

UN VOLUNTEERS INDIA ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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inspiration
in action*



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Comments from the Programme Officer



Let's remove the constraints on volunteerism to harness their energy, endeavor and enthusiasm –

Arun Sahdeo,
Programme Officer

Since formation of its Field Unit in India in 1992, UNV has been working with the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS), Government of India, UN Agencies and other partner organizations for mobilization and deployment of national and international UN Volunteers. In 2009, the UNV programme in India became one of the biggest programmes worldwide coordinating up to 250 national Volunteers. In 2017, 95 UN Volunteers (87 national and 8 international) served throughout the country. It included 28 new UNVs mobilized during the year comprising of 22 national (12 female and 16 male) and 4 international (3 female and 1 male) UNVs. In addition, 17 Indian nationals were deputed to various parts of the world to serve as international UNVs.

The Government of India has demonstrated its commitment to promote youth volunteering for nation building and meeting India's development challenges. The MoYAS has been running two flagship schemes namely; National Service Scheme (NSS) since 1969 and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) since 1972 for promotion of youth volunteerism in the country. These two volunteer-based programmes now have a base of almost 3.8 million school & college students enrolled as NSS volunteers in 298 Universities and 125,000 youth clubs affiliated to NYKS across the country. However, despite the interest in understanding and encouraging volunteerism in India, there are several factors that need to be addressed so that volunteerism benefits the volunteers themselves – and, of course, the larger society – in ways that are sustainable and equitable.

Taking cognizance of the major recommendations of the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017) and the National Youth Policy (2014), the UNV's Global Programme on Youth Volunteering (2015) and UN Youth Volunteering Strategy (2014-17), the MoYAS and UNV/UNDP launched a joint project titled "Strengthening NYKS and NSS". The project aims to provide catalytic support to the Youth Volunteer Schemes of the MoYAS and intended to facilitate youth participation and voice in peace and sustainable development programmes in order to realize the full social, economic and human potential of youth.

During 2017, UNV India, in partnership with the MoYAs released four(4) Action Plans for implementation of the National Youth Policy-2014, prepared report on State of Youth Volunteering in India-2017, launched India Online Volunteering Platform and organized national and regional consultations, thematic debates etc. to promote the culture of volunteerism among youth towards country's social and economic transformation. The Annual Report captures key achievements of UNV Field Unit in India during 2017 including those made under the MoYAS-UNDP-UNV project on "Strengthening NYKS and NSS".

We recognize that youth volunteering can deliver remarkable benefits for both volunteers and communities. UNV India therefore has been facilitating participation of youth in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 'Youth Addas' being organized by UNV to bring together youth volunteers and civil society organizations on SDGs is one such unique initiative. We do recognize that India's youth are ready and willing to become part of the historical journey towards reaching to 2030 development agenda. We must strive to remove the constraints that restrain volunteerism, and capitalize on energy, endeavour and enthusiasm of youth to build a better tomorrow.

We thank the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India's for their support and leadership. We also thank UN Agencies, civil society organizations and youth networks for their continued support.

Arun Sahdeo
Programme Officer, UNV

The United Nations Volunteers India in 2017

1999 - Deployment of the first national UN Volunteer

2014 - UNV India launches its first official cooperation with the Government of India

Number of UNVs serving in 2017 - 72 (National: 65, International: 7)

Host Agencies:

- UN Agencies: UNDP, UNV, UNHCR, UNIDO, FAO, UNICEF, UNESCAP, UN WOMEN, UNFPA, ILO, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNRCO, OMT
- Other Organizations: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (29 UNV DYC), Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (2 UNV)

2017 – Launched India Online Volunteering Platform

- Number of Online Volunteers registered in 2017: 900
- Assignments completed in 2017: 11



1 | Programmatic Priority - Securing Access to Basic Social Services



Over time, UNV has developed solid knowledge and has learned lessons about the role and application of volunteerism in service delivery and local governance – particularly in the context of i) consultative processes to identify community needs and ii) local capacity development to localize those services and to strengthen community voice for accountability. In 2012, 10% (US \$860,000) of UNV-administered funds were spent on projects in basic social services and 28% (1,934) of UN Volunteers worked in this priority area.



1.1 Youth UNVs Supporting the DISHA Project

New Delhi: Disha is a partnership between the India Development Foundation and UNDP, supported by IKEA Foundation, that aims to support one million underprivileged women in India learn marketable skills and connect with income opportunities. The Disha project helps women become economically self-sufficient through training, employment and entrepreneurial skill development; it tests innovative models of public-private partnership for scalability; and establishes a continuum that connects education with skills, jobs and growth.

UN Youth Volunteers assigned to the project provide career counselling and guidance to the underprivileged women. The volunteers also work closely with the government and funding partners, manage logistics and packaging of psychometric test materials, as well as create knowledge products from the outcomes of DISHA pilot/sub-pilots.



DISHA offers a unique mix of field and desk work to a volunteer. A volunteer may be in back to back meetings with people from all over the world discussing the gender dimension in career counselling, while the next day she may be in the field asking young girls their aspirations. It is always rewarding!

Youth volunteer assignments are learning assignments as well. DISHA and its team provides ample learning and growth opportunities, especially in terms of soft skills. The program teaches volunteers to work better as a team, and to heighten their communication, leadership skills.



1.2 Paving the Way for Women Entrepreneurs

Nahan, Himachal Pradesh: Recognizing the importance of encouraging women entrepreneurs for promoting livelihood opportunities, in the year 2016, Mukul Sharma, the UNV DYC, initiated a handicraft training programme for rural women of the Nahan, Sirmour district. The women were introduced to the pine needles art and craft, which is a centuries-old craft using long pine needles gathered from the forest floor.

The training started out at four Youth Clubs with 25 participants, and has now grown to become a strong association of over 100 women participants. The participants became economically independent towards the end of their training. The total proceeds from the earnings of the participants were later credited to the accounts of these Youth Clubs or Mahila Mandals to fund



their future initiatives. The participants belong to the economically weaker backgrounds where developing a sustainable livelihood model could augment their income and help support their families.

With a high demand for their product, the youth club members have been invited to showcase their work in other cities like Dehradun in Uttarakhand and Manali in Himachal Pradesh. They have also been invited to participate in local fairs and events, further boosting their confidence and providing them with a venue to display their talent.

1.3 UNVs Working to Promote Skilling and Entrepreneurship among Tribal Youth

Bhubaneswar, Odisha: To realize ‘Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG8)’ the United Nations Development Program and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar have partnered to expand skill development and employment opportunities for tribal youths in Odisha. Nihar Ranjan Maharana, the UNV Project Officer, Partnership Development and Debendra Swain, the UNV Project Officer, Skill Development, initiated a study of various vocational activities taking place at KISS, Bhubaneswar, to strengthen and suggest improvements to the program.



Plans are now in place to pilot skilling and career counseling tools to the activities at KISS, to partner with electric company foundations to provide access to energy projects and develop youth entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban areas, and to promote enterprises in livestock.

Information and Communication Technology is also being introduced and incorporated into the skill development curriculum by the UNVs at the institute, to impart knowledge and increase adoption of best practices.

1.4 Regional Consultation in Guwahati

United Nations Volunteers, United Nations Development Programme and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organized a one day consultation on, ‘Promoting Social Entrepreneurship & Skills Development amongst Youth in Northeast’. The Consultation was held on 24th November 2017 at Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, Assam which was also the knowledge partner.



The Consultation focused on promotion social entrepreneurship among youths across northeast wherein successful models of social entrepreneurship was shared.

The Consultation also focused on examining the research and development both locally and internationally based on promoting social entrepreneurship models.



Mr. Thanglemlian, Director, Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports opined on the need of creating space for young people to engage in the global peace and sustainable human development process. He also highlighted upon the initiatives taken by the Central government to develop leadership qualities and entrepreneurial abilities among youth of the region to ensure socio-economic development and growth of the nation.

Other dignitaries at the event included Mr. Arun Sahdeo, Programme Officer, UNV India; Mr. Manoj Kumar Das, Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship and Prof. Bhabesh Ch. Goswami, Vice Chancellor, Cotton University. The engrossing sessions had involvement from entire Education and Skill development fraternity which laid a road map for the future of young entrepreneurs.



Most of the north-east states have a high literacy rate above national average yet when we look at the census data 2011, it also reveals that states like Mizoram and Meghalaya show decline in total workers indicating possibilities that more are joining the labour force than jobs are created and the literacy rate has not translated into employability and productivity.



The North-East Region has been facing the development bottlenecks due to the factors like insurgency & ethnic violence, infrastructure deficiency, lack of public private enterprise,

geographical isolation, however, efforts have been underway to overcome all these deterrent factors of development of the region through various policies and programmes.



The regional consultation was, therefore, aimed at broadening the understanding on the role of skill building and social entrepreneurship among youth from northeast India. It highlighted upon the current opportunities & challenges for promoting social entrepreneurship and skills amongst youth, identified various skill development & social

entrepreneurship initiatives of the government/institutions and gave recommendations that effectively promote the skill development & social entrepreneurship initiatives in various sectors in the context of North East India. An exhibition was organized where 23 different organizations from different part of North-East India have their stalls displayed showcasing different entrepreneurship models.



The consultation was a collaborative effort by Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship and National Service Scheme, which witnessed the participation of esteemed organizations like NASSCOM Foundation, National Skills Development Corporation, Assam Skills Development Mission, Ashoka India, Yunus Social Business, India and 300 students from across the North- East region.

2

Programmatic Priority - Community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction



The Hyogo Framework for Action explicitly recognized the added value and contribution of volunteerism to disaster risk management, particularly by bolstering the capacity and resilience of communities to respond to and prevent disasters. Closely linked to disaster risk reduction is the environment, where a number of factors underpin UNV initiatives, including the global recognition of volunteerism's role in environmental protection. UNV's experience in these areas shows that community resilience, which can be enhanced through volunteerism, is the basis of successful programmes. UNV has significant experience in this area, with 21% (US\$1,880,000) of UNV-administered funds spent on community resilience for environment and/or disaster risk reduction in 2012.

2.1 United Nation Volunteers Celebrates World Environment Day (June 5th)

From cleaning drives to awareness drives, from planting saplings to placing nests for birds, the UNV NYC's, in collaboration with the local youth, celebrated the World Environment Day 2017 with full fervor. Under the theme 'Connecting People to Nature', the volunteers strove to bring people closer to nature and act to preserve the ecosystem. Awareness campaigns advocated the ever-increasing need for protecting the earth and forests. The volunteers highlighted the need for conserving the green cover for future generations and discussed about the environmental concerns in their areas.



2.2 Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Building of Adolescent and Youth Volunteers - Training on DRR in Uttarkashi and Ernakulam

The 5-day training programme titled "DRR Capacity Building of Adolescent and Youth Volunteers" was piloted in Uttarkashi and Ernakulam district of Uttarakashi and Kerala respectively. The objective of this programme is to build capacities of local youth volunteers on DRR to leverage their knowledge on pre-disaster risk assessment, prevention and mitigation, for the development and implementation of effective disaster risk reduction and response to disasters.



The training programme was organized with the support of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) in the UNV-Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) project districts of Uttarakhand and Kerala. A total 113 adolescent youth volunteers between the ages of 16-participated from all the blocks of the districts, of whom 40% were girls. The facilitators were invited from the partner agencies and based on suggestions from the State/District Disaster Management Authority. This included DDMA's, SDMA's, UNDP, UNV, UNICEF, NDRF, Fire & Rescue Services, Forest Department, Municipal Corporation, ST. John's Ambulance, Red Cross, DHI – Institute for Water and Environment) etc.



Participants were given hands-on training on the different facets of emergency response through detailed interactive sessions on the concepts and demonstrations. In order to utilize the services of these trained volunteers into the local delivery system to mainstream DRR in different government programmes and support in the emergency response and rehabilitation programmes, the list of trained volunteers was presented to the District Collector/ Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA). This was discussed and agreed upon during the review/ consultation meetings held under the chairmanship of the District Collectors of implementing districts.



State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA); Mr. V.D Balakrishna Kartha, Chairman, Indian Red Cross, Ernakulam, Mr. and Mr. Xavier Thomas, National Consultant- DRR, UNICEF India and other civil society members.

The training participants developed and presented the learnings from the training as well a joint declaration illustrating their commitment towards community resilience enlisting preparedness activities on DRR and Environment Management specially for vulnerable groups. The translated declaration will be shared soon along with the training reports.

District Collectors participated in the closing ceremony followed by the review meetings to discuss the sustainability of such programmes. The review meetings were attended by Mr. G. Padmanabhan, Emergency Analyst, UNDP India; Ms. Jwala Panday, UNV RO; Mr. Joe George, SPO, Kerala

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2.3 International Day for Disaster Reduction 2017

Sphere India with support from Save the Children in collaboration with UN Volunteers on 13th October 2017, organized a one day workshop on International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) – Towards Resilient Delhi with representatives from District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) at New Delhi.

The theme for 2017 campaign is target ‘b’ of SFDRR Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement. The 2017 campaign seeks to raise global awareness about effective actions, policies and practices taken to reduce exposure to disaster risk at the community level.



and Climate Change were Prof. N.V.C Menon, Founding Member, NDMA, GoI ; Mr. Lars Bernd, Chief Disaster Risk Reduction Section; Unicef India, Prof. Amita Singh, Chairperson – Center for Disaster Research JNU and the session was facilitated by Mr. Ray Kancharala.

