

INTEGRATING VOLUNTEERISM INTO UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS

GUIDANCE NOTE FOR UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES

This Guidance Note is intended for use by United Nations Resident Coordinator Offices (UNRCOs), United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and United Nations entities' programme staff to engage with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme in the preparation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) at the national level. It also outlines ways in which UNV can support this work at the country level.

WHY INTEGRATE VOLUNTEERISM IN THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNSDCFs?

There are an estimated one billion active volunteers worldwide, comprising a global full-time workforce of 109 million people.¹ Volunteering is a universal phenomenon that welcomes people from all backgrounds, enabling them to be active agents of change and to act on the issues that they care about. In 2023, 31 reporting countries (82 per cent) mentioned volunteering in their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

Volunteer groups are helping localize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing new areas of interaction between governments and people for concrete and scalable actions. Demonstrably, all community-level development and humanitarian and peacebuilding interventions draw on some aspect of local volunteerism. Volunteers are a critical element of community capacities and resources, demonstrating local solutions and engaging those often left furthest behind.² Accordingly, volunteer engagement is an important component of development cooperation, as reflected in a variety of official guidelines:

- i. **The Quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) 2020³:** This recognizes that volunteerism can be a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementing the 2030 Agenda and the important role that volunteers play in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences. It encourages the United Nations development system, in partnership with Member States, civil society organizations and the private sector, to support such efforts and promote a conducive environment for volunteerism and volunteers to enhance the sustainability of development results.

¹ <https://www.unv.org/sites/default/files/The%20Scope%20and%20Scale%20SWVR2018%20final.pdf>

² https://unv-swvr2018.org/files/51692_UNV_SWVR_2018_WEB.pdf

³ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/233>

UNV contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. The organization works with partners to integrate and mobilize qualified, highly motivated and well-supported UN Volunteers into development programming and promotes the value and global recognition of volunteerism.

- ii. **The 2020 report of the Secretary-General on volunteering**⁴: The report recognized significant progress made in integrating volunteering into planning and review mechanisms under the 2030 Agenda. But it also identified the need for further efforts to integrate volunteering into national development strategies, plans and policies in order to engage people in national planning and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Data, evidence and knowledge-sharing on the impact volunteers make should also be strengthened.
- iii. The **2019 UNSDCF Guidance**⁵: Issued by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), this highlights a commitment to a broad range of stakeholders,⁶ including volunteer groups and civil society and community organizations.
- iv. **United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/140**⁷: Endorsed by 124 Member States, this resolution about the role of volunteerism in supporting the 2030 Agenda encourages governments – in partnership with United Nations entities, volunteer-involving organizations and other stakeholders – to integrate volunteerism into a variety of plans and frameworks. These include national development strategies, plans and policies, UNSDCFs or equivalent planning frameworks.

The **2030 Agenda**⁸ recognizes that traditional means of implementation need to be complemented by participatory mechanisms that facilitate the engagement of volunteers to benefit others and the planet. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁹ can only be achieved by engaging people at all stages and through a variety of new partnerships, including volunteer groups.

WHAT IS VOLUNTEERISM?

According to a 2002 United Nations General Assembly resolution, the terms volunteering, volunteerism and voluntary activities are understood to be “a wide range of activities undertaken of free will, for the general public good, for which monetary reward is not the principal motivating factor”.¹⁰

Volunteerism plays a central role in strengthening people–state relationships. It promotes better governance, helps build more equal and inclusive societies, and fosters stability. Increasingly, volunteers across the globe are forging closer partnerships with state authorities to address urgent development challenges, from climate change and ecosystem and biodiversity loss to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As shown by the *2022 State of the World’s Volunteerism Report: Building equal and inclusive societies*¹¹, despite the devastating socioeconomic impacts of this pandemic, global interest in volunteering has not waned. New partnerships between governments and volunteers from marginalized groups – women, persons with disabilities, slum dwellers and the urban poor – are reconfiguring long-standing power relations.

4 <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/190/93/PDF/N2119093.pdf?OpenElement>

5 https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/UN-Cooperation-Framework-Internal-Guidance-Final-June-2019_1.pdf

6 The Cooperation Framework defines a broad range of stakeholders including: local authorities; legislative, judicial and other independent state oversight bodies; civil society and community organizations; businesses and philanthropic organizations; trade unions and employers’ organizations; the scientific and research communities; volunteer groups; bi- and multilateral partners, including international financial institutions; and media.

