



STATE OF VOLUNTEERISM IN AFRICA REPORT



African Union Commission (AUC)
Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate (WGYD)

JANUARY 2025

Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	VII
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Background	2
1.2. Justification	2
1.3. Purpose of the Report	2
1.4. Scope of the Report	3
1.5. Methodology	4
1.6. Limitations	5
CHAPTER 2: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS.....	6
2.1. Volunteerism/Volunteer	7
2.2. National Volunteering Policies	8
2.3. National Volunteering Schemes	8
2.4. National Volunteering Laws	8
2.5. Volunteer Strategy.....	9
CHAPTER 3: VOLUNTEERISM ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT: MAJOR POLICY INITIATIVES OR MEASURES, INSTRUMENTS, AND PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE VOLUNTEERISM IN AFRICA.....	10
3.1. Programmes at the African Union Level	11
3.2. RECS - Level Initiatives	12
3.3. Initiatives at the Member States Level	13
3.4. Promotion of Volunteerism Through Initiatives	15
3.5. Traditional Forms of Volunteering.....	16
3.6. Some key Enablers and Triggers for the Development of the National Volunteer Programmes	21
Conclusion	22
CHAPTER 4: CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERING IN AFRICA	23
4.1. Introduction	24
4.2. Contribution of Volunteering in Africa	27
4.3. Conclusion	80
CHAPTER 5: GOOD PRACTICES OF VOLUNTEERING IN THE AU MEMBER STATES	81
5.1. Algeria: Good Collaboration Between Volunteering Actors and Support from the Authorities	83
5.2. Cameroon: Integrating Volunteering into Public Policies at the Local Level Through the Establishment of Local Goodwill Clusters (Municipal Volunteer Spaces)	85
5.3. ECOWAS: Forum of National Volunteer Agencies in the ECOWAS Region	85
5.4. Ethiopia: An Inclusive Approach to the Fight Against COVID-19 Through Youth Volunteerism	87
5.5. Malawi: Using VSO's Blended Approach in Project Monitoring and Evaluation.....	88
5.6. Senegal: Bridging the Intergenerational Divide Through Volunteerism: the Case of the Third-age Volunteer Corps	88
5.7. South Africa: Matching the Passion and Skill of Volunteer Candidate with the Right and Meaningful Volunteer Assignment: Case of the "Co-benefits Model" of WESSA	89

5.8. Togo: Data Collection and Evaluation System for Volunteers' Contribution to Development, Developed by Agence Nationale de Volontariat du Togo (ANVT (Togo)	90
5.9. VSO: Community Volunteers as local Community Development Experts: Practical Examples of VSO's Blended Approach from Malawi and Uganda	91
5.10. Intersectional Community Scorecard-Tool for Advocacy	92
CHAPTER 6: AGGREGATE DATA ON VOLUNTEERING IN THE AU MEMBER STATES.....	95
CHAPTER 7: RECOMMENDATIONS.....	99
7.1. Some key Challenges	100
7.2. Recommendations.....	100
APPENDICES.....	102
Appendix 1. Presentation of the Data Collection Process of ANVT.....	103
Appendix 2. List of AU and National Volunteer Programmes	104
Appendix 3. Details on the Number of Volunteers and Volunteer Assignments.....	106
Appendix 4. List of Organizations that Participated in the Survey Conducted by the AU Volunteer Linkage Platform in 2022.....	110
Appendix 5. List of Organizations/Institutions that Responded to the Online Questionnaire	119
ENDNOTES	121
SOURCES USED	124

List of Tables

Table 1. Traditional forms of volunteerism: Examples from 32 countries	18
Table 2. Disciplines studying volunteering and their key concerns/approaches.....	24
Table 3. Countries without gender-disaggregated data of the total number of volunteers.....	29
Table 4. Number of volunteers reported by the Red Cross, by country	30
Table 5. Number of volunteers reported in responses to the online questionnaire, by area of intervention	32
Table 6. Number of volunteer assignments reported in the survey by the AUVLP.....	35
Table 7. Aspirations and Milestones of Agenda 2063 and Alignment with UN's SDGs.....	44
Table 8. Contributions to Aspiration 2 - Goals 8, 9, 10, and SDG 10	63
Table 9. Contribution to Aspiration 3 - Goals 11, 12 and SDG 16	69
Table 10. Contribution to Aspiration 4 - Goals 13, 14, 15 and SDG 16	70
Table 11. Contribution to Aspiration 5 - Goal 16.....	72
Table 12. Contribution to Aspiration 6 - Goals 17, 18, and SDG 4 and 5.....	73
Table 13. Contribution to Aspiration 7- Goals 19, 20 and SDG 10, 17	77
Table 14. Main difficulties/challenges reported, by frequency	79
Table 15. Enabling Environment for Volunteerism.....	96
Table 16. Volunteer Hours in Numbers	97
Table 17. Number of assigned volunteers and volunteered hours per aspirations of the Agenda 2063.....	98

List of Figures

Figure 1. Regional Distribution of Data Collection in Africa Volunteerism.....	3
Figure 2. Traditional forms of volunteerism: Examples from 32 countries.....	17
Figure 3. Volunteerism Through Disciplinary Lenses: Sociological, Psychological, Economic, and Political Perspectives	26
Figure 4. Institutions and countries with data disaggregated by gender.....	28
Figure 5. Countries without gender-disaggregated data of the total number of volunteers	29
Figure 6. Volunteer Efforts in Africa: Contributions from Red Cross Societies by Country.....	30
Figure 7. Number of volunteers from National voluntary review, annual report and official websites*	31
Figure 8. Volunteer Engagement Across Aspirations of Agenda 2063.....	34
Figure 9. Gender Distribution of Volunteers Across Agenda 2063 Aspirations	38
Figure 10. Gender Distribution of Volunteers Across African Countries	39
Figure 11. Number of volunteer assignments by gender.....	39
Figure 12. Percentage of volunteer assignments by age.....	39
Figure 13. Sustainable Development in Africa: Key Contributions to Agenda 2063 and SDGs	42
Figure 14. Global and Continental Impact of Volunteerism: Contributions to Development and Well-Being.....	46
Figure 15. Volunteerism's Transformative Impact on Lives and Communities in Africa	48
Figure 16. Agri Modern Initiatives: Contributions to Increased Productivity and Sustainable Agriculture in Africa.....	58
Figure 17. Contributions to Aspiration 2: Advancing Goals 8, 9, 10, and SDG 10 in Africa	64
Figure 18. Regional Distribution of Volunteers (2010-2014).....	65
Figure 19. Top 6 Contributing Countries in the Pilot Phase.....	65
Figure 20. Growth of AU-YVC Volunteers (2014-2021).....	65
Figure 21. Number of volunteers deployed during the pilot phase from 2010 to 2014, by country of origin	66
Figure 22. Number of volunteers during the pilot phase 2010 to 2014, by country of assignment	66
Figure 23. Contributions to Aspiration 4: A Peaceful and Secure Africa (Goals 13, 14, 15, and SDG 16).....	71
Figure 24. Comparison Across Goals in Aspiration 4: Contributions to Peace and Stability in Africa	72
Figure 25. Youth Volunteer Contributions Across Countries for Aspiration 6	73
Figure 26. Impact of Informal Volunteering: Contributions to Agriculture, Security, and Environmental Care.....	78
Figure 27. Challenges Faced by Volunteer Organizations in 2023.....	79
Figure 28. Impact of Good Practices Across African Union Member States.....	82
Figure 29. Notable Good Practices: Community Support and Resilience Strategies Across Africa	84
Figure 30. Achievements Across ECOWAS Volunteer Forum Editions	86
Figure 31. Power of the Intersectional Scorecard: A Tool for Inclusive Community Advocacy.....	93



African Union Commission (AUC)
Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate
(WGYD)





Foreword

Africa launched Agenda 2063, Africa's ambitious Development Plan, to transform Africa into a global powerhouse of the future as an integrated, peaceful, and prosperous Continent. In this regard, Agenda 2063 aims to ensure inclusive and sustainable Continental and Regional socio-economic development, sound governance, peace and security, and repositioning Africa as a strong player in the global arena.

Agenda 2063 is underpinned by the Union's foundational aspirations that call for equal participation of all of Africa's citizens to contribute to our Continent's development. In this respect, citizens' contributions through voluntary services and interventions form one of the effective and sustainable ways to ensure the implementation of the development goals enshrined in Africa's Agenda 2063. Indeed, volunteerism unlocks the potential of the youth, builds skills, boosts employability, and avails the platform for meaningful participation of young people in the implementation of Continental development and socio-economic programs and objectives.

This State of Volunteerism in Africa Report testifies to the longstanding albeit sometimes invisible contribution of Volunteers in our Societies, ranging from emergency frontline workers in times of crisis to contributors in long-term socio-economic development sectors. The report also demonstrates the crucial role of Volunteers in the pursuit of all seven Aspirations of Agenda 2063, with the biggest contribution going to Aspiration 1. More importantly, the evidence-based findings in this report strongly confirm the existence of a longstanding and vibrant sector of Volunteerism on the Continent and its multi-faceted contribution to the development goals of our Continent.

A key finding in the Report is that 74% of the volunteer assignments on the Continent were carried out by Youth below 35 years of age, with 50.5% representing women. In sum, this report convincingly confirms that Volunteerism in Africa is a Youth-led movement and serves as a robust platform for the deployment and participation of Youth dynamism and leadership in contributing to achieve the Africa we all want.

H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat,

Chairperson, African Union Commission



Preface by United Nations Volunteers

Every three years, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) presents a flagship study on the State of the World's Volunteerism to help nurture the global understanding of volunteerism and demonstrate its universality. While each UNV publication includes case studies from around the world, there is always a risk—as with any global publications—that unique features of regional and national volunteering may not receive the full justice they deserve. The State of Volunteerism in Africa Report more than compensates for this by zooming in on a continent where volunteerism is deeply embedded in all local cultures.

UNV estimates that one billion people on the planet volunteer globally, adding much strength to the fabric of our societies. Many of them are in Africa, the continent with the highest volunteer rate in the world – 17.5 percent of the population. From North to South and East to West, Africans volunteer to assist the people close to them, to respond to the 21st-century development challenges, and to build a better future for all – one community at a time.

The State of Volunteerism in Africa Report shares rich insights and practices of formal and informal volunteering on the continent. UNV is humbled and honored to have been invited to collaborate in implementing this great initiative by the African Union Commission. This State of Volunteerism in Africa Report is a stepping stone to an environment that will further strengthen volunteers' power and action towards sustainable development. And it comes to you at a critical time: just ahead of the International Year of Volunteers in 2026 and at the cusp of the second quarter of the 21st century.