The workshop proceeded with Mr. Arun Sahdeo from UNV welcoming the participants with background to International day for disaster risk reduction and theme of the year. After this, he welcomed distinguished panelists to share their perspective. The key speakers of the session on Urban Resilience



The second session on Localization and Convergence of Frameworks (DRR, SDGs, CCA) was facilitated by Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, Senior Adviser – Climate Change and Urbanization, UN Resident Coordinator's Office and the panelists were Ms. Monalisa Sen, Program Coordinator, ICLEI-India; Ms. Sushmita Mohapatra from Praga; Mr. Vikrant Mahajan, CEO, Sphere India and Mr. Ray Kancharala from Save the Children.

The post lunch session focused on Initiation of Delhi Resilience Forum facilitated by Mr. Ray Kancharala and Mr. Mr. Mintu Debnath- Assistant Manager, Save the Children and It included representatives from DDMA, Sphere India members, UN Volunteers colleagues who shared their perspectives on establishing Delhi/NCR resilience forum.

59 number of total participants, 44 men and 15 women from Government, UN Agencies, Civil Society organizations, Academic Institutions, Children Groups, Community organizations and Corporate groups participated in the workshop.

2.4 The 3rd World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)

United Nations Volunteers and UNDP organized a special session on “Volunteering for Disaster Management” as part of the 3rd World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM) on November 9th, 2017, at the coastal city of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. The session aimed to promote volunteerism and



voluntary action in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery to provide opportunities to youth, volunteers, practitioners, civil society organizations and others to discuss the role of volunteers and explore potential areas of partnerships for promoting volunteerism and voluntary actions in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery. Over 100 people attended the session which was part of a larger three-day event hosted by the Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS) and supported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the National Disaster Management Authority,

India. The session opened with addresses by Dr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Former Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority which led to a panel technical discussions on Opportunities, Innovations and Good Practices in Volunteerism for Disaster Risk Reduction, with panelists from UNDP, Tata Sons, and UNV, and closed with a discussion on Themes for Poster Presentations with presenters from youth and citizen volunteers, as well as school and college students.

2.5 International Volunteer Day 2017

New Delhi, 05 December 2017: “India’s true power lies in the hands of its youth. Believe in yourself. You have the power to change the entire country,” said Suresh Raina, member of the Indian Cricket team, while addressing a gathering of over 800 young boys and girls at the National Conference on International Volunteer Day (IVD), 2017. Held every year on the 5 December, IVD seeks to promote the contributions of





volunteers at the local, national and international level, together with communities, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, government authorities, and the private sector the world over. "Volunteering is a part of Indian culture. The Government of India has always relied on these volunteers, and they have been important partners in all kinds of nation-building activities" said Asit Singh, Joint Secretary (Youth Affairs), Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of India. "We are committed to extending all possible support to the volunteers in their quest," he promised. This year's IVD theme, *Volunteers Act First*, highlights the crucial role played by volunteers in times of crisis all over the world despite the security risks they often face. Wherever there is suffering, volunteers act to save lives and restore human dignity. They are often first responders in times of natural disasters, economic instability, forced migration or humanitarian emergencies. More than a billion people across the world volunteer each year. These numbers always go up when tragedy strikes. Despite their contributions, the vital role of volunteers is not always sufficiently recognized or



acknowledged. “Out of the global number of 7,000 official UN Volunteers, 100 are based out of India alone,” said Yuri Afanasiev, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, while highlighting the multifaceted roles volunteers play in times conflict and peace. Kamal Kishore, member of the National Disaster Management Authority of India congratulated students and volunteers on IVD 2017. “In India and across the world, disasters have been successfully managed not because of the work of government bodies and scientific institutions, but because of the dedication and commitment of volunteers,” he said. Speakers at the conference included Ritesh Mehta, Head of Programmes, India, South and Central Asia, Facebook, and Ankit Kwatra, Founder, Feeding India.

3

Programmatic Priority - Peace building



Peace building is a key area where, since the early 1990's, UNV has played an integral part in supporting the implementation of Security Council mandated peace keeping and special political mission mandates, including support to peace building offices. The 2009 Secretary-General's Report on Peace Building in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict encouraged UNV to continue to support special political and peace building initiatives, in particular with the aim to help strengthen national civilian capacities to impact the sustainability of peace building. In 2012, UN Volunteers constituted over 30% of the international civilian capacity within the 18 peace keeping and peace building missions where UNV is engaged – representing over 40% of UN Volunteer assignments globally. Throughout, UN Volunteers have been deployed in key implementation and capacity building roles within the context of, for example, human rights monitoring, local institutional capacity support, democratic governance, and operational technical support.

3.1 National Consultation on “Youth Building Peace”

To commemorate International Youth Day, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) in collaboration with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a National Consultation on Youth Building Peace, on 11th August 2017. The consultation was aimed at understanding the perception of youth’s role in peacebuilding process and in recognizing the role of youth led organizations in peacebuilding activities and promoting a culture of peace.



As part of the consultation, an action research on “Youth Volunteering– State of volunteerism and impact of current volunteering initiatives in India” and India’s Online Volunteer ring platform were launched. The event was attended by the Deputy Country Director, UNDP, Marina Walter and Secretary (Youth Affairs), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India Shri. A.K. Dubey.



The objectives of the action research were to establish an evidence base on the contribution of youth volunteering towards developmental goals in India and also to provide recommendations. With 250 million people prepare to join India’s workforce by 2030, this group stands to be either India’s biggest asset or its biggest vulnerability. The report highlights the need of providing youth avenues to take part in the process of nation-building while giving them opportunities to develop their skills. It also provides insights into the motivations and challenges faced by youths. The report states that there is a lack of a common understanding about what constitutes volunteerism, which could lead to a lack of clarity on how volunteering can be a means to meeting the SDGs within the local and national context.

The Consultation closed with a Youth Adda¹, hosted by the UNV, in close partnership with NGOs PRAVAH, Restless Development, and ComMutiny, where over 120 youth discussed and shared their ideas about SDG 16 “Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions”.

¹ The “Youth Adda” is a series of forums that are a part of the “Sustainable Development Goals and Us!”, hosted by Restless Development, PRAVAH, ComMutiny – The Youth Collective for the Youths, and the UN Volunteers, where Youths can meet to learn about, explore, discuss, and exchange ideas and opinions on the SDGs.

4

Programmatic Priority - Youth



In 2012, UNV supported thirteen national youth programmes and schemes, including regional youth programmes in the Arab States and Africa, and deployed thousands of young international UN Volunteers through university and intern initiatives. Recognizing the enormous potential of young people to contribute positively to their societies, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, in his Five-Year Action Agenda (2012-2016), announced a specific measure to “create a UN youth volunteers programme under the umbrella of UN Volunteers.”

4.1 Vocational Training for the Youth

Kolkata, West Bengal: As part of the core activities of NYKS on skill development of the youth, Raghumoni Chatterjee, UNV NYC for Kolkata, organized a four-month long bike repairing Skill Upgradation Training Program (SUTP) for rural youths. 25 youths between the age group of 15 to 25 years participated in the course. Out of the 25 youths who participated, 23 youths managed to get placement with major automobile companies like Honda.

Sharing his experiences from the course, Prabir Sutra, who is now working in Honda showroom as Network Manager, expressed his enthusiasm and passion for bikes which is now his regular job.

According to Samiran Chakraborty, trainer of this course, “Prabir was one of the brightest students, who had a zeal to learn and earn. He did not miss a single day in this four-month training session”.

Raghumoni Chatterjee, UNV-DYC says, “Looking at the potential of the automobile industry, we zeroed in on two-wheeler repair training. This largely engages in our area and ultimately benefits them in getting employment. We plan to have many such courses that could upgrade vocational skills and help to achieve professional excellence.”



The training course was organized by UNV NYC Raghumoni Chatterjee as part of the Nehru Yuva Kendra (South Kolkata) in collaboration with CYSEC (Calcutta Youth Self Employment Center).

4.2 Consultation on Designing the Framework for Youth Resource Centers

New Delhi, June 27, 2017: As part of the project “Strengthening NYKS and NSS”, UNV in partnership with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, aims to provide catalytic support to the Youth Volunteer Schemes in the country and facilitate greater youth participation and voice in peace and sustainable development programmes. In this regard, a one day consultation on developing a framework for a youth resource center (YRC) was organized at the UNDP premises. Organizations that had been running youth resource centers at the district level were invited to discuss and design the framework. The Consultation highlighted the need for a robust mechanism which can address challenges such as lack of resources, project implementation techniques, and career guidance, thereby enabling youth to become more



aware, and better prepared to enter the workforce.

The consultation brought together key stakeholders and institutions like Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNYD), American India Foundation, Quest Alliance, Save the Children, and Pravah, among others, to share their stories around running successful YRC models. The dialogue featured candid conversations on strategies actionable through YRCs and discussed possible ways to collaborate when reaching out to the youth community.

4.3 International Yoga Day

Over thousands of yoga enthusiasts gathered to perform “asanas”, marking the third International Yoga Day across 29 states in India. The theme of this year’s Yoga Day was “Yoga Health”, which aimed to promote healthy and harmonious lifestyles, focusing on both physical and mental well-being. The UNV-DYCs used the platform to create awareness about lifestyle disorders and encourage the participants to incorporate Yoga into their daily lives.



People of all ages groups participated in special yoga sessions organized by United Nations Volunteers across the country. Through a resolution on December 11th, 2014, the United Nations declared June 21st as the International Day of Yoga. Today, the International Day of Yoga is celebrated in more than 180 countries, with ever increasing popularity.

4.4 Youth Adda 2017 - Advocating for Youth Volunteerism and the SDGs

The “Youth Adda” (translation - Youth gathering is a series of forums that are a part of the “Sustainable Development Goals and Us!” , hosted by Restless Development, PRAVAH, ComMutiny – The Youth Collective for the Youths, and the UN Volunteers, where Youths can meet to learn about, explore, discuss, and exchange ideas and opinions on the SDGs.

2017 had been an active year for the Youth Adda team, having covered Goal 10, 16 and 5 with the cooperation of over 400 youths from the Delhi area.

Goal 10 Session: A highlight of this Adda was devoted to the issue of inclusion of persons with disabilities. Guest speaker Fateh Whig, representing persons with disabilities, led the group into mapping their interactions with people with disabilities.



Goal 16 Session: Conducted the Youth Adda as a closing activity at the ‘National Consultation on “Youth Building Peace”’ in August.





Goal 5 Session: Guest speaker Rupin Mahiyaria, Coordination Officer – Gender Equality and Youth Development, shared steps on how to address Gender Equality.



The “Youth Adda” will continue on into 2018 to cover the remaining SDGs.

4.5 World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS) in Sochi, Russia



Thirty-six UN Volunteers from thirty-two countries have participated in the XIX World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS) in Sochi, Russia, held on October 15-22. UN Volunteers provided organizational support to the festival, engaged in inspirational talks, and proactively



underpinned youth inclusion for sustainable development. Besides speaking in Thematic Talks and Speaker's Corner, the three UN Volunteers from India (Anil Mishra (UNDP), Sumant Rao (UN Women), Gauri Talwar (UNHCR), Shreya Bose (UNHCR)) provided volunteer management at UNV booth in the festival arena, supported the organization of the festival, and raised awareness about United Nations Volunteers mandate and vision.

"It is simply impossible to imagine attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals of education, peace, security, employment, gender equality without engaging a wide range of people at all levels, at every step and at all time. From local community volunteers to those who are frontiers of peace and development, our society



should motivate and encourage its youth to utilize their potential in different forms of volunteering. Only this will create a ripple effect of significant change. This assignment has been my life defining moment, because it has given me a perspective on the privileges I enjoy. It has also brought with it a sense of responsibility. To support and share the burden of driving positive change that will benefit everyone, and advance us to sustainable development." - Shreya Bose, Refugee Status Determination Assistant, UNHCR.

4.6 Assignment Preparation Training in Jordan



A four days long Assignment Preparation Training (APT) was organized in Amman, the capital city of Jordan from the 6th – 10th November 2017 for National and International UN Youth Volunteers. The training saw participation from 24 fellow Volunteers from Iraq, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and Kosovo. The objective behind the training was to understand the role of UN Youth Volunteers in the context of the UN and to experience first-hand, the realities of living and working in a cross-cultural environment.

The training started with introductory sessions to enable Volunteers to understand each other better. Major topics on the first day included: understanding the role of the UN system and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, UNV Conditions of Service, Ethics and Code of Conduct.



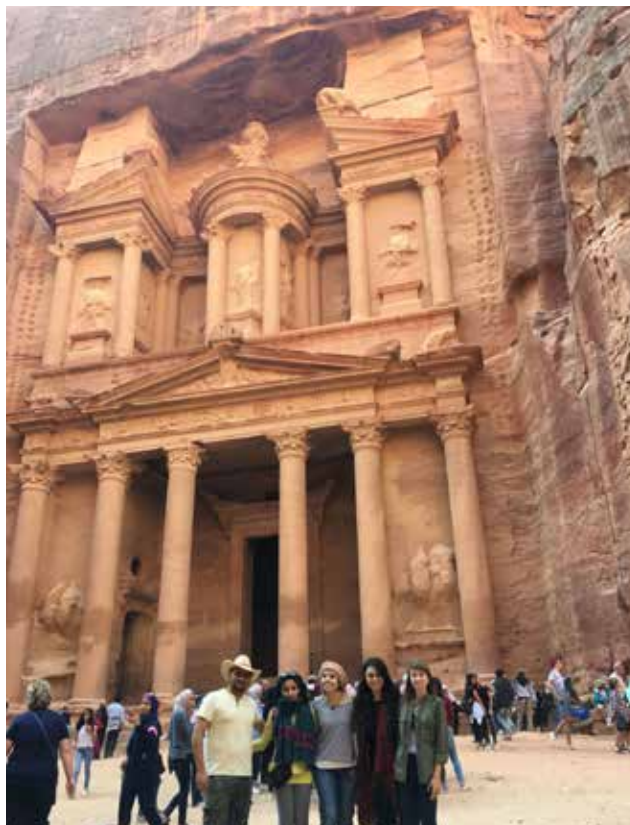
The second day focused on youth participation, volunteering and development of leadership skills. Themes such as cultural and personal identity, cultural diversity and social inclusion were deliberated upon, with guest speakers from former UN Youth Volunteers and a former UNDP Country Director.

