

FORGING PATHS FOR PEACE



Annual
Report | 2008



UN
Volunteers

inspiration in action

Cover Photo:

In Kenya, 'Mama Mariam' Yahya serves as a Neighbourhood Volunteer in the Kibera area of Nairobi, forging paths for peace among communities affected by the post-election violence in early 2008. (Harald Franzen, 2009)

PROVERBS FROM BURUNDI

Umugani ugana akariho (Proverbs are used to tell the truth)

In Burundi, UNV helped an ethnically diverse group of women use their traditional knowledge to promote peace and break out of extreme poverty in their community. Assisted by UNV and the Women's Peace Center in Bujumbura, the women from the Remesha Association published a book of proverbs that brings together Burundi's common heritage. The initiative has built peace through the empowerment of women and a re-appropriation of Burundian traditions, enhancing social cohesion, bonding and pride both within the community and among the individual members of the Remesha association. The project involved people from across the age divide, with the younger generations assisting their elders with transcription and illustration. Profits from the book, titled *Imyibutsa yo mu Kirundi* (Burundian Proverbs), will help the Remesha women with small business start-ups in their neighbourhood.

You will discover more of the proverbs throughout the text of this UNV Annual Report 2008.

ABOUT US

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

www.unvolunteers.org



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

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FOREWORD



The ongoing economic and financial crisis, food and fuel price volatility, and the looming dangers of climate change threaten progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We will have to strive even harder and be innovative in our approaches to prevent the reversal of hard-won development gains, especially in countries being pushed to the brink of conflict and despair.

In this arena in particular, the work and contribution of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme towards building peace remains critical to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and our partners. UNDP and UNV support countries as they develop the capacity to address, mitigate, and cope with the impact of poverty and the legacies of violent conflict. From providing personnel for UN peacekeeping missions to supporting elections and empowering women, from assisting refugees to enhancing local governance, across the globe UNV volunteers are frequently at the heart of the UN's presence on the ground.

During my first field mission as UNDP Administrator, I had the privilege of launching a new UNV-supported project called 'Volunteers for Peace' in Liberia. By engaging communities at the grassroots level in this way, and utilizing the skills and experience volunteers can bring to solving problems, nations can move closer to a more enduring peace and to achieving the MDGs.

I commend all UNV volunteers past and present who freely give their time to the achievement of peace and development. Their volunteer spirit is not just a complement to the UN's development work. It is at its core.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Helen Clark

*Administrator, United Nations Development Programme
New York, July 2009*

PREFACE



The UNV Annual Report 2008 is entitled 'Forging Paths to Peace'. In it we present the many ways volunteering can contribute, indeed become an indispensable prerequisite, to the promotion of sustainable peace. By deciding to focus on this theme, UNV intends to show how powerful local level and individual initiatives can be in maintaining or re-establishing social cohesion when conflict has torn apart the fabric keeping societies together.

In partnership with governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations and communities, UNV volunteers have been present in more than 130 countries to promote peaceful coexistence, respond to disasters and help rebuild sustainable livelihoods and communities.

UNV volunteers are highly specialized professionals, motivated by the desire to make tangible contributions by reaching the vulnerable and marginalized, and developing their capacities to participate actively and constructively in the development of prosperous and harmonious societies.

The increasing integration of peace and development activities within the UN system and its partners reflects a growing recognition that there can be no development without peace, nor peace without development. Of the 7,753 UNV volunteers who served in 2008, many were involved in peacekeeping, conflict prevention and peacebuilding; many others in sustaining peace and advancing human development. UNV volunteers supported electoral processes and governance reforms, rights awareness and humanitarian interventions, community dialogue and empowerment, and mobilized communities and individuals to become engaged and to volunteer themselves.

Additionally, thousands of individuals also volunteered with development organizations through the UNV Online Volunteering service. They too are making contributions to peace and development, through the internet.

This report is not a conceptual discussion of the peace and development nexus, nor does it follow a strict timeline from conflict to peace. Instead, it captures the experiences and contributions of volunteers building peace and advancing social inclusion around the world. Their experiences bring home the message that volunteers are a powerful resource for peace and development, a necessary complement to high level political dialogue, often the first hand stretched out to people striving to rebuild their lives after conflict or disaster.

Read of their experiences, listen to their voices, and be inspired by them!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Flavia Pansieri'.

Flavia Pansieri

*Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers
Bonn, July 2009*

INTRODUCTION

Peace is more than just the absence of discord or violent conflict. It encompasses all aspects of social cohesion – including equality, freedom and the rule of law. Peace is the necessary pre-requisite for sustainable human development, for equitable access to resources and services, and for the full realization of human opportunities and potential.

Conflict itself, whether at the community, the local or the intra-state level, has adverse and far-reaching effects. It destroys lives, inflicts physical and psychological injuries and leaves individuals, families and communities economically, socially and politically vulnerable. It ruins institutions and infrastructure, depletes resources, generates financial instability and exacerbates poverty and inequality. While violent conflict is not the only cause of these ills, it undoubtedly sets back development.

Yet every conflict, no matter how dire, holds the potential for peaceful resolution, the re-establishment of safe livelihoods, the return to communal harmony and the renewal of stability and economic growth.

Throughout history, individuals and communities have repeatedly shown both resilience and a determination to respond to the challenges of conflict. The United Nations and the broader international community assist people by encouraging, supporting and facilitating the political processes that lead to lasting agreements. It is imperative that these agreements are based on the principles of voluntary participation, inclusion and social justice, and are reached through individual and collective engagement.

By including the vulnerable, the marginalized and the excluded in repairing the social fabric and re-establishing structures and institutions, civic and voluntary engagement therefore becomes a necessary pre-requisite to political resolution. Voluntary action opens spaces for dialogue, and allows every individual, group or community to actively promote collective well-being.

Since its establishment by the General Assembly in 1971, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has been increasingly engaged in building capacities, promoting participation and facilitating access to services and opportunities. It is a present and responsive partner to governments, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and communities in the pursuit of peace, playing its part in preventing conflict, responding to humanitarian needs, assisting in post-conflict recovery and promoting sustainable development.

UNV works in close coordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in developing the capacity of national partners and stakeholders in three focus areas – crisis prevention and recovery, environment and climate change, and the delivery of basic services – and works on promoting sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. UNV also works closely with other agencies of the United Nations, such as UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP and WHO to support them in delivering their humanitarian and development mandates.

National UNV volunteer Malula Msagusa-Hassan examines rifles as part of her work for the Small Arms and Light Weapon (SALW) Reduction programme in the Kagera and Kigoma regions in north-western Tanzania. As part of this programme, people are offered amnesty in exchange for their voluntary submission of weapons at collection centres like this one. Malula also supports a project entitled Strengthening Local Capacities for Development Coordination and Micro-Projects in Northwestern Tanzania. (Julie Pudlowski, 2005)



Collaboration between UNV and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) dates back to the early 1990s and has been expanding progressively over the past years as humanitarian crises continue to unfold. In 2000, 362 UNV volunteers were deployed in 46 UNHCR operations. In 2008, this figure had almost tripled, with 1,029 UNV volunteers deployed in 74 countries. Half of them served within their own countries. UNV volunteers represent about 15 percent of the UNHCR workforce in the field.

Partnership between UNV and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has been in place since 1992. UNV volunteers assist in supporting the smooth operation of DPKO uniformed peacekeepers, and serve as civilian experts in the areas of crisis and humanitarian assistance, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and support to post-conflict electoral processes. From 1999 to 2008, UNV volunteers served in close to 20,000 volunteer assignments in 44 peacekeeping operations. In 2008 alone, a total of 3,042 UNV volunteers supported 17 UN peacekeeping and special political operations in 16 countries.

Working towards peace and dealing with conflict are complementary processes that are inextricably linked, and require the coordinated, sustained and integrated efforts of all stakeholders. This is where volunteerism makes a difference. UNV and its partners are increasingly engaging in cohesive, inter-disciplinary and inter-agency field operations; volunteers on the ground support the United Nations 'Delivering as One' initiative, both formally and informally.

We see this complex reality every day. In the refugee camps of Amboko and Gondjé in southern Chad, a UNV volunteer Protection Officer serving with UNHCR closely collaborates on cases of sexual violence with a UNV volunteer Gynaecologist assigned to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The UNV volunteer HIV/AIDS Coordinator discusses the dietary needs of patients with the UNV volunteer Nutritionist. The UNV volunteer Agricultural Engineer addresses issues of short-term relief and long-term capacity-building in consultation with volunteers from the camps and with the local population.

These inspiring professionals are at the heart of UNV's unique contribution. They also work closely with partner organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, and with local stakeholders, such as the police, immigration and health authorities. And importantly, they engage with volunteers from the community.

UNV and UNV volunteers pursue the overarching goal of creating an environment conducive to durable peace and progressive human development through volunteerism, working to replace the spiral of violent conflict and destruction with peace and empowerment. This report illustrates how UNV and volunteers worldwide are making a difference.



PREVENTING CONFLICT

PREVENTING CONFLICT

Conflict prevention and sustainable and equitable development are inseparable, mutually reinforcing interventions. Preventing conflict entails dealing with tensions and inequalities in the distribution of resources or access to basic services and rights that could create discord or spark violence. In the face of economic and social challenges, marginalized groups are at greater risk of falling into a vicious cycle of frustration and conflict.

UNV supports communities and disadvantaged groups in identifying and communicating their needs, and developing their capacities to improve their situations. They inspire and empower individuals and communities to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives, and to embark on changing the social behaviour that results in violence.