It is often said that the 21st century will be Africa's Century. It certainly looks so in the area of volunteering : This report helps to remove any doubt.

Toily Kurbanov,

Executive Coordinator



Preface by WGYD

Volunteerism has received increasing policy attention in the AU system since the African Youth Charter came into effect in July 2006. The Charter requires the State Parties to take measures that promote active youth participation in society. One of the measures that State Parties are required to take is instituting policies and programs of youth voluntarism at local, national, regional, and international levels as an important form of youth participation and as a means of peer-to-peer training.

Considering the multifaceted potential of the youth for Africa's people-driven development, the Heads of State and Government in decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 274 (XVI) have recognized youth volunteerism as an instrument for youth empowerment and a catalyst for the continent's development. Through this Decision, the Assembly mandated the African Union Commission to "work with the Member States to set up a continental Volunteer Program that recruits trains and deploys youth volunteers"; who will operate in all the 55 AU Member Countries. Accordingly, the Commission crafted the African Union Youth Volunteers Corps (AU-YVC), which was launched in December 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria as a continental youth volunteer initiative that recruits and works with young professionals in all AU Member States as professional volunteers. The AU-YVC is now the largest pan-African youth volunteerism program that benefited about one thousand young people with opportunities to engage in cross-boundary voluntary services in the spirit of pan-Africanism.

The "One Million by 2021," and its successor "One Million Next Level," which are the flagship initiatives of the H.E Chairperson of the African Union Commission, were intended to contribute towards the empowerment of young people in the Member States through Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, Engagement, and Health and Wellbeing opportunities (4Es +H). The One Million Next Level aims to reach at least 300 million young people in Africa through 4E + H opportunities. At the AU Member State levels, as a positive development, discounting those at a draft stage, Member States institutionalized volunteerism through national volunteerism programs (28), legislation on volunteerism (17), national volunteerism policy (4) strategies (3), and specific initiatives (4). Our Directorate commends those Member States that have taken such steps intended to create enabling environments while encouraging those that have not done so to take comparable action.

This first-ever the State of Volunteerism in Africa Report demonstrates that volunteerism permeates every aspect of life and every culture. As such, volunteers from both traditional and modern forms of volunteerism are playing a critical role in the achievement of national, regional, continental, and global peace and development goals. The report exhibited that even with the underestimated value of the contribution of volunteerism to development estimated to be about USD 353542012. Indeed, this report demonstrates that volunteers contribute to development, and also validates that the contribution of volunteerism is quite substantial.

This report is a starting point that will raise more awareness of volunteerism, and we hope future reports will shed more light on the various aspects of volunteerism to optimize its impact on our well-being.

Ms. Prudence Nonkululeko Ngwenya,

Director, Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate, AUC

Acknowledgements

This report benefits from valuable inputs from various volunteer organizations that deserve mentioning first: the AUC and REC level volunteer organizations, state and non-state volunteer programs, national and international volunteer organizations, and individual volunteers.

A special mention goes to United Nations Volunteers (UNV) for its financial support in commissioning a consultant, and editing and printing services of the report. Dr. Tapiwa Kamuruko deserves a particular thanks for brokering the partnership with UNV and attending to logistical and technical matters that were critical in the development of this report.

The Director of the AUC, Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate, Mrs. Prudence Nonkululeko Ngwenya provided strategic leadership and overall guidance for which we are all grateful. Daniel Adugna has given us his unreserved support, encouragement, and facilitation from the beginning to the end of this venture.

The contribution of the Voluntary Service Overseas in mobilizing its partners and country offices in facilitating access to pertinent data sources and information merits appreciation and recognition. In this connection, Mwangi Waituru and Und Hattaya's contributions were of principal importance. The International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) supported the survey of the contribution of the AU Volunteer Linkage Platform registered organizations. This survey was the backbone of this report. The AUC Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate expresses its special gratitude to Nichole Cirillo and Samuel Turay for making the support of IAVE possible.

Also, worth special mention are the AU Steering Group Members of the AU Reference Group on Volunteerism, the international consultant who wrote the report, Robert Toé, the Coordinator of the AU Continental Volunteer Linkage Platform, and Dr. Meshesha Shewarega for his overall leadership and contribution to the realization of this report. His contribution was key to initiation, evolution, and successful accomplishment of this report. His role as a liaison between the AU and UNV, and AU and the consultant who developed this report, as well as the resource persons involved in the editorial and Graphics works of this report.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACIVA	Actions Citoyennes Volontaires d'Assainissement
ACOPROV	Appui à la Coordination et la Promotion du Volontariat
ACTIVE	Active Citizenship Through Inclusive Volunteering and Empowerment
AEFUM	Associação dos Estudantes Finalistas Universitários de Moçambique
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
AIESEC	Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences, Economiques et Commerciales
AJPEF	Association des Jeunes pour la Promotion de l'Espace Francophone
AMESP	Appui à la Modernisation de l'Etat pour un Service Public de Qualité
AnpE	Agence Nationale de Promotion de l'Emploi
ARPTC	Autorité de Régulation des Postes et Télécommunication du Congo.
ATPD	Action Togolaise pour la Population et le Développement
ANVD	Agence Nigérienne de Volontariat pour Développement
ANVT	Agence Nationale du Volontariat au Togo
AUC	African Union Commission
AUCVLP	African Union Continental Volunteer Platform
AU-YVC	African Union Youth Volunteer Corps
AVES	Association des Volontaires pour l'Environnement Sain
CAJEG	Coordination des Associations de Jeunesse de Guinée
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CONFESJES	Conférence des ministres de la jeunesse et des sports de la Francophonie
CNOVD	Coalition Nationale des Organisations des Volontaires pour le Développement Durable
CNPC	Consortium National pour la Participation Citoyenne
CNV	Conselho Nacional do Voluntariado
CRCA	Central African Red Cross
CUSO	Canadian University Service Overseas
CV3A	Corps des Volontaires du 3eme Age
C4GE	Caring 4Girls Education
NYCD-SL	Network for Youth and Children's Development Sierra Leone
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EVP	ECOWAS Volunteer Programme
IAVE	International Association for Volunteer Effort
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMEI	International Mobile Equipment Identity
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
FAO	United Nations Agricultural Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
JLCBO	Jukumu Letu Community Organisation
JOCV	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers
JSA	Jeunesse-Sensibilisation-Action
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
OVP	Overseas Volunteer Programme
KVV	Kankan Ville Verte

LOGOC	Local Goodwill Clusters
LDA	Local Decentralized Authorities
MINALOC	Ministry of Local Government
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPSE	National Primary School Examination
NVP	National Volunteer Programme
OBSJV	Office Béninois du Service des Jeunes Volontaires
PROSMI	Fondation pour la promotion de la Santé Maternelle et Infantile
PSN	Persons with Specific Needs
PTNTIC	Poste, Télécommunication et Nouvelles Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication
RAAJEUNET	Réseau pour l'Alliance et l'Amitié entre les Jeunes du monde pour le Développement
REAGAP+	Réseau des Associations Guinéennes des Personnes infectées et Affectées par le VIH
RAM	Registre des Appareils Mobiles
RCD	Relais Communautaires de Développement
REC	Regional Economic Communities (REC).
Rwf	Rwandan franc
SAATM	Single African Air Transport Market
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SORUDA	Soroti Rural Development Agency
SOYVA	Somalia Youth Volunteers Association
SPA	Service Public Ambulatoire
SWVR	State of World's Volunteerism Report
TRC	Tunisian Red Crescent
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
USD	United States Dollar
VEC	Volontariat d'Engagement Citoyen
VfD	Volunteering for Development
VSO	Volunteer Service Overseas
WAEC	West African Examination Council
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WESSA	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa
WGYD	Women, Gender and Youth Directorate

Executive Summary

Volunteering, as defined by the United Nations General Assembly, takes several forms and includes the traditional or conventional form that is deeply rooted in the customs, traditions, and cultures of different countries. Precolonial Africa had a rich tradition of volunteerism that is expressed in various terms in the languages spoken in specific countries throughout the continent. With the advent of colonization, new forms of volunteerism were introduced to Africa by the colonizers, and later through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. These modern forms of volunteerism, however, did not completely supplant the traditional forms, but the situation rather led to a pattern of parallel co-existence of the two forms of volunteerism.

In the traditional practice of volunteerism in Africa, individuals from the same village or community organize themselves to carry out activities voluntarily. Membership in these groups may be based on age, gender, or type of activity to be undertaken. Sometimes these mobilization movements can go beyond the village or neighborhood to include several other villages/neighborhoods. This traditional volunteering serves as the main form of community social mobilization for activities of general interest. The groups decide by themselves or at the call of the village chiefs or councils of elders, to carry out voluntary services for the benefit of their community. These groups could also volunteer for the benefit of the elderly or families who are lagging behind in their farming activities because of illnesses or events affecting the workforce of those families.

As well, community member volunteers take on communal-benefit tasks related to education, economy, health, justice, and other social aspects, even though the general perception is that of "community service" or is simply viewed as an expression of their role and responsibilities within a given community. Such traditional volunteer services include collectively organized farming, transportation of harvest, construction or repairing

of houses, increasing village's accessibility by establishing community infrastructure (wells, water points, etc.), building and maintenance of roads/bridges, taking care of the old and PWSNs, serving as vigilante security, with experienced women acting as volunteer midwives, taking part in provision of refreshments during festivities, child care, burials and mourning, and many other similar events and initiatives without which society could not function. One common feature in the practice of traditional volunteerism in Africa is that people involved in these voluntary actions do not always need to have special skills or qualifications other than the willingness to help and render their services to the community without any external pressure or coercion. Put another way, this form of volunteerism is organized by the very communities that are served.

Regrettably, in most of the national laws developed on volunteerism, these traditional forms of volunteerism are not well acknowledged nor promoted in most AU Member States. The idea is not to regulate these traditional forms of volunteering as they have worked very well for centuries. However, laws on volunteering must recognize, encourage, and facilitate actions of traditional forms of volunteerism to optimize their contribution to development. For example, collective [farming] fields could be created by these traditional voluntary associations and the harvests from these farms could contribute to the food security and social protection of the indigent and the elderly members who can no longer work in the farms. The role of the state in this regard could be supplying fertilizers or relevant agricultural machinery to improve their yield.