The highlight of the third day were role plays and live case scenarios depicting the nuances of living and working in a cross-cultural environment and the need for intercultural sensitivity. This was followed by an introduction to tools essential for conflict management in the workplace, while trying to understand the possible differences in work culture.

On the last day, there were sessions on active listening and providing feedback, public speaking and communication through storytelling. Additionally, information regarding various knowledge sharing platforms, peer support and learning during UNV assignments was shared.

The sessions were interactive and were structured in a manner to evoke maximum participation from the group. The method of content delivery through experiential learning included plays, group activities, exercises, energizers, case scenarios and short films.

Participation in the APT has increased Volunteers' understanding of how volunteerism contributes to peace and development and how to address any challenges that may arise during assignments. This experience will act as a stepping stone to facilitate Volunteers' personal and professional development, inherent to everyone's volunteering experience.

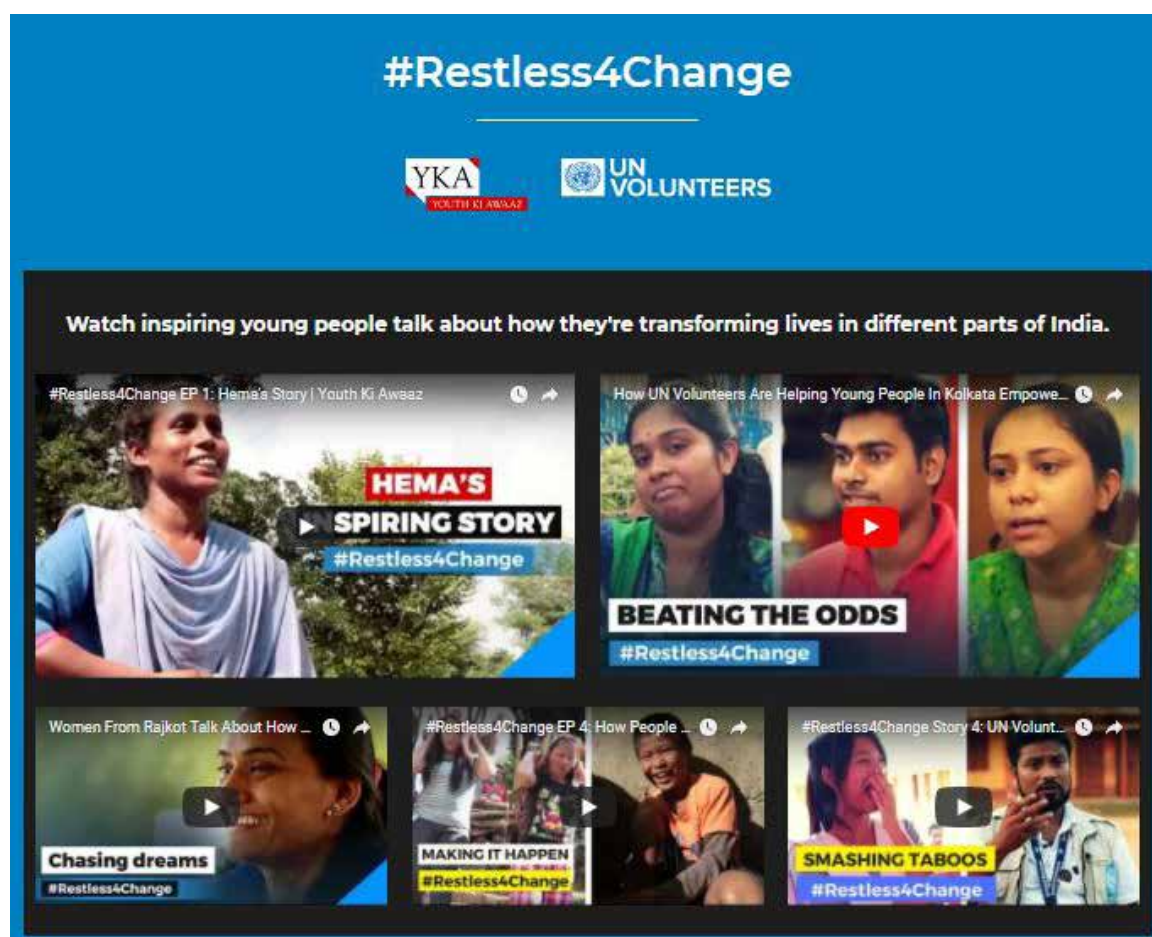


4.7 UN Volunteers in Action #restless4change

UN Volunteers had partnered with Youth Ki Awaaz to chronicle the impact of the work done by UN Volunteers in India, through 10 powerful, short, high-impact videos targeting young audiences. These powerful videos are between two to four minutes long and talk about the issues in a succinct yet hard-hitting manner and plays a key role in documenting the work done by UN Volunteers.

Elements of campaign named #restless4change

1. Videos: 10 short videos, documenting the work done by UN Volunteers.
2. Polls: to generate the insights on topical conversation pertinent to issues that UNV has worked on.
3. Personal Narratives: powerful personal narratives of UNVs in text format.
4. Microsite: for ease of access and one stop portal, a microsite which holds the powerful narratives and video campaigns.



Distribution mode

Distribution of videos has been done through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram modes.

Highlights up to December 2017

Total reach: 1,427,835

Video views: 650,898

Social media likes: 15K+

Social media shares: 1.4K+

Response has been overwhelming, especially since all videos have crossed the 100k views target milestone within one week of posting. Videos are also cross-posted and shared on the UNV India Facebook page.

Link to the microsite:

<https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/restless4change/>

5

Programmatic Priority - National capacity development through volunteer schemes



UNV has been and continues to be a catalyst and multiplier for volunteerism. Through UN Volunteers and UNV projects, as well as UNV assisted volunteerism schemes, collaborations and networks, hundreds of thousands of volunteers have engaged with communities. To this end, the development of volunteer schemes to promote the contribution of volunteerism constitutes an important platform for nationally led and owned multi-sectoral development and peace programmatic interventions. In 2012, 12% (US \$1,111,000) of UNV-administered funds were spent on national capacity development through volunteer schemes in eight countries. This experience has led to a growing demand from UN Member States for UNV to support the establishment of national volunteer schemes to address specific development challenges.

5.1 Strengthening Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme (NSS)

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) and UN Volunteers /United Nations Development Programme are implementing a project titled “Strengthening Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme (NSS)”, with the objectives of providing catalytic support to the Youth Volunteer Schemes of the MoYAS and facilitating greater youth participation in the developmental agendas of the Government.

Key Achievements

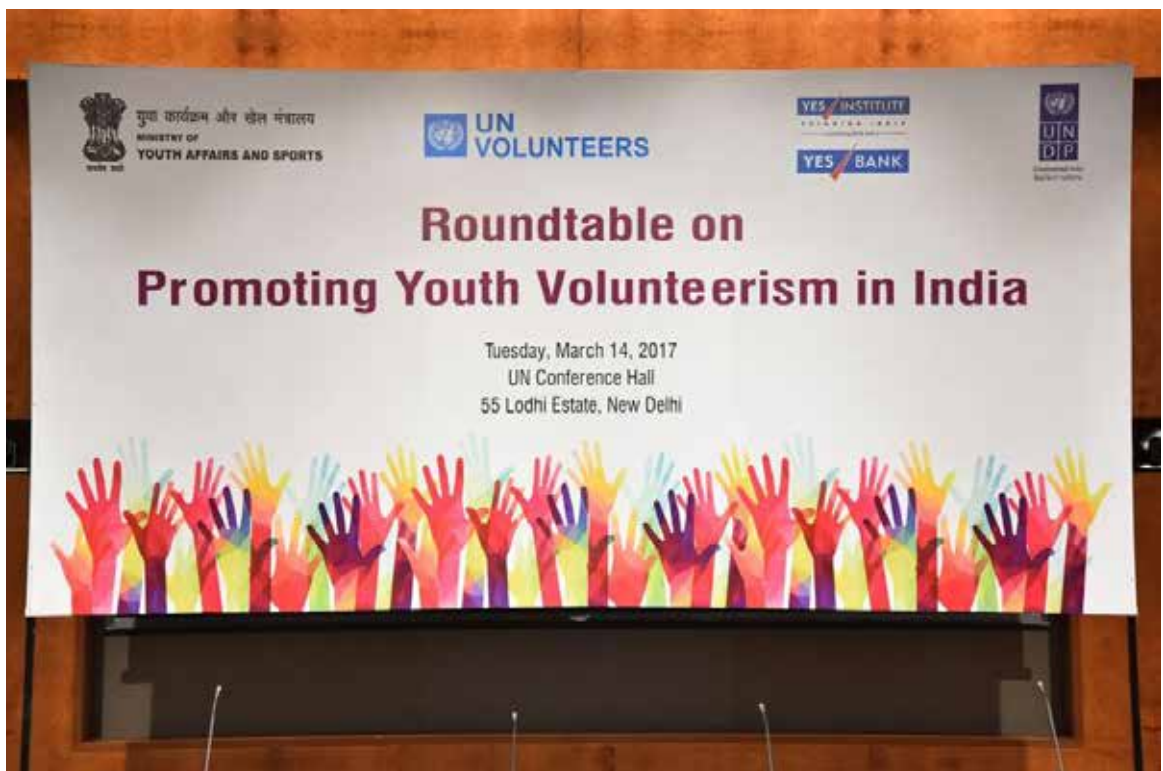
- Formed 7000 new youth clubs with more than 1,24,000 youth volunteers as members in 29 districts of India.
- Engaged 3000 youth volunteers through 27 thematic debates on promotion of youth volunteerism in rural youth with special focus on Sustainable Development Goals.
- Formulated four Action Plans on priority areas with active participation of government, UN and civil society partners to provide strategies and recommendations to achieve the objectives of the National Youth Policy 2014 through youth volunteerism.
- Social Inclusion
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Gender Justice and Equality, and Environment Management
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Activities conducted by District Youth Coordinators:
 - 109 training sessions on Youth Leadership and Community Development Program with 5291 participants
 - 141 Skill Upgradation Training Programs reaching 3735 participants
 - 98 district and block level sports activities with 5728 participants
 - 25 District Youth Convention programs with 8349 participants



- Released an Action Research on “Status of Youth Volunteering in India-2017”. The research provides an evidence base and a well-documented study on the impact of youth volunteerism in India.
- Good practices showcasing the work of the UNVs at the grassroots level:
 - Ernakulam District, Kerala- Mobilized youth volunteers to end open defecation among tribal communities.
 - Namchi District, Sikkim- Formed self-help groups to develop the knowledge and skills of women and youths.
 - Palghar District, Maharashtra- Engaging and linking the local youth with the Government’s flagship schemes to improve the socio-economic status of the Katkari tribe.
 - Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh- Mobilized youth volunteers to train youths in English language and communication skills using “Each One Teach Ten” philosophy.
- Launched the India Online Volunteering Platform which serves as a marketplace for non-profit organizations, youth networks, civil society organizations and State governments, to connect with and obtain support from volunteers.
- An International Youth Exchange through Peer Learning (IYEPL) was conducted in 2016 wherein five youth volunteers from India visited Sri Lanka for a one-month immersion and exchange programme.
- Organized a National Consultation on “Youth Building Peace”, to commemorate International Youth Day 2017 with the objective of enhancing and harnessing the potential of youth in the peace building process.

5.2 Roundtable on Promoting Youth Volunteering in India - March 2017

MoYAS, UNV India, UNDP and YES BANK organized a roundtable to accelerate the initiative for promoting youth volunteering in India, on 14th March 2017, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the UN Conference Hall, UNDP 55 Lodhi



Estate, New Delhi. The roundtable was attended by private sector organizations, civil society organizations, government partners and media, who have been pursuing activities to promote youth volunteerism. The objectives of the roundtable were as follows:

1) To release four Action Plans on implementation of National Youth Policy

- **Action Plan on Social Inclusion:** The Action Plan suggests creating safe spaces through youth clubs for socially excluded youth groups (disabled, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women) to articulate identity issues, barriers and constraints with self and the outside without threat and negation.
- **Action Plan on Social Entrepreneurship:** The Action Plans suggests enhancing social entrepreneurship through the skill development programme based on needs and interest of youth by developing the youth clubs in each block of every district in India as education, information and incubation hub for promoting social entrepreneurship with at least 25% participants from marginalized communities and at least 25% women.
- **Action Plan on Gender Justice and Equality:** The Action Plan suggests creation of student gender champions/youth club composing of student gender officers (proportionate number of LGBTQI members, women and men) who receive comprehensive training from women's/LGBTQI organizations within schools/colleges/ universities to act as interim points to address grievances and undertake trainings, gender audits of schools and take lead in gender equality and justice activities.
- **Action Plan on Environment Management and Disaster Risk Reduction:** The Action Plan suggests engaging youth volunteers during all phases of disaster risk reduction i.e. disaster response, preparedness, recovery, risk mitigation and prevention through youth in community based disaster risk management planning

2) To highlight the contribution and impact of youth volunteering in India through two volunteer stories under UNV/UNDP/MoYAS joint project "Strengthening NYKS and NSS" and a presentation of Action Research on State of Youth Volunteering.