UNV volunteers in Honduras are training youth leaders to organize voluntary leisure activities that keep them off the streets and out of violence. A similar approach was pursued by UNV volunteers in Burkina Faso, who enhanced the skills and employability of marginalized youth. In Croatia, UNV volunteers deliver services to marginalized communities and empower individuals to volunteer to support one other. In India, UNV works with development partners to assist conflict prevention efforts through a rights-based approach to development.

Latin America suffers the highest youth homicide rate in the world. It is an alarming trend that is particularly acute in Central America and one that has hindered the development of countries like Honduras for decades. The phenomenon of *maras*, or youth gangs, and gender-based violence are just two destructive influences to which Honduran youth are exposed. About 5 percent of males aged 15-24 are members of gangs.

This situation was the entry point for UNV which, together with UNFPA, UNDP, FAO, WHO/PAHO, UNICEF and local authorities, has pursued a programme since 2006 to support human security in the Honduran municipalities of Comayagua, Choluteca and Juticalpa.

The programme contributes to building a 'culture of peace' among youth at risk, and is directly benefitting 55,000 youth, half of them female. The involvement of girls and women raises awareness of the impact of gender-based violence and engages them in confronting it. UNV volunteers organized peace fairs and workshops where youth were trained in leadership, organization, violence prevention and self-esteem. They also supported the creation of youth volunteering groups to organize activities in their communities. These groups now involve increasing numbers of young volunteers, developing in them a sense of belonging to their communities that is improving their social inclusion and enhancing their understanding of the value of peaceful coexistence.

'Yopi' (right), as he likes to call himself, is a former gang member and one of the leaders of Arte and Accion in Honduras. His creativity and strong will helped him to give up a life of violence and crime in order to become a respected leader of the art group. Here he paints the arm of Adan Fuentes, a member of the wall-painting group Yopi now leads. (Andrew Smith, 2009)

Meet a volunteer

Renata Delgado-Schenk is a UNV volunteer Human Rights Officer from Germany working in Guatemala. She supports the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in strengthening the capacity of institutions to fulfil their human rights obligations when it comes to gender.

Renata (left) trains police officers on procedures that need to be followed in cases of gender-based violence against women. In cases of domestic violence, for example, police officers are sensitized to remain neutral and tactful, avoiding exacerbation of the individual's trauma through repeated interrogation.

"I am enabling women to access improved protection institutions when they have experienced such traumatic violence," Renata says. "I believe my work contributes to raising awareness about gender-based violence amongst police officers, making them more conscious of their obligations when it comes to crimes committed against women."



Andy Ventura, once a rebellious teenager from Comayagua, took part in different training activities over a period of ten months. He says the experience has changed him. "I have had the opportunity to become a volunteer myself and help friends get out of anti-social groups, and have given them leadership training. My hope is for Honduras to be a country where the culture of peace prevails, and I am helping to make that happen."

Chronic poverty, unemployment and social exclusion can increase a society's disposition towards conflict. Marginalized youth or youth frustrated by seemingly hopeless situations are at particular risk of engaging in violence, robbery, drugs or prostitution. In Burkina Faso, UNV implemented a project in partnership with the national Government, the Government of Luxembourg and local stakeholders. The project provides marginalized youth in the Hauts Bassins region with learning and employment opportunities in order to tackle their economic challenges and reduce the potential for social discord. From 2003 to 2008, it involved 27 civil society organizations and seven national agencies in training youth and providing them with access to micro-business development funds. Around 400 marginalized youth, including homeless youth and orphans, received professional training that enabled them to find a job or start up businesses that

become tangible sources of revenue.

Fatoumata Ouattara was able to set up a café through this project. "As an orphan, I had nothing and no means of raising money. Through this project, I gained business and marketing skills, and have now made enough money to be able to expand my café to sell fizzy drinks. Volunteers helped me deal with my circumstances, and I am now helping others with my story."

One distinctive aspect of the project was 'Jeunes pour Jeunes' ('Youth for Youth'), through which youth engaged in voluntary sharing of knowledge and experiences with peers and local communities. The youth produced the *Jeunesse en Devenir* (Youth in Development) bulletin, participated in 40 radio programmes and were featured in a documentary film about their training and micro-business development activities.

Through the transfer of knowledge facilitated by this project, UNV also contributed to the capacity development of partner civil society organizations. Nearly 90 percent of partner organizations now have sound financial accounting systems and have received training in micro-enterprise management and information and communication technologies. Some 1,300 of their staff, one-third of them women, were trained in data collection and the provision of psychosocial support.

Zoran Vasiljević (centre) is a national UNV volunteer from the Roma community in Croatia. As part of a UNDP partnership with local authorities, he leads children in after-school learning and socializing activities at the Capraske Poljana Community Centre at a Roma settlement. These activities are aimed at strengthening social cohesion and promoting the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups through volunteerism. (Hrvoje Žučko, 2009)



Ukuri guca muziko ntigusha

Truth tested by fire will never burn

As diverse as they are, countries that have experienced conflict in their history often share common development challenges, including traumatized communities, weakened social fabric and a lack of basic service infrastructure. A decade after the civil war ended in Croatia, its consequences still linger. In poor and isolated rural communities in the counties of Sisak-Moslavina, Zadar and Lika-Senj the population is largely comprised of Serb returnees and Croatian-Bosnian refugees, and also contains Roma minorities. They are marginalized, have limited access to social services and health care, and suffer high unemployment. Intolerance, apathy and distrust between the groups have hampered social cohesion and could, if left untended, become triggers for renewed conflict.

UNV and UNDP have been working to strengthen local development, social cohesion and the inclusion of vulnerable groups through volunteerism, including the unemployed, the sick and the disabled, the elderly, youth and children, women, and Roma. They have partnered with Government ministries, local authorities, the National Foundation for Civil Society Development, Zagreb Volunteer Centre and the local Roma centre.

Eight national UNV volunteers were drawn from within the target marginalized groups.

Having experienced the conflict and post-conflict situations themselves, they demonstrated a deep understanding for the challenges faced by remote, impoverished communities and minority groups. The UNV volunteers mobilized their communities to bridge differences and tackle challenges, facilitating communication between communities, service providers and local authorities. They also served as role models, delivering social services and building the capacity of community centres. Their contribution has increased access to social service delivery, reduced social exclusion and enhanced ownership and community-based volunteerism.

Zoran Vasiljević, a national UNV volunteer from the Roma community, assists pre-school and school-aged children in a Roma community centre by providing tutoring and after-school learning activities. "Volunteering has given me the power to change the situation in my community. I help children prepare for school and overcome language barriers. Their enthusiasm and energy is contagious, and I enjoy working with them so much I now want to become a teacher."

UNV volunteers in Kosovo help improve governance and the rule of law. Much of their work with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)



Andréa Ramde (right) serves with the National Volunteer Programme (PNVB) in Burkina Faso. She works with a female association in the village of La Toden, 130 kilometres north of Ouagadougou, helping women such as Marie Thérèse Kombelemsigri (left) gain access to micro-credit. (Kerstin Gossé/UNDP/UNV, 2009)

Iminwe iryoha inyuranye

Hands that share reveal their true beauty

revolves around empowering communities to resolve differences through dialogue, developing the capacity of democratic institutions, facilitating sustainable returns and safeguarding the rights of communities and their members.

Muhammad Bashir, a UNV volunteer Civil Affairs Officer from Pakistan, works in the town of Mitrovica in northern Kosovo. “UNV motivates people to take part in voluntary mediation activities and restores confidence among communities. After years of work, we are at the stage where local communities have been empowered to pursue their development needs and activities. And we are at their side, assisting them in building their own future.”

UNV volunteers have been working with children to foster a feeling of belonging that is free of ethnic tensions. They have empowered children and youth to discuss their rights and future aspirations, raised their awareness on conflict and security issues, and brought them together to have fun and bond through sports tournaments and camping excursions.

“I am 7,000 kilometres away from my home town, and come from a country that has also experienced conflict,” says Muhammad

Bashir, who has learned Serbo-Croatian for his work. “While there is often mistrust of the international community, people see that I am not here for personal gain, but to help them. They believe my efforts to facilitate the peaceful resolution of their problems are impartial and sincere, and contribute to a better future.”

In the pursuit of any large-scale efforts to improve people’s standard of living, local stakeholders must be engaged to win their commitment and ownership. Efforts to promote development in poverty-stricken regions in India brought mining, industrial and irrigation projects to the state of Orissa, which has a high population of tribal minorities. However, the quest to improve living conditions resulted in large-scale displacement that ousted the populace from their homes and traditional sources of livelihood. The result was growing protest, leading to tensions and violence. Demonstrations in towns such as Kashipur, Lanjigarh and Kalinganagar led to clashes between affected tribal community members and the authorities, resulting in several deaths.

UNV worked in partnership with UNDP, the Government of Orissa and the British Department for International Development

GENDER EMPOWERMENT AND EQUALITY

UNV works on mainstreaming gender issues into all aspects of prevention, conflict management, post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding. UNV has a total of 55 UNV volunteer Gender Specialists serving in 27 countries, up from just three in 2004. Of these, 12 were serving in peacekeeping and special political operations, including Sudan, Nepal, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Gender Specialists work with governments and civil society organizations on gender analysis and research, economic empowerment and gender-responsive budgeting, as well as on addressing the impact of armed conflict and gender-based violence. Francis Bogie Boogere is a Ugandan UNV volunteer Specialist on Gender-Based Violence working with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Burkina Faso. "In 2007, 33 percent of women surveyed reported to have experienced gender-based violence in the past twelve months; 77 percent of girls have been subjected to female genital mutilation [FGM]," he says. "How to address accepted practices is a challenge. Women often do not fully accept the intervention of a male, particularly with culturally-sensitive issues like FGM. Men, including traditional chiefs, tend to take the health of women and girls more seriously when the issue is raised by a male."

