8
<b>Subtotal COUNTRIES</b>	<b>4,574.0</b>	<b>11,853.8</b>	<b>1,449.2</b>	<b>17,877.0</b>

## UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

DESA Department of Economic and Social Affairs	–	–	78.0	78.0
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	–	–	116.4	116.4
OCHA United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	–	–	691.1	691.1
OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	–	–	524.7	524.7
ONE PLAN FUND	–	–	493.7	493.7
UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	–	–	38.4	38.4
UNCDF United Nations Capital Development Fund	–	–	438.1	438.1
UNDP United Nations Development Programme****	–	–	48,878.9	48,878.9
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme	–	–	430.8	430.8
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund	–	–	1,757.1	1,757.1
UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme	–	–	320.2	320.2
UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	0.7	–	20,724.8	20,725.5
UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund	–	–	1,518.7	1,518.7
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization	–	–	97.0	97.0
UNIFEM United Nations Development Fund for Women	–	–	269.3	269.3
UNITED NATIONS (Memoranda of Understanding)	–	–	113,517.2	113,517.2
UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services	–	–	319.6	319.6
WFP World Food Programme	1.5	–	5,837.0	5,838.5
WHO World Health Organization	–	–	107.0	107.0
Others	–	–	389.6	389.6
<b>SUBTOTAL UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>196,547.7</b>	<b>196,549.9</b>

## Contributions to UNV in 2009 (Thousands of US\$)

Donors OTHER CONTRIBUTORS	Special Voluntary Fund	Other Resources*		TOTAL
		Government	Other	
Cisco Systems	–	–	108.4	108.4
European Commission***	25.0	–	142.0	167.0
Hiroshima Peacebuilders Centre	–	–	29.0	29.0
Medicus Mundi	–	–	7.2	7.2
Subtotal OTHER CONTRIBUTORS	–	–	151.6	151.6
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>4,601.2</b>	<b>11,853.8</b>	<b>198,283.5</b>	<b>214,738.5</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>				
Interest and other income	264.6	–	172.3	436.9
Reimbursable support services	–	–	9,546.7	9,546.7
Subtotal OTHER INCOME	264.6	–	9,719.0	9,983.6
<b>Total contributions and other income</b>	<b>4,865.8</b>	<b>11,853.8</b>	<b>208,002.5</b>	<b>224,722.1</b>

## Expenditure for Year Ending 31 December 2009 (Thousands of US\$)

	Special Voluntary Fund		Other Resources*****	TOTAL
Programme expenditures	5,909.0	–	186,599.0	192,508.0
Programme support	–	–	18,477.8	18,477.8
Management and administration support	–	–	7,919.1	7,919.1
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>5,909.0</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>212,995.9</b>	<b>218,904.9</b>

## Average Annual Volunteer Costs in 2009 (Thousands of US\$)

	Yearly Living Allowance incl.		Other Costs*****	Total Yearly
International UNV volunteers	27.0	–	26.3	53.3
National UNV volunteers	7.0	–	2.9	9.9

\* Other resources comprise trust funds, full funding of UNV assignments and cost sharing

\*\* Funds received in 2008 for 2009

\*\*\* Partially funds received in 2010 for 2009

\*\*\*\* Includes Biennial Support Budget from UNDP

\*\*\*\*\* Other resources comprise trust funds, full funding of UNV assignments, cost sharing, UNDP, agency and peacekeeping missions

\*\*\*\*\* Comprises non-recurrent costs relating to assignment travel and settling-in allowance, insurance, provisions for medical and security evacuations, repatriation travel and resettlement allowance



*Back cover photo:* National UNV volunteer Rizwan Latif (right) is an Outreach and Capacity Development Officer in Islamabad, Pakistan. Here, he discusses with 23-year-old Ammar Ahmed how men and boys can be encouraged to reduce gender-based violence and promote gender equality. (Waqas Anees, 2010)

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For information about becoming a UNV volunteer, please visit the UNV website:  
<http://www.unvolunteers.org>

For more information about the UNV Online Volunteering service, please visit:  
<http://www.onlinevolunteering.org>

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# ENGAGING COMMUNITIES



Annual  
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**UN**  
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inspiration in action