3) To initiate conversations with private sector on their potential engagement in supporting existing youth volunteer infrastructure in India.

5.3 Honoring Volunteerism

Ernakulum, Kerala: The cleaning drive launched on 1st April 2017, as part of the district administration's '100 Ponds in 50 Days Initiative' had turned out to be a role model for conservation of water sources. Recognizing the support for the initiative efforts, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan honored the UNV District Youth Coordinator (DYC) Toney Thomas for his work in mobilizing volunteers for a cleaning drive in Ernakulam. Under this project, the volunteers from UNV, National Youth Volunteers (NYV), and local youth club members finished cleaning 150 ponds in sixty days. The Chief Minister applauded the contributions of the NYK Ernakulum and UNV-DYC towards mobilizing the youth volunteers.



The ponds were categorized between "cleanable" and "noncleanable ponds" with a maximum area of one acre. The DYC collaborated with the local authorities and NGOs to pave the way for rejuvenating the natural water sources; a pivotal issue with states impacted by climate changes.

The maintenance of these ponds, with a monitoring mechanism already in place, has been handed over to the local authorities and community, wherein the local youth have taken the initiative forward.

5.4 Launch of the Online Volunteering Platform

To mark International Youth Day, the UN Volunteers India launched its first national online volunteering platform. The platform serves as a marketplace for non-profit organizations and volunteers to connect, allowing youth networks, volunteer involving organizations, civil society organizations, public institutions and State governments to get support from online volunteers free of charge.



India recognizes the importance of engaging young people and opening avenues for their participation in development initiatives that affect their communities and their country. With the second largest population in the world, India's youth (15-29 years of age) account for 27.5 per cent of its more than 1.3 billion population.



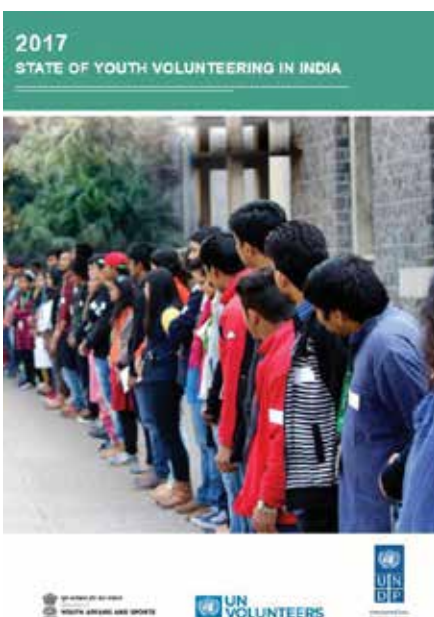
To harness this demographic divide, State authorities across India are finding ways to involve the youth. This new online volunteering platform is the latest approach to their involvement in sustainable development. In addition, it allows India to automatically measure and report its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Benefiting from 17 years of online volunteering experience, UNV provided the technology, hosted the platform, and trained the administrators in India. As a pilot initiative in India, the successful launch of this national online volunteering platform paves the way for replicating this innovative platform and making it available to other countries.



The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UNV have been partnering to strengthen national youth infrastructure in the country by conducting action research, capacity development of youth policy makers, promoting innovation and raising awareness. The Indian Online Volunteering initiative is part of this ongoing project that further advances the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme.

5.5 Publishing of the Report on State of Youth Volunteering in India



The first 'State of Youth Volunteering in India' report, published in 2017, seeks to understand the many manifestations of youth volunteerism in India and provide information on the depth and breadth of volunteer action, taking into account on-ground realities and good practices. It aims to establish a preliminary evidence base, of the contribution of youth volunteers towards India's developmental goals, and provide recommendations for future volunteer engagement. It is meant to be the beginning of a larger discourse on volunteerism to ensure that this information can translate into tangible and far-reaching change, which will enable the post 2030 development agenda.



5.6 International Youth Exchange through Peer Learning (IYEPL) in Indonesia, Jakarta

Within the framework of the project “Strengthening NYKS and NSS”, the International Youth Exchange through Peer Learning (IYEPL) was initiated in 2016, with an aim to strengthen youth knowledge and innovation on volunteering through international experience sharing. To commemorate the second year of the IYEPL, in 2017, UNV and UNDP Indonesia organized an exchange visit to Indonesia (Jakarta), From 21st November – (15th December 2017 in the spirit of south-south knowledge exchange, with following specific objectives:

- Understand similar and different landscapes of youth and volunteerism in India and Indonesia;
- Learn the traditional form of volunteering present in Indonesia as well as the latest youth-led volunteering innovations;
- Share good practices of youth volunteering and recommendations to improve the volunteer infrastructure in both countries.



The learning program outline included induction; security briefing; meeting with Ms. Anita Nirody (UN Resident Coordinator); meetings and volunteering with various UN agencies, governmental institutions, local and international NGOs working on social and environmental issues with focus on children’s education, youth, diversity, refugee, waste management, innovation and creative solutions, etc.





Five Youth Volunteers from across India were selected to attend: Banribha Syiem (Ribhoi District, Meghalaya); Bharat Bisathi (Anantapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh); Raghuveer (Mangalore District, Karnataka); Suman Show (South Kolkata); Upperla Zeena Priyanka (Khammam District, Telangana).

Other Key Events and Activities

Town Hall with UN Youth Envoy

UN Youth Envoy Jayathma Wickramanayake held a Town Hall on 16th August 2017, with UN Volunteers and our CSO partners Youth Collective, PRAVAH, Restless Development India, and Swechha India.

Some key comments from Jayathma:

“We need to make an investment on youth”

“There is a need to see youth as partners and not as beneficiaries in the development process.”

“We should work ‘with’ youth not work ‘for’ youth”

“We need to advocate for a formal, systematic structure and process for engaging youth.”



Introducing the Project team and the UNV - District Youth Coordinators

‘Strengthening Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme (NSS)’ is a project initiated in a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Volunteer (UNV). The project aims to provide catalytic support to the existing youth volunteer schemes of the Ministry i.e. NYKS and NSS. Whilst instilling a strong sense of civic engagement and facilitating greater youth participation in achieving sustainable development goals, it will support young people in realizing their social, economic and human potential.

As part of this project, the national youth volunteer infrastructure of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) was strengthened by placing one National Project Manager along with four national United Nations Volunteers (UNV) at MoYAS. At the district level, 29 UN Volunteers have been placed as UN Volunteer – District Youth Coordinators (UNV-DYC) in 29 different districts – one in each State of India. Their official journey started in December 2015 when they began a one month professional development programme at Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Youth Development (RIGNIYD) Regional Centre, Chandigarh. After the training, these UNV-DYCs have been working within the NYKS structure in their respective districts. Not only have these UNV-DYCs worked towards achieving NYKS objectives and programmes, many of the them have gone above and beyond the call of duty to address the most pertinent youth issues in their district.

With the vision of the National Youth Policy 2014 of empowering youth to achieve their full potential, and through the youth, enabling India to find its rightful place in the community of nations, the project “Strengthening NYKS



and NSS” has been working, for the past one and a half years, towards supporting youth voluntary schemes of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) to facilitate youth participation towards sustainable development goals.

District Youth Coordinator Refresher Training

New Delhi: In order to enhance the management, leadership, and communications skills of 29 UNV-DYCs working in 29 States, the UN Volunteers in association with NYKS and NSS organized a three-day training on Project Management and Skills Upgradation from 7th-11th August 2017 in New Delhi.



The three-day curriculum highlighted the key aspects of project management, focusing on the tools and techniques to manage projects and workloads, understanding objectives, mapping project deliverables, resources, overcoming challenges, and adjusting durations to achieve the stated goals in the most efficient way. The programme was also aimed towards improving communications among team members and improving reporting requirements at various levels, for successful implementation of the project.



The training was provided by the representatives of PMSOft, a Pune based firm specializing in Portfolio, Programme and Project Management serving in domains like Social sector, IT, Shipping, Engineering and Pharmaceutical industries for the past 15 years.

Volunteer Profiles

National UN Youth Volunteers

National UN Volunteers

International UN Youth Volunteers

International UN Volunteers

NATIONAL UN YOUTH VOLUNTEERS



Sneha Pathak
Research Assistant
UNDP

As a National Youth United Nations Volunteer in the project DISHA, UNDP, I represent UNDP in the partner office of the Delhi Government. I have been lucky enough to be involved in the career counselling and guidance sub-pilot since its inception phase, through its various levels, from strategic and programmatic planning of the pilot to the eventual roll-out of the psychometric career assessment tests across all Delhi government schools, including the ground level work of physically packing lakhs of QA booklets. The sub-pilot has reached over 4 lakh children of classes X-XII, in order to provide them with better tools and a guiding force to make the right career choice, and of course, with the power to choose having a career at all.

This experience thus far, has been deeply enriching, in terms of professional and personal growth.



Vrinda Handa
Research Assistant
UNDP

A computer engineer by training and development enthusiast by choice, I constantly find myself drawn towards issues of women's economic empowerment and financial independence. In my ongoing assignment with the United Nations Development Programme in India, I am serving as a National UN Youth Volunteer attached to project Disha. I am working towards economic empowerment of women in the states of Delhi and Haryana. I seek to positively impact the lives of young girls and women through training, entrepreneurial skill development and employment opportunities at the community level.

I am primarily responsible for conducting research on best practices related to employment, enterprise development and livelihood generation for women. I also provide programmatic support through design, conceptualization and execution of different pilots. In addition, I am responsible for coordination with NGO partners, monthly reporting, knowledge management, documentation of best practices, monitoring and evaluation.

NATIONAL UN VOLUNTEERS



Aditi Tandon
Communication Associate
UNDP

I am a Communications professional with over 10 years of experience in the media, government and development sector. I started my career as a journalist and went on to pursue a Master's Degree on the Erasmus Mundus scholarship which took me to universities in Germany and the Czech Republic and eventually to London.

Currently, I serve as a National UN Volunteer with the GoI-UNDP-GEF Sindhudurg Project in Maharashtra which focuses on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into production sectors. As the Communications Associate, I oversee the development of communication materials for the project. I have extensively worked with cross-functional and multicultural teams to communicate complex policies like climate change action and global principles like human rights in a simple and engaging manner to a wide and diverse audience and that's where my passion lies.

I've always been a strong believer in multilateral cooperation for solutions to grassroots level challenges. The UNV-Communication Associate for the Sindhudurg Project position brings together this belief along with my interest towards climate change and environment conservation as well as my professional skills in the field of Communication. The work of a UNV is a drop in the grand ocean of UNDP's sustainable development work. But every drop counts and together our work builds the support structures for real, on-ground impact.



Anand Prakash
UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Rajkot, Gujarat

Passionate about peace and social development with blend of more than six years of experience in Vegetable Value Chain, Mobilization, Volunteerism, Monitoring & Evaluation, Mobilization of Youth, Technical Support on Agriculture, livestock & Community Infrastructure, Management Information System and Coordination with development departments. As UNV, I have motivated to form Specially-Abled Groups of Youngsters to organize them for common goal with the help of District Administration and provided them moral support by skill upgradation training program. District Administration was organized program to distribute instrument. A workshop on Advocacy of PwD was organized to provide accessible infrastructure support.

Volunteerism is like a life style for me and small acts of kindness that are done by common man motivates me to volunteer. I am also motivated by my own personal experiences and the challenges I have had to overcome to get to where I am today. Many of us have experienced challenges or moments that have shaped us into who we are today and creates dedication to work for other. That idea illuminates path of volunteerism for me.



Anil Kumar Mishra
UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Surguja, Chhattisgarh

I, Anil Kumar Mishra from Surguja, Chhattisgarh, India. I have Master degree in Social work and Business Administration (HR) with extensive experience in the development sector. Presently, as United Nation Volunteer, I am working as District Youth Coordinator in Surguja since 2016. During my last 2-year tenure, I have worked with and for tribal youth and women, and reached out to people with disability as well for their economic empowerment.

Apart from this I also worked with various government agency at State & District Level and international agencies like; DFID, UNDOC, SHRC, NACO, SIRD.

The reason why I started volunteering is because I always think that we are one big 'human' family and need each other and this sentence since started of my career motivate and encourage me to do for others. However I know I play a very small part, but I feel blessed to be able to play that part, "I began volunteering to help others, but the person I helped the most was me. There is nothing more satisfying than giving some of your precious time to others, because it is almost always the best time of your life. The most important work of my life is my service as a volunteer, because it is where I give and receive unconditional love. Presently I am also doing assignment with UNV- India and it's a blessing for me to do more for others. Under this assignment "Strengthening NYK and NSS project "I can do volunteering work for the entire district and work for needy people and youth especially for differently abled youth.



Ankit Jaiswal
Management Associate
UN Volunteers

Hi, my name is Ankit Jaiswal and I am working as a Management Associate with UN Volunteers. Having a background in Disaster Management, I possess 6 years of experience on project implementation in the field of DRR, Social Development, CSR and Youth Development for the upliftment of communities. As a development professional, I have worked with government organization, research institutes, NGOs and private sector.

The learnings from the field at initial phase of my career helped me in shaping path towards being a development sector professional.