Addressing gender programming issues also involves ensuring that aid reaches women and addresses their needs and empowerment. In Ghana, UNV is working with the European Commission, UNIFEM, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to implement a programme for gender equality in aid delivery, with implementation being piloted in 12 countries worldwide. This programme targets and monitors progress towards gender equality goals, including adequate financing, accountability systems and gender-sensitive indicators and progress assessments

Nana Bemba Doreen Nti, a Ghanaian national UNV volunteer Gender Specialist working with UNIFEM, says: "This programme is successfully mobilizing the media and civil society to recognize the importance of gender-sensitive policies, strategies and resources to ensure the human development needs of women and girls are not ignored."

(DFID) to implement the Orissa Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy, a unique policy developed in close consultation with the people affected by displacement. This standardized, comprehensive plan, which also involved the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, guided the development of the 2007 National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy.

UNV volunteers empowered communities to demand an equitable, gender-sensitive approach to resettlement and rehabilitation. They raised awareness about rights and entitlements, provided counselling, and ensured grievances were heard. Documenting innovative approaches, lessons learned and best practices, they shared these with authorities to improve the resettlement process. Volunteers also encouraged displaced people to form voluntary village level committees, empowering them to develop their skills and engage in self help. One such community volunteer is Chakradhar

Patra, who was displaced from his ancestral land by an irrigation project. He now guides displaced families in shifting to a new location. "I am motivating displaced people in my area to use the compensation amount and resettlement assistance judiciously," he explains. "The resettlement and rehabilitation training programme provided a platform for me to interact as a volunteer with Government and project officials to negotiate a better deal for our fellow people in and outside the village." UNV volunteers continue to play a watchdog role, ensuring that there is accountability and transparency for the beneficiaries and maintaining sustainability for the project.



REACHING PEOPLE

Violent conflicts within or among nations leave no individual untouched. Media covering the build-up of tension and eruption of violent conflict inevitably also document the stream of refugees and internally displaced persons forced to flee their homes in search of peace and stability. Uprooted from their homes, they have lost access to their accustomed livelihoods and support networks. As humanitarian needs intensify, development actors rush to respond, with UNV support.

UNV mobilizes vulnerable and marginalized people to identify and address their needs by empowering them to volunteer and promoting volunteerism among partners operating in situations of impending or existing conflict. Working together with volunteers, such communities emerge with strengthened trust, solidarity and reciprocity; and with institutions better equipped to ensure human security and progressive development, particularly in times of humanitarian crisis.

UNV volunteers work with development partners to reach out to communities affected by conflict. In Chad, they support the workings of a large-scale peacekeeping mission, providing different levels of specialized and technical skills. In Colombia, Ecuador and Afghanistan they work with development partners to alleviate the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons. In the occupied Palestinian territory, UNV volunteers reach youth in need of access to basic services like education and training within the confines of conflict areas. And in Guatemala they come to the aid of protagonists of human rights in addressing human rights violations and appropriate legislation.

The humanitarian situation in Chad is of challenging proportions. The country hosts approximately 240,000 refugees from Sudan, 45,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, and 180,000 internally displaced persons uprooted by the activities of armed groups from eastern Chad, north-eastern Central African Republic and western Sudan.

UNV volunteers in Chad are working with the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) to support the creation of security conditions conducive to the voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons. This involves protecting the security of the

civilian population, facilitating humanitarian operations and creating favourable conditions for the reconstruction and economic and social development of affected areas.

For Victor Angelo, Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of MINURCAT, the added value of UNV volunteers is their commitment. "Volunteers hit the ground running. I am very impressed by volunteer engineers or volunteers who work in movement control in extremely harsh conditions and still remain calm, principled and in control, insisting on the respect of rules. Their volunteer spirit is admirable. I have many staff who are professionals, but

UNV volunteer Vehicle Technician Adama Aissatou Sheriff inspects a UN vehicle at the transport section of MINURCAT in N'Djamena, Chad. She comes from Sierra Leone, a country that has itself experienced conflict. (Harald Franzen, 2009)

Meet a volunteer

Nureddin Amro is a national UNV volunteer working in the occupied Palestinian territory for people with special needs. With a background in education and social development, Nureddin coordinates a project for the integrated education of disadvantaged blind and visually impaired people. Nureddin (left) appreciates the challenges they face, because he himself is blind.

Directly benefitting 250 adults and children, this project has improved visually impaired people's access to full formal education and modern educational strategies, adaptive technology and assistive instruments. The services enabled by this project are treasured and appreciated in a setting where basic services are a challenge.

"Being a UNV volunteer has given me the opportunity to make a lasting difference in my own community," says Nureddin. "This has also helped the families of the blind and raised community awareness of the issues and the rights of people like myself."



who could learn a couple of things about dedication from UNV volunteers."

More than a hundred UNV volunteers currently support the MINURCAT mission. UNV volunteers constitute 25 percent of the technical support staff of the mission and provide technical expertise in a range of areas, from civil engineering to transport and medical services. According to Guy Siri, Chief of Mission Support at MINURCAT, UNV volunteers are key in ensuring that the DIS (*Détachement Intégré de Sécurité*) carries out its protection role. "UNV vehicle mechanics undertake the maintenance of the DIS vehicle fleet; they ensure that fuel is delivered on time and monitor communications equipment. Their contribution to the smooth functioning and operation of the National Police Force facilitates the operational activities of hundreds of non-governmental organizations working in eastern Chad."

Some UNV volunteers serve as Human Rights Officers, visiting camps to monitor the situation and advocate for the respect of human rights. They engage with local administrations and community leaders, mobilizing them to reduce gender-based violence and the recruitment of child soldiers. "The strength of UNV is in its capacity to efficiently mobilize UNV volunteers who are professional and experienced people, who greatly contribute to strengthening local capacity and maintain close contact with host

communities," says Guy Siri. "That's why in our 2009-2010 planning, we intend to double the number of UNV volunteers."

UNV reaches out to youth living in challenging conflict situations who lack access to basic services including education, training or employment. In the occupied Palestinian territory, UNV works with the Sharek Youth Forum, mobilizing youth to enhance social cohesion through volunteerism. 'Sharek', which means 'participate', started as a UNDP project in 1996, but has since evolved into an independent non-governmental organization. The Forum operates throughout the occupied Palestinian territory with the primary goal of creating space for youth to engage actively in civil society and in the development of their local communities through volunteerism.

About 35 UNV volunteers work with Sharek in its three core programmes. 'A Step Forward' is a comprehensive academic and economic empowerment programme offering youth career and academic counselling, training and business development support. The 'Bridges' programme empowers youth to voluntarily share their skills and knowledge with children, in an attempt to fill the void in the formal education sector. Through the 'Partners' programme, UNV volunteers help build the capacity of youth organizations to mobilize volunteers and utilize their skills in their activities.

Victor Banguera serves as a national UNV volunteer assigned to UNHCR in Lago Agrio, Ecuador. One of his responsibilities is to assist Colombian refugees in legalizing their status while they are in Ecuador. Here he meets with a family that includes 12 children who were all sharing a house of less than 20 square metres in size. (Andrew Smith, 2009)



Ukora iciza ukagisanga imbere

Your good deed will greet you down the road

For Sufian Mushasha, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Sharek Youth Forum, the success of this project can be attributed to the strength of the voluntary spirit.

“The driving force at the implementation level is the huge pool of youth volunteers who form a wide grassroots presence for Sharek. Throughout the past year, more than 2,500 youth volunteers have been active in campaigns, activities, projects and administrative work.” He continues: “We were privileged to partner with UNV early on. We started with four or five UNV volunteers, and with their passion and devotion built what is now the largest youth organization in the occupied Palestinian territory. Our relationship is founded on a common appreciation of the importance of volunteerism in effecting change.”

Volunteers can also make a significant improvement to the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons. UNV works in partnership with UNHCR to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees and internally displaced persons, and enable access to basic services in their adopted communities or communities of origin.

Colombia has been dealing with people displaced by the complex security situation for years. The UNV volunteers in Colombia who work with UNHCR engage with community leaders, communities and local

institutions to identify and analyze immediate risks for refugees and internally displaced persons. They then support local authorities and institutions in implementing appropriate protection measures. This is particularly true in critical situations, where vulnerable groups like women and children require special protection.

“We have been leading a participatory diagnosis process with local institutions and communities to identify protection risks for each population group,” says UNV volunteer Community Services Officer Sergio Castelblanco, a Colombian national. “From this diagnosis, we generate action and response plans with the institutions, and accompany them in order to respond to the problems that have been identified. In effect, we are generating mechanisms that allow state institutions to respond to the needs of their people. It’s about improving the living conditions of these people.”

The effects of the Colombian situation spill over the border to Ecuador, which hosts the largest number of registered Colombian refugees. According to UNHCR figures, 20,000 people have refugee status and an additional 37,000 are considered asylum seekers. However, UNHCR estimates that there are some 130,000 Colombians in Ecuador in need of international protection.



On International Volunteer Day, 5 December 2008, national UNV volunteer Adel Sabaeneh instructs children from the village of Biddo in the occupied Palestinian territory about the Millennium Development Goals as part of a partnership between UNV, the Sharek Youth Forum, the Nawafeth Youth Forum and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East. (UNDP/PAPP Archive, 2008)

Usaba umwiza mugasa

Court goodness and you'll reflect goodness

UNV volunteers have been working with UNHCR in Ecuador since 2000, and constitute more than 50 percent of UNHCR personnel in the country. Their work contributes to improving the social and economic rights of refugees. They provide local integration assistance to refugees, ensure their protection and strengthen the protection capacity of local authorities.

