

REPORT ON THE PLAN OF ACTION ON VOLUNTEERING FOR AGENDA 2030

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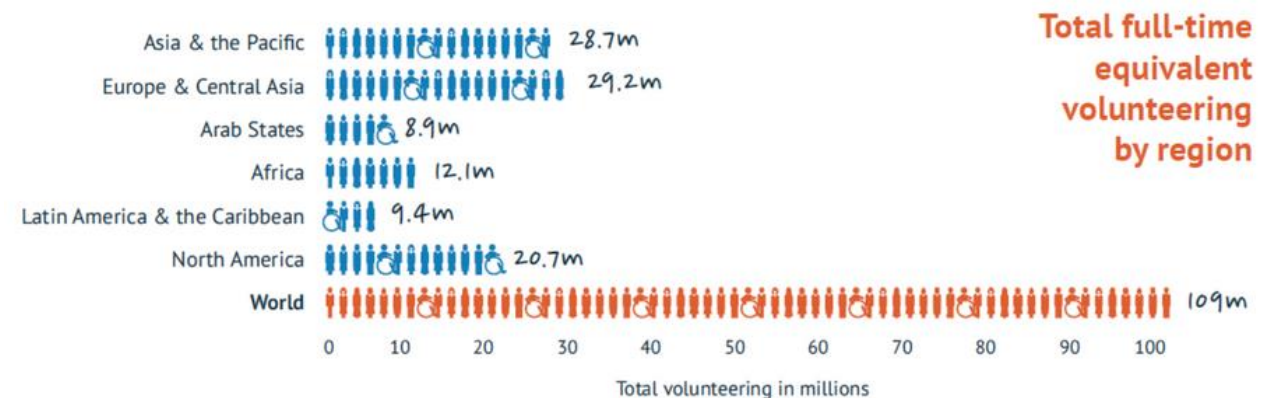
State of the World's Volunteerism

- **109 Million Full-Time Equivalent volunteers, larger than many major industry global workforces**
- 70 % of volunteering done directly between persons, rising to nearly 90% in some regions
- 57% of all volunteer efforts given by women, rising to 59% for informal volunteering
- Over 70 countries have policies and legislation covering volunteering in the decade to 2018
- 104 countries have measured scale of volunteer efforts nationally at least once (ILO)
- More than half (63%) of countries reporting on SDGs progress at the UN mention volunteers in 2018

Why does this matter? In communities under strain, 2 reasons:

Self-organization: Enabling people to determine their own priorities and demonstrate agency

Human connections: To do so in a way that facilitates empathy, solidarity and understanding





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to integrate volunteering
into the 2030 Agenda

Institutional background

‘Reimagining volunteering for the 2030 Agenda’

- UN General Assembly Resolutions 70/129 and 73/140 confirm commitment from 124 UN Member States to the Plan of Action on Volunteering
- Significant opportunity to convene, engage, plan and recommend within the UN system on volunteerism, led by UNV and IFRC
- 3 remaining milestones:
 - **Global Technical Meeting 2020** at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York
 - **Global Synthesis Report** – Reimagining Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2020)
 - **UN Secretary-General’s Report** on Volunteering 2021



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Feedback and issues from the regional consultation: **UNECE Region**

Various findings, some key messages...

Regional Synthesis Report for Europe (UNECE)

- The recommendations focus on how the potential of volunteerism in the region can be maximized **by improving implementation (data, enabling environment, partnerships and technology)**, as well as
- **Key policy areas** in which Member States and Plan of Action stakeholders can prioritize volunteers as powerful SDG progress accelerators (**inequality, aging, migration, youth employment and climate change**).

Stakeholder Consultation for Europe (UNECE), March 2019

- Volunteers can be a **powerful SDG accelerator** but only **if they are fully** integrated into **national frameworks**, by mainstreaming volunteering into national development strategies and sector strategies
- Volunteering **by ALL people for ALL people** – include the ones furthest behind: Women volunteers can be stigmatized, local volunteers exploited, and volunteers with disabilities excluded
- **More evidence required** to build the case for volunteering, and this requires a refined focus **on measuring the impact** of volunteers against the SDGs

Is this unique for Europe (UNECE)?