In terms of contemporary trends of volunteerism, the groups in these modern forms of volunteerism are composed of international and national organizations and programmes.

In the group of international forms, there are multilateral and bilateral organizations. The main multilateral organization is the United Nations Volunteers while the key bilateral volunteer organizations are France Volontaire, Japan Overseas Cooperation of Volunteers (JOCV), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA),

Overseas Volunteer Programme (South Korea), and the Peace Corps (USA).

France Volontaire tends to operate in the former French colonies, and the first 13 volunteers were sent to Africa in 1964, four years after the independence of most of the former French colony countries.

From a one-way volunteer-sending organization, France Volontaire has evolved and introduced an international reciprocity volunteering programme that allowed volunteers from national volunteer programmes in Africa to be deployed in France. The Peace Corps first volunteers were sent to **Ghana** in 1961 while the first country in Africa to receive JOCV volunteers was **Kenya**. There are also several other international CSO/NGO-based volunteer organizations operating on the continent. A non-exhaustive list of NGO-based volunteer organizations includes AIESEC, Crossroad International, CUSO, Oxfam, Red Cross, Scout and Guide, Skillshare, and VSO. VSO promoted South-to-South volunteering by recruiting VSO volunteers from the South to volunteer in other countries in the South.

In the national forms of volunteers, two categories can be distinguished: those that are state-supported volunteer programmes and CSO/NGO volunteer organizations. There is also a Pan-African volunteering program, such as the AU Youth Volunteer Corps (AU-YVC). The AU-YVC may fall under the category of a state volunteer program as the African Union is a Member States association. Here we can include two regional programmes: Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Volunteer Programme and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Volunteer Programme, and 21 state-national Volunteer Programmes across the five regions. The Western Africa region has almost 50% of existing national volunteer programmes on the continent. This can be partially explained by the existence and efforts of vibrant civil society organizations that led the advocacy for the establishment of these programmes and by a strong political will at the highest level.

In terms of creating an enabling environment for volunteerism, there are 16 African countries

with a law on volunteerism, legislated differently on the issue of volunteering. For some of them, only one law deals with volunteering and its management structure while others passed one law on volunteering and a second law to create the management structure. In addition, many out-of-date and/or rigid laws about volunteerism do not respect, promote or enshrine the many ancient and indigenous forms of volunteering that stood the test of time. This discrepancy may illustrate the apparent social, public, as well as private governance constructs in the area of volunteerism that countries across the continent are practicing. One critical point here is that laws should not be made or crafted in a way that impinges on or imposes rules on the centuries-old traditional forms that have proven to be quite effective. In the development of laws, currently, there are ongoing efforts to promote the integration of volunteerism into some laws, where citizens of other countries can be national volunteers under certain circumstances. Many laws recognize social protection for volunteers. In addition, some laws are sensitive to young people's issues because they facilitate the termination of their contracts if they obtain a stable job. In all the laws, the definition of volunteerism is based on the three main characteristics of the United Nations definition of volunteering, which are: (1) The activity should not be undertaken primarily for financial reward, (2) the activity should be undertaken voluntarily, at an individual's discretion, and (3) the activity should benefit someone other than the volunteer, or society in general.

Currently, six countries have a policy on volunteering and two have draft policies that are awaiting approval by the government. Like the laws, the policies also play a role in the promotion of volunteerism. French-speaking African countries adopted 12 out of the 23 existing laws on volunteerism while English-speaking countries, including Rwanda whose official language is English, have developed all six of the existing policies. Even though a policy can lead to a law, it should be noted that laws are enforceable rules while policies are not so as they are documents that refer to a set of guidelines or principles that are established to guide decision-making and actions. Moreover, policies are more flexible and subject to change while laws are more



rigid and difficult to alter. There are only three African countries with a strategy on volunteerism and two have draft strategies awaiting validation. Also, four countries have specific or relevant measures for volunteering that are not specific laws or policies.

In terms of traditional forms of volunteering, even though their contribution has not been measured nor reported, it can be estimated that millions of volunteers contributed and are still contributing to the achievement of Agenda 2063. The responses to the question *“On average, how many volunteer hours are contributed towards this work in a month?”* in the survey conducted by the AUCVLP yielded the following result. The total number of hours devoted to Agenda 2063 by 651611 volunteer assignments was 5916031 hours per month (extrapolated to 70992372 hours per year.) Considering an average monthly salary of USD 796 in Africa, four (4) weeks per month, and 40 hours per week, the average salary per hour becomes USD 4.98. This gives an annual monetary value of USD 353542012 ($5916031 \times 4.98 \times 12$). Interestingly, if the volunteers who carried out these 651611 volunteer assignments were to form a country, this hypothetical country would be the fourth-highest GDP in Africa just after Nigeria, Egypt, and South Africa.

The following key challenges were identified and corresponding recommendations are forwarded as follows:

- The first notable challenge is the non-prioritization of volunteering in development policies and strategies. In official discourses, volunteering is mentioned more often; however, only a few countries consider volunteerism as an asset that needs to be considered when developing their policies and strategies on development and peace;
- Lack of resources (especially financial) for volunteering: Some governments with state-managed national volunteer programmes have a budget line on volunteerism in the national budget even though they are very often under-budgeted. In many countries, the funding of voluntary activities comes mainly from NGOs;
- Inadequate attention to or consideration of the power of traditional forms of volunteerism; Traditional forms of volunteerism have not been sufficiently harnessed and tapped/ explored as an asset or effective instruments for development and social cohesion;
- There is an absence or scarcity of robust and reliable data and knowledge on volunteerism. Only a few countries have effective data management systems on volunteerism (i.e., systematic data collection and analysis), and data on volunteering is not often integrated into census/survey.

The recommendations given to redress the challenges are presented and divided into two broad categories:

1. Recommendations on the espousing volunteerism for the AUC and all Member States

- 1.1.** Member States should be encouraged to dedicate sufficient resources (especially financial) to volunteerism to optimize its contribution to development and social cohesion;
- 1.2.** The traditional forms of volunteerism need to be considered when developing national volunteer programmes and strategies;
- 1.3.** The AU Commission needs to push for the integration of volunteering into official and regular census/survey/statistical measurements to strengthen data on the scale and scope of volunteer work;
- 1.4.** The advocacy effort for the development of national volunteer programme should be more enhanced as the existence of these programmes will optimize the contribution of volunteerism to development and social cohesion as well as facilitate data collection and provide official information.

2. Recommendations for the development of future state of volunteer reports in Africa for AUC

2.1. The AU Commission should allocate a budget for and oversee the development of a thorough AU report on volunteering. This task should not be limited to a desk study but also entail extensive and significant fieldwork and consultations with a diverse range of stakeholders in AU Member States, and facilitating study/research workshops, which will lead to a more robust report;

2.2. Explore a more systematic mechanism of data collection. For instance, in addition to the AU Volunteer Linkage Platform's survey, the application developed by Togo could be customized to make it relevant and applicable to all countries. Each year, Member States will collate annual data to be consolidated by the AUCVLP. A pilot phase could start with countries that have well-functioning national volunteer programmes;

2.3. Assess the impact of volunteerism through independent reviews by local research teams, i.e., academia, volunteer organizations, local consultants, and the like. Moreover, the AU, together with Member States, should seriously consider carrying out impact assessments of volunteerism that may involve member countries and independent evaluators.

By way of conclusion, this report is presented in seven chapters, covers all AU Member States, and examines the state of volunteerism in all its forms. It shows that volunteerism can add value to the achievement of many development goals. To achieve this, the mobilization of a critical mass of volunteers is necessary to optimize its impact. More effort is needed to make Africa a continent where volunteering, deeply rooted in its traditions and culture, is considered a precious and appreciated value, where all citizens believe that they can do something worthy for the general good. For this purpose, inclusive volunteering for all citizens of Africa practiced without distinction of ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, age, gender, or physical fitness will go a long way in promoting volunteerism, contributing to sustainable development and social cohesion on the continent, and playing a significant role to the achievement of AU's Agenda 2063 and the UN Agenda 2030 or SDGs.

Volunteering in Africa

An Overview of Volunteerism and Its Impact

Volunteering in Africa fosters community development, social progress, and personal growth.



Volunteerism History & Types

Traditional Volunteerism: Rooted in pre-colonial African customs and traditions, involving communal work (e.g., farming, infrastructure building, caregiving).
Modern Volunteerism: Introduced during colonization; includes international and national programs supported by organizations like UN Volunteers, Peace Corps, and regional initiatives like AU-YVC.



Key Statistics

Monthly Volunteer Hours: 5,916,031 hours.
Annual Volunteer Hours: 70,992,372 hours.
Monetary Value of Volunteering: USD 353,542,012 (based on USD 4.98/hour).
Global Contribution: If volunteers formed a country, their GDP contribution would rank 4th in Africa.



Current Volunteer Landscape

Countries with Volunteering Laws: 16.
Countries with Volunteering Policies: 6.
Countries with Draft Policies: 2.
Countries with Volunteering Strategies: 3.
Countries with Draft Strategies: 2.
Countries with Specific Volunteer Measures: 4.



Challenges in Volunteerism

Lack of Prioritization: Few policies include volunteerism as a key development tool.
Resource Scarcity: Underfunded programs rely on NGO support.
Neglect of Traditional Volunteerism: Insufficient recognition in national programs.
Data Gaps: Limited systems for collecting and analyzing volunteerism data.



Vision for Volunteerism

Inclusivity: Volunteerism for all Africans, transcending ethnicity, religion, gender, and physical abilities.
Alignment with Agendas: Contributing to AU Agenda 2063 and UN SDGs (2030 Agenda).
Empowerment: Optimizing traditional and modern volunteerism to drive sustainable development and social cohesion.



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Volunteerism is a universal social phenomenon that is based on solidarity and civic engagement. The concept of volunteerism is deeply rooted in the history and traditions of each nation and is largely based on cultural values. As such, there exists a long tradition of volunteerism in various forms on the African continent. Today, traditional forms of volunteerism co-exist with modern forms in Africa. Further, some African Union Member States are enacting laws and policies on volunteerism, integrating volunteerism in programming, and taking measures to promote volunteerism as a tool for development and peace.

Africa faces several problems such as the high youth unemployment rate in most countries, and the shift of the burden of development to communities following the structural and sectoral policies in the 80s and 90s, which reduced access to basic social services, among others. At this juncture, both traditional and modern forms of volunteerism are being promoted and used as assets and strategies to address these problems through enhancing social capital and promoting peaceful co-existence. Nonetheless, these efforts to promote volunteerism and its contributions towards reducing poverty, improving basic services, tackling environmental predicaments, reducing the risk of disasters, combating exclusion, etc. in Africa are not well-documented and reported.

