

Volunteers count

A survey in **Brazil** shows that 50 per cent of volunteers take up voluntary activity because they enjoy helping others, 38 per cent feel obliged to help the less fortunate and 31 per cent volunteer because their religion or studies require them to. (Source: *Lions Club International, 1998*)

Canadian volunteers contribute an average of 191 hours per year. This time is equivalent to 578,000 full-time jobs. (Source: *Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, 1997*)

About 15 per cent of non-profit organizations in **Ghana** work in the area of education and research, followed by environment, 13 per cent, and community and rural development, 13 per cent. (Source: *Johns Hopkins Non-profit Sector Survey, 1998*)

In **South Korea**, 3,898,564 persons volunteered 451.19 million hours in 1999. The economic value of yearly volunteering comes to \$2.182 billion. (Source: *Ministry of Home Affairs and Government Administration, 1999*)

About 33 per cent of the adults in **Ireland** are currently volunteers. The total amount of time given to voluntary work per year is equivalent to some 96,454 full-time workers. (Source: *Charitable Giving and Volunteering, Ruddle, H. and Mulvihill, R., 1999*)

In the **United States**, the number of individuals who volunteered reached almost 56 per cent. In 1998 an estimated 109.4 million adults volunteered. (Source: *INDEPENDENT SECTOR, 2000*)

contact information

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UNV mission STATEMENT

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

The United Nations Volunteers is the United Nations organization that supports sustainable human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism and the mobilization of volunteers.

It serves the causes of peace and development through 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.



International Year of **VOLUNTEERS**

It's our time

United Nations Volunteers



Volunteers are often not seen and rarely make headlines, but their impact is immense. They pull communities together by helping those in need. They promote self-help initiatives and take up worthy causes, such as protecting the environment. People from all over the world have various motives for voluntary service based on their cultural, religious and social norms. Volunteers invest their time as their own expression of goodwill — enriching the individual volunteer and global volunteerism. Voluntary service is cause for celebration. It warrants special recognition, hence the International Year of Volunteers 2001 (IYV2001). The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the Year to highlight the achievements of volunteers worldwide and to encourage more people to engage in volunteer activity.

IYV 2001 — A Year for Everyone

The Year is for volunteers of all ages — children, working adults and retired people. It is for volunteers serving alone or as part of an organization meeting needs in their community or on the other side of the globe. The Year provides a unique opportunity to pool these vast volunteer resources and to recognize volunteers for who they are and what they do. As UN-designated focal point for the Year, the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) aims to get everyone involved and launch into a new era of global volunteer cooperation. By building on existing networks of volunteers and exploring new areas of advocacy and research, individuals and organizations can capitalize on IYV2001 to increase the visibility and strengthen the impact of volunteers. This may reap further benefits, such as steps to introduce volunteer-friendly policies and legislation.

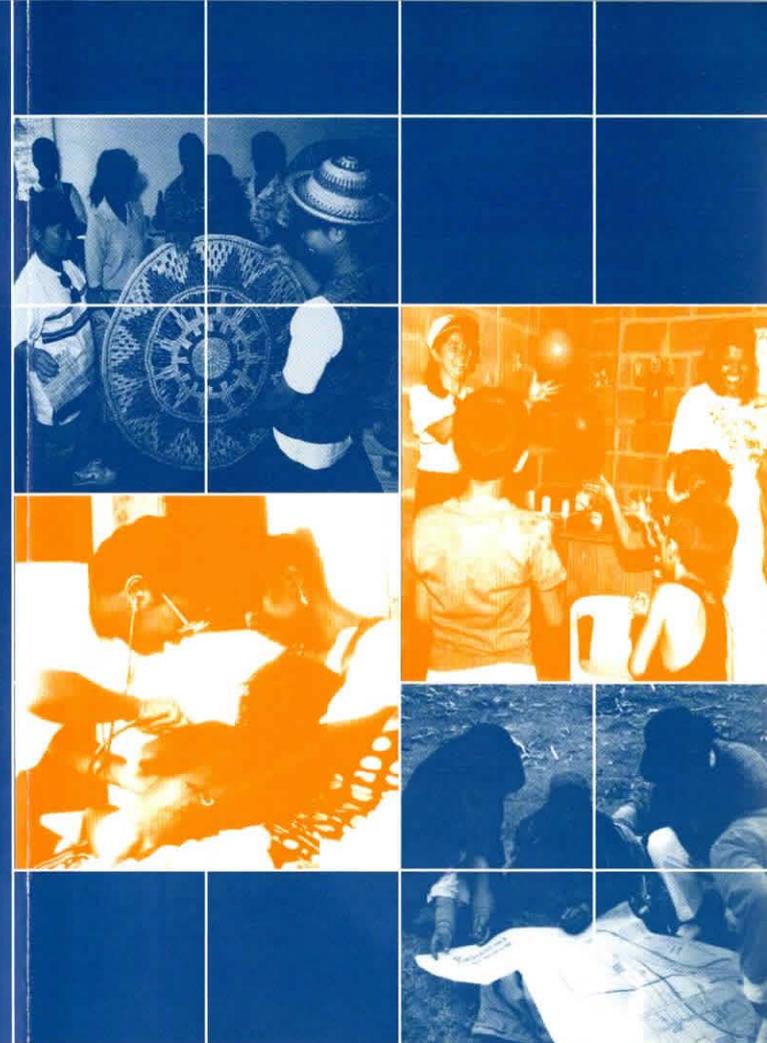
IYV2001 — Planning for Action

It is time to join with others to promote volunteerism. The first place to look is in your community. You can also liaise with your country's **IYV 2001 National Committee**, if one exists. IYV National Committees bring together volunteer partners within their countries to plan and carry out activities during the Year. They will recommend follow-up measures to governments on volunteer issues and report on achievements during the Year to be reflected in a final report to the UN General Assembly. If you are not sure if an IYV National Committee has been formed in your country, search for country information on the IYV 2001 web site (www.iyv2001.org). If there is no IYV 2001 National Committee in your country, team up with other volunteers and form one.