- Regional Consultations in Switzerland, Thailand, Beirut, Morocco and Panama....



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Feedback and issues from the regional consultations: **Cross-regional trends**

UNECE / UNESCAP / UNESCWA

- Exclusion of marginalised groups
- Environmental constraints on volunteering work / access to equal volunteering opportunities
- Limited national support for volunteering incentives
- Unrealised potential of volunteerism in climate change efforts, natural disasters and humanitarian crises
- Untapped potential of technology
- Large variations in data collection on volunteerism



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Why reimagine volunteering?

'Shifts' in thinking

Reflecting the evolution of volunteering

- Significant changes in the forms and function of volunteer activities (including related to technologies) not necessarily reflected in policy debates
- Better reflecting discourses around volunteering from the global South
- From 'charity' to 'solidarity' and partnership between individuals, groups and nations to find common solutions

Updating in the context of global realities

- Ensuring volunteer safety and support in a world of increasing fragilities
- Addressing new or intractable problems that need a collaborative governance approach
- Maximizing the positive potential of volunteering to bring different groups together (age, class, ethnicity)
- Challenging gender and other inequalities around the distribution of unpaid work

Positioning for greatest contribution to the SDGs

- Reflecting the needs and wants of 21st century volunteers (impact, not 'helping') to ensure sustained engagement
- Improving coordination and engagement to go from 'means of implementation' to 'people-driven development'
- Improvement knowledge, measurement and data (evidence base for investment)



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Evidence from the first 'cycle' under 2030 Agenda

- Mapping contributions under SDG targets incl. gaps
- Evidence portal under SDGs and targets
- Case studies looking at distinctive contributions and policy approaches
- Public surveys on reimagining volunteering

Applying volunteering solutions to future SDG 'complex problems'

- Employment and the future of work
- Climate and environment
- Addressing inequalities including gender inequalities
- Bridging groups (peace, social cohesion etc)
- Challenges, crowdsourcing, policy think pieces

'Next generation' volunteering support by governments and others

- Menu of support options or blueprints for country investments
- Work with few selected countries (government, UN CTs and others) to design blueprints and develop policy recommendations. Public consultation and feedback, voting etc.

Building blocks

Measuring volunteering 2.0

- Updated **typology** of volunteering in the 21st Century
- Expert group design of volunteer impact measures
- Link to foundation of national statistics incl. updated ILO Handbook

Ways for UNV partners to shape the future of volunteering



Participate in Plan of Action events including the **Roundtable 3** and Global Technical Meeting in 2020 and encourage academia, private sector and civil society to do so



Participate in the working groups on specific themes and issues (soon to be available on the website) including the **Southern Research Network**



Host specific events e.g. on Future of volunteering in your country to feed into our global insights and knowledge – excerpts may be used in the global synthesis reports



Complete and distribute the survey on Future of Volunteering (online and offline); Participate in the SDGs mapping exercise online (crowdsourcing)



Promote the online consultations with your stakeholders and partners



Share your country's relevant existing policies, programmes, evaluations, business cases in the portal ahead of the GTM for intergovernmental sharing

Roundtable 3: 'Reimagining volunteering for the 2030 Agenda'



Login: **hseguest** and Password: **hsepassword**

Go to www.menti.com and enter number **71 65 39** to participate in the survey

What are the '**shifts**' that we need to see in how volunteering is positioned/perceived/engaged under 2030 Agenda?

What have we **learnt from the first cycle of SDGs** implementation (2015-2019) about where volunteering can add most value?

How should we **measure the impact** of 21st Century Volunteering (Volunteering 2.0)?

What **evidence do we have** from this region to contribute to the synthesis report and the Global Technical Meeting 2020?

How can researchers support policy-makers and practitioners in this process to share knowledge and experiences on volunteering under the 2030 Agenda?



Take the survey by 3pm today and we will have a live discussion on the results and how to organize for the Global Technical Meeting and Global Synthesis Report on Volunteering (2020) (Guided/Russian language session at lunchtime?)

www.unv.org/planofaction