I am working on the project "Strengthening NYKS & NSS" and the biggest motivation is the opportunity to work on a youth oriented project covering all 29 states. This experience will certainly help me in understanding the development practices required, based on need of youth. Through volunteering, I can directly reach out to the communities which in return will help me in improving my cross-cultural experience, communication and leadership skills.

My role is to monitor the progress of activities made in 10 districts and provide all necessary support required to the UNV-DYCs. These progress is being monitored during the field visits and support is provided to the low performing districts. Apart from this, I also work on implementation of national level project outputs such as generation of knowledge product, baseline study on state youth policies, annual refresher training, etc.



Anshu J. Singh
Extension and Communications
Coordinator
UN Volunteers

I have over 10 years of rich Media experience with a degree in Journalism and Mass Communications. I am currently working with UN Volunteers as a Communications Specialist on a joint project of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, UNDP and UNV. I have worked with numerous organizations in the capacity of a Reporter, TV Producer, Script Writer and Media Consultant. My previous job was as a Journalist with Rajya Sabha Television wherein I extensively covered National and International News and 11 Ministries of Govt. of India among others.

As a Media consultant, I have worked with PR agencies, National & International NGOs, Healthcare organisations & Startups. Some of the big names included AIIMS, USAID, World Vision India, NCPEDP, SEEDS India, SOS Children's Village, Centre for Social Research, Club of Rome, GAIN etc. I am actively involved in media advocacy campaigns such as Empowerment of Women, Health Issues, Rights of Persons with Disabilities etc. The transition from being a Journalist/ TV Producer, to working as a Communications Specialist seemed like a natural progression to me.

Volunteering, gives an opportunity to be a part of the community and a bigger purpose. It gives me a different understanding of the people and the country, where in I learn about their everyday struggles, experience their culture and their lives. My profile gives me an opportunity to raise awareness, support important community issues and contribute to social change.



Anusha Sharma
Project Associate
UNDP

With Master's degree in Natural Resource Management and Bachelors in Life Sciences, I am presently working with the Energy and Environment Unit of United Nations Development Programme in the capacity of a Project Associate. As a part of my assignment as National UNV, I have been working on a number of projects related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity governance. This has also given me an opportunity to work with a range of stakeholders including the government both at centre and state, non-government organizations, civil society bodies, academic and research institutions, private sector and the donor agencies like GEF. I have been involved in the design, planning, implementation, execution and monitoring and evaluation of projects under the NRM portfolio of UNDP. This assignment has also given me opportunities to represent the UNDP CO at national and international platforms. I have also supported the team in content development and design of a number of knowledge products emanating from various of our projects and programmes. The same were also launched at the Thirteenth Conference of Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity at Mexico in 2016. I have had the opportunity to represent the team at various national and international events and workshops.



Ashu Gupta

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Meerut, Uttar Pradesh

Myself, Ashu Gupta, I am post graduate in social science and have more than 10-year experience in development sector, primarily in the field of Training and Management. I have been given my contribution in different organization like, UNICEF, Micro Insurance Academy, WHO, Citizens Alliance and currently associating as UNV NYC in UNV at Meerut District Uttar Pradesh. I have been working on different issues like Skill Development, Community Health, Youth Mobilization, Community Based Health Insurance etc. I am a mature, positive, a loyal and hardworking individual, who loves making a difference into the lives of individual. I have an excellent ability to remain good-humoured and unflappable under pressure.

I enjoy meeting different people from different backgrounds and cultures while volunteering. It often lets me get closer to a community, the people and the region that teaches me something new about people and myself. I volunteer to support people and make a difference. Besides, it is professionally and personally fulfilling.



Cynthia Marina Lobo

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Mangalore, Karnataka

I have been working in the field of Social welfare since more than 8 years, and my experience varies from skill development and training, education, child rights, youth development.

After working in the field for 7 years and work on skill development policy and framework, I felt, I needed to reconnect to the grassroot and the teenagers /youth of today. I joined this programme in order to give back the learning, instead I have learned more than I have given.



Debendra Swain

Project Officer – Skill Development
UNDP

I am a volunteer and through volunteering, I have explored myself. Having a graduate degree in Indian Society and Culture, I have worked for capacity building in the areas of planning, livelihoods, and Community Resilience programme. I started my career as a grassroots volunteer in a Panchayatiraj institution strengthening programme.

This assignment with UNDP-KISS skill and entrepreneurship project, gives opportunity to serve for the neediest people. Our main focus in this assignment is to work with KISS to introduce a blended skilling model, integrate ICT in the vocational training curriculum, and facilitating the audio-visual learning classes with the trainers in this institution. Also, we are working on developing counselling tools and introducing career counselling website for the tribal students of KISS. Developing partnership with key stakeholders for exploring entrepreneurship opportunities for the student and alumni and introducing new trades is also a task associated with us.

Since from my education time, I have seen poverty and its impact very closely. Young people migrates because of unemployment, spent their life in a vulnerable condition. Some of them came back addicted with tobacco and alcohol. They live the life as a burden on society rather than contributing its progress. These are the few causes which has driven me internally to volunteering myself to being a part of bringing positive change.



Deepti Somani
RSD Assistant
UNHCR

I hold an undergraduate degree in law and after graduating from law school, I started my career as a policy researcher and have worked as a litigating lawyer and a legal representative in a refugee legal aid organization before joining UNHCR as a National volunteer.

My core area of interest is in studying the impact of legal systems on social change and have volunteered with various organizations, both national and international to gain perspective on diverse issues of human rights violations. My interest in human rights protection of vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups and use of expressive arts to engage with them prompted me to undergo training as a dance/movement therapy (DMT) practitioner. As a DMT practitioner, I have extensively engaged with asylum seekers, trafficked women and children, rescued child labourers among other vulnerable groups using DMT as a tool for their psycho-social rehabilitation.

Having worked as a researcher and a litigator, I realized that my real interest lay in humanitarian and relief work. Working as a dance/movement therapy practitioner gave me an opportunity to directly engage with asylum seekers and migrants.

My work at UNHCR India office primarily involves conducting Refugee Status Determination First Instance interviews of asylum seekers approaching India from countries including Afghanistan, Myanmar, Somalia and Iraq and conducting regular research on the socio-legal-political situation of the country of origin of asylum seekers.



Dhinesh Kumar
UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Kanyakumari,
Tamilnadu

I am presently working as an UNV NYC in coastal state of Tamilnadu, South India. I am a Professional social worker and have worked in the development field for 10 years on Counselling, Livelihood, Community Development, Disaster management, Integrated projects on Education (Child Labour), Environment, Natural Resource Management, Micro Finance, Health and CSR. I have done many concrete achievements for the communities, especially for Tribal communities, by supporting rehabilitation and recovery work for areas impacted by tsunamis. These activities motivated me to continue in social work. I am curious about new ideas and implementing new activities that would help community development.

When I worked in Education Programs for children, I met many children who had to work to survive. I found that they did not know about school and education. We then started a school for child labourers and bonded labourers free of cost in the association with SSA. Food and accommodation had also been provided at free of cost. This model is disseminated to places wherever child labour was conducted, and I implemented many awareness campaign and meetings to communities to enrol such the children in school. Marginalized people need to develop more to fulfil their basic needs. I have been working in vulnerable places only since joining in job where can see the many people are struggling to meet their daily needs. These are all motivated me to become a volunteer.



Gauri Talwar
Refugee Status Determination
Assistant/Eligibility Officer
UNHCR

I am a 27 years old National UN Volunteer with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, India from the last twenty months, eager to use my education in law for the sake of the people and for peace, for protecting human dignity and human rights, for the ones in the most desperate need – the stateless, the refugees and the conflict affected, and that too at the most relevant time when the world is confronted by unabated conflict, war and violence. I believe I am using my education and my knowledge, professional and technical skill set, for the welfare and betterment of human beings.

Carrying out refugee status eligibility interviews for asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Syria, Burundi, Cameroon, Myanmar etc., in a thorough and a compassionate manner, my role is to gather sufficiently accurate and detailed information to assess eligibility for refugee status in line with international refugee, humanitarian and human rights law principles.

I also serve as a contributing Editor on the 5-member Editorial Board of the UNHCR Headquarters Staff Journal – “Dialogue” and in the UNHCR India Office Staff Council.

Akin to the spirit of voluntary action, a desire to learn and make a concrete contribution to the cause of world peace and peoples’ well-being, I am proud to play my part as a UNV and I believe my work at UNHCR India is helping me actualise in my own assignment the 2030 Development Agenda, with the theme, for a sustainable future, leaving no one behind.



Gayatri Bhuyan

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Nalbari, Assam

A development professional with over seven years of experience. I have worked with several grass root and bridge organizations in areas as diverse as education, Water & Sanitation (WASH), infrastructure projects, sustainability, worked with indigenous groups, foundation set-up and management, among others. I have also managed the nationwide CAF, UN-Habitat, Coca Cola and NDTV Support My School Campaign. I hold an MSc in Development Studies from Glasgow University, United Kingdom, Post Graduate Diploma in Women's Studies and a BA in English from the University of Pune.

Currently, I am working as a UNV-DYC in Nalbari District of Assam. I maintain close liaison with District Administration, developmental departments & NGOs. Some of the areas I look into are promoting self-reliant Youth Clubs, identifying their training needs and organizing training programmes, assessing the needs and problems of various sections of youth in the district, preparing the Annual Action plan of programmes and activities, proper programmes and activities, assisting Youth Clubs/NGOs in the formulation of project proposals under Schemes of Financial Assistance of Central Government Departments/Agencies.

I am one of the founder member of the first LGBTQI group in Assam and we are actively working on awareness on a voluntary basis. Through this experience I came to realize how volunteerism can bring a change in the society.



Gyanendra Vishwakarma

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh

Hello, myself Gyanendra Vishwakarma, Currently I am working with as a United National Volunteer District Youth Coordinator in NYK Tikamgarh MP in project "Strengthening NYKS & NSS" running by UNV India and supported by MoYAS. I have 12yrs working experience on various subject in the social development sector like RD, WASH, Livelihood, People with differentiable, women empowerment, adult education, vocational training, Family Planning, Adolescent Fertility & Health, gender, De-addiction, HIV/AIDS and skill upgradation programmes. I am directly involving in various activities of NYKS, MoYAS, UNV India and District administration. Trying to strengthen the NYKS activities and link the SDGs in youth development. During my journey as a UNV, I have made various success stories like provided skilled training to more than 1000 above youths in tailoring, beauty parlor, computer course, mobile repairing and two wheels repairing, provided loan under govt. schemes to 52 youths and established their employment, closely work in district jail for prison rehabilitation, actively create awareness on national flagship programme, developed more 350 youth clubs and currently more than 3600 youths direct connected with us, ensure 100% implementation of NYKS, MoYAS, UNV India and District Administration activities etc. and more other activities ongoing at my district. I am highly satisfied for my work and I am so lucky that, I am United Nation Volunteer. I wish do more and more work as a volunteer for nation building.



Jiaul Islam Chowdhury

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Gomati, Tripura

I have completed professional degree in integrated Master in Social Work, MA in Sociology(Counselling) and Master in philosophy.

Currently I am working as an UNV District Youth Coordinator in the project Strengthening of NYKS and NSS at Nehru Yuva Kendra Gomati District of Tripura State. I have been initiating various voluntary activities and promoting volunteerism among the youths in Health, Flood, Natural Calamities, Career and Guidance, Disaster and First Aids, BBBP, HIV/AIDS, Skill Development etc.

During these two years, I have been able to construct two community halls, 8 youth club buildings, repaired 11 club buildings, roads, making bamboo bride etc, with the support of voluntary work camps and youth club volunteers in the district. I have also organized various training programmes on Youth leadership and community Development, Life Skill Training programme, etc for the young people in this district. More 7000 youth were mobilized in various community development activities in Gomati and South Tripura District, Tripura.

During my childhood, I was very much inspired by my father in voluntary works who was very much inspired by Swami Vivekananda's teaching and always ready for any kind of voluntary activities in any crisis and social issues in the society. Now I can say that Voluntarism is in my blood and it cannot be separated from me and I will always motivate others in promoting voluntary spirit in the society and will lead the voluntary activities in every walk of life.



Kriti Khanna Sarin

Communications Assistant
UN Women

Kriti Khanna Sarin has been working in Human Resource Department for over eight years especially in the areas of Recruitment and Selection, Training and Development, Performance Management, and HR Operations.

Having completed her MBA in HR from Allahabad Agricultural University, she has worked for several years in corporate sector. In 2014, she left corporates to work with United Nations Volunteers.

She is currently associated with UN Women as UNV HR Assistant and supporting the overall Human Resource Management and Development and HR Operations for six thematic areas working towards Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.



Kusum Sasane

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Thane, Maharashtra

I have achieved my Bachelors and Masters in Social work through College of Social Work Nirmala Niketan and Tata Institute of Social Sciences- Mumbai, respectively. After obtaining my degree I had opportunities to work with communities both urban and rural, government institutions, Private institution and NGOs. I had played role of Centre in Charge in NGO working for Skill Development, I had worked with Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission which helped me to understand the grown realities and also government policies made for its citizens. Being at district level position as young professional I have played role of leader, team member and change creator. Community Development, Gender Empowerment, Youth Empowerment and Nation Building are my core Interests. Currently I am working as UNV DYC for Thane District and Strengthening the NYKS and NSS is my responsibility.