7 <https://undocs.org/A/C.3/73/L.13>

8 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

9 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

10 <https://www.unv.org/sites/default/files/A%20RES%2056%2038.pdf>

11 <https://swvr2022.unv.org/>

While volunteers have more opportunities to engage in activities that are meaningful to them, volunteers from marginalized groups remain disadvantaged. For instance, caregiving and domestic responsibilities limit the ability of women and girls in many countries to engage in volunteering. Addressing such gaps in volunteering practices and aspirations is vital to tackling exclusion and gender inequality.

HOW TO INTEGRATE VOLUNTEERISM INTO THE UNSDCF_s

The [2019 UNSDCF Guidance](#) issued by the UNDG highlights a commitment to a broad range of stakeholders, including volunteer groups and civil society and community organizations. This is further elaborated and emphasized in the companion pieces to the 2019 Framework. Although there is no one-size-fits-all approach, UNCTs, UNRCOs and other United Nations entities can take the following steps to promote the integration of volunteer efforts in the UNSDCF_s:

- 1. UNV and volunteer groups should be included on committees, groups and stakeholder consultations when UNSDCF_s are being prepared and undergoing quality assurance reviews:**
 - i. UNV should participate in discussions with UNCT results groups about Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and UNSDCF_s:** UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and has United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) membership as per the new [Management Accountability Framework of United Nations Development and Resident Coordinator System](#).
 - ii. Volunteer groups should participate in Joint Steering Committee and stakeholder consultations to bring forward the voices of those left behind:** National volunteer groups' representation in the National/United Nations Joint Steering Committee (JSC)¹² and/or advisory committees and in the stakeholder consultations for the UNSDCF_s can help in inclusive consultation, reflecting the views and needs of the most marginalized. Many countries have volunteer umbrella organizations, councils or networks that can bring together the perspectives of millions of volunteers based on their experiences supporting peace and development. These include organizations that deliver basic services, including in areas that are the hardest to reach and/or encompass the most marginalized communities. These also include campaigning and awareness-raising groups, human rights defenders' networks and many more entities.
- 2. UNV should mobilize volunteer groups for preparation of CCAs and UNSDCF_s:**

UNV-led regular advocacy work for inclusion of youth, volunteer groups and other stakeholders has played a positive role in the reflection of volunteerism in some UNSDCF_s. Volunteer groups can support UNSDCF_s in a number of ways:

- i.** Seek inputs/consultations for the new UNSDCF_s from hardest-to-reach groups, including creating new spaces for dialogue.
- ii.** Share information on the UNSDCF process with key stakeholders to improve engagement with the United Nations as a development partner.

¹² The JSC is co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and the most senior representative of the central government counterpart for the United Nations system. Its membership includes key partners identified in the UNSDCF for joint contributions to national priorities and the 2030 Agenda.

In 2022, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Bolivia –supported by UNV – deployed a national UN Volunteer to prepare a youth situation analysis and support consultations with youth and volunteer-involving organizations as inputs to the CCA and also to write a proposal for strategic results to be achieved for youth.

- iii. Identify priorities for the UNSDCF to address challenges that are based on local needs.
- iv. Review existing data to help identify who is being left behind and in what ways, and who among them is likely the furthest behind. Operational Guidance to United Nations Country Teams on Leaving No-One Behind¹³ recommends integrating various forms of information from a range of sources – including from civil society organizations and volunteer groups that have collected community-level data.

In 2021, the Development Coordination Office (DCO) deployed 35 online volunteers to perform an analysis in support of three UNCTs – Somalia, Ghana and the Central African Republic – in the development of their CCAs. Online volunteers tagged more than 30,000 pages of reports, based on an analytical framework designed by the DCO.

3. UNV and volunteer groups should partner as means of implementing UNSDCFs:

SDG 17, which calls for “strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development”, recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as an important vehicle for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise and technologies to support the achievement of the SDGs.

Volunteers and volunteer groups have been integral to the implementation of SDGs. During the 2022 review of their VNRs, Andorra, Côte d’Ivoire, Jamaica and Senegal referred to partnerships with volunteers and the promotion of volunteering as a powerful human means of implementing the SDGs.