1.2. Justification

Since 2011, the United Nations Volunteers has produced the State of the World's Volunteerism Report (SWVR) every three years and Africa's volunteerism status quo is always featured in the publications. Nonetheless, the overall contribution of volunteering for the socio-economic development and continental development scheme was not well presented. It is in consideration of this that the AU Youth Development and Engagement Division, through the AU Continental Volunteer Platform, embarked on the development of the first-ever Report on the AU State of Volunteering in Africa.

This first showcases the potential and value-addition that volunteerism brings to the development of the AU Member States and the implementation of continental development initiatives such as the AU Agenda 2063. It also takes stock of the measures taken by the AU, the Regional Economic Communities, and Member States, and presents emerging scalable best practices from the AU Member States. The report therefore highlights the peculiarities to help all Member States build on the strength and mitigate the limitations in creating and promoting volunteer actions on the continent. Taken together, the report is expected to fill the evidence gaps regarding the contribution of volunteerism in Africa.

1.3. Purpose of the Report

The report is intended to serve as a reference material where practitioners, decision-makers/policymakers, and scholars can find relevant and specific information on volunteerism in Africa. It provides comprehensive and enlightening information to better understand the actual and potential values of volunteering in Africa, how it can be used as an instrument to the achievement of AU's Agenda 2063 and the UN Agenda 2030, as well as the existing challenges and what is needed to make volunteerism a true asset and resource for development and peace on the continent.

To elaborate, this report is intended to be used, among others, for the following overarching causes:

Policy and programmatic advocacy

Advocating for the designing of volunteering policy and programming by the Member States in adherence to the requirements of the AU Youth Charter;

Encouraging Member States and other stakeholders to mainstream volunteering in developing policy and programming for sustainable development and peace-building;

Advancing the imperatives of the nexus between volunteering and implementation of the AU Agenda

2063 and the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and social cohesion;

Furthering AU's youth development and engagement agendas, particularly through volunteering.

Knowledge sharing and promotion of collective learning

Generate evidence with regards to volunteerism in Africa for policymakers and communities working in the field of volunteerism and volunteering;

Documenting, showcasing, and disseminating good practices in the sphere of volunteerism to promote inter- and intra-state learning and south-south and south-north exchange of experiences.

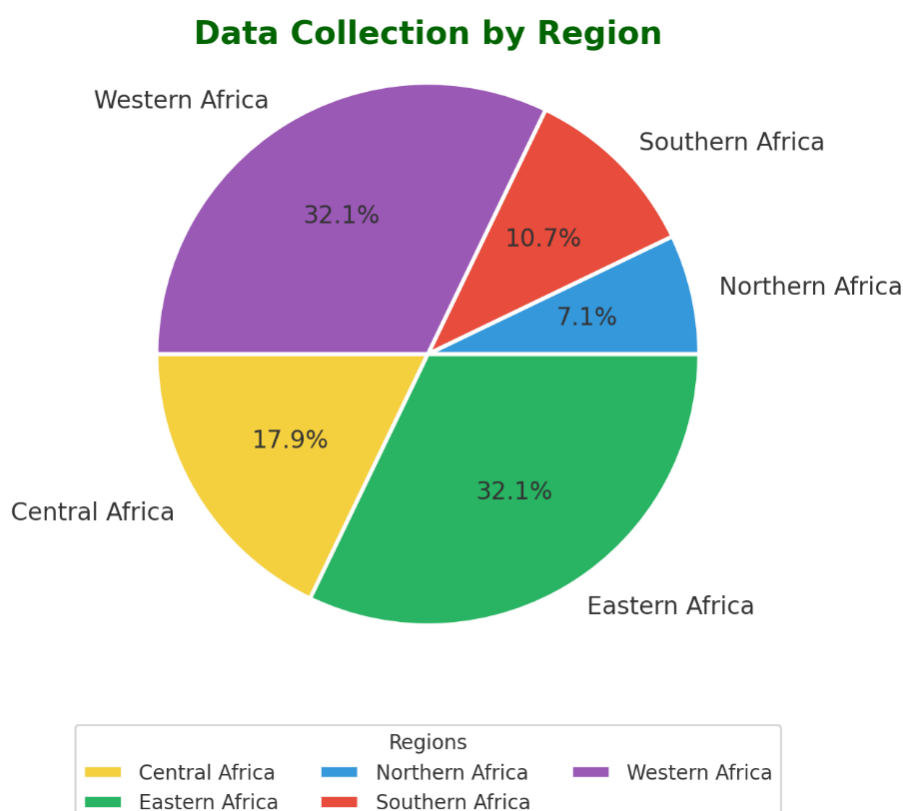
By creating input and output linkage between the

two reports and incorporating the AUC's works on volunteerism. Finally, the report paves the way for future reports to be produced every two years.

1.4. Scope of the Report

The report covers all AU Member States and all forms of volunteerism: Modern and traditional, formal and informal, national and international, and state and non-state volunteer organizations. However, unlike UNV's SWVR, which benefits from research and workshop results from around the world, the depth of this report is limited as it relies mainly on a literature review and responses to a questionnaire obtained from respondents in AU Member States.

Figure 1. Regional Distribution of Data Collection in Africa Volunteerism.



1.5. Methodology

1.5.1. Data Collection

Data was collected using: online questionnaires, a thorough literature review, and email communications. The consultant [Lead Researcher] formulated an initial set of questions, which were then critiqued and revised by the African Union's (AU) Steering Group and Technical Advisory Group for validation before dissemination to the respondents. Next, the questionnaires were sent out to respondents selected by the consultant and suggested by AUC, which consists of heads of existing official national volunteer programmes, staff members from leading national and international volunteer-involving organizations, and Regional Economic Communities (REC).

The questionnaire was sent out by the AU in three languages (English, French, and Portuguese) to the main actors of volunteerism in the five regional groupings of the African Union, namely Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa, and Western Africa. Partners were requested to share the questionnaire with other volunteer organizations. However, the exact number of actors and countries that received the questionnaire was not known, and hence the response rate could not be estimated. But it can be safely said that the level of representation or degree of participation was sufficient enough as responses were received from 28 countries out of the 55 AU Member States.

State and non-state respondents were from the following countries: **Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cameroon, the Congo, The DR Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.** These represent nearly 52% (51.9%) of the 55 AU Member States. As can be seen, there are countries from all five AU geographic regions. Responses were also received from two Regional Economic Communities - ECOWAS and COMESA.

Non-state respondents were from the following organizations: Action Togolaise pour la Population et le Développement (ATPD), Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) International, Club Vintsy/Madagascar, Coalition Nationale des Organisations des Volontaires pour le Développement Durable (CNOVD)/ the DRC, Conselho Nacional do Voluntariado (CNV)/Mozambique, Consortium National pour la Participation Citoyenne (CNPC)/Madagascar, CorpsAfrica, Focus on Youth Madagascar Association, Fondation Ness El khir/Algeria, Jeunesse-Sensibilisation-Action (JSA) du Togo, National Association of Volunteer Work (Algeria) Somalia Youth Volunteers Association (SOYVA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), and Wildlife and Environment.

The report also benefited from a previous survey carried out by the African Union Volunteer Linkage Platform (AUCVLP). About 312 organizations from 36 countries¹ responded to this survey out of the 620 organizations registered on the AU Volunteer Linkage Platform (VLP), which is way below the total number of volunteer organizations on the continent. As only 50% of the organizations registered with the VLP responded to the survey, the aggregate volunteered hours could have been much higher than indicated in this report if all registered organizations were to participate in the survey. In addition the TOR did not allow field visits for data collection.

1.5.2. Data Processing, Analysis, Interpretation, and Reporting

This activity involved the cross-checking of the information collected, comparison work, evaluation/analysis, data interpretation, and finally synthesizing the information.

Two main sources/types of data are used: a literature review of secondary data and survey responses. To a lesser extent, some semi-structured interviews were conducted. The aim was to triangulate data collection methods for analysis and get a holistic

view of the volunteering landscape in Africa.

The synthesized data was used for writing the four drafts of the different parts of the report per the TOR:

- Stocktaking report on major policy initiatives or measures, instruments, and programmes to promote volunteerism in Africa;
- Report on the contribution of volunteering in Africa;
- Report on the Good Practices of volunteering around peace and development in Africa;
- Compilation of data on volunteering on the continent and among AU Member States.

These tasks addressed, among other things, the questions and the points mentioned in the TOR and shown below:

- Perceptions/experiences of volunteering (e.g., definition of the concept of volunteerism and volunteering by different stakeholders);
- The different categories of known/existing volunteerism forms ("modern" and traditional) as well as their legal/institutional frameworks, sectors of intervention;
- Supportive environment: management structures, policies, strategies, legislation, programmatic initiatives or measures taken to promote volunteerism by the continental Body;
- Role of volunteerism in the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 (the UN SDGs), indicating the costs of implementing these agendas, and the role of volunteerism to off-set the resource gaps;
- Social, economic, and cultural contribution of volunteerism in Africa (establish social, economic, and cultural values of volunteering in the AU Member States) both at the community and national levels;
- Good practices of volunteering in the AU Member States and appendix of data on volunteerism in the AU Member States. It is envisaged to have the good practices

distributed across the AU's five regional groupings, namely Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern, and Western Africa, and also across different thematic areas as agreed during the briefing with the African Union.

1.6. Limitations

The development of the report had time and financial resource constraints. The time allocated to it was too short (June to December 2023) and did not allow for in-depth information collection about volunteerism in Africa. In addition, the financial resources available did not give room for field visits, face-to-face interviews, or focus group discussions and research. Data collection methods were therefore limited to a questionnaire sent through email, a literature review, and data collected by the consultant on other occasions.

CHAPTER 2: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS

2.1. Volunteerism/Volunteer

The concept of volunteerism, due to its multiple forms and manifestations, does not have a unanimously accepted definition. In 1999, the United Nations convened an expert Working Group Meeting on Volunteering & Social Development. The meeting was tasked with identifying the core elements and features of volunteerism and reaching a consensus on a mutually agreeable and accommodating definition of the term volunteerism. After deliberations, the expert group workshop recognized that:

Volunteering takes different forms and meanings in different settings. It is strongly influenced by the history, politics, religion, and culture of a region. What may be seen as volunteering in one country may be dismissed as low-paid or labor-intensive work in another. And yet, despite the wide variety of understandings, it is possible to identify some core characteristics of what constitutes a voluntary activity."