A sense of begin with self and believe in collective power has developed my interest in volunteerism. Passion for working in Development Sector and a hope to have just, equal and happy place to live has always encouraged me to contribute to society, which lead me to get educated in social work and then work for the development. The United Nation Volunteers added to my motivation to volunteer as it is a great platform for stepping in to create positive change and develop through collective volunteerism for myself and for society.



Machane Daniel Issac

Operations Management
Associate
UN Resident Coordinator's
Office

I hail from the historical city of Mysore. My educational background includes MBA, M.A (Peace and Conflict Resolution), M.Sc. (Environmental Studies) and PGDHRM.

Currently, I serve as a National UN Volunteer. As Operations Management Associate, I coordinate for United Nations System's Operations Management Team (OMT) in India and deliver development support services through an administered Inter-UN Agency mechanism in accordance with the Business Operations Strategy endorsed by UN Country Team (UNCT).

My motivation to volunteer connects with my affinity with the unmatched value UNV programme places upon contributing to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. I was convinced that the UNV programme will be a meaningful opportunity to fulfil my objective of developing myself as a development and humanitarian functionary to address some of the pressing operational challenges faced by us.

Volunteering was my passion. I have volunteered on wide-ranging issues with government, private, NGOs and larger civil society entities since my younger days. I was very keen on volunteering for an International Organization, given its large-scale operations at a global level. This came true when I was offered an opportunity to volunteer with the UN System in India.



Mahendra Kumar Nayak

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Mahendragarh,
Haryana

I am from the remote village of Dengaguda (Baspur) of Tribal block Tentulikhunti of Nabarangpur District, in a very poor family. I completed my MA in Rural Devt. And PGJMC from IGNOU and Topper with Rank-1 in M.Phil (Tribal Studies) at COATS, Koraput, under Berhmpur University, Odisha.

I was inspired by the social work of School Teachers and parents and became involved in social work from childhood, working for the downtrodden people, for the welfare of orphans and for the economically poor people of Tribal areas.

I had already worked in development Sector for 7 years as a NYC volunteer of NYKS, Nabarangpur, Odisha. During this period formed more than 250 Youth Clubs, 41 Women's Club, 62 SHGs, 5 NGOs, 3 Trusts in most backward Nabarangpur District of Odisha. UN Volunteers provided me with an opportunity as a District Youth Coordinator of Mahendragarh in Haryana. The journey has only started and there is still much work to be done among youth of India. As a UNV DYK, I would like to appeal to all Indians, "together we can do more for nation building".

Volunteer work provided me a great platform to contribute in a better way, towards the vision of a healthy, sustainable India and helped me to grow as an individual and to become a better citizen. My vision of Youth development is to bring people's aspirations closer to government initiatives. I work with my team with implement the novel vision at the ground level.



Manish Mittal

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Patiala, Punjab

I hail from the Royal City Patiala (Punjab). I have an MA in Social Work, and have been exploring the Social Development Sector, especially the Youth Development Sector, for more than 10 years. I have learning experienced in working with NGO and Govt. Sector. My area of expertise is working on youth issues i.e HIV/AIDS, Drug De-addiction and Stress Management etc. During my last 10 years, I was involved at all level of working like Planning, Management, Supervision, Mainstreaming, Coordination, Monitoring and Execution. I am curious to learn new things, and I also believe in learning until my last breath.

India has a rich culture of Volunteering. Volunteering at religious places for cleanliness and Serving Food (Langar), during and after natural climates, volunteering for social change etc. While working on this assignment I have an opportunity to Volunteering for Youth Development and Nation Building. I have been working as UNV-District Youth Coordinator since December 2015. I feel very lucky and proud while working with two renown organizations i.e NYKS and UN, but the most important thing is working with and working for the YOUTH directly. While working on this assignment I really feel huge professional gain.



Mukul Sharma

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh

My educational background includes MSW (Human Resource Management and Labour Law) and B.Sc with Computer Application. I have worked with different development projects based on Gender Mainstreaming, Disaster Risk Reduction, Panchyati Raj, Skill Development, Social Entrepreneurship, Health and Nutrition and Youth Development. During different projects, I have learned many things and I had applied my experiences to execute successfully. I am certified in Search and Rescue, First Aid, Community Based Disaster Management Planning and Psycho social support mechanism. I am a self-starter and creative worker. I always try to do new things in an integrated manner, as we see there are so many problems and so many solutions but I believe that each problem is interrelated with other therefore we should have an integrated plan. Serving as a UNV District Youth Coordinator, gave me an opportunity to apply my passion and ideas with youth for youth development.

Volunteering is not just an act, it is a process to think and act without any limit. Since our childhood we learn to volunteer, we see to volunteer and we feel to volunteer. Our parents taught us that we should do help others that they also teach us volunteering. As such, I am motivated to be a volunteer through everyone.



Naresh Sharma

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Nuapada, Odisha

Masters in Life skills Education with 05 years of experience with UNFPA in Development sector. Currently working as UNV-DYC at NYK Nuapada Odisha. worked in AAG Initiative, ARSH, and liaising with Govt Sector from last five years. Internationally represented India in Urban Environmental Management” programme at KITA, Fukuoka, JAPAN from November 08th to 20th 2010. Participated in Five International conferences, Four National conferences, Six National, International Workshops, Fifteen National and State Camps through NCC, NSS, NYKS or RGNIYD, and two major National Rallies.

As I was Volunteer in NYK from 2006 to 2008. after that I have participated in many activities as volunteer, I have donated blood 21 times. I am Life time member Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Member Secretary, Star Yuva Mandal, Volunteer National Service Scheme(NSS), Under officer of National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Lifetime Member Red Cross society. I want to dedicate my life to create the positive ness in my society and this will only through when I will do things voluntarily.



Nihar Maharana

Project Officer- Partnership
Development
UNDP

I, Nihar Ranjan Maharana, is a highly motivated, dedicated and ambitious professional. Every time I start a new activity, I aim for excellence although my ultimate goal is to achieve higher standards, perfection and to please the clients.

Originally from the Silk city of Berhampur and Steel city of Rourkela. I'm a Post graduate in Zoology with specialization in Applied Zoology and Biotechnology. Presently I'm serving as a National UNV assigned to the UNDP as a Project Officer- Partnership Development based at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar. I coordinate and act as an agent of change to enhance skill development related activities for under privileged indigenous children and youths.

Prior to this, I did a five-year stint at PRADAN as an Executive Projects. My job responsibilities involved project planning, proposal writing, implementation, monitoring, mentoring, partnership development, analysing, report writing and leading Information and communication technology, Sustainable livelihood activities, women empowerment and Finance related activities.

After working and learning from grass root level regarding skill development activities, I was confident that I can now put it to better use by applying the acquired knowledge in the present context. Hence when the opportunity knocked the door, it was like a dream come true.



Nilotpal Datta

Protection Assistant
UNHCR

My name is Nilotpal Datta; I am a lawyer with a keen interest in human rights and social justice issues. I have been working in the development sector for more than five years. As a National UN Volunteer at UNHCR I work with refugees and asylum seekers. My work here involves dealing with refugees and other stakeholders on a daily basis. I work to ensure that refugees have access to legal documentation, to prevent detention of refugees, and to attend to their pressing legal protection concerns.

Serving as a National UN Volunteer with UNHCR, is an opportunity to make a positive impact on the situation of refugees in my country while working alongside professionals from around the world. As a citizen, I bring value with my knowledge of local languages and culture and an insider's understanding of socio-economic issues.



P. Rajashekhar Pottabathini
UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Khammam, Telangana

My name is P. Rajashekhar I am a native of Nalgonda town located at Telangana state. I am passionate in development sector, completed post-graduate in Social work in 2005 from Roda Mistry college of social work, Hyderabad.

I have 12 years of rich experience in development sector, expertise in the areas of Disaster Management, HIV/AIDS, Microfinance and Livelihood promotions.

During my block placement at Post graduation I have worked as a Volunteer for Indian Red Cross Society(IRCS), which has given me confidence, knowledge and scope for change the society.

After getting into full time professional social work field I have observed the activities of volunteers and grass root level workers activities in HIV/AIDS field. They have Identified various T.B and HIV infected persons and referred to care and support centres. As a result, they have saved many lives especially children from the transmission of HIV/AIDS.

The essential information, services are reaching to unreached population through volunteers only. Volunteerism is especially helpful for marginalised communities to build their capacities, livelihoods, health, Education and Gender equality.

The other kind volunteer services during floods and religious based mass events have motivated me to adopt the volunteering and promoting the volunteerism.



Parimal Kumar Jha
UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Sitamarhi, Bihar

I have completed my Master degree in Social Work from Periyar University, Salem, TN. I have more than 10 years of experience in the Social development sector. I have working experience in programme management, coordination, advocacy, partnership & networking, with Govt. agencies, development agencies and marginalized communities.

I have worked at various levels like State level, District level & grassroots level. I have similar types of experience to work with civil Society organization on similar issues. Presently I am working with UNDP/UNV under NYKS and NSS Strengthening Project. I have expertise on management, communication, programme implementation & monitoring.

I am highly self-motivated in all I do- both inside and outside of a work setting. When I set out to do something- whether it is an assigned task or a personal endeavour- I always give it my all- exceed expectations and pay close attention to each detail. In the Volunteerism There is a lot of possibilities to do innovative work by using my own idea. Volunteerism also give me space to do a lot of work for differently for community and development. Success is also a motivator for me- as I have a strong desire to succeed at work for the betterment of organizations and for my own personal achievements. I also have an outstanding ability to stay focused on projects from beginning to end and meet deadlines with excellent organizational skills- keeping up the quality of work throughout the duration of the tasks.



Phyo bemo Lotha
UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Dimapur, Nagaland

I am a post graduate specialised in Local Governance and development. I have experience working with development sector and academic focussing on youth and governance for more than 8 years. I have had extensively worked for youth development at Local, regional and national level in various capacities.

Currently, I am a National UN Volunteer as a UNV- DYC, working for positive and constructive engagement, growth and development of rural tribal youth. As such, I am working focussing for engaging, enabling, ensuring and empowering the tribal local youth based on the needs, issues, concerns and priorities in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Volunteerism is in fact my passion as it gives me an opportunity to influence through my action which in turn instills in the minds of others and shapes social norms and values. Today when volunteering is gaining popularity and in huge demand, my greatest motivation of being volunteering is working with diverse section of people, learning everyday new, exploring opportunities together with local people with the common vision of inspiring in action. In my personal experience, which motivates and encourages me and gave me a sense of accomplishment is seeing someone or a group, motivated by my action, who in turns goes a step further and inspires by their action and in deeds.



Raghumoni Chatterjee

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Kolkata, West Bengal

My name is Raghumoni Chatterjee, I am from Kolkata, West Bengal. My father is working with West Bengal Police and mother is housewife. I am a Bio science graduate, Post graduate diploma in Mass Communication and post graduate in Master in Social Work.

To be inspired, develop new skills and new ways of thinking and use of my skills towards humankind in freewill is a basic motivation to be a volunteer. To be a part of change someone's life and create positive change in the world as well, give a great satisfaction. I believe in Give back to a cause. I am a very positive motivated person and I listen to and read a lot from motivational people and professional social workers and working in social development sector gives me inspiration to be a volunteer.



Raja Gupta

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Gumla, Jharkhand

My educational background is Master in Rural Management and Development, I have served with my managerial skill and led in implementing the National scheme for more than 10 years such as AIDS control, NRHM, SABLA WCD and recently I am serving the project "Strengthening the NYKS and NSS" jointly managed by UNV and MoYAS GOI as UNV DYC GUMLA Jharkhand. I am serving my all position to contribute in Nation building being a responsible citizen of my country and to benefit the under developed, marginalized and weaker section of community including children, women and youth in India. I have actively participated in advocacy, policy designing, planning and implementation in my all segment of responsibility.

Youth are very important and covering a major section of our society so it is highly essential to mobilize their potential and energy for their personal development and their contribution in Nation building. In order to shape out the youth energy, skill up, and to involve in meaningful activities I have chosen volunteerism as my passion, also it is a challenging opportunity which involves a lot of risk but glorious success also. Volunteerism inspired me to learn and explore an uncharted chapter of my life and give immense pleasure.



Ricky Cooper

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya

Hello, my name is Ricky Cooper Pathaw, my Educational Background is MA (Life Skills Education) from Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sripurumbudur, Tamil Nadu. I have also completed Post graduate Diploma in Youth Development (PGDYD) from the same Institute.

My interest has always been with youth issues and concerns and their prospect in this globalised world and the diminishing resources and opportunities as compared to the ever-increasing youth population.

I am currently a United Nations Volunteer DYC in Ri-Bhoi, though my assignment will end in coming December, my volunteering spirit, my voluntary work still continues by serving the youth of Meghalaya through Synjuk ki Seng Samla Shnong (SSSS)- A Community-based youth organisation formed by the motivated youth Leaders for the sole purpose of serving with no financial or material benefit.

Volunteering has always been a part of me since I could remember at my tender age, volunteering at a local youth club where I was born and brought up, volunteering at my school for different activities etc. I can feel that something inside me will not allow me to sit idle without doing anything to alleviate the problems and concerns that people are facing. As a result of such internal experiences, I decided to contribute to the community in my own small way, in my own capacity.

I think it is my deep desire to see the positive change in the World through my little contribution serves with big Love and sincere care.



Rishi Kumar Banshiwala
Management Associate
UN Volunteers

Currently, I am a United Nations Volunteer, working on a National Project called "Strengthening NYKS and NSS" as a Management Associate, the project promotes volunteering among youth all over India, to get involved in matters critical for the development of the country.