Under the 2021 “Reach Every District” initiative, the Government of Eritrea engaged volunteers to help in providing vaccinations at 450 outreach sites to the nomadic groups and those residing in areas that are difficult to access. In Kazakhstan, 102 volunteers (16 UN Volunteers, 73 civil society volunteers and 13 online volunteers) supported a centre established by UNDP and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection to support persons with disabilities in accessing employment opportunities.

4. Partner with volunteer groups for evaluating a UNSDCF

Engaging volunteer groups in evaluating UNSDCFs can integrate the groups and associations that directly engage those left behind or at risk of being left behind. It can also strengthen their capacities to engage and be heard and will help when measuring progress on SDG implementation.

¹³ <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/Interim-Draft-Operational-Guide-on-LNOB-for-UNCTs.pdf>

WHERE TO INTEGRATE VOLUNTEERISM IN THE UNSDCF CYCLE

The [2019 UNSDCF Guidance](#), issued by the UNSDG, highlights a commitment to a broad range of stakeholders including volunteer groups and civil society and community organizations. UNCTs can integrate volunteerism in the UNSDCF cycle at a number of different stages:

1. **UNSDCF Roadmap:** The [UNSDCF Roadmap](#) identifies volunteer groups as key stakeholders. The UNCTs should include consultation with volunteering organizations about their UNSDCF roadmap.
2. **CCA:** UNCTs can engage volunteer groups in the preparation of a CCA. The [CCA methodology](#) identifies volunteer groups as key stakeholders. Volunteer groups are also identified as key stakeholders in the [common minimum standards for multi-stakeholder partnerships](#). The volunteer groups can also help UNCTs in data collection. In the report titled [Operationalizing Leaving No One Behind: Good practice note for UN country teams](#), UNSDG emphasizes engaging volunteer groups for low-cost data collection. This has the added benefit, according to the report, of using volunteerism as a means to engage left-behind communities. The [CCA methodology](#) emphasizes valuing non-monetized economic activities – such as unpaid care work and community and volunteer work – while addressing externalities in the provision of essential services for economic transformation.

What to do? Include consultation with volunteer groups in setting the terms of reference (TOR) of the consultant who will be preparing the CCA.

Tip: Engage with a UNV focal point for a list of volunteer groups and a national situation analysis of volunteering's contribution to the SDGs.

3. UNSDCF Design: (see annex 2 for examples)

- i. **UNSDCF Results and Resources Frameworks:** The Results and Resources Frameworks for UNSDCFs may include an indicator on volunteerism responding to the [QCPR Monitoring Framework 2021–2024](#). The indicators can be discussed between the United Nations entities and accordingly reflected in the UNCT [joint work plans](#) and United Nations entity [Country Programme Documents](#).

What to do? Include indicators on volunteering intervention to achieve the outcomes and/or outputs of UNSDCF and/or to strengthen the enabling environment for volunteering in the country.

Tip: Engage with a UNV focal point to identify indicators on volunteering; see examples of volunteering-related indicators in annex 1.

- ii. **UNSDCF text:** The UNCTs can include volunteers and volunteerism in the UNSDCF when preparing the section on [country progress towards SDGs](#) to recognize the contribution of volunteerism and volunteers in achieving national priorities. Under the [theory of change](#), the integration of volunteerism can help recognize the ways that it can help achieve the results of UNSDCF. Integrating volunteerism in the [UNSDCF Strategic Priorities](#), the UNCT can support Member States in creating an enabling environment for volunteerism (QCPR 2020) and engage volunteers to achieve the results of the UNSDCF. Integrating volunteerism in UNSDCF [Outcomes and Partnerships](#) can help address the capacity needs for volunteerism. For example, [Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UNSDCF](#) identifies volunteers as being among the stakeholders and suggests capacity development of community volunteers for

disaster risk reduction. Integrating volunteerism into the [implementation plan](#) can recognize the contribution of volunteers and volunteerism as means of implementation of UNSDCF in line with QCPR 2020.

What to do? Include volunteering into the [Outcomes and Outputs statements](#) and in the UNSDCF text based on the CCA.

Tip: Engage with the UNV focal point for national situation analysis of volunteering's contribution to SDGs; see examples of how to integrate volunteering into the UNSDCF text in annex 2.

iii. **UNSDCF Legal Annex:** UNSDCF Guidance for [Legal Annex](#) states: "all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention".