The meeting came out with the following three key defining characteristics of volunteerism:

- First the activity should not be undertaken primarily for financial reward, although the reimbursement of expenses and some token payment may be allowed....;
- Second, the activity should be undertaken voluntarily, according to an individual's own free will.
- Third, the activity should be of benefit to someone other than the volunteer, or to society at large, although it is recognized that volunteering brings significant benefit to the volunteer as well;

The expert meeting also identified at least four different types of volunteer activity:

Mutual aid or self-help; philanthropy or service to others; participation or civic engagement; and advocacy or campaigning. Each of these types occurs in all parts of the world. However, the

form each type takes and the balance or mix between different types differs markedly from country to country. Factors influencing the nature of volunteering include the economic, social, and political makeup of the country and its stage of development.

This led later to a definition formulated by the United Nations in the General Assembly Resolution 56/38 (A/RES/56/38), co-sponsored by 126 Member States and adopted on 5th December 2001: *"the terms volunteering, volunteerism and voluntary activities refer to a wide range of activities, including traditional forms of mutual aid and self-help, formal service delivery and other forms of civic participation, undertaken of free will, for the general public good and where monetary reward is not the principal motivating factor"*. From this definition, any activity that is undertaken because of compulsion, threat of sanctions or force is not a voluntary activity, therefore volunteerism shall not be confused with compulsory community work.

It should also be noted that volunteerism is different from an internship that is defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which runs as a *"short term work experience during which the learner (intern) receives training and gains experience in a specific field or career area. Internships vary in duration and can be paid and unpaid"*. Volunteerism focuses on civic engagement by free will and the common interest while internship focuses on career development for the benefit of the intern. However, the benefits of volunteerism can sometimes be like the objectives of an internship such as improvement of employability and personal development of the volunteer. Both intern and volunteer can be paid and unpaid. Based on the key defining characteristics, civic service does not always fall within this definition of volunteerism as such. This is the case in countries where young people are forced to choose between the army and civic service or where civic service is a condition for getting access to public services. This may reflect that the youth do not participate in civic service of their own free will or in the interest of serving community members, which could adversely affect

the campaign to promote volunteerism. Relatedly, civic services for which access is not compulsory for young people are considered as volunteer programmes, like the practice in Botswana and Rwanda.

Jacob Mwathi Mati in his paper, “The Ignored Particularity of African Volunteerism” notes that *“...volunteerism in the [African] continent is expressed through formal groups or informally outside of any organized context. What constitutes formal and informal expressions of volunteering is, of course, contextual and debatable”*. (https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.istr.org/resource/resmgr/WP_Stockholm/Mati_Horizontality.pdf)

The 2018 State of the World’s Volunteerism Report (SWVR) *“The thread that binds Volunteerism and community resilience”* stated, *“formal volunteering is organized through organizations and associations, while informal volunteering is done directly between persons”*. As such, some traditional forms of volunteering fall under the category of informal volunteering while voluntary actions are undertaken by well-organized community groups even if they are not legally recognized or reported as such within the community itself.

In the literal translations of the terminologies used in most communities when referring to the traditional forms of volunteering in Africa, the keywords that often come up are: “mutual aid,” “selflessness,” “for others,” and “solidarity.” Traditional volunteerism, in the African context, could therefore be defined as *“a selfless and freewill action of solidarity that contributes to others and is recognized and valued by the community, with no or minimal monetary or in-kind compensation to the participant.”*

2.2. National Volunteering Policies

Policies on volunteering set out public plans and investments to support volunteer action in a particular country or context. They tend to be medium-term initiatives with a specific goal, such as increasing volunteering efforts among a specific target group or establishing a new sectoral programme on volunteering. (<https://knowledge.unv.org/glossary>)

2.3. National Volunteering Schemes

Volunteering schemes are established by the national government and/or regional bodies for citizens to contribute to their own or host communities, build their professional skills and competencies, and promote a culture of volunteerism. These public schemes are often referred to as national civic service or citizen service and are one of many possible approaches for engaging volunteers. In many countries, they target young people during their transition from education to employment. Volunteer schemes can be underpinned by laws, legislation, or policies on volunteering. (<https://knowledge.unv.org/glossary>)

2.4. National Volunteering Laws

National laws on volunteering provide a framework for volunteer arrangements. They are often used to distinguish volunteering from other activities, particularly employment. Volunteering laws tend to remove legal obstacles to volunteerism by defining “volunteers” and “volunteering,” clarifying the rights and duties of volunteers, and providing

a single document that deals with volunteer engagement. Laws and legislation may also establish formal bodies or institutional arrangements to support volunteering (<https://knowledge.unv.org/glossary>).

2.5. Volunteer Strategy

A volunteering strategy sets out the vision, mission, and goals² a country or organization wants to achieve with volunteering and gives the appropriate course to follow to reach them. It provides a clear and detailed action plan for achieving the targeted position in the future.

CHAPTER 3: VOLUNTEERISM ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT: MAJOR POLICY INITIATIVES OR MEASURES, INSTRUMENTS, AND PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE VOLUNTEERISM IN AFRICA

The various policy initiatives, measures, instruments, and programmes designed to promote volunteerism in Africa can be categorized as follows:

3.1. Programmes at the African Union Level

African Union Member States have long considered volunteerism as an important instrument for youth development and popular participation. As far back as February 1990, at a meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania African leaders formally acknowledged the promising, untapped potential of volunteer actions and organizations as an essential youth engagement and development instruments. This event effectively symbolized the formal inauguration of volunteerism by AU Member States. The assembly, in the *African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation*, endorsed volunteer organizations and actions as some of the mechanisms for the development and transformation of the continent.

The Charter stated:

We want to emphasize the basic fact that the role of the people and their popular organizations is central to the realization of popular participation. They must be fully involved, committed and indeed, seize the initiative. In this regard, it is essential that they establish independent people's organizations at various levels that are genuinely grass-root, voluntary, democratically administered, and self-reliant and that are rooted in the tradition and culture of the society so as to ensure community empowerment and self-development.

Among the actions to be undertaken as a follow-up of the Charter for popular participation was the *"Preparation and adoption of an African Charter on Youth and Student Rights to include the right*

to organize, education, employment and free and public expression".

The African Youth Charter was prepared and adopted in July 2006 in Banjul (The Gambia.) In its Article 11, entitled "Youth Participation," this charter requests Member States to *"institute policy and programmes of youth voluntarism at local, national, regional and international levels as an important form of youth participation and as a means of peer-to-peer training"* (Point 2, Section 'H'). The ratification of the Charter by a country still serves as a fundamental advocacy tool for youth development in several Member States. The document urges all Member States who are lobbying for youth development in general and the establishment of national volunteer programmes in particular to respect and fulfill the rights it lists as crucial steps toward developing inclusive societies.

The importance of volunteerism was further reinforced by the African Union Heads of State and Government in Assembly/AU/Dec.274 (XVI) Decision on the Proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of the Youth. This proclamation "URGES Member States to work with the Commission to launch and implement the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (AU-YVC)". This continental youth volunteer initiative AU-YVC which was launched in December 2010 aims for substantial payoffs in somewhat short period of time. The AY-YVC came into the picture with the following objectives:

- Engage Africa's Youth in the Continent's development through meaningful youth participation by providing service for their Continent;
- Provide opportunities to Young Africans to serve and gain crucial professional experience, soft skills, social competence, international exposure, and leadership skills;
- Promote shared values and Pan-Africanism among the upcoming generation.

AU Youth Volunteers serve primarily in the following

sectors: Education, Health and HIV/ AIDS, Peace and Security, Information and Communications Technology, Business and Youth Entrepreneurship, and Agriculture and Environment.

Despite some challenges such as insufficient financial and human resources, the AU-YVC is contributing to the development of the continent by adding value to the work of their host structures through their creativity, energy for change, and innovation in the direction of the continent's development. The gravity of this undertaking cannot be underestimated, especially in view of the fact that most African nations struggling to reach the MDGs, and the absurd fact that the AUCVLP itself functions on a budget of less than \$5 million a year.

To reinforce these initiatives, the Division of Youth Development and Engagement has established the AU Continental Volunteer Linkage Platform (AUCVLP) as a mechanism for coordination and partnership promotion, promoting minimum standards and common principles of volunteerism through rolling out of model national volunteerism policy and AU volunteerism framework, knowledge brokerage, and providing country acceleration support. As a very important action space in the continental volunteerism drive, the AUCVLP developed tools, such as a continental volunteerism framework, the AU Model National Volunteerism Policy, and the Volunteer Linkage Platform to contribute to the promotion of volunteerism on the continent. Country technical support is provided to Member States through field missions or online review of volunteering-related documents by the AU-CVLP Coordinator. Finally, Aspiration Six of the Agenda 2063, "*An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women, and youth, and caring for children*", implies that volunteering is one of the means to unleash the potential of the youth for people- driven development.

3.2. RECS - Level Initiatives

In March 2010, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) launched its volunteer programme that is now fully operational. The ECOWAS Volunteer Programme (EVP) was set up on the assumption that:

- Volunteerism is a long-standing and well-recognized social component in Africa, as traditional forms of volunteerism exist and are actively involved in actions such as giving a helping hand to the aged people in the community, collective maintenance of the environment, collective mobilization to save or help victims in cases of disasters, etc.;
- Volunteerism focuses on civic engagement by free will and for the common interest without necessarily expecting a financial reward;
- Volunteerism is recognized as one of the strategies for the development and consolidation of peace which are very complex processes; and
- Targeting youth that can work across countries in the region is one of the ways to enhance ECOWAS' commitment to further develop and consolidate peace-building in West Africa while contributing to youth development and greater integration in the region.

The EVP's main purpose is to develop a 'Cadre' of Youth – both young men and young women – who believe together in the crucial value of peace-building and reconciliation as an essential development tool to "entrench peace in their nations and region."

The specific objectives of the EVP are: to deploy youth as volunteers to promote development, peace-building culture, and reconciliation in the region; to provide opportunities for constructive youth volunteer leadership; and to offer these young volunteers a vital experience that enhances their employability. In addition to the mobilization of volunteers, the EVP is also very active in the promotion of volunteerism in the fifteen Member States through the organization of an annual forum of national volunteer agencies and programmes since 2017. In 2023, The EVP has allocated about

\$1.1 million to support small-scale volunteering initiatives undertaken by national volunteer programmes and various civil society organizations that involve volunteers or promote volunteerism.