UNV volunteers also work with UNDP in Ecuador to support the Peace and Development Programme in the Northern Border Zone. To deal with high levels of violence, organized crime and poor socio-economic indicators, they support the coordination of United Nations and other interventions, ensuring that conflict prevention is an integral part of development initiatives.

UNHCR facilitates the voluntary, safe and gradual return to Afghanistan of refugees from host countries such as Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and supports their reintegration. Working with UNHCR, UNV volunteers facilitate the resettlement of returnees, providing them with immediate shelter and food. They monitor respect for the rights of returnees, interview returnees on their experiences and challenges and report violations. They also conduct needs assessments among the returnees to determine their health and education requirements.

Following more than two decades of conflict, Afghan returnees often find their villages of origin completely different; their former houses are either in ruins or have been occupied by others during their period in exile. Kenneth Grant is a UNV volunteer Field Protection Officer from the Netherlands working with UNHCR in Mazar-e-Sharif. "Returnees face integration problems. Some have not lived in Afghanistan for 20 years, and some of the younger ones have never lived in Afghanistan. There are no functioning primary schools or health clinics for miles and miles. We distribute materials to enable people to rebuild houses and schools, and also provide school supplies. The implementation of these projects is done by local non-governmental organizations. Communities provide teachers and take over the running of the schools."

With the onset of winter last year, severe drought and food shortages generated another wave of internally displaced persons as tens of thousands of people left their villages in Afghanistan's north and west to find work and food. In designing small income-generating projects, UNV volunteers mobilized the skills available among the returnees: people volunteered to rehabilitate neglected irrigation systems or construct housing, thus taking ownership of developing their settlements and establishing sustainable livelihoods.

PILOT PROGRAMME ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOR ASIA IN PEACEBUILDING

The Pilot Programme on Human Resource Development for Asia in Peacebuilding is essentially a “school to teach peacebuilders”, to quote former Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso, who proposed the idea in 2006. The programme is aimed at providing professionals from Japan and other Asian countries with the capabilities and experience necessary for providing on-site peacebuilding assistance. The Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (HPC) at Hiroshima University has managed the programme since mid 2007, with UNV as the implementing partner. UNV deploys participants as UNV volunteers for short-term peacebuilding assignments in which they are able to enhance their skills while responding to the country’s related needs.

Kumiko Katayama, from Japan, was assigned as a UNV volunteer Programme Support Associate with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Myanmar. She trained the staff of local and international organizations in community-based psychosocial support, also developing a handbook, module guide and picture cards for community level workshops. “I really enjoyed my experience as a UNV volunteer, particularly learning from colleagues and from the management of the projects I was involved in,” Kumiko says.

Sokveng Ngoun was assigned as a UNV volunteer with UNDP in Timor-Leste. He was responsible for the implementation of the Preparatory Assistance Project for Recovery entailing national cohesion, youth, gender and equality, access to justice, durable solutions for internally displaced persons and disaster risk management. In his native Cambodia, Sokveng works for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. “My UNV volunteer assignment significantly enhanced my knowledge and skills in contributing to peacebuilding upon my return home,” he says.

UNV volunteer Tawseef Kashoo from India participated in the programme during 2008. Assigned to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regional Office in Thailand, he was responsible for advocating and building peace as part of ‘Memory of the World’, a UNESCO initiative to safeguard documentary evidence on conflict and war. The initiative helps to identify the root causes of conflict in different parts of the world and analyze possible solutions. “My role is to stimulate initiatives and develop partnerships for peacebuilding projects,” Tawseef says.

Volunteers play a critical role in advocating and providing the skills necessary to advance human rights. UNV volunteers in Guatemala are working with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights, addressing torture, racism, discrimination and violations of the rights of vulnerable groups. They support the activities of an office opened in 2003 which closely observes the human rights situation in the country, while providing essential technical assistance to public institutions and civil society organizations. The office’s mandate was recently extended to 2011.

Lucy Turner, an Australian UNV volunteer, explains: “As part of our observance activities, we are protecting those who defend human rights in general, as well as protecting the rights of indigenous people and of women and children in particular. We organize

training courses for civil servants, policemen and prison officials designed to strengthen their capacity to protect human rights. We also raise awareness about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and empower people to denounce human rights violations and demand the respect of their rights.”

UNV also contributes to the development of human rights legislation in accordance with international standards and principles, thus strengthening the capacity of institutions to improve the observance of human rights. Renata Delgado-Schenk, a German UNV volunteer, comments: “Civil servants being trained and made aware of possible human rights violations are better equipped to identify and deal with these problems. We are also empowering vulnerable groups and supporting the drafting of legislation to guide reparation to victims of violations and to address the search for missing persons.”



BUILDING TRUST

BUILDING TRUST

Nations and communities emerging from conflict need to cement the human relationships and rebuild the infrastructure, institutions and systems that form the foundations of peace. Governance must often be re-established and basic services provided. In volatile situations, the threat of recurring and escalating conflict must be averted by tackling the underlying causes and facilitating the transition to normal security conditions.

Through volunteerism, UNV works with partners to rebuild local governance capacity, support demobilization, disarmament and reintegration efforts, and protect human rights. UNV engages individuals and communities in establishing secure and stable environments conducive to the peaceful resolution of conflict, enhancing ownership of conflict management and recovery processes.

UNV volunteers in Kenya are supporting affected communities in taking ownership of reconciliation and healing processes. In Liberia, they support the functioning of judicial systems to uphold the rule of law. In Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNV volunteers work to get people out of combat and back into their communities, with particular emphasis on disarming them of their weapons. And in Haiti, UNV volunteers contribute to building trust between communities and the police.

Community volunteers in Kenya have taken the lead in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the wake of the violence that erupted following the general elections in December 2007. “Within a matter of days, whole districts were off limits to international development actors,” reflects Elizabeth Lwanga, who was United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative at the time of the post-election crisis. “We could not get to the communities to mediate; we could not deliver food, supplies and medical care. The only ones who had access to these communities were volunteers from within them, so they were our ambassadors for peace.”

Working in close collaboration with the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and the Government of Kenya, UNDP and UNV

launched an Emergency Volunteer Scheme in February 2008, designed to promote post-election community dialogue. Formalized as the Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme (NVS), it is managed by UNV in collaboration with the National Secretariat for Peacebuilding and Conflict Management in the President’s Office. Twenty-one national UNV volunteers trained 900 prominent youth leaders, retired professionals, women and opinion leaders in conflict resolution and community security, as well as humanitarian response and early recovery.

The current United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Aeneas Chuma considers volunteerism an innate approach to real-time crisis management. “The Neighbourhood Volunteers reached a common realization that

Neighbourhood Volunteer Rose Anyango Ouma (right) works with people like David Situma (left), a carpenter in Kibera, Nairobi, to counsel and advise them on how to rebuild their businesses following the destruction caused by the post-election violence in early 2008. (Harald Franzen, 2009)

Meet a volunteer

Lahatra Rakotondradalo, a UNV volunteer Civil Engineer from Madagascar, was deployed by UNHCR in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to help identify a new campsite for a wave of people arriving en masse in Minova, a town some 50 kilometres from Goma. UNHCR was working there to shelter some 4,000 internally displaced persons. Until then families had been forced to seek temporary shelter in schools, churches and the local hospital compound.

Lahatra Rakotondradalo's work is not just about engineering, however, and she is very conscious of the people she works with. "Our approach to the beneficiaries has to be rather delicate," she says. "Their change of status – from being refugees totally dependent on outside help to becoming 'repatriates' – is often difficult. Our task is to facilitate their reinstatement within their communities. So we engage former refugees in voluntary reconstruction work, from making bricks to helping build walls and sanitation facilities, and that helps a lot."



they were experiencing a serious threat to the very fabric of their society. The crisis created a sense of urgency that propelled them to come together to respond and take charge of promoting and guiding processes for recovery and reconciliation."

Serving as a Neighbourhood Volunteer has resulted in personal transformation for Duncan Opee. "I took sides during the fighting, and even my wife, who belongs to another tribe, ran away. Now I am calling for violence control and anger management, and am trying to make good the damage I contributed to."

Mariam Yahya, fondly referred to as 'Mama Mariam' by younger Neighbourhood Volunteers, adds: "Neighbourhood Volunteers are respected and known, so people now come to us with their problems. We listen and advise, mediate and negotiate. And we have been able, for example, to assist people to move back into their homes which were grabbed during the post-election violence."

Following years of conflict in Liberia, the United Nations is assisting the implementation of the 2003 Comprehensive Peace Agreement and reinstating law and order. "UNMIL [The United Nations Mission in Liberia] aims to ensure that all persons and authorities observe, respect and act in accordance with national and international

legal standards administered consistently by independent judicial bodies," says Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Rule of Law. "UNV volunteers provide invaluable support to this process. They empower partners to do more to safeguard the rights and dignity of their people."

Geoffrey Omon is a lawyer from Uganda serving as a UNV volunteer Judicial Systems Monitor with the UNMIL Legal and Judicial Systems Support Division in Lofa County, where the last war broke out. As a specialist working on the rule of law, he monitors and reports on the administration of justice, builds the capacity of national partners, and engages in data collection on subjects such as gender-based violence. He also encourages and empowers community members to turn to formal justice institutions rather than settling matters out of court or resorting to 'mob justice'.

"More criminal cases are now being reported to the police for prosecution instead of to other parties," he says. "UNV volunteers promote voluntary engagement to address legal challenges, and currently some people are even volunteering to compensate the shortage of judicial personnel."

UNV is also supporting the National Youth Volunteer Service (NYVS) in Liberia, a

Aloysius Griffiths, a National Volunteer, rallies community support as he leads a parade of students in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, Liberia. The event is one of many organized in the country to raise public awareness on gender equality and women's empowerment issues. (Harald Franzen, 2009)



Ugutambuka niko kugenda

One small step after another leads to walking

project implemented by the Liberian Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNDP and UNV. Since implementation started in September 2007, the NYVS has recruited 67 university graduates, referred to as 'National Volunteers'. In a country with an 85 percent unemployment rate, the programme is providing much-needed work experience.