4. **United Nations entity programmes:** United Nations entity strategic plans have integrated volunteerism as part of their strategic priorities (see section below on: How United Nations entities are integrating volunteerism). Further, United Nations entities already engage national and international UN Volunteers in the planning and implementation of their programmes and projects. United Nations entities should highlight the role of volunteers and UN Volunteers when preparing the CCAs and UNSDCFs and integrate them into their Country Programme Documents (CPD).

What to do? Include volunteering into the United Nations entity's Country Programme Document. Ensure that the integration of volunteerism into the UNSDCF is harmoniously reflected within the Country Programme Document's approach to volunteering.

Tip: Engage with the UNV focal point to get the analysis of volunteering's contribution to the SDGs. Identify potential avenues for integrating volunteerism into the Country Programme Document in line with the United Nations entity's Strategic Plan (see annex 1) and the UNSDCF.

5. **UNCT joint work plans:** The integration of volunteerism in the Results and Resources Framework, UNSDCF text and United Nations entity CPDs should be supported by the integration of volunteers and volunteerism into the UNCT joint work plans. The [UNSDG Guidance on new Generation of Joint Programmes](#) states that UNCT joint programmes will consider the use of UN Volunteers to carry out sustainability and transition arrangements.

6. **UNSDCF evaluation:** The UNSDCF Guidance 2019 states that "evaluation procurement, design and all other processes should build on and, wherever feasible, strengthen national and regional evaluation capacities in partnership with voluntary organizations for the professionalization of evaluations".

WHAT TO INTEGRATE IN UNSDCFs

UNV can provide national situation analysis input on volunteering, including data and evidence, and how it contributes to the SDGs in countries that prepare UNSDCFs. UNCTs can integrate volunteerism as a cross-cutting strategy to achieve the results of UNSDCFs to enhance participation and inclusion, addressing the needs of the most marginalized, and as an accelerator to enhance results for the Agenda 2030 in a variety of ways:

1. **Helping end poverty (SDG 1):** Volunteers can be a crucial link in the chains of action needed to end poverty and create economically productive opportunities for all citizens. Volunteers can help governments manage the institutional infrastructure for delivering social assistance – for example, food banks, homeless shelters, drug abuse prevention clinics, workforce training centres and microfinance self-help groups – to boost the living standards of people mired in poverty or in danger of falling into it.
2. **Ensuring healthy lives and well-being (SDG 3):** Volunteers can augment the government health systems' capacity to provide vital supplements to the health care system, especially for people who have been marginalized and excluded, and deliver health care to the neediest populations in even the most dangerous contexts. The battle against the Ebola crisis in West Africa and, more recently, the response to COVID-19 have powerfully demonstrated this capacity. Because volunteers work closely with local communities, they build strong links based on mutual respect and trust. For this reason, they are able to deliver sensitive messages to communities and thus make a critical contribution to dealing with the scourges of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases. Volunteers can also play a crucial role in carrying out vaccination campaigns and providing information regarding sexual and reproductive health
3. **Enhancing gender equality (SDG 5):** Volunteerism allows women to gain leadership experience, financial literacy, educational opportunities, access to local political structures and help starting businesses. As well, volunteerism offers venues to campaign against harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation, promotes access to reproductive education and reproductive health, works to combat violence against women, encourages female political participation, and generally works to protect women's civil, political and economic rights.
4. **Decent work and economic growth (SDG8):** A UNV/International Labour Organization (ILO) [paper](#) on volunteering and employment showed that volunteering can provide useful support to young people on their path towards decent work. It also showed that employment-related benefits for young female volunteers may be greater than the benefits for young male volunteers. Therefore, volunteering can be useful in complementing other measures to facilitate the school-to-work transition among more disadvantaged young people.
5. **Helping environmental protection and disaster risk resilience (SDG 13, 14, 15):** Volunteers can support the assessment and development of local government capacities for disaster risk reduction, help in the efforts to reduce the vulnerabilities of the poorest to disasters, and help in community mobilization for building awareness and capacity to cope after a disaster. Volunteers have long been important advocates for sustainable environmental practices – including the conservation of the oceans and the protection of endangered species, cleaning trash and waste, and rehabilitating marine life.