As the founder of my Non-profit organization called "Reaching Sky Foundation" my work has been intrinsically related to advocating volunteerism and capacity building of the youth.

I am an MBA (HR and Marketing) and I am always passionate to meet and learn from young people. I believe volunteering helps us learn and grow in the most amazing ways.

My focus recently has been in creating quality volunteering engagements for online volunteers. I advocate volunteering among youth so that they can find learning opportunities and get empowered. This opportunity as a UNV gave me a big platform to share and promote the concept of volunteerism worldwide and I am eager to give the best of myself to it.

For my Volunteering contributions, I have been awarded as the "Youth Champion 2015" by iVolunteer awards and Peace Messenger in 2017 by IPYG (International Peace Youth Group)

I feel that it's a beautiful thing when a career and a passion come together.



Ritu Narwaria
Project Associate
UNDP

I hail from the heritage city of Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. I am a post graduate in Environment Management with 4 years of experience in field of biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and urban environmental management.

As a UNV I am deputed in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change to facilitate the work on SNRM and BIOFIN project of UNDP.

During regional consultations organized by MOEFCC and UNDP along with National Biodiversity Authority I got an opportunity to interact with the various stakeholders at national level and create awareness in them regarding biodiversity issues.

Volunteerism allows you to play an active role towards betterment of society by applying your skill and experiences. It provides an exposure to understand the practicality and challenges on field and off field. I feel that the new challenges and experiences in this arena will further refine my understanding on subject and simultaneously will give me an opportunity to willingly contribute towards country's Progress.



Riyaz Ahmed Mir
UNV District Youth Coordinator
Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir

I am Riyaz Ahmed Mir, UNV DYC, it was my dream to work in UNV as volunteer to help the people of my country and community, and to promote volunteerism among the Youth which gives me tremendous energy and adds to my motivation. I work around the country in many projects. I feel proud to work hands on for the community as a volunteer. I have also learned much from other people as well. I volunteer because I find something incredibly satisfying about acting in a way that is consistent with my principles. Being able to say I changed something in the society in the lives of others, gives meaning to my being here beyond simply looking after myself. For me, volunteering changes my life from being purely self-centred to being something with meaning for others as well. I volunteer because it continuously teaches me something new about people, about cooperation, about compassion, and about myself.



Rupin Mahiyaria

UNV Gender Specialist
UN Volunteers

I am Rupin, and I worked as UN Volunteer Gender Specialist at the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) in India. I am deeply passionate about gender equality, human rights, and enjoy working on policy, research, and advocacy focused on inclusive development. Following my UNV assignment, I am now working as a Coordination Officer (Gender Equality and Youth Development) at the UN RCO in India. Prior to joining the UN in India, I worked with a grassroots NGO (NANAK), which implements several development projects to support some of the most marginalised and vulnerable communities in rural Bihar, including supporting women's participation in local self-governance, education, and skill-development. I have also worked at UNOPS Myanmar, as a Communications Analyst supporting the multi-donor Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), which has a focus on women and marginalised and vulnerable communities in Myanmar. I particularly enjoyed this assignment, especially in light of the dynamic political context in Myanmar- with the lead-up to the first democratic elections in the country. Previously, I have interned with the OECD, and at the National Human Rights Commission India. I love working in the development sector, and remain driven to doing so! I believe we should all engage in doing our bit to ensure a world that is more equal, fair, and just, especially for women and girls.



Sangita Dahal

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Namichi, Sikkim

My Educational background is master in sociology. After completion of my master degree I started my career as NYK volunteer which I did for 6 months after that I have joined Japan International Cooperation Agency Under Sikkim Biodiversity Forest Management Project as Community Organiser for 2 and half years. After that I worked as a District Coordinator Livelihood and Rural Marketing Under Ministry of DoNER Govt of India World Bank Funded Project for 3 years, then I joined UNV from December, 2015 as I am interested in social activities and volunteer services.

Volunteerism is a service that you do from your heart while volunteering brings me 'personal satisfaction' to contribute to be better community without expecting anything in return.

Since my subject is based on social development and from my childhood I want to work with community people. Working with communities has always been a wonderful experience. They have taught me as of the world realities. I am always grateful for working with them and learning from them as well.

I believe that experience as UN Volunteer has boosted up my personal and professional skills at the same time.



Shiv Semalty

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand

My education background includes Master in social work and Post graduate diploma in child rights from Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai. I am working in the social development sector for the last fourteen years. My competence primarily lies in planning, developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating projects with various stakeholders from the community to district level.

I have experience to work with national and international organizations like SBMA-Plan, Lanco foundation and Smile Foundation. My professional experience has been largely in and around education, health, and youth development sectors, with a theme aimed at improving and strengthening the system. As a UNV DYC, I have responsibilities to implement activities at the grassroots level, maintaining close liaison with District Administration, developmental departments & NGOs and Promoting the self-reliant Youth Clubs, identifying training needs of Youth Club functionaries and organizing training programmes. I am assessing the needs and problems of various sections of youth in the district and preparing the Annual Action Plan of programmes and activities.

Over the last few years, I have discovered that one of my favourite things to do is volunteer for the change of society. I have volunteered for a variety of different organizations and carried out a variety of different roles. But I love to work with young people of our society, who have very great ideas and energy to work for change. It's also an opportunity to gain experience and skills from new people.



Siva Kumar Dasagrandhi

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Anantapuramu, Andhra Pradesh

Strength is Life; Weakness is Death. These are the words of Swami Vivekananda that always motivate me in life. I always look out for the best in life so that I would be satisfied with what I am doing initially and it would be satisfactory even for others. The word strength doesn't mean not just physical but the latent abilities that should be nourished to deal with the solutions not just lamenting on the problems

Volunteering is working for the society out of free will for a better society. Being in a specific profession an individual is restricted to perform only certain tasks and there would be many restrictions for himself and imposed by the superiors at work place or by society but, being a Volunteer, an individual is given a free hand to perform according to his wish. When working according to the wish the involvement in the work would be cent percent and the result would be beyond expectations. My dream in life is to work with Youth for their empowerment and the task I am assigned further as a United Nations Volunteer is to work with the same community as a result I am able to reach out to many Youth, understand their tastes and work in line with their aspirations and make them be fruitful for themselves, for their families and the society as a whole. Being a United Nations Volunteer I feel proud as I am given the liberty to perform and make Youth perform better in their lives.



Smriti Brar

RSD Assistant
UNHCR

With a background in law and having pursued my Masters in the same from the esteemed NLSIU, Bangalore, wherein I specialized in the branch of Human Rights, I was deeply motivated to work in the field of human rights and humanitarian law. In the past, I have had the opportunity to work as a Law Clerk cum Research Assistant in the Supreme Court of India. This work widened my horizons and further strengthened my resolve to pursue my passion of working in the field of human rights and humanitarian law. I am currently serving as a National UN Volunteer and engaged in working with UNHCR, India. I have been closely working with refugees as an RSD Assistant in UNHCR, India for nearly 16 months now and find my work thoroughly gratifying.

As an RSD Assistant, I am engaged in gathering detailed information to assess the eligibility of Persons of Concern to the UNHCR for the process of Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and drafting assessments for the same.

My motivation to volunteer stemmed from my passion to give back to the society and to make a contribution to the betterment of the community we live in. I have had the opportunity to serve as a paralegal volunteer under the aegis of the State Legal Services Authority, U.T. Chandigarh in the past and have also worked as a volunteer under the National Service Scheme (NSS) for a period of 2 years. I had always been on a lookout to take on a bigger role in volunteerism and the opportunity to volunteer with the UN system was a dream come true for me.



Sneha Pillai

Outreach and Monitoring Associate
UNDP

My academic background includes a graduate degree in Mass Media, and post-graduate diplomas in Journalism and Human Rights Law.

This May, I completed two years in my assignment as the Outreach and Monitoring Associate for the Project on Mainstreaming Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation in Production Sectors in Sindhudurg Coast, Maharashtra. As a UNV, I have had excellent learning and networking opportunities, and I'm sure that these experiences will continue to influence my thoughts and actions for years to come.

As the Outreach and Monitoring Associate for the Go-UNDP-GEF Sindhudurg Project, the nature of my responsibilities could be broadly categorized into communication (issuing press releases on significant developments and preparing publications), outreach (lending support towards awareness meetings, conferences, workshops, etc) and monitoring (keeping a systematic database of the progress of each projects and bringing issues to the notice of supervisors, preparing Terms of References and sanction documents for the projects).

Volunteering has given me the opportunity to channel my personal interests and get involved in working towards bringing a positive impact in our society.



Srimoyee Mitra
Project Associate
UNDP

I am a 26-year-old UNV with almost 4 years of experience in the development sector. I hail from the city of joy, Kolkata and hold a BSc Honours degree in Economics from University of Calcutta post which I have completed my MA in Rural Development and Governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences. I have worked in diverse arenas like education, policy, livelihood and am currently working with the energy and environment unit in the BIOFIN project. I have worked in with cross-functional teams on diverse subjects in various states and looking forward to this experience with UNV to gain an extensive learning experience to grow professionally and explore a wider scope.

My current profile involves project management and coordination and research for BIOFIN Project for UNDP. My role mostly involves project coordination and management which includes a wide arena of activities ranging from- providing project level support to various stakeholders, coordinating between Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and UNDP, in implementing and coordinating project related activities, assist in strategizing and planning of the project in a larger context aligned with the national priorities and support the project in dissemination and extensive distribution of knowledge products.



Sumant Rao
Resource Mobilization Assistant
UN Women

Being young, motivated and creative, I have worked on an array of thematic areas as diverse as capacity building of youth, urban biodiversity, sustainable lifestyle and mainstreaming gender; performing diverse functions such as communications, campaign & project management, strategic planning, and execution of programmes and initiatives.

UNV gives youth an opportunity to come to the forefront and take lead in executing large-scale programmes and initiatives which will help make this world a better place; for a better tomorrow. This, immensely motivated me to become a UNV and be a stakeholder in achieving a sustainable world and honing my own capacity in the process.

At UNV assignment, I support the strategic partnerships team at UN Women which also handles public relations for the organization. I with the team, have been successfully managing relations with external stakeholders, working on events and programmes that have resulted in mass outreach and visibility. I have lead the planning and coordination to support initiatives and campaigns such as Pinkathon (India's Biggest Women's Run), Feminist Ink (By SheThePeople), HeForShe @ Tata Consultancy Services, Kumaon Literature Festival, Indywood Film Festival, HeForShe – MARD, We The Women, Etc.



T. Yangerla Jamir
Communications Assistant
UNDP

My educational background includes a B.A and M.A in Clinical Psychology. During my postgraduate, I signed up for a course in Psychology of Advertising which lead to my career choice in the field of Advertising and Marketing.

I am currently serving as a Communications Assistant for UNDP India and UN in India office.

I support the communications team with website management and with design and execution of digital campaigns on the UNDP India and UN in India digital platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr. Some of the campaigns are I have worked on are World Environment Day, Conclave on Financial Inclusion, International Women's Day, UN India Business Forum, Women Transforming India, Oceans Conference, Social Good Summit, Sustainable Tourism Day and supported the UNDP Asia Pacific office for their Facebook Live session on "Trans*forming Asia: transgender rights, the struggle and the way forward"

I have helped create a strong visual identity for the UN in India and UNDP in India and also supported the project teams with communication with the Government.

I have supported the team in exploring new platforms such as Pageflow and Instagram.

Volunteerism is an idea that I connect with deeply. UNV as a platform, spoke volumes to me as it enables me to combine my professional skills while at the same time providing me with the opportunity to give back to society.



Tanmay Acharya
UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: South Goa, Goa

I am a simple, calm and honest person and giving my services for the betterment of the society.

Due to my helping nature, I find it difficult to ignore the needs of society and through my education and experience I want to generate awareness on various issues such as Development, Health and Capacity building in society. and this aim motivates me to volunteer.



Tarun Joshi
UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Sikar, Rajasthan

I am an MBA in Entrepreneurship and Finance from Central University of Rajasthan. I have work in diversified segments, I am having an experience of total of 9.5 years in development sector which includes my roles in accounts and admin, project management, monitoring and evaluation, and government projects.

Recently I have joined as UNV DYC for Sikar, Rajasthan, earlier I was associated with Rajasthan Skill & Livelihoods Development Corporation as District Consultant. I also worked with some NGOs earlier I worked as project assistant, assistant Project Manager, program head etc.

I saw from my own life that youth and adolescents are confused and due to this condition, they are not able to pursue the proper way of achieving the goals of life and they are unknowingly involved in such activities which eventually harm their own life and future.



Toney Thomas
UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Ernakulam, Kerala

Professionally qualified social worker with experience of about 10 years in the development field. Worked in the field of community mobilization, disaster management, urban poor housing, urban reforms and youth development.

I have been groomed as a volunteer from my adolescent age. It gives a lot of satisfaction to myself and it is helpful in honing my skills and improve my personal qualities. Volunteering also enables me to help support and empower others.



Udita Gosh

Registration Assistant
UNHCR

I have grown up among people from all over the world, lived in 4 countries now, and have come back to India after 16 years only to work for UNHCR. This has been my goal for some time now, since I decided to focus on conflict and displacement during my MA dissertation. I have nurtured and passion for human rights and social justice since early years so my interest in humanitarian work is only logical. I interned with UNHCR Japan before moving to Delhi to work as a National UNV in UNHCR India as Registration Assistant. My work involves interacting with numerous refugees and asylum seekers daily, and has been very instructive due to the vast exposure I have to Persons of Concern for this area of work, in the 8 months I have been here.