The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) volunteer programme also has a youth volunteer programme. Nonetheless, the consultant could not find information on the volunteer programmes of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

3.3. Initiatives at the Member States Level

3.3.1. Laws

The AU Member States have generally taken substantial steps and initiatives to promote volunteerism across the continent and achieved significant results. In addition to these high-level initiatives at the AUC and RECS levels, the state of volunteerism in terms of major policy initiatives or measures, instruments and programs designed/ or put in place to promote volunteerism in AU Member States gives the following picture.

Sixteen (16) AU Member States have translated the policy designed to promote volunteerism into tangible laws that legalize and standardize the practice of volunteerism in their countries. These are: from Central Africa (4)- **Burundi, Cameroun, Chad, and the Congo**; from Eastern Africa (1)- **Madagascar**; from Northern Africa (2)- **Morocco and Tunisia**; from Southern Africa (2)- **Angola, and Mozambique**; and from Western Africa (7)- **Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo**.

At the time of writing this report, three (3) countries have draft legislations that are at various stages of approval from their parliaments. These are: Central African Republic (from Central Africa; **Mauritania**

(from Northern Africa); and **Guinea Bissau** (from Western Africa).

3.3.1.1. Some features of these laws

The definition of “volunteer” and “volunteerism” by the different legislations share three key characteristics or features. First is free will, that individuals exercise when choosing to volunteer. Second is motivation is the primary reason for the individual to volunteer, not financial reward. Third is the benefit to society at large. All the laws recognize social protection for volunteers, which is an important element in encouraging young people to volunteer.

Most of the laws have a clause on the valorisation of volunteer experience as professional experience or as credit during studies. The recognition of volunteerism through decoration or other types of honorary distinctions also encourages citizens to volunteer.

In addition, some countries have their legislative texts available in the languages accessible to cross-section of their citizens. For instance, in **Burundi**, the signed law is available in French and Kirundi; in **Chad**, it is in French and Arabic; and in **Morocco**, it is only in Arabic. This multilingual approach facilitates a wider dissemination of these laws thus broadening the base of potential candidates for volunteering.

3.3.2. Policies

Six AU member countries have introduced policies on volunteering. These are: Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania from Eastern Africa; Namibia and Zambia from Southern Africa; and Nigeria from Western Africa. **Two (2) more countries** - The DR Congo from Central Africa and Ethiopia from Eastern Africa have draft volunteerism policies that are awaiting approval by their governments at the time of writing this report. Like the laws, the policies also play a significant role in the promotion of volunteerism.

3.3.3. Strategies

Three (3) countries have established formal strategies on volunteerism. These are: **Cameroon** (Central Africa); **Mozambique** (Southern Africa); and **Burkina Faso** (Western Africa). Moreover, **three (3) countries comprising** Central African Republic; **Benin** (Western Africa), and **Zimbabwe** (from Southern Africa) have draft strategies at various stages of validation.

One interesting factor that emerges here is that, **French-speaking countries** tend to adopt laws on volunteerism (**12 out of the 23 existing laws**) while **English-speaking** countries, including Rwanda whose official languages is English, seem to be more inclined to develop policies (six out of the six existing policies). The question “Why” needs more studies in the area to answer.

3.3.4. Specific Actions Related to Volunteerism

In this regard, the following **five (5) countries** have enacted specific measures related to volunteering:

Southern Africa (3): South Africa, although does not have a specific law on volunteerism per se, Chapter 7 of its *Disaster Management Act No. 57 of 2002* addresses the management of volunteers; In **Zimbabwe**, the National Service Act refers to volunteerism in its Articles 10, 12, 13, 14, 18, 21, and 27); and **Malawi** has instituted a national framework that addresses both volunteering and internships.

Northern Africa (2): Sudan has a Voluntary and Humanitarian Organization Act that serves as the legal framework for volunteerism in the country. **Algeria** promotes volunteerism through several texts and initiatives. As examples, we can mention, among others, the National Youth Plan (PNJ) 2020-2024, one of the priority areas of which states *“Citizen Participation and Volunteering: Any action that aims to encourage the participation of young Algerians in public life and that strengthens their civic and voluntary commitment”*. There is also a Volunteering Festival, held annually to promote volunteer-based projects.

3.3.5. Programmes

At Member State levels, the number of national volunteer programmes in Africa has significantly evolved since the launch of the International Year of Volunteer (IYV) in 2001 and the African Youth Charter in 2006. At the time of developing this report, there were **21** volunteer programmes across the five geographic regions:

Central Africa (4): Burundi, Cameroun, Chad, and the Congo; In addition to these four countries, three others (**Angola, Gabon, and Central African Republic**) are at various stages of establishing their national volunteer programme;

Eastern Africa (4): Ethiopia, Mauritius, Rwanda, and Uganda. Uganda’s volunteer programme is notable for its inclusion of a graduate internship component, as well as initiatives aimed at youth volunteers;

Northern Africa (2): Mauritania and Morocco;

Southern Africa (2): Botswana and Lesotho. Lesotho created its National Volunteer Corps in 2010 with assistance from key partners of the United Nations Volunteers and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). **Mozambique** has a programme supported by the state but run by civil society organizations in partnership with public institutions;

Western Africa (10): This region has almost half (50%) of existing national volunteer programmes on the continent. Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo. In Senegal, in the framework of the National Law of Volunteering voted in 2021, the implementation phase includes the Ministry of Youth setting up a "*Delegation Générale du Volontariat et du Service Civique National*" and a national platform unique for registering all volunteering.

3.4. Promotion of Volunteerism Through Initiatives

The establishment of legal frameworks that govern volunteerism enables governments to allocate national resources to support volunteerism while also safeguarding the rights of volunteers. These frameworks can significantly boost, especially as a tool for engaging youth, to contribute to the social and economic development of nations. What is more, even the mere mention of volunteerism in official state speeches can enhance its serious significance and profile within government bodies' action plans, and make high-level officials pay more attention and integrate it into their plans. Perhaps above all, the presence of well-defined national volunteer programmes, policies, and strategies with clear aims and objectives can have a much better chance of passing the hurdles of scrutiny of both public and private sector funders.

Evidence shows that countries with functional national volunteer programmes that have clear conditions of service that specify the rights and duties of the volunteers have resulted in an increasing number of youth applying for volunteer assignments. In addition, in these countries, there exists better documentation of the work of the volunteers, even though many countries rarely bother to seriously assess the contributions of volunteerism.

Youth-friendly laws encourage the participation of youth volunteers in voluntary actions. Young people who might be afraid of remaining trapped in a volunteer assignment when they get decent work are in this way encouraged to volunteer. The laws on volunteerism in **Burkina Faso, Mali, and Togo** that allow the youth volunteer to break his/her contract without the required notice period if s/he gets a decent job are good examples in this regard.

Another point is that laws open to integration promote cross-border volunteerism. This is the case for the law on volunteerism of **Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali** that accepts citizens of other countries as national volunteers under certain conditions.

In addition, continental and regional institutions' volunteer programmes, such as the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (**AU-YVC**), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Volunteer Programme (**EVP**) are promoting integration through South-South cooperation.

In **Tunisia**, Article 9 of the law allows children under the age of 13 to undertake voluntary activities as part of organized educational activities aimed at introducing them to voluntary activities and helping to instil in them the values of solidarity. This will inevitably increase their likelihood of volunteering later in their adulthood.

In **Cape Verde**, Article 9 of the law permits civil servants and students to volunteer during normal work/study hours, subject to certain conditions. This clause removes the barriers of time availability, thus allowing more citizens to volunteer.

In sum, volunteers are undeniably an important resource for nations working to achieve the MDGs and Agenda 2063 of AU. Laws that govern volunteerism can also serve as an important instrument for the sustainable management of volunteer resources. However, volunteerism frameworks that address human resource capacity, by and large, do not seem to weigh the actual and potential contributions of volunteers.

3.5. Traditional Forms of Volunteering

In almost all the AU Member countries assessed, traditional forms of volunteerism co-exist with the modern forms of volunteerism. Groups from the same village or community organize themselves to carry out activities voluntarily. Membership in these groups may be based on age, gender, or type of activity to be undertaken. Sometimes these mobilization movements can go beyond the immediate village or neighborhood to include several villages/ neighborhoods.

Community members voluntarily take on tasks related to education, economics, health, justice, and other areas, even though the general perception is that of "community service" or simply as an expression of their role and responsibilities within a given community. Traditional volunteer services include collectively organized farming, transportation of harvest, house building, experienced women acting as volunteer midwives, village accessibility (building and maintenance of roads/bridges), taking care of the old and PWD, vigilante security, provision of refreshments during festivities, child care, burials, and mourning ceremonies, and the establishment of critical community infrastructure (wells, water points, etc.) and many similar initiatives without which society could hardly function.

As already said, people involved in these voluntary actions are not always required to have special skills or qualifications other than the willingness to help out and render their services without any obligations. In some countries, voluntary actions are acknowledged in the laws and there is a provision to facilitate them without regulating them. As such, laws and policies that manage volunteerism have a great potential to provide important mechanisms or contributions to the sustainable management of the volunteer resource itself. In this regard, the practices of countries like Burkina Faso, and Mali have shown how the establishment of laws that govern volunteerism can be effective instruments not only for managing public sector volunteers but

also for enhancing youth's access to the benefits of volunteerism. The fact remains that even though volunteers are acknowledged as an important asset, especially for countries struggling to achieve the MDGs, they are by and large not factored in the frameworks that specify human resource capacity.

The concept of volunteerism in Africa is expressed in various terminologies of the languages spoken in the communities. A non-exhaustive list of traditional forms of volunteerism in some African nations is shown in the following figure.

Figure 2. Traditional forms of volunteerism: Examples from 32 countries

Volunteerism in Africa



In Northern Africa, volunteerism is deeply rooted in culture – In Algeria, the Ouiza tradition promotes neighborly assistance for demanding tasks like agriculture, showcasing the spirit of community.



In Western Africa, strong community ties are evident in Benin's Hagb'e, which promotes altruism, and Gambia's Fanneh Dokuwo, which upholds mutual support traditions among villagers.



In Eastern Africa, volunteerism flourishes across generations, with Ethiopia's Debo enhancing social ties through collective farming and Rwanda's Umuganda fostering unity through community work.



In Central Africa, community support is vital, as seen in DR Congo's Salongo, which focuses on local infrastructure, and Cameroon's Ekassa, showcasing a rich history of solidarity.