National Volunteers are currently teaching in elementary schools, enhancing the skills of local teachers and carrying out health awareness campaigns in clinics and communities. They also work on improving the situation of women, advocating for girls' education and an end to gender-based violence and discriminatory practices, and develop peacebuilding campaigns to reduce the divisions and polarization that exist after 15 years of civil conflict.

Sudan was engulfed in civil war for over two decades. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which calls for the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants and special groups, and the promotion of community security and arms control, was signed in 2005 to facilitate lasting peace. UNV is working with the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) in monitoring and supporting the implementation of various political, military, humanitarian and developmental aspects of this agreement. UNMIS is also tasked to facilitate the

voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons; provides de-mining assistance; and contributes towards international efforts to protect and promote human rights in Sudan.

Eveline de Bruijn is a UNV volunteer from the Netherlands working with the Community Security and Arms Control programme. This UNDP programme is jointly implemented by the Government of Southern Sudan and UNMIS, and supports governmental bodies, state police, rule of law institutions and local authorities to build capacity to enhance security.

Working with community authorities, Eveline mobilizes youth, women and elders to deal with issues relating to community security and arms control awareness. She engages them in discussing their security concerns, identifying the root causes of problems, proposing projects for improved security and explains in what way the programme can support them.

For Eveline, the challenges are many. "There are 11 counties in the Jonglei State alone and I spend an average of four to five days in each county. I am constantly travelling through rough terrain and, at times, it takes 11 hours drive to cover 120 kilometres." But that is not her only concern. "The security situation is volatile and unpredictable. I have been ambushed by raiders, but fortunately my



Dutch UNV volunteer Eveline de Bruijn (right) converses with a Sudanese cattle herder near the town of Bor in Jonglei State. Since Jonglei mainly consists of pastoralist communities, cattle are highly valued and armed raids are an increasing problem. Key to resolving disputes is therefore dialogue with cattle keepers. (Tim McKulka/UNMIS, 2009)

Umutwe umwe ntiwigira inama

One head does not good council make

team colleagues and I were unharmed. When fighting breaks out, we have to discontinue our work, and be prepared to restart as soon as the security situation permits. Being a volunteer gives me the energy and inspiration to do so.”

In its recent history, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been engulfed by several conflicts. The United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) is facilitating the implementation of the 1999 Lusaka Accord, including the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants in their communities.

In Ituri, one of the conflict prone areas in the east, UNV and UNDP supported the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, in partnership with MONUC, FAO, UNICEF, OCHA and UNHCR. A team of fifteen national and six international UNV volunteers worked together with communities, local authorities, non-governmental and civil society organizations to re-orient the ex-combatants and sensitize communities to accept their return and reintegration.

The reintegration process was conducted at two levels. The transitional phase involved ex-combatants and communities in the

rehabilitation of the infrastructure. This close interaction gave 1,600 ex-combatants and 7,600 community members an opportunity to bond. In the sustaining phase, UNV provided 1,600 ex-combatants and 500 community members with professional training, a financial package and the support they needed to start a business.

“Through this project, 23,000 former combatants were successfully demobilized, 10,000 of them child soldiers,” says Alberto Barrera, a UNV volunteer Reinsertion Expert from Spain. “UNV volunteers bring new and creative approaches to project design. Based on its great success, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in Ituri received the annual UNDP Administrator’s Award for Innovation and Commitment in 2007.”

The Head of the UNDP Office in Ituri, Jonas Mfouatie, having served himself as a UNV volunteer in Kosovo and Sierra Leone, considers volunteering the most enriching experience in his career. “UNV volunteers provide solid technical and professional expertise. They are entrusted with high levels of responsibility and are considered representatives of UNDP in the eyes of communities and local authorities,” he says. “Through their daily interaction with local authorities, civil society and communities,

ONLINE VOLUNTEERING SERVICE

The UNV Online Volunteering service connects volunteers with organizations to work online for sustainable human development, and taps their knowledge, skills and experience to help address challenges faced by developing countries. In 2008, the Online Volunteering service was relaunched and expanded to cover the French and Spanish languages as well as English. Grassroots organizations are increasingly using the service and the number of assignments increased by 45 percent. In 2008, 3,742 online volunteers (59 percent female) engaged in 5,259 assignments.

Shine a Light, a non-governmental organization network working with street children throughout Latin America, engaged a team of seven online volunteers to translate educational material and best practices from more than 200 grassroots organizations with which it collaborates. Translating from a variety of languages including Portuguese and Spanish to Aymara and Tzotzil, the online volunteers were essential to knowledge-sharing amongst the network and to tackling the crime, violence and deprivation to which street children are subjected.

“Shine a Light has made a huge impact on the lives of children in Latin America, both by increasing the capacity of grassroots non-governmental organizations and by reforming public policy, but we would never have been able to do it without the help of online volunteers,” says Kurt Shaw, Director of Shine a Light.

The Bureau for Reconstruction and Development (BRD) in Afghanistan works in the areas of human rights and capacity building of government, civil society and non-governmental organizations. Online volunteer Yin Mei Wong assisted the BRD in defining its strategy and designed action plans for implementation, guided the development of project proposals and facilitated networking with other development organizations. She developed and executed marketing and promotion strategies.

BRD Programme Director Khan Agha Dawoodzai believes that Yin Mei’s contributions have helped build the capacity of the organization to deliver its development projects. “Yin Mei and other online volunteers have helped us get linked to the world,” he says. For her part, Yin Mei remarks: “Online volunteering has added a new dimension to how I apply my skills and has deepened my interest in development work.”

UNV volunteers contribute to capacity building. Without the contributions of volunteers, the United Nations mandate of peacebuilding and sustainable development would not become a reality.”

Establishing enduring peace is a challenge in the slums of Martissant, Haiti, where around 300,000 people live in an area of less than 10 square kilometres. The population is very poor, and very young: 50 percent of the people are less than 24 years old. UNV is working together with the Civil Affairs Unit of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to reinforce security and sustain efforts toward the establishment of law and order in this violence-prone area.

UNV volunteers ensure that the situation is continuously monitored, empower community members to cooperate with police forces, and enable access to legal recourse in dealing

with violence. They also develop the capacity of local officials, including the Haiti National Police, through training, mentoring and monitoring.

J. Carter, Director of Civil Affairs at MINUSTAH, values the contribution made by UNV. “UNV volunteers engage on a daily basis with the average citizen and local official. They have been instrumental in assuring that the capacity of municipal and delegation staff have improved over the years.”

Caroline Demarque of Belgium is a UNV volunteer Civil Affairs Officer. “The work we are doing with MINUSTAH encourages the population to cooperate with the national police forces and to have recourse to legal means when it comes to fighting violence in the slum. This sense of ownership is very important in such a violence-prone area”.



SUSTAINING PEACE

After violent conflict has receded and mechanisms are in place to deal with immediate needs and stabilization, attention must be devoted to longer term sustainable development. The triggers of conflict must be constructively addressed, enabling long-term social, political and economic transformation. Communities scarred by the experiences of conflict situations must learn to trust once again.

Helping communities overcome the consequences of violent conflict is a long-term process that encompasses the transition from immediate conflict management and resolution to sustainable peace and development. UNV empowers individuals and communities to engage in effecting the local development of infrastructure shattered by conflict.

UNV volunteers promote social cohesion and help people re-establish safe and secure communities through volunteerism. In Cambodia, UNV is helping communities deal with demining and the impact of armed engagement. In Nepal, UNV volunteers strengthened domestic institutions and empowered people to actively participate in political processes directly impacting on their lives. UNV volunteers in Niger and Uganda are enabling the reintegration and rehabilitation of former perpetrators of violence. And in Tanzania, they are promoting peace education and destroying weapons.

Nearly 30 years of armed conflict have left Cambodia among the countries most affected by landmines and other remnants of war. Nearly half of all Cambodian villages are contaminated by these lethal devices. Between four and six million landmines remain unexploded in the ground, as do around seven million cluster bombs, rendering this land useless for development activities.

To address this challenge, UNV and UNDP have been assisting the Government by developing the capacities of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, which monitors and regulates mine clearance, and supporting the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, which undertakes clearance activities.

UNV worked with them on providing training for authorities to monitor licensed mine clearance operators, and supporting the development of mine action standards and guidelines to ensure the safe and efficient conduct of mine clearance operations and access to productive land. More than 25 million square metres of systematically targeted land have been cleared of around 25,000 anti-personnel mines, 400 anti-tank mines, and 60,000 items of unexploded ordnance. More than 100,000 people and 15,000 students now have access to productive land that can be used for resettlement, agriculture, roads, schools and health centres.

Pao Ravuth (left) a carpenter from the Kratie district in Cambodia, lost his leg to a landmine while fighting against the Khmer Rouge in 1991. Thanks to a UNV-organized awareness raising campaign and with the help of Khun Lay (right) Mine Action Monitoring Officer, of Norwegian People's Aid, Pao learns about the significance of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and adds his name to hundreds of signatures for the People's Treaty to Ban Cluster Bombs. (Nathan Horton, 2008)

Meet a volunteer

Mirko Daniel Fernandez from Canada is a UNV volunteer Forensic Anthropologist working in Timor-Leste. He supports the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) in promoting the development of human rights and the rule of law. A legacy of human rights violations, widespread poverty and the fragility of institutions has hampered development in the young nation.