- 6. Supporting peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16):** Volunteers and volunteer-involving organizations (VIOs) can also be instrumental in peace-building efforts. With their ability to directly engage with communities, they help to facilitate reconciliation and trust-building efforts at the grass-roots level. Voluntary actions and regeneration of social capital and self-help groups have proven to be an essential part of efforts to rebuild livelihoods in post-conflict situations. For example, voluntary actions for the public good and the rehabilitation of basic community infrastructure can be conducive to consolidating peace and reintegrating youth and those who have been most affected by conflict into communities.
- 7. Enhancing partnerships (SDG 17):** Volunteers can engage in advocacy activities to collaboratively promote the improvement of social protection systems, expansions of economic opportunities for women, protection of children, and safeguards against environmental and other shocks and disasters. Volunteers can also extend new knowledge into rural settings, help distribute nutrition packages to pregnant women and provide nutrition education. Finally, the SDGs require a “data revolution” to collect and analyse disaggregated data to monitor progress. Volunteers can help measure progress on SDG implementation by collecting data, providing expertise and supporting participatory forms of planning and monitoring.

HOW ARE UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES INTEGRATING VOLUNTEERISM?

To support national development priorities, United Nations entities have integrated volunteerism into their organizational strategies. United Nations entities should accordingly reflect the integration of volunteerism in their CPDs and UNSDCFs.

UNITED NATIONS ENTITY STRATEGIC PLAN

- [UNDP Strategic Plan 2022–2025](#) recognizes “volunteerism is a powerful means of implementing the 2030 Agenda, as volunteers provide expertise, enhance capacity and encourage community engagement in development”. UNDP has included an indicator on volunteers/volunteerism as an organizational enabler in its [Integrated Results and Resources Framework \(IRRF 2022–25\)](#) to increase the likelihood of successful implementation of the Strategic Plan in line with QCPR 2020. In addition, UNDP IRRF has included two indicators on volunteers:
 1. “Number of people volunteered through UNV”
 2. “Number of United Nations entities engaging UN Volunteers”
- [UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022–2025](#) states that it “will scale up its volunteer engagement, focusing on country-level constituencies of youth volunteers” to enhance partnerships for social solidarity and social inclusion. To expand reach and influence for its mandate on children, [UNICEF in its IRRF 2022-25](#) has included one indicator on volunteers:
 1. “Number of people who volunteer for the cause of children”
- [UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022–2025](#) states that it will revise its programming process to “scale up volunteerism” to improve the quality of its next-generation programmes.
- [UN Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025](#) states that it will “ build critical skills of young people, support volunteerism – including at the community level – and engage men and boys as allies for gender equality and women’s empowerment, both through programming and high-profile campaigns such as HeForShe” to reduce violence against women and to promote social norms for gender equality.
- ILO placed a new strategic focus on the measurement of unpaid work, including [volunteer work](#) and has provided [model questions on volunteering for Population and Housing Census](#).

HOW CAN UNV HELP UNCTs WITH THE INTEGRATION OF VOLUNTEERISM IN UNSDCFs?

- **Contact national volunteering bodies and platforms:** UNV has supported establishing and strengthening government-run national volunteer programmes and creating networks of VIOs in several countries. UNV can help arrange consultations between UNCTs and national volunteer programmes and networks during the preparation of CCAs and UNSDCFs.
- **Organize volunteer events with the corporate sector, civil society organizations and others:** UNV has been holding events geared towards International Volunteer Day celebrations every year, involving volunteer groups and corporate officials. UNV can share information on such groups with UNCTs.
- **Prepare SDG-focused analysis on volunteering:** In coordination with UNDP, UNV has prepared an SDG-focused national situation analysis on volunteerism as inputs to the CCA and UNSDCF. UNV can also help UNRCO and United Nations entities deploy UN Volunteers and online volunteers for data analysis and design of CCAs and UNSDCFs.
- **Provide official national statistics on volunteerism in the country (where available):** UNV has been involved with Member States on integrating volunteerism into the national official statistics. UNV can provide information on such data (where available) for CCAs and UNSDCFs.
- **Arrange volunteer-led consultations on specific themes and issues:** Tapping its network of volunteer groups and other stakeholders, UNV can help organize consultations on themes and issues relevant to the UNSDCF.