Table 1. Traditional forms of volunteerism: Examples from 32 countries

Country	Varieties of age-old traditional forms of volunteerism in Africa
Algeria	" Ouiza " names a long-established practice in which usually neighboring families volunteer to assist one another with intensive labour requiring tasks, such as farming/ harvesting that requires sustained collective effort.
Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Hagb'e" or "Gbe": • "Alôgô nou min": Translates as "to provide assistance to" • "Bonghon No yo": a phrase from the Dendi, the most widely spoken language in the northern region of Benin, describes an ethos that values gratuitous service or "giving oneself for a cause without expecting a pecuniary gain in return".
Botswana	" Mephato "; " Boithaopo " and " Tirelo "-These represent the longstanding custom in which communities, particularly along the Okavango River, render community service.
Burkina Faso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Song Taaba" (in Moore) means helping each other; • "Sossoaga" or "sissoaga" (in Moore) mutual assistance in farming; • "To" (in San) means assistance in farming; • "Ko taa" (in Dagara) translates to cultivating in turn; • "Ba kobe" in Dagara means cultivation in farms among groups of friends
Burundi	The term " Abakorerabushake " represents people serving the community.
Cameroon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Gudey tuwaya" (in <i>Massa</i>); "Ekassa" (in <i>Ngumba</i>) and "keungwan" in <i>Esu</i>; • "Yum" (bassa'a language) or "Eyum" (Douala language) are terms used to represent the traditional form of volunteering practiced by the populations of the Center and the Littoral, while "Matala" (in Mousgoum) is the term expressing the form of solidarity or volunteerism practiced in the Far North Cameroon.
Central African Republic	" Maboko Na Maboko " refers to a structured form of community mutual help.
Chad	<p>An array of linguistic expressions are used to reflect a rich tradition of communities' mutual assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Bir ki mbo" is a person who is always willing to do a good-hearted and selfless job; • "Mbian" youth-led voluntary labour or assistance to community members; • "Toumbo": refers to people from one village who decide/volunteer to help others in their work; • "Meer Ndja" means asking others to [cultivate] for you; • "Meer Gobolo" means asking people to help you carve a canoe; • "Kila gan" is a primary voluntary task in any field; • "Djong vale" is participating in activities without compensation, willingly and selflessly; • "Mbaya" is a system of aid or assistance that generally manifests itself in farming and fisheries; • "Yag Boua" means giving selfless labour in the fields without compensation; • "Kos-Guelna" refers to helping one another; • "Ndei Na Kouleu" means seeking help from others in the workplace.
Comoros	" Ulanga " is a traditional form of community's voluntary support.
The Congo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Mbongui"; • "Lisalisa" stands for Mutual help; • "Kosala mosala ya bolingo malamu" is doing work out of love; • "Bato oyo bamipesaka na bolingo na bango moko" represents people who engage in an activity by their own will.

The DR Congo	<p>The DRC is a mosaic of tribes and peoples, as well as languages. As such,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Burhabala" (in Shi or Bashi) is a term used to express mutual aid or aid in the province of South Kivu in the East of the DRC. This practice consists of supporting or helping a vulnerable person (sick, widow/ widowed, an elderly person without children, a strangers, etc.) by building or rehabilitating their hut, or by cultivating their farm. A group of peasants cultivate in the farm of one of them, the next day in the farm of another member, and so on until they make the complete tour of all the members. <p>This practice is also called "Dikidimba" (Discount) in <i>Kikongo</i> and "Gangombo" in <i>Kwesu</i> or "Bakuesu" in the territory of Gungu, province of Kwilu, and "Kikungi" in Yaka or Bayaka in the province of Kwango;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Kintuady", practiced in Kongo Central Province, Luozi Territory, means "Together in a group"; is a practice that consists of mobilizing and raising awareness to carry out community work for the development of the village, which could be repair of a bridge, manual gunning of a village road, development of a drinking water source, and the like; • "Salongo" stands for a community work which is most widespread in the country. • "Mosapi moko esokolaka nzoto te" (in Lingala) is used to emphasize the value of mutual cooperation; Literally, it translates to "One finger cannot wash the whole body"; • "Lukanu lumwe kalutu ludila kudiboko" (in Tshiluba): means "a single bracelet cannot make noise"; • "Koni moko etokisaka nzungu te" (in Lingala) or its variant "Kidole moja hailokotake chawa" (in Swahili)- this also expresses the value of mutual help; translated, it means "a single piece of wood cannot boil a pot"; • "Nsisani" (in Kikongo): advocates mutual aid in a community.
Ethiopia	<p>"Edir"; "Debo" (loosely translated mean "communal labor"); In addition, terms like "Equub", "Jigi", and "Wonfel" are terminologies that represent willful cooperation or collaboration in a community's farming activities and in a rotating fund savings scheme practiced among same community members.</p>
Eswatini	<p>"Kuhlehla", meaning tribute labor. By tradition, Swazis of all generations and genders show their devotion to their monarchs and fealty to their chiefs by providing labor for chores, both practical and symbolic. The community provides unpaid labor and its way of supporting the community happens on nonspecific days or times. Every household sends a representative to volunteer occasionally depending on the needs of the communities.</p>
Gabon	<p>"Ekam" (Fang in the Northern region); "Imbila" and "Indintini" (Iponu in southern region); "Mukoga" (Aduma southern region); "Akanda" (Obanba-Bateke in South-Eastern region) and "Thia Obanban" in South-Eastern region) are the names for voluntary communal labours.</p>
The Gambia	<p>"Fanneh Dokuwo" in the Mandinka culture and "Osusu" in Wolof represents communities' centuries-old mutual help traditions.</p>
Guinea	<p>Traditional forms of voluntary labour contributions and mutual assistance among the societies of Guinea are known by several names, like: "Kile" (in Soussou/Lower Guinea), "Bällal" (in Poular/Medium Guinea), "Sènèssougna" (in Malenje), "Maliando ou Mâalan" (in Kissie), "Mene kpön" (in Kônô), "Kpôbai" (in Toma), "Bôma" (in Lele), "Kpôma" (in Kpele), "Ködouomon" (in Manon), and "Sene sunya" (Upper Guinea).</p>
Kenya	<p>"Letsema" in Setswana, "kujitolea" in Kiswahi, and "harambe" are commonly known terms reflecting communities' long-standing traditions of mutual help, communal assistance for practiced for community development in a range of areas.</p>
Madagascar	<p>Traditional or informal volunteering forms in Madagascar are known by about four terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Mpilatsaka antsitrabo" (which means <i>volunteer</i>); • "Mpanao asa soa" (who do good deeds/charity); • "Valin-tanana" (exchnage of unpaid service); and • "Asam-pokonolona" (community actions).

Malawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alezi (Community Based Child Centre Volunteer). These are members responsible for teaching under-five children in the rural communities; • “Wodzipoleka a za umoyo” (Community health volunteers). These are responsible for facilitating health related activities in the rural communities; • “Wodzipoleka wa zachitukuko” (Development volunteers). These are engaged in mobilizing communities in development related activities; • “Wodzipoleka wosamalira za chilengedwe” (Environmental conservation volunteers). They are responsible for facilitating environmental conservation related activities; • “Wodzipoleka a za ulimi” (Agriculture volunteers). They facilitate agricultural related activities; • “Azukulu” is a term for the young men and boys that come together to clear communal graveyards. That is a traditional form of volunteering. The term Azukulu means grandsons in the literal sense, and refers to community members coming together to support weaker members, such as the elderly. This may involve cleaning and cooking for them. Local structures at the community level, such as school management committees, parent- teacher associations mobilizing resources to build school blocks or support school feeding programs.
Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ton” (in Bambara) is a village association of mutual aid bringing together women and men; • “Tomboloma” in Bambara is an age group organization; • “Kondey” is practiced mainly in the regions of Timbuktu and Gao; <p>All these organizations aim to ensure mutual and voluntary assistance in areas, such as in the fight against scourges, self-defense, ensuring security, the environment, collective field work, keeping watch of crops in the fields, etc..</p>
Mauritania	<p>“Twize” : <i>Twize</i> is a community-based human investment in social group members without any discrimination. Its areas of intervention, it extends to community agricultural work, construction of huts, houses, or tent making, supply of drinking water for the vulnerable, etc. <i>Twiza</i> women’s group also help newlyweds or couples preparing for marriage.</p>
Morocco	<p>In Morocco, the forms for mutual help or community assistance and development are known by the terms “Twiza”, “M’ajaania”, and “Tatoua’e”.</p>
Mozambique	<p>“Thandizi” (in Chichewa language), relates to a practice consisting of a community or group providing support to one of its members by performing a manual work (farms, repair/construction of the house, etc.);</p> <p>“Chains of Charity and Solidarity” – These are volunteers who carry out fundraising campaigns and subsequent distribution thereof to the needy in emergency situations or to those living a cyclical poverty.</p>
Niger	<p>“Samariya”, “Gayya” in Haoussa, or “Bogou” in Zarma au Niger; Gayya (in Haoussa) “Ou boggou” (in Zarma) undertake collective work in favour of a person or group of persons; “Samaria” (in Haoussa) is a youth group with a common interest. “Samariya” is an informal association that brings together all the boys and girls of the same village. The role of the Samariya at the village level is to ensure social cohesion. It is also a centre of initiation and learning for young people where they integrate from an early age. The activity of Samariya also consists of carrying out collective works, commonly called “Gayya” or “Bogou”.</p> <p>“Gayya” (Hausa) or the “Bogou” (Zarma) are authentically cultural and are characterized by a very spontaneous mass community mobilization in order to carry out a punctual activity of mutual aid, such as in collective fields, the animation of marriages and baptisms, and the organisation of inter-village events.</p>
Rwanda	<p>“Umuganda” and “Kwitango” are terms of volunteerism focused on community support.</p>
Senegal	<p>“Santane” encourages collective labour and community neighborliness.</p>
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Wuk Padi”, pronounced as “wook pah-dee” in Krio language, literally means “friends working together on necessary tasks”; • “Lefman” (in the Temne language) means “helper” or “assistant”; • “Nanhu” (in the Mende language) refers to someone who offers help or assistance without expecting payment.
Somalia	<p>“Somalia Mutawacnimo” relates to social volunteerism rooted in positive community values.</p>
South Africa	<p>“Letsema”, “Letsholo” (Batswana); “Vukuzenzele” (Xhosa), and “Ubuntu” (Isizulu) represent strong tradition of community solidarity and support.</p>