At UNHCR, I register newly arrived asylum seekers, coordinate and manage their interviews at every stage, extend the time on their documents, issue refugee cards, keep track of cases, family make-up and documents, meet all persons of concern who approach with issues, counsel them daily on their concern, flag issues to different units as required for follow up and address their queries and concerns.

I have a passion for humanitarian work and have been looking for the opportunity to work in displacement, protection and human rights.



Utkarsh Pandey

Disaster Risk Reduction
Associate
UN Volunteers

A happy go lucky simple soul who just thrives on pressure. You will find me handling pressure tight situations with amazing calm. Probably my training in disaster management, in which I have done a master's. Rarely will you find me broody or sullen, I try to greet each moment and day with a broad smile. I have found my calling here and would wish to be associated more with assignments on refugee crises and displacement.

I am charged with supporting the United Nations Volunteers Programmes and ensuring implementation of the DRR and Climate Change Adaptation components of the National Action Plan of the National Youth Policy-2014 in India. UNV's focus on engaging youth in the DRR work requires me to elaborately study the impacts of both DRR vulnerabilities and resilience building on the lives of youths, because youths are central to much of DRR's advocacy for instating DRR programmes. My main responsibility in this capacity is to apply technical, professional and community development methodologies in implementing programs in highly vulnerable communities which are under constant risk of natural hazards and consequent internal-external conflict. I also exercise my expertise as a disaster management specialist by supporting the development of disaster management plans for government departments and districts across India, putting together teams and training disaster response officials and volunteers to enhance preparedness in vulnerable communities.



Uttam Saika

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Tawang, Arunachal
Pradesh

My qualifications including Masters in Rural Development from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India. I have been working in the development sector since last 10 years.

I believe governance system in India needs an inflow of well-trained young forward-thinking people. That's why one of my activities are supporting and educating poor and marginalized young leaders in our society, encouraging them to go beyond the scope of an issue and think differently. The UNV motivated me with a dignified knowledge of survival amidst the global standards and also makes learn the professional skills in volunteerism.



**Victor Latngamlung
Rongmei**

UNV District Youth Coordinator
Location: Tamenglong, Manipur

I am Victor Latngamlung Rongmei born in Nungnang village Tamenglong district, Manipur. I did my schooling at Donbosco School Khoupum and graduated from Nagaland University. My educational background includes MBA (marketing) and I had the opportunity to intern with Hindustan Unilever company. I worked with north east rural livelihoods project under ministry of development north east region, funded by world bank as area coordinator. Under this project I serve with rural poor women and unemployed youths. My interests include sustainable livelihoods, upliftment of the rural youth, building capacity and employability etc. currently, I serve as UN volunteer DYC in Tamenglong district, Manipur giving service to the rural youth in the form of capacity building, making volunteers and make employability.

I was born and brought up in Tamenglong district Manipur where lots of problems and tense situation often created and where many people are victims of poverty and lack of peace and development. I felt that where there is lack of peace and development, volunteerism is the only weapon to fight against it. Volunteering inspires me to gain opportunities to develop my capacity, build my confidence and enhance employability. Volunteering is giving service to others without being paid and there is a joy of giving my free service than I gain for myself. In volunteerism, I can also aspire to support young people in realizing their full social, economic and human potential and engagement in youths.



Vikas Gupta

Social Media Moderator
UNFPA

I am a Hons (Eng.) Graduate and an MBA in Marketing & HR. This is my first tryst with social development sector. Previously, I was employed with DLF and have worked for clients like Audi, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Radico Khaitan, Sleepwell, Lloyd, Foodpanda during my days with a digital agency called Syrup technologies. My work ex is mostly in the field of Social Media and Digital Communication and Content

I handle social media and website management. Being trained on corporate and programme communications as well by my trainer for a bigger role.

My first instinct was to learn about this sector since Corporate doesn't incite me anymore.



Yasar Ahmad

Management Associate
UN Volunteers

I have 4 years of experience majorly in the field of Project Management wherein I have successfully managed projects on Social Entrepreneurship and Youth Development. I had the opportunity to work with young social entrepreneurs working on the themes of Education, Environment and Community Development from pan India for their personal, programmatic and organisational development. I have also worked with several college students, taking them through experiential journey by designing and facilitating workshops on different issues. I have been associated with organizations like Pravah, Leaders For Tomorrow and Asia Society.

I am working on the project 'Strengthening NYKS and NSS' where I work for the monitoring progress of activities made under 10 districts and provide all necessary technical support to the UNV-DYCs stationed in these districts. Except this, I also work on the implementation of National activities planned under Annual Work plan like organizing consultations at National and State level, development of manual for youth-workers etc.

During my college days, I started volunteering for different causes which gave me a very rich learning experience as well as satisfaction. Volunteering helped me in learning about myself and gave me a purpose as well. For me, volunteering is a way to build more equitable and humane society.

**Zo Muana**

UNV District Youth Coordinator

Location: Lunglei, Mizoram

My Educational background includes MA Rural Development, PG environment. I have around ten years working experience mostly in development sector like watershed development, Livelihood development and community development programmes. I had opportunity to associate UNODC, Central government and State Government in my diverse experiences. In those different working environment, I was directly working with the community.

I am very strong with community mobilization and high adaptable to working under pressure as a one-man army.

Currently I serve as National UN Volunteer under the project "Strengthening of NYKS and NSS at Lunglei Mizoram.

Volunteering is the right path for blessing the others. People who make others happy are always happy and succeed in every way of life, so expanding wings for assisting who need guide, motivation and services etc never return without any results. The more we do good for the others the more we get promoted; success at community development starts at ground level, expanding to the overall community from which nation development takes place. So, I am really motivated by the spirit of giving services to the others.

INTERNATIONAL UN YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

**Clarina Bianchi**

Protection Analyst

UN Women

Nationality: Switzerland

Hi, my name is Clarina and I am from this tiny place called Switzerland, well known here for snow, chocolate and Bollywood movie dream scenes. Before moving to Delhi to work with UN Women as an International UN Youth Volunteer, I finished my studies in Social Anthropology and Social Work, and in between worked in different NGOs in the field of human rights. This is my fifth time in India, so yes, one could say I am quite intrigued by the country. It is my first time however working on Women Peace and Security and Gender-Responsive Labour Migration, and I have learned a lot in the last months. Let's see where I end up next!

As my team consists of just two people, I am very much treated as a normal staff, fulfilling the same tasks as my supervisor. These involve, amongst all the small daily activities: organizing, coordinating and conducting seminars and lectures on Gender and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence for Indian military and police officers and peacekeepers; and Trainings of Trainers in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for Safe and Legal Migration of women migrant domestic workers and the creation of various knowledge products on this issue.

I think volunteering is a good way to make a positive impact on society, while at the same time learning a lot about an area, ITS people and various issues impacting them and yourself. It can be very empowering for everybody involved.

**Narae Kim**

International Youth UNV on supporting SDGs roll-out in India

United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in India

Nationality: Korea

My educational background includes MSc Development studies, BA Business administration and BA Law. I have more than 3 years of various experiences in the development field, especially in the context of developing countries. Before UNV assignment, I worked in promoting responsible tourism for development. My interests include water and sanitation, sustainability, community-based development and tourism industry.

As an International Youth UNV, I am currently working on supporting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) roll-out with United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in India. My main responsibilities are 1) coordinating inter-agencies/within the team to achieve a coherent and aligned presence, 2) working with state governments by providing technical support, and 3) preparing thematic papers with various agencies.

Since I was a teenager, I have been engaging various volunteering activities from my next-door neighbourhood to other countries. While there are a variety of reasons to volunteer, I volunteer because volunteering is one of the best ways to understand society, show solidarity to underprivileged people, and promote peace in the world. Furthermore, I strongly believe that volunteer experiences have provided me continuous-learning opportunities on areas I am interested.

**Suhyung Cho**

International UN Youth Volunteer in Strengthening Public Administration and Governance

UNDP

Nationality: Korea

Fostering a strong passion towards development cooperation, I have been able to experience diverse aspects of development cooperation, ranging from academia to international organization. During undergraduate years, I had the opportunity to intern with U.S. Embassy where I assisted training programs related to education development in the East Asia and Pacific region. Alongside my Master's studies in International Cooperation, I assisted coordination for academic-corporate partnership.

Further to the aforementioned experience, I am currently working for UNDP as an International UN Youth Volunteer. Focusing on enhancing capacity of local governance on SDGs as well as knowledge building on governance reforms, I have been providing programmatic support in not only management and reporting on the activities of partnerships but also identifying, documenting and contributing to disseminating innovative policies and practices at the global, national and sub-national level.

My motivation for volunteering mainly consists in the value of helping those in need with the capacity one owns -- be it language or other skills. Having the chance to utilize your talent in helping others, I believe volunteering promotes mutual development. This opportunity as an international volunteer has been enabling me to contemplate and engage more in resolving development challenges while continuing to learn.

INTERNATIONAL UN VOLUNTEERS



Hajime Miyazaki
Partnership Officer
UNV
Nationality: Japan

I am an International UNV assigned to the UN Volunteers India Field Unit as a Partnership Officer, to promote partnerships for the UNV in India. I have about 26 years of experience in the financial services industry private sector in Japan, with a Master's in Business Administration from the UK. My most recent positions have been managing projects and programmes for business initiatives.

My main functions are to develop a partnership strategy for the UNV field unit India, with private sector and civil society organizations and other key development partners, and to identify partnership opportunities and proposing ideas for partnership building. Basically, I am here to promote volunteerism by promoting the services that UNV provides and managing relationships with partners.

After 25 years of working in the private sector, I wanted an opportunity to give back to society and work for a social development cause.



Simon Kuany
Associate Project Officer
UNESCO MGIEP
Nationality: South Sudan

I come from South Sudan, born there during its darkest days of war and like many other South Sudanese, I lived as a refugee in Kenya before coming to India.

I work on the flagship LIBRE project of UNESCO MGIEP where we are trying to put together an online module designed to impart the skills of critical inquiry/critical thinking, mindfulness, empathy and compassion in learners.

Traditionally, I hold an MBA in Finance but taught myself international affairs, history and philosophy.

I am the author of the Enlightened Darkness - A book based on a true story and which chronicles the various causes and consequences of the long Sudan civil war and put forth probable ways to peace - both personal and global. It is available on Amazon and other online sources. The proceeds from the book are going to fund education for orphans and other underprivileged children in South Sudan.

Overall, I am motivated by two things: the quest to know and understand the world every single day, and to help other people in whatever ways that I can.

I was also a refugee in Kakuma Refugee Camp. My countrymen were, still are refugees. The United Nations took care of me, took care of them and I have always relished an opportunity to pay back. I am happy that the little that I am doing every day is improving many lives directly/indirectly. At least I would love to believe that.



Tomohiro Iwabuchi
Assistant Communication Officer
UNESCAP
Nationality: Japan

I have been serving as an International UN Volunteer since December 2015 for the Sub-regional Office for South and South-West Asia of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), located in New Delhi, India. I have been providing technical expertise in its communication activities and partnership building for promoting regional cooperation among the ten Member States in the sub-region. Prior to the volunteer, I was developing strategies and managing projects of outreach, fundraising, and partnership development at various entities such as the diplomatic missions of Australia and Japan, Human Rights Watch, and the ASEAN-Japan Centre. My educational background includes an M.A. in Sociology, focusing on gender, sexuality, and communication. I am also a Public Relations Planner, accredited by Public Relations Society of Japan.

Before the registration to UN Volunteers, I was supporting several human rights NGOs in Japan as an advocacy and communication specialist for a couple of years on a pro bono basis. The volunteer work provided me with opportunities to learn about human rights situations across the world and raised my interest in joining international efforts to solve those issues. At the same time, I learned that the UNV provided a platform to experts who wished to support UN agencies for tackling various global and national issues of human rights and development in the world.

**Victor Kelachukwu Igbokwe**

Disaster Risk Reduction

Specialist

UNDMT

Nationality: Nigeria

I am an International UN Volunteer and with a MA in Human Rights and Conflict Management in Emergencies from Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy. My primary function with UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) and the UN Country Team (UNCT) Results Group for Energy, Environment and Resilience led by UNDP includes coordinating the implementation of Energy, Environment and Resilience programmes and monitoring of UNDMT project activities in support to enhancing capacity of United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for resilience in South and East Asia and Pacific through Capacity building, Advocacy, Emergency and Humanitarian Actions. This also involves traveling and sensitization of people across the country about Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.

There were two things I always wanted to do in life. One was to be a philanthropist and the other was to volunteer. I don't yet have the resources for philanthropy, but I have had the opportunity to give back to society through volunteer programmes.

**The UN Volunteers
Field Unit and Contact
Information**

The UN Volunteers Field Unit in India



Arun Sahdeo
Program Officer
UNDP/UNV



Gul Berry
UNV Program Associate
UNV



Shreya Baruah
National Project Manager
Strengthening NYKS and NSS
UNDP/UNV



Krishna Raj
Administrative Assistant
UNV



Abhinandan Narang
UNV Program Assistant
UNV

UNV India Contact Information

UN Volunteers
c/o United Nations Development Programme [UNDP]
55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi – 110003, India
Tel: +91- 011- 46532333
Web: unv.india@undp.org
Follow: twitter.com/UNV_India
Like: facebook.com/unitednationsvolunteersindia

For more information about becoming a UN Volunteer, visit the UNV website: www.unv.org or www.in.undp.org/unv

For more information about UNV Online Volunteering, visit www.india.onlinevolunteering.org

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