



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY 2019





OVERVIEW

International Volunteer Day (IVD) is a unique opportunity for people and volunteers led organizations to work with government agencies, non-profit institutions, community groups, academia and the private sector to promote volunteering and recognise their contribution to peace and development. UN Volunteers celebrated International Volunteer Day on 5th December. The theme for IVD 2019 was “#Volunteer4Inclusion” The aim of the campaign was to promote inclusion, diversity, non- discrimination, reduce inequalities and discourage hate speech in society, with a special focus on promoting Inclusion of LGBTQIA+ community, people with disabilities, female victims of violence, people living with HIV AIDS, Refugees and street children and orphans.



Participation of youth is critical to avert any threats or challenges faced by the socially excluded communities of the country. This IVD UN Volunteers made an effort to sensitize them about inclusion and equality. UN Volunteers India initiated a 50+City campaign this International Volunteer Day with the aim to conduct sensitization workshops and training across the country and to reach out to maximum number of young people from varied fields and backgrounds. This workshops acted as a platform for the youth to express their opinions and to promote cross learning and civic engagement.

INITIATIVES UNDER THE CAMPAIGN

- UN Volunteers organized V-Hives across colleges in India to sensitize the youth. V-Hive is a platform for group dialogue and engagement curated by UN Volunteers India. through this platform several volunteer-led workshops were conducted for the youth. Each V-Hive session was based on an agenda pertaining to Inclusion, equality and non-discrimination. In Delhi, 7 such workshops were conducted in colleges namely; Hindu College (DU), Amity University, JNU, Hansraj College, St. Stephens College, Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce and Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University. Through these workshops UNV reached out to approximately 500 young students. V-Hive aimed to raise awareness of one's rights and inculcate empathy for one another. A session called Disability Dialogues was organized in various colleges such as Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, Hansraj College and St Stephen's College. This was done to sensitise the students regarding the struggles of people with disabilities and emphasise access in terms of opportunities and infrastructure.

V-Hive Sessions





- A seminar on Inclusion in partnership with State Bank of India (SBI) was organized in State Bank Bhavan, Nariman Point in Mumbai as part of the IVD campaign. The seminar focused on making an Inclusive Future through Volunteering. The agenda included discussions, panels, stories, and youth consultation to support International Volunteers Day 2019. Different stakeholders, volunteers, decision makers, non-profits, VIOs, corporates participated to discuss and raise awareness about the SDGs with a focus on promoting inclusion, diversity, non- discrimination and reduce inequalities in society.



- A Facebook Live session was conducted with Devika Malik (para-athlete and CoFounder of Wheeling Happiness), Zainab Patel (Director, Diversity and Inclusion, KPMG) and Sushant Digvikar (actor, model and Mr Gay 2014) on the panel, moderated by Prabhleen Kaur (Director of Programmes, The YP Foundation). The session was called #ReformtheNorm, which explored Inclusion in the lives of the panelists- their journey of Reforming the Norm. A live and interactive audience was mobilised to attend and engage with the panelists.



- UN Volunteers and WWF India conducted a pan India online quiz called #Youth4Sustainability Quiz. The quiz was based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Three top-scorers were recognised.



- On 3 December 2019, UN Volunteers celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at the UN House. The theme of 'Inclusion' was spread across various events such as a Poster Making Competition, Open Mic, and an Author Reading Session in collaboration with Harper Collins. Organizations such as Atulyakala, working with hearing-impaired artists, UNHCR, working with refugees, Harper Collins and La Peche set up stalls to celebrate the day. Women refugees with UNHCR set up Afghani food stalls for the participants.

-The poster making competition saw an active youth participation and the top three entries, selected by Mr Amit Vardhan, were presented to the chief guest and guest of honor on International Volunteer Day 2019.

-The book reading session included two authors, Dr Vandana Prakash and Dr Mary Abraham, talking about their book called Conquering Pain. Various topics such as living with pain, pain due to disability, mental illness as a form of disability and holistic treatment were discussed

-To close the event, an Open Mic session was held, wherein, numerous experiences and stories were shared by people living with disabilities. Young students used various modes of expression like poetry, music, rap and dance.