Key resources for the integration of volunteerism into UNSDCFs

UNV [Knowledge Portal on Volunteerism](#):

[Volunteering Database](#): country data on volunteering laws and policies, measurement work, VNR reporting and UNSDCF reporting

[Evidence Library](#): Volunteerism and the SDGs

Knowledge Products: [Global Synthesis Report](#), [Regional Synthesis Reports](#)

[Volunteering in the 21st Century](#)

[Good practices](#) on volunteering from around the world

ILOSTATS: [statistics on volunteer work](#)

Measurement resources: [Measuring Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda toolbox](#) and ILO [Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work](#)

Examples of surveys: [Kenya 2020](#)

Examples of how countries record volunteering in VNRs: UNV's guidance notes for [United Nations system](#), for [Member States on VNRs](#)

[State of the World's Volunteerism Report \(SWVR\)](#)

[UNV's approach on Volunteerism and SDGs](#)

ANNEX 1. GOOD EXAMPLES OF INTEGRATING VOLUNTEERISM INTO UNSDCFs

CHAPTER TITLE IN UNSDCF	EXAMPLES OF INTEGRATED TEXT ON VOLUNTEERISM IN UNSDCFs
Country progress towards the 2030 Agenda	<p>Recognizing the contribution of volunteers in the COVID-19 response, the Thailand UNSDCF 2022–2026 states: “Thailand’s strong health system – an extensive network of health care facilities, technical and institutional expertise, and an impressive cadre of health volunteers – contributed to successful containment of COVID-19 for the first 15 months of the pandemic.”</p> <p>Turkey UNSDCF 2021–2025 highlights the integration of volunteerism in the eleventh national development plan and role of volunteerism to “increase the level of social cohesion by supporting youth to take an active role in social life and decision-making mechanisms, including volunteering activities, as well as to support the personal, vocational and social development of youth”.</p>
United Nations Development System Support to the 2030 Agenda	<p>Bahrain UNSDCF 2020-22 highlights that volunteer groups help localize the 2030 Agenda by “providing new areas of interaction between Governments and people for concrete and scalable actions”, therefore, in coordination with United Nations agencies, “volunteer groups will be engaged to strengthen civic engagement, promote social stability and security, deepen solidarity and solidify the ownership of development results for the sustainable development to take root in communities.”</p>
Theory of Change	<p>In line with the Zambian government’s priorities on leaving no one behind, the UNCT has integrated volunteering in the Zambia UNSDCF 2023–2027 to enhance citizen participation in economy “by fostering sustainable decent employment, volunteer opportunities, increased contribution of remittances to GDP, enhanced entrepreneurship opportunities, and promotion of green growth”.</p> <p>A UNCT has integrated volunteering in the Burundi UNSDCF 2023–2027 for supporting social behavioural change to enhance social cohesion. The UNSDCF states, “For a better engagement and increased participation of communities, the UN will deploy all efforts including the use of volunteers, in particular through its United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme.”</p>
Cooperation Framework Priorities	<p>India UNSDCF 2023–2027 integrated volunteerism as a way to help ensure equitable access to quality education. It states:</p> <p>“The UN system’s work will be guided by the overarching principles of gender equality, ‘leave no one behind’, youth empowerment and participation and volunteerism. The UN support will also seek to bolster evidence generation and ensuring availability of disaggregated data”.</p> <p>Kazakhstan UNSDCF 2021–2025 identified volunteers as key stakeholders for participation in decision-making for “effective coordination of efforts of a wider range of stakeholders, including volunteer engagement for SDGs (SDG 17), and build an inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogue that ensures that men, women, youth, elderly, disabled and marginalised members of society participate in decision-making about SDGs”.</p>