Mirko (left) carries out crucial forensic work to examine the remains of individuals who were allegedly killed during the public consultation for independence, a period in which the country endured serious human rights violations. He also mentors and trains forensic personnel. "I have a gruesome and difficult job, but it is necessary to serve justice," he says. "I examine physical evidence in collaboration with the forensic pathologist, crime scene officer and regional investigation teams. I put names to the dead and help bring closure to the families of the victims I identify."



UNV volunteer Alexandra Hiniker of the United States says: "We organized a Cluster Munitions Ban Bus that travelled through some of Cambodia's most cluster-bombed provinces. The university students we mobilized as volunteers raised awareness about the harm these weapons cause to civilians and collected hundreds of signatures for the People's Treaty to Ban Cluster Bombs."

UNV also facilitated the translation of the International Convention on Cluster Munitions from English to Khmer through a consultative process involving 15 representatives from the Government, mine clearance operators, civil society and UN agencies. Alexandra explains: "UNV raised awareness of the link between landmine clearance and poverty alleviation by sharing beneficiary stories, coordinating field visits, organizing presentations and film nights, and working with universities. People we spoke to appreciated receiving this information in their own language from the university volunteers."

Nurturing conditions in which people can readily express their will is a prerequisite for the social stability needed for productive growth. Volunteerism is a key tool to facilitate the involvement of citizens in democratic processes. After a decade of civil conflict in Nepal, the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) provided support to new elections.

This special political mission was established to create a free and fair atmosphere for the election of the Constituent Assembly and support the peace process in Nepal.

UNMIN engaged more than 140 UNV volunteers to work as electoral advisors in partnership with the Nepal Electoral Commission. Other UNV volunteers provided logistical and operational support in areas including information technology, transport, air operations and engineering, as well as civil affairs and public information. They worked together with 8,500 local voter education volunteers mobilized in villages, Development Committees and municipalities in preparing the electorate to vote.

Deployed to all 75 districts, UNV volunteer Electoral Advisors were able to reach people in remote locations and support local, regional and headquarters electoral operations, despite sometimes difficult conditions. The UNV volunteers developed productive and close working relationships with their local Electoral Commission counterparts. After the elections, Commission staff, especially at the district level, strongly felt that the mere presence of UNV advisors in their communities was a significant factor in ensuring credible elections.

UNMIN Chief Electoral Adviser Fida Nasrallah recognized the contribution of UNV volunteers

Fatima Moumounta is a national UNV volunteer assigned to the Project for Peace Consolidation in Air and Azawak in Niger. She is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of livestock activities managed by members of the GUADA cooperative. The project is aimed at reintegrating ex-combatants back into rural society. Here she confers with members of the cooperative in Agadez. (Aly Adamou/UNDP Niger, 2009).



Ukubaza gutera ukumenya

Questioning breeds wisdom

to the electoral process. “UNV volunteers, both international and national, played a very important role in assisting Nepal’s independent Election Commission. They are the UNMIN personnel closest to the community level in this country, where over 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas,” she says. “Their competence and professionalism, together with their hard work in the districts, helped to bring confidence in the electoral process.”

Peace consolidation is the focus of a project implemented by UNV volunteers in Niger, which experienced a period of internal conflict in the 1990s that resulted in the near absence of local development. The project, which reintegrated ex-combatants into their communities and supported local development in the regions of Air and Azawak, was funded by: UNDP; the Government of Niger, particularly the High Commission for the Restoration of Peace; the French Service de Coopération et d’Action Culturelle (SCAC); and the Governments of Libya and the United States of America.

UNV volunteers reached out to the local population and nomadic Touareg communities, enabling the reintegration of over 3,000 ex-combatants. They supported the creation of cooperatives that reflected the skills of the ex-combatants before the conflict and empowered women to use their skills

to start their own cooperatives. The local population benefited from the rapid creation of new jobs and better working conditions, which propelled the local economy.

The UNV volunteers also promoted a culture of peace and development, sensitizing youth and communities and generating a sense of rehabilitation and harmony. Members of a local group called ‘Personnes Ressources’ had experienced the atrocity of the civil unrest and were trusted by the nomadic tribes, thus forming a bridge between ex-combatants and project staff advocating the benefits of the project. In 2007, Touareg communities met on the border between Niger and Mali to celebrate the improved peaceful conditions and relationships the project had created through volunteerism.

An Amnesty Commission was formed in Uganda in the year 2000 to promote peace and reconciliation by demobilizing, resettling and reintegrating ex-combatants into local communities, promoting reconciliation in conflict-affected areas, and engaging the general public in dialogue.

Working with the Amnesty Commission, UNV volunteers are engaged in outreach to former combatants in northern and eastern Uganda, a large portion of whom are youth. They carry out investigations on human rights violations, engage in mediation and provide



UNV volunteer Gerald Janani Loum (left) provides assistance to camp resident Kajalina Acayo (right) as part of the return and resettlement process at Keyo IDP Camp, in Amuru District, Uganda. (Harald Franzen, 2009)

Intibagira ntibana

He who dwells in the past cannot build for the future

counselling services to clients traumatized by their experiences. The volunteers plan and facilitate the reintegration of former child soldiers and young mothers, for example, by facilitating access to skills-based literacy and gender training. They participate in civic education by convening workshops on human rights protection for the police, army and prison forces, and also inspect detention sites. They also work to link ex-combatants to economic activities that could result in better living conditions and facilitate their reintegration into society.

Joe Burua is a national UNV volunteer seconded to the office of the National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. “In 2007, I supported the mass destruction of over 460 tonnes of decommissioned, redundant and obsolete ammunition and ordnance,” he says. The event was the largest of its kind in the country and comprised a wide assortment of explosives that were destroyed in a series of massive detonations ranging between 10 to 15 tonnes of material at a time.

“Through these arms destruction activities, Uganda is making a statement of peace. Uganda is no longer at war. This is the time to remove all weapons of war from circulation in order to make our communities safe,” says the Minister of Defence, Chrispus Kiyonga. The National Focal Point on Small Arms

and Light Weapons, Richard Nabudere, adds: “Our activities to rid Uganda of small weapons and ensure a safe and secure living environment are now more visible to the people of Uganda thanks to the contributions of UNV volunteers.”

Decades of conflict in the neighbouring countries of the Great Lakes region have made Tanzania a hub for high numbers of refugees, some of whom brought their weapons and their conflicts with them. This resulted in increased violence and destabilization particularly in Kigoma and Kagera, the poorest and most marginalized regions in the north-west. With improved conditions for return, large numbers of refugees are voluntarily repatriating to their home countries. Camps are now being closed and consolidated, and only around 200,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi remain. Accordingly, humanitarian stakeholders are withdrawing from north-western Tanzania and activities are being phased out.

Under the United Nations ‘Delivering as One’ initiative, agencies including UNV have been collaborating to implement a human security project aimed at supporting the Government of Tanzania in managing a smooth transition from humanitarian assistance to sustainable development. Working together with UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP,

TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE THROUGH EXPATRIATE NATIONALS

The Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) programme was initiated by UNDP in 1977 as a means to address the needs of developing countries suffering the exodus of skilled professionals. TOKTEN experts provide short-term advisory services in priority areas identified by host governments ranging from three to six months. The programme was administered by UNDP and the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development until 1994. Since then, the programme has come under the umbrella of UNV.

TOKTEN experts are specialized professionals, highly motivated to serve their homelands. Their knowledge of the country frequently results in the identification of special needs that might otherwise have been ignored, and their cultural and linguistic skills facilitate the transfer of technology and pave the way for more permanent relationships. Many maintain contact with their national counterparts, share literature, donate equipment and arrange for postgraduate training and study missions to the overseas institutions with which they are affiliated.

UNV manages volunteer assignments under the TOKTEN initiative within the framework of United Nations projects. It has also directly managed a TOKTEN initiative in Afghanistan, which was launched by UNDP following the Bonn Peace Agreement in December 2001. UNV volunteers under TOKTEN supported national capacity-building efforts of the Afghan Interim Administration and the successor government.

UNV promotes the integration of volunteering into the development programming of partners in order to facilitate national ownership of development processes. In this spirit, the management of TOKTEN has been decentralized in several countries and territories, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Egypt, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory, Somalia, Syria, Sudan, Senegal, Rwanda, and Viet Nam. Here, TOKTEN projects are implemented by UNDP and UNV, government counterparts and other United Nations agencies.

Since its establishment in the occupied Palestinian territory in 1994, more than 500 experts have been fielded through the TOKTEN scheme, working in key Palestinian Authority ministries and other institutions. The TOKTEN experts have contributed in several different realms including medicine, computer and information technology, city planning, university curriculum development and academic networking, the upgrading of film and television capacities, and cultural preservation.

UNDP, UNIDO, and FAO, as well as the Red Cross, World Vision, Care International and the district governments, UNV volunteers have been promoting greater participation of communities in this process.

Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Tanzania at the time, and himself a former UNV volunteer, believes volunteers are playing a crucial role in the peace process. “The contribution of UNV volunteers to the inter-agency efforts in north-western Tanzania has been invaluable and we all are proud of them. National volunteers are providing alternative livelihoods to the local population to reduce the illicit circulation of light weapons and gender-based violence. They are also working on the reforestation of areas hosting refugee camps, improving

water and sanitation facilities in schools and villages, and raising awareness to reduce HIV/AIDS infection.”

UNV volunteers worked with communities and their leaders to prevent conflict and spread the message of peace. They are empowering youth to volunteer to carry out peace education and contribute to improved communications and information flow. “UNV volunteers are the voice that talks to people in the communities,” says beneficiary Mustafa Said in Kigoma. “Before the introduction of the project there was a high number of armed incidents. Then the volunteers reached out to our communities at the grassroots level, and now people here have been giving up their weapons and comfortably performing their development activities, like farming, fishing and trading.”