Individuals, organizations and governments can get involved in the Year in the following ways:

- Volunteer. You could join your national volunteer organizations or offer your professional services free of charge. If you are a university student or professor, you could trace the history of national volunteering. If you work in a non-governmental organization, you could help set up a national centre or foundation to promote volunteering.
- Link your volunteer activities during 2001 to the International Year of Volunteers to draw attention to global volunteer initiatives.
- Register online as an IYV 2001 partner organization. You can sign up to receive monthly IYV updates and link up with other volunteers in your country (www.iyv2001.org).

Visit the web site for more suggestions. If you do not have access to the Internet, send requests for information to Team IYV (see address on the reverse side).



2001 and Beyond

The expanding network of contacts already compiled in connection with the Year will not vanish into oblivion at the end of 2001. By contributing information online or sending reports of national volunteer activities, you and your organization will strengthen efforts by researchers to measure the impact of volunteers — already during 2001 and in the years to come. Armed with facts and research on voluntary service, IYV National Committees can continue their work by starting up national volunteer centres or commissions to put voluntary service on the public agenda — and keep it there. Indeed, it is time to tell the volunteer story and bring out the best in women and men everywhere. Consider your investment — it pays.

The United Nations Volunteers include more than 4,500 individuals each year from over 140 countries.

About two-thirds come from the developing world.

They range in age from 25 to over 70 years, with an average age of 39.

All have special skills and years of valuable work experience.

The UN Volunteers work with governments, NGOs and the private sector to deliver efficient and effective professional assistance in a culturally sensitive manner.

Major partners include the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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

UNV is the UN-designated focal point for the International Year of Volunteers 2001. Register and exchange ideas for the Year of recognition for volunteers around the world at: www.iyv2001.org.

Contact Information

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United Nations **Volunteers**

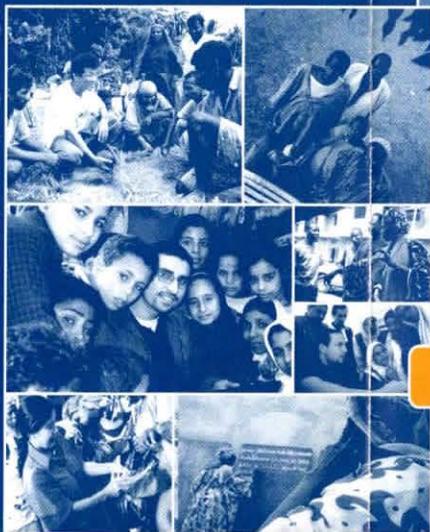
Getting to the People

We are there...

The United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) is the volunteer arm of the UN system. It extends hands-on assistance for peace and development in nearly 150 countries. Created by the UN General Assembly in 1970 and administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNV works through UNDP country offices to send volunteers and promote the ideals of volunteerism around the world. UNV's strength lies in its volunteers — the 4,500 professionals who each year bring skills to communities within their borders or abroad to help local people become the driving force of their own development. They come from more than 140 countries and nearly two-thirds of them are from the developing world. With an average age of 39, and strong academic and work credentials, they have much to offer and share.

Almost everywhere one turns in the developing world, UN Volunteers are there. Experts in well over 100 professional fields, they help secure peace, organize elections, bring emergency relief, promote human rights, improve health facilities, teach effective farming techniques, promote gender equality and protect the environment.

UNV in the field



responsive...

With assignments that vary from weeks to years, UN volunteers can jump into emergency situations on short notice or launch sustained community development initiatives. Since the early 1990s, thousands of UN Volunteers have gone out on assignments to support electoral and peacekeeping missions. Many of these experienced UNVs were recruited and fielded in a matter of weeks.

The UNV programme is responding to a changing world by moving into new fields of development. Using UNV's online volunteering facility, women and men contribute their skills to help organizations anywhere on the globe — right from their home computers. Through the United Nations Information Technology Service (UNITeS), volunteers provide support in computer and Internet technology to unconnected communities in developing countries.

"All of us are bound by a common thread — a belief in human development of the kind volunteers can achieve."

Sharon Capeling-Alakija
UNV Executive Coordinator

flexible...

UNVs carry out development activities at the grassroots and in government, with the private sector and UN agencies. They also work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the South and North. UN Volunteers bring the United Nations to communities, whether by building stronger neighbourhoods or restoring local environments. UNV support is designed to combat poverty and foster self-reliance, and to help villages or groups develop a stronger voice and visibility in the political arena. Where there is need for a more technical approach, UN Volunteers provide that, too. UN Volunteers offer a broad range of expertise, as they can serve as international and national specialists and field workers, short-term advisers for business and industry, or expatriate nationals who consult in their countries of origin.



2001 is the International Year of Volunteers

www.iyv2001.org