CHAPTER TITLE IN UNSDCF	EXAMPLES OF INTEGRATED TEXT ON VOLUNTEERISM IN UNSDCFS
Outcomes and Partnerships	<p>To ensure environmental sustainability, and resilience to climate and disaster risks, the UNCT in Nepal UNSDCF 2023–2027 states that it will support districts facing significant risks to adopt community-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies including “support for the mobilization of volunteer networks, women and youth-led organizations as first responders to disasters”.</p> <p>Recognizing young people’s role in combating violence and peacebuilding, the United Nations in the State of Palestine UNSDCF 2023–2025 states that in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security “it will work to provide mechanisms and safe platforms for meaningful youth engagement with Palestinian institutions, including through volunteerism”.</p> <p>To address the skills needs, especially among those who are the most marginalized, the Timor-Leste UNSDCF 2021-2025 states that “the promotion of formal, well-regulated and supported volunteering schemes can also contribute to the skills development of youth while promoting their labour force participation”.</p>
Cooperation Framework Implementation Plan	<p>Mongolia UNSDCF 2023–2027 states that it will work to create space for meaningful participation of people in decision-making “particularly focusing on the participation of women and the youth, and persons with disabilities, including opportunities for civic engagement and volunteering.”</p> <p>Uganda UNSDCF 2021–2025 states that it will improve delivery of services and citizen-driven data collection “through the placement of volunteers within the United Nations system and the promotion of volunteerism”.</p>
Results Framework	<p>Volunteerism in Outputs and Indicators widens inclusivity and impact of UNSDCF interventions on SDGs. Examples of UNSDCF Outputs and Indicators that have integrated volunteerism are:</p> <p>Egypt UNSDCF 2023-27 Output 1.4 focuses on equitable and accessible volunteer programmes and national social protection development interventions for improved social cohesion and youth skills.</p> <p>Bolivia UNSDCF 2023–2027 Output 1.3.2 focuses on rights of women, girls, boys, adolescents, youth, the LGBTIQ+ population and people with disabilities in formulating of public policies and programmes to enhance participation in volunteering.</p> <p>Mongolia UNSDCF 2023–2027 Output 2.1 focuses on improved institutional capacities of the government to deliver volunteering opportunities to women and youth for employability skills and labour-force participation.</p> <p>India UNSDCF 2023–2027</p> <p>“Indicator: Number of individuals equipped with employable skills and supported with finance, market access and linkages to schemes for enhanced access to livelihood and volunteerism opportunities.”</p> <p>Egypt UNSDCF 2023–2027</p> <p>“Indicator: % of people volunteering in Egypt (disaggregated by formal and informal volunteering).”</p> <p>“Indicator: Percentage of technical and vocational institutions based on partnerships with volunteer-involving organizations and civil society (SDS 2030 Indicator).”</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan UNSDCF 2023–2027</p> <p>“Indicator: Laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education, as well as volunteerism.”</p>

CHAPTER TITLE IN UNSDCF	EXAMPLES OF INTEGRATED TEXT ON VOLUNTEERISM IN UNSDCFS
Results Framework	<p><u>Zambia UNSDCF 2023–2027</u></p> <p>“Indicator: Number of youth volunteers/interns/apprentices/fellows on placement to support SDGs by sex.”</p> <p>“Indicator: Number of civil society organizations and youth volunteer associations engaged to promote peace, strengthen citizen participation in democratic processes and human rights.”</p> <p><u>Bangladesh UNSDCF 2022–2026</u></p> <p>“Indicator: Number of interventions to support productivity, entrepreneurship, innovation, volunteering initiatives, and enterprise sustainability for women, youths and disadvantaged groups.”</p> <p><u>Ecuador UNSDCF 2022–2026</u></p> <p>“Indicator: Number of people (disaggregated by sex and age), communities impacted by projects and initiatives that contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems, including volunteer schemes that promote social participation disaggregated by geographical level.”</p> <p>“Indicator: Number of people who contribute to sustainable development through volunteering.”</p> <p><u>Tunisia UNSDCF 2021–2025</u></p> <p>“Indicator: Number of new partnerships promoting the promotion of volunteerism, civic engagement and the promotion of the culture of crisis risk reduction.”</p>
Legal Annex	<p>“In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention.”</p>

FOR QUERIES, CONTACT:

Narendra Mishra

narendra.mishra@unv.org

Team Lead on Integration,
Volunteer Advisory
Services Section (VASS)

Emiliya Asadova

emiliya.asadova@unv.org

Regional Integration
Specialist, VASS, covering
the countries in Economic
and Social Commission for
Asia and the Pacific

Juan Pablo Gordillo

juan.gordillo@unv.org

Regional Integration
Specialist, VASS,
covering the countries in
Economic Commission
for Latin America and the
Caribbean, the Economic
Commission for Europe
and the Economic and
Social Commission for
Western Asia

Jean de Dieu Sibomana

jean.sibomana@unv.org

Regional Integration
Specialist, VASS, covering
the countries in Economic
Commission for Africa

Your national UN
Volunteers focal points in
the UNDP Country Offices