On 4 December 2019, UN Volunteers and UNHCR organized a Dance for Inclusion at Select Citywalk, Saket, New Delhi in collaboration with Those in Needs. The event included people with disabilities and LGBTQ+ community sharing their experiences, an Afghan band, and finally, a flash mob.

Dance for Inclusion was organized with the motive of uniting people from diverse backgrounds to come together for a cause. The flash mob was a whopping success with over 200 participants. The Afghan band played English and Afghani music to close the event.

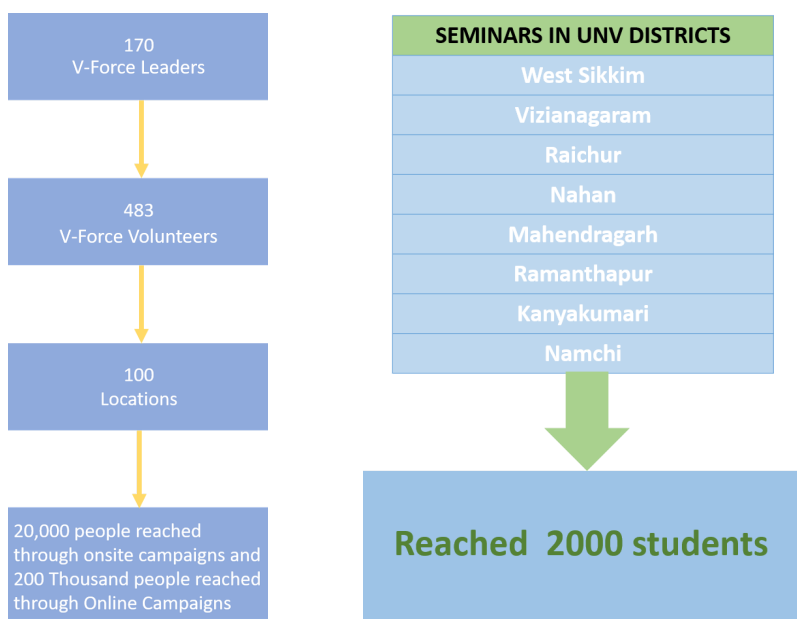




On 5 December 2019, the International Volunteer Day 2019 was celebrated with a V-Award Ceremony. 10 V-awardees, who had done exceptional volunteer work in their fields, were invited from various cities in India to the UN House. These awardees were selected by an independent jury comprising Ms Zainab Patel (Director, Diversity and Inclusion, KPMG), Devika Malik (para-athlete, CoFounder, Wheeling Happiness), Radhika Suri (Director of Environment Education, WWF-India), and Sanjana Yadav (former V-Awardee).

The V-Awardees were presented with a trophy and certificate by the Chief Guest, Mr Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in the presence of the Guest of Honors, Ms Upma Chaudhary (Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs), Ms Shoko Noda (UNDP Resident Representative in India), and Ms Yasmin Ali Haque (UNICEF Representative in India). The event closed with a musical performance by the band Antariksh.

REACH OF THE THE CAMPAIGN



This campaign was spearheaded by the United Nations Volunteers District youth Coordinators (UNV-DYCs) under the project “Strengthening NYKS and NSS” and V-Force Volunteers (UNV India’s online pool of volunteers). To ensure quality workshops, V-Force leaders were identified across different cities in India, who collaborated with the partner organisations to run the onsite campaign.

A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 250 THOUSAND YOUTH (ONLINE & OFFLINE) WAS REACHED THROUGH THIS CAMPAIGN

PARTNERSHIPS

A consortium with volunteer based civil society organizations, NGOs and the private sector was formed to promote volunteering in the country during the IVD campaign .The consortium partners included UN Agencies, Civil Society and private sector organisations such as UNHCR, UNICEF, MASH foundation, NIPMUN, Save The Children, Those In Need, Queer Muslim Project, The YP Foundation, Youth Ki Awaaz, WWF-India, Wheeling Happiness, CNN-IBN, BOSCO,Harper Collins, i-volunteer, VSO India, Pravah, Restless Development, CommuTiny-the Youth Collective, SBI Foundation and Bhumi.