GLOSSARY

BRD	Bureau for Reconstruction and Development (Afghanistan)
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
DIS	Détachement Intégré de Sécurité (Chad)
DPKO	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HPC	Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (Japan)
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MINURCAT	United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
MONUC	United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
NVS	Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme (Kenya)
NYVS	National Youth Volunteer Service (Liberia)
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
TOKTEN	Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNMIN	United Nations Mission in Nepal
UNMIS	United Nations Mission in Sudan
UNMIT	United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



UN

Volunteers

inspiration in action




STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2008




OUR MISSION

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

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that supports sustainable human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism, including the mobilization of volunteers. It serves the causes of peace and development by enhancing opportunities for participation by all peoples. It is universal, inclusive and embraces volunteer action in all its diversity. It values free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity, which are the foundations of volunteerism.

UNV VOLUNTEER STATISTICS WORLDWIDE – 2008

Country			
Afghanistan	144	7	48
Albania	24	9	6
Algeria	14	-	3
Angola	10	-	10
Argentina	-	8	11
Armenia	2	-	2
Australia	-	-	46
Austria	-	-	11
Azerbaijan	-	-	4
Bahamas	-	-	1
Bangladesh	15	39	40
Belgium	-	-	89
Belize	1	-	-
Benin	3	3	92
Bhutan	9	-	26
Bolivia	10	59	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9	3	12
Botswana	12	24	1
Brazil	7	24	26
British Virgin Islands	-	-	1
Bulgaria	-	-	8
Burkina Faso	25	30	37
Burundi	95	-	85
Cambodia	34	13	13
Cameroon	6	18	142
Canada	-	-	70
Cape Verde	9	7	2
Central African Republic	36	8	30
Chad	166	-	19
Chile	2	1	-
China	16	26	6
Colombia	30	44	14
Comoros	8	15	6
Congo	8	16	10
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	785	40	190
Cook Islands	1	-	-
Costa Rica	1	1	2
Côte d'Ivoire	362	-	79
Croatia	1	10	5
Cuba	2	-	2
Czech Republic	-	-	26
Denmark	-	-	14
Djibouti	8	3	4
Dominica	1	-	-
Dominican Republic	9	3	-
Ecuador	37	31	5

Country			
Egypt	9	90	22
El Salvador	2	-	2
Equatorial Guinea	3	-	-
Eritrea	66	1	43
Estonia	-	-	1
Ethiopia	31	261	81
Fiji	7	3	5
Finland	-	-	47
France	-	-	107
Gabon	13	-	1
Gambia	5	6	18
Georgia	8	-	3
Germany	-	-	59
Ghana	7	28	88
Greece	-	-	10
Guatemala	25	10	5
Guinea	19	3	69
Guinea-Bissau	24	7	7
Guyana	9	-	2
Haiti	249	10	55
Honduras	13	18	3
Hungary	-	-	4
India	5	276	158
Indonesia	27	54	28
Iran, Islamic Republic of	-	-	4
Iraq	1	-	12
Ireland	-	-	57
Israel	-	-	1
Italy	-	-	275
Jamaica	-	-	4
Japan	-	-	84
Jordan	14	8	7
Kazakhstan	6	5	1
Kenya	43	120	206
Kiribati	1	-	-
Korea, Republic of	-	-	22
Kosovo	185	19	3
Kyrgyzstan	2	16	2
Lao People's Democratic Republic	57	10	1
Lebanon	4	9	15
Lesotho	9	-	-
Liberia	322	23	152
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	5	9	-
Lithuania	-	-	4
Madagascar	10	21	19
Malawi	69	14	17



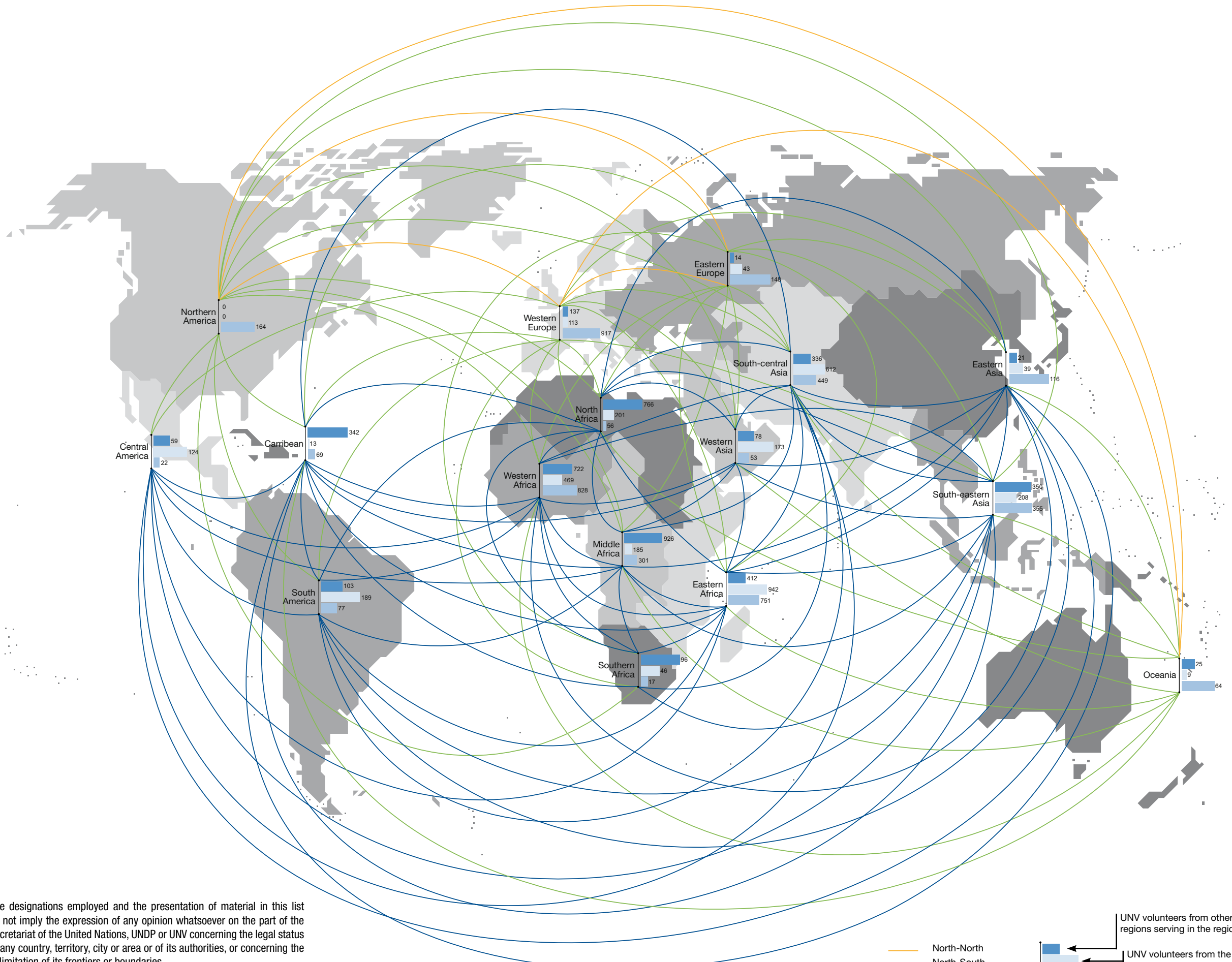
International UNV volunteers of other nationalities serving in the country



National UNV volunteers serving within their own country



Nationals of the country serving abroad as international UNV volunteers



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



— North-North
 — North-South
 — South-South

UNV volunteers from other regions serving in the region
 UNV volunteers from the region serving within their region
 UNV volunteers originating from the region serving in other regions

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

Country	↓	→	↑
Malaysia	6	-	15
Maldives	2	-	1
Mali	16	8	43
Marshall Islands	1	-	-
Mauritania	20	15	6
Mauritius	5	-	3
Mexico	-	2	13
Moldova, Republic of	-	-	3
Mongolia	9	9	7
Montenegro	-	1	-
Morocco	42	9	8
Mozambique	26	42	8
Myanmar	14	22	17
Namibia	20	19	2
Nauru	1	-	-
Nepal	190	93	92
Netherlands	-	-	27
New Zealand	-	-	15
Nicaragua	15	85	-
Niger	30	75	78
Nigeria	3	18	86
Norway	-	-	10
Occupied Palestinian territory	7	44	4
Pakistan	10	57	91
Panama	6	4	2
Papua New Guinea	5	-	2
Peru	8	6	13
Philippines	5	4	294
Poland	-	-	13
Portugal	-	-	24
Romania	-	2	15
Russian Federation	3	9	29
Rwanda	19	41	100
Saint Helena	-	-	1
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1	-	-
Samoa	2	2	-
Sao Tome and Principe	2	-	1
Senegal	17	2	32
Serbia	-	15	18
Seychelles	1	-	2

Country	↓	→	↑
Sierra Leone	73	5	221
Singapore	-	-	4
Slovakia	1	-	-
Solomon Islands	8	-	-
Somalia	46	-	2
South Africa	48	1	10
Spain	-	-	75
Sri Lanka	26	38	40
Sudan	707	82	30
Suriname	1	1	-
Swaziland	5	4	3
Sweden	-	-	29
Switzerland	-	-	60
Syrian Arab Republic	9	90	2
Taiwan	-	-	1
Tajikistan	1	-	19
Tanzania, United Republic of	29	94	94
Thailand	22	-	7
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2	-	4
Timor-Leste	218	17	37
Togo	10	16	42
Trinidad and Tobago	78	-	6
Tunisia	-	-	4
Turkey	-	8	8
Turkmenistan	1	-	2
Turks and Caicos Islands	2	-	-
Uganda	31	58	133
Ukraine	6	8	24
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	-	-	73
United States of America	-	-	92
Uruguay	-	2	5
Uzbekistan	6	-	6
Vanuatu	3	-	-
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	2	10	2
Viet Nam	29	26	1
Yemen	36	11	-
Zambia	34	132	27
Zimbabwe	5	26	34
Total	5,077	2,676	5,077

The following 75 countries co-sponsored United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/63/153, 'Follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers', on 18 December 2008:

Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay.

STATISTICS

Number of UNV assignments **7,991**
Number of individual UNV volunteers **7,753**

Countries of assignment **132**
 Countries of origin **159**

Origin of UNV volunteers

From developing countries **6,139** **79%**
 From other countries^a **1,614** **21%**

^a High-income OECD, Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Gender

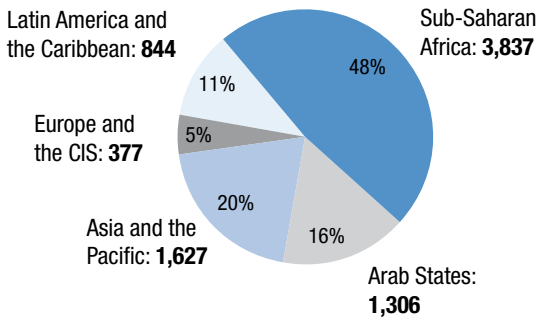
Female **2,785** **36%**
 Male **4,968** **64%**

Types of assignment

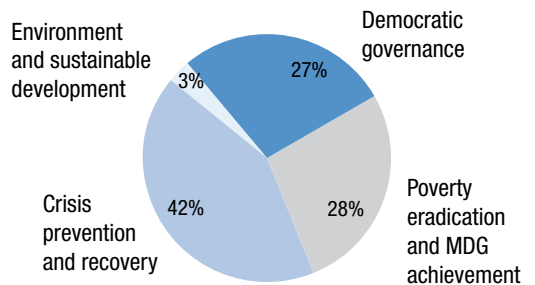
International UNV assignments **5,276** **66%**
 National UNV assignments **2,715** **34%**
Total UNV assignments **7,991** **100%**

In addition to the 7,753 UNV volunteers mentioned above, 3,742 online volunteers made their skills available through the UNV Online Volunteering service. Many university graduates, private sector employees and retirees also engage in the diverse opportunities opened up by UNV to volunteer for peace and development.

UNV ASSIGNMENTS BY REGION

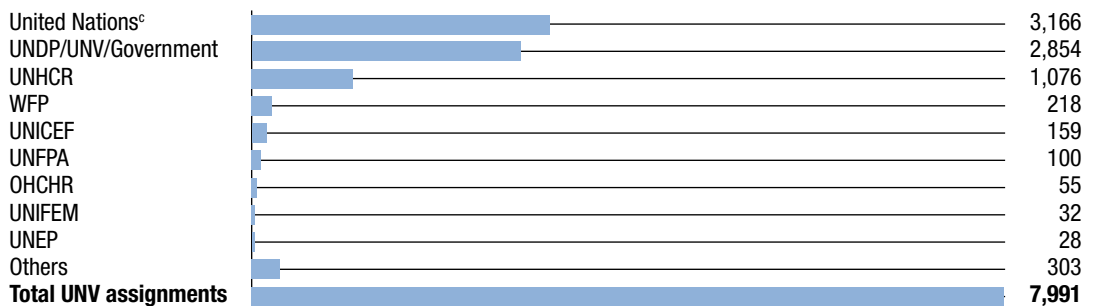


UNV PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES^b



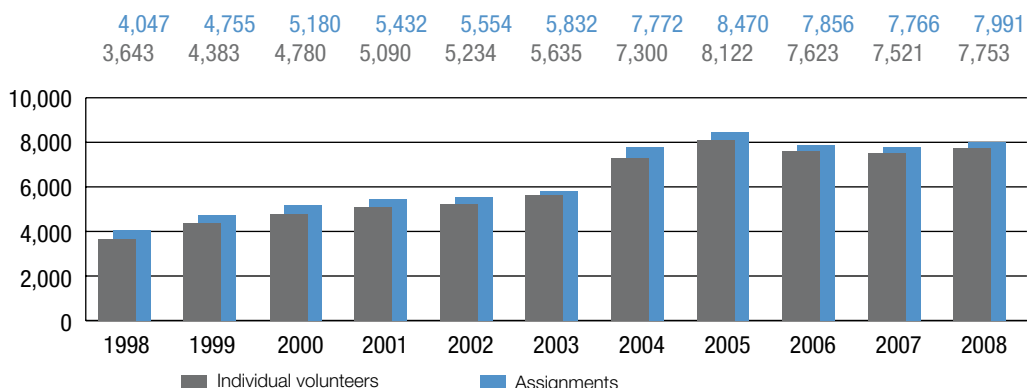
^b Based on the nature of the UNV volunteer assignments

NUMBER OF UNV ASSIGNMENTS WITH MAIN PARTNERS



^c United Nations includes UNDPKO, DESA and OCHA

GROWTH OF UNV SINCE 1998



CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNV IN 2008 (THOUSANDS OF US\$)

DONORS COUNTRIES	Special Voluntary Fund	Other resources*		Total
		Government	Other	
Argentina	-	257.2	-	257.2
Austria	100.0	194.8	-	294.8
Bangladesh	2.0	-	-	2.0
Belgium	197.5	1,130.2	-	1,327.6
Bhutan	2.0	-	-	2.0
China	30.0	-	-	30.0
Czech Republic	47.4	337.4	-	384.8
Denmark	-	423.8	-	423.8
Finland	-	1,069.4	-	1,069.4
France	149.5	-	-	149.5
Germany	3,016.6	512.4	-	3,529.0
India	15.0	-	-	15.0
Ireland	812.8	1,428.7	-	2,241.5
Israel	10.0	-	-	10.0
Italy	109.7	2,084.9	-	2,194.7
Japan	-	1,602.9	408.0	2,010.9
Korea, Republic of	-	588.7	-	588.7
Norway	-	97.1	-	97.1
Panama	0.5	-	-	0.5
Philippines	3.3	-	-	3.3
Spain	-	638.6	-	638.6
Sweden	608.5	-	309.2	917.7
Switzerland	792.3	268.4	-	1,060.7
Syrian Arab Republic	4.9	-	-	4.9
Thailand	1.5	-	-	1.5
Turkey	10.0	-	-	10.0
United States of America	100.0	-	-	100.0

Subtotal COUNTRIES	6,013.4	10,634.3	717.2	17,364.9
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UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

DESA Department of Economic and Social Affairs	-	-	88.3	88.3
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	-	-	70.5	70.5
OCHA United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	-	-	873.6	873.6
OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	-	-	678.5	678.5
UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	-	-	18.5	18.5
UNCDF United Nations Capital Development Fund	-	-	179.8	179.8
UNDP*** United Nations Development Programme	-	-	47,300.3	47,300.3
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme	-	-	357.0	357.0
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund	-	-	2,650.8	2,650.8
UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme	-	-	413.5	413.5
UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	-	-	20,010.9	20,010.9
UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund	-	-	1,951.1	1,951.1
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization	-	-	42.8	42.8
UNIFEM United Nations Development Fund for Women	-	-	367.2	367.2
UNITED NATIONS (Memoranda of Understanding)	-	-	97,814.5	97,814.5
UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services	-	-	350.2	350.2
WFP World Food Programme	-	-	5,317.0	5,317.0
WHO World Health Organization	-	-	107.4	107.4
Others	-	-	248.9	248.9

Subtotal UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	-	-	178,840.7	178,840.7
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CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNV IN 2008 (THOUSANDS OF US\$) continued

DONORS	Special Voluntary Fund	Other resources*		Total
		Government	Other	
OTHER CONTRIBUTORS				
European Commission**	25.9	-	232.9	258.7
Hiroshima University	-	-	529.6	529.6
Water Aid	-	-	21.5	21.5
Subtotal OTHER CONTRIBUTORS	25.9	-	784.0	809.8
Total contributions	6,039.2	10,634.3	180,341.9	197,015.5
OTHER INCOME				
Interest and other Income	1,102.0	-	1,262.3	2,364.3
Reimbursable support services	-	-	8,549.4	8,549.4
Subtotal OTHER INCOME	1,102.0	-	9,811.7	10,913.7
Total contributions and other income	7,141.3	10,634.3	190,153.6	207,929.2

EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2008 (THOUSANDS OF US\$)

	Special Voluntary Fund	Other resources****	Total
Programme expenditure	4,930.0	177,653.0	182,583.0
Programme support	-	17,738.2	17,738.2
Management and administration support	-	7,602.1	7,602.1
Total expenditure	4,930.0	202,993.3	207,923.2

AVERAGE ANNUAL VOLUNTEER COSTS IN 2008 (THOUSANDS OF US\$)

	Yearly living allowance incl. accommodation	Other costs*****	Total yearly average costs
International UNV volunteers	26.5	25.4	51.9
National UNV volunteers	7.2	3.1	10.3

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

** Received in 2009 as 2008 contribution

*** Includes Biennial Support Budget from UNDP

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

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

www.unvolunteers.org



Back Cover Photo:

Estefania Aguirre Chauvin is a UNV volunteer Protection Assistant with UNHCR in her home country, Ecuador. At the San Lorenzo refugee registration centre, people often arrive from across the Colombian border with almost nothing and have to start a new life. Registering them and listening to their needs is a crucial task in order to deliver further assistance. (Andrew Smith, 2009)

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Email: RONA@unvolunteers.org

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

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

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