Togo	<p>In Togo volunteerism is practiced in various forms with various labels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Dikpèrè" – stands for community volunteerism; • "Edoudo", "Lonlonnoufa", "Lolonufa dowowo" or "Lolonua" do (Ewe) are forms of spontaneous community volunteerism exercised as an expression of goodwill; • "Komina solim tumiye fala gninde" or "Solim tumiye" (in Kabye) means unpaid collective activity undertaken out of love or by solidarity; • "Falatounde" (in Bassar) is unpaid labor for the benefit of the community; • "Issè ofè" (in Kaboli) or "Koupkpagnonh" (in Tchamba) represent meaningful community volunteering to prevent poverty.
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Ukuipelesha" (volunteering for noble causes). This form of volunteering is usually associated with the willingness of an individual to offer voluntary services for a genuine noble call, such as religious services, funeral services, and others of the same nature. • "Ukubombelela" (skill development volunteering) . This form of volunteering is often applied for skill and experience acquisition by an unskilled learner.
Zimbabwe	<p>"Vabatsiri", "Vanozvipira", and "Vanetsiyenyoro" are terms for volunteers; while "Kubatsirana parufu" refers to mutual support of communities during funerals.</p>

3.6. Some key Enablers and Triggers for the Development of the National Volunteer Programmes

The establishment of national volunteer programmes has been significantly affected by different critical enablers and triggers. Some of the key enablers and triggers are briefly outlined hereunder:

- **Political will:** Countries, when the head of State or a high-level official becomes convinced by the value-added of volunteerism, it often results in the officials' becoming among the first to set up their national volunteer programmes. Their pioneering role and commitment is quite crucial for creating a culture that values and encourages volunteerism;
- **Advocacy and lobbying:** National youth councils, national youth associations and organizations, volunteer organizations, and multilateral and bilateral organizations, such as the AUC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, CONFEJES (*Conférence des ministres de la jeunesse et des sports de la Francophonie*),³ France Volontaires, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) are among the active actors in this field of action. The CONFEJES developed and conducted institutional capacity development and volunteerism promotion workshops for National Youth Councils, and drafted a volunteerism promotion guide;
- **Availability of financial and technical partners:** In addition to public funds from the continental institutions (AUC), REC (ECOWAS, ECCAS, etc.), Member States, UNV, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA) were instrumental for funding feasibility studies and implementation of pilot phases of these programmes. France Volontaire and VSO provided in some countries technical assistance and human resources during the pilot phase. The African Development Bank (AfDB) was the key donor of the pilot phase of the ECOWAS Volunteer Programme.

- **High youth unemployment:** This has led some governments to consider volunteerism as an effective way to put young people to work and give them their first work experience, thus enhancing their employability. The development of youth policies that included volunteerism in their action plans and the establishment of national volunteer programmes have been powerful enablers of the practice of volunteerism.

Conclusion

Volunteerism is flourishing on the African continent thanks to a variety of initiatives and actions, such as legislation, policies, advocacy, and political will and commitment of leaders. The AU should continue to encourage countries that are still falling behind to establish national volunteer programmes and enhance the enabling environment for volunteerism. These programmes benefit the entire population in general and the young people in particular.

The next chapter of this report will explore the contribution of volunteerism in making a difference on the continent.



CHAPTER 4: CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERING IN AFRICA

4.1. Introduction

This chapter sets out to establish the social, economic, and cultural values of volunteering in the AU Member States.

To report on the contribution of volunteering, there is a need to measure volunteering and volunteer work. Thus, according to the United Nations Volunteers, “over 99 countries have measured volunteer work using different methods at least once” ([Measurement | Knowledge Portal on Volunteerism \(unv.org\)](#)), out of which 11 countries were in Africa. These constitute Algeria (2012 using Time Use Survey), Côte d’Ivoire (2017 using Labour Force Survey), Ethiopia (2013 using Time Use Survey), **Ghana** (2009 using Time Use Survey), Kenya (2009 using census and 2016), Mali (2017), Morocco (2012 Time Use Survey), Nigeria (2015 using social survey), Sierra Leone (2014 using Labour Force Survey), Tanzania (2014 using Time Use Survey), and Uganda (2017 using Time Use

Survey). These surveys have a restricted range and were not specifically designed to measure the contribution of volunteerism. As the preceding information cited from UNV indicates, only about 10% of the AU Member States attempted to measure volunteer work. This reveals the paucity of attempts to even get the general picture of what volunteering might look like in several African countries.

There exist, specific models, to measure volunteering, with each model being a reflection of different disciplinary interests/concerns, emphasis, and offers various perspectives on studying volunteering.

Jacob Mwathi Mati⁴ in “Horizontal: The ignored particularity of African Volunteering” summarizes these different disciplinary perspectives and approaches of studying the volunteering in the following table.

Table 2. Disciplines studying volunteering and their key concerns/approaches

Discipline	Key concerns/approaches
Sociology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examines the symbolic aspects of volunteering (Hastinx, Cnaan and Handy, 2010; Toraldo, Contu and Mangia 2016); Treats volunteering as: i) among social ties that bind members of a society to one another; ii) an expression of solidarity that enhances social cohesion, social capital, democracy, participation; iii) a behaviour that enhances social relationships and interactions among individuals, groups, and associations/organizations; iv) part of a discourse giving meaning to and helping to shape behaviour (Wilson, 2000; Hastinx, Cnaan and Handy, 2010); Concerned with “ways in which organizational processes and volunteer practices contribute in producing welfare and tackling various social problems” (Hastinx, Cnaan and Handy, 2010, p. 417); “Preoccupied with understanding who volunteers, (i.e. the social profile of volunteers” (Hastinx, Cnaan and Handy, 2010, p. 417); looks at social-economic determinants of systematic in- or exclusion from volunteer participation (Hastinx, Cnaan and Handy, 2010, p. 417); Focuses on individual sociodemographic characteristics, such as race, gender, age, and social class, and ecological variables such as social networks and community characteristics as the determinants of who volunteers (Wilson, 2012); Treats volunteers as agents of social change, in detecting unmet societal needs, fighting against social injustice, and empowering disadvantaged groups (Hastinx, Cnaan and Handy, 2010, p. 418); Concerned with social determinants of prosocial behavior (Hastinx, Cnaan, and Handy, 2010, p. 418).

Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasizes intra-psychic phenomena, such as personality traits, self-concepts, and motivations (Wilson, 2012; 2000; Hastinx, Cnaan, and Handy, 2010; Grizzle and Yusuf, 2015); • Concerned with helping behaviour that is unplanned, immediate, and low-cost bystander intervention to a stranger in physical distress (Hastinx, Cnaan, and Handy, 2010, p. 418; Haski-Leventhal, 2009); • Volunteering is a sustained and planned form of prosocial behavior that typically results from deliberate consideration and choice (Hastinx, Cnaan, and Handy, 2010, p. 418); • Calls attention to psychological characteristics of those who volunteer ("Specific traits characteristic of volunteers are social value orientation, empathic concern, perspective taking, self-efficacy, and positive self-esteem" (Hastinx, Cnaan and Handy, 2010, p. 418).
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentrates on non-pecuniary interest, i.e. volunteerism is a form of unpaid labor, consuming resources and motivated by the promise of rewards (Wilson 2012, p. 178);. Assumes that "people are motivated by self-interest in rewards, either in the form of utilitarian goods such as business contacts and skills ... or psychological rewards ... people volunteer for an activity only if it is in their interest to do so" (Wilson 2012, p. 182); • People are more likely to volunteer if their opportunity costs are low...[therefore] if people are provided with incentives to volunteer (such as coverage of expenses) they volunteer more time (Wilson 2012, p. 182).
Political Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks at volunteering as an expression of core societal principles such as solidarity, social cohesion, and democracy (Hastinx, Cnaan, and Handy, 2010, p. 417); • Social integration through volunteer participation at the individual level (Hastinx, Cnaan, and Handy, 2010, p. 417); • Volunteerism is a major requirement for active civic society and democracy (Hastinx, Cnaan and Handy, 2010, p. 418).

Figure 3. Volunteerism Through Disciplinary Lenses: Sociological, Psychological, Economic, and Political Perspectives

VOLUNTEERISM THROUGH DISCIPLINARY LENSES

Sociology

Explore the sociological dimensions of volunteer engagement

Sociology examines volunteering's symbolic role in building social ties, solidarity, and community cohesion, highlighting its function as a unifying force that encourages democratic participation and social capital.



Psychology

Examine psychological motivations behind volunteer actions

Psychology explores the personal traits and motivations behind volunteering, revealing how characteristics like empathy and social value orientation drive individuals towards helping behaviors.



Economics

Assess economic incentives that influence volunteer behavior

Economic analysis looks at the rewards of volunteering, including personal satisfaction and skill growth, showing how perceived benefits and opportunity costs influence the choice to volunteer.



Political Science

Investigate political frameworks that support volunteer initiatives

Political science views volunteerism as vital for a healthy civic society, stressing its role in fostering social integration and democratic values, which enhance community solidarity and active citizenship.



The assessment of volunteering contribution has attracted different interests and, consequently, developed into a field that caters for different perspectives and methodologies. Examples include:

- The “Satellite Account on Non-profit and Related Institutions and Volunteer Work” developed by the United Nations;
- The “Comparative Non-profit Sector Project” developed by the Johns Hopkins University;
- The methodology to measure the economic value of volunteering jointly developed by the International Labour Office and Johns Hopkins University ;
- The “V Methodology” jointly developed by UNV and Forum (a global network of Volunteer Involving Organizations) that assesses the evaluation of the effects of volunteering on development and peace through qualitative methods;
- The “Measuring Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda: Toolbox of Principles, Tools and Practices”, released in July 2020 with the aim to “measuring volunteering both for its inherent value and to reflect the contributions volunteers make to economic, social and environmental development under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)”. The tool measures both the economic value, cost-benefit trade-offs, and the social benefits of volunteering.

Even though these modern methodologies are accessible, only a few countries in the world have used them to measure the contribution of volunteering. This might be because these methodologies are complicated and expensive to implement, and also they require a lot of time to run them efficiently on a large scale by experts.

Usually, when the performance of volunteers is evaluated, a range of measures are taken into account. These include:

- The number of volunteers during a particular reference period;
- The total hours they volunteered, which are sometimes measured using the Time Use

survey in which “the estimation involves multiplying the average number of minutes per person per day reported in the survey by the size of the adult population and by the number of days in the reference period and then dividing this by the average number of hours per a full-time job during that reference period.”

- The areas of intervention;
- The monetary value represented by the volunteer work using the “replacement cost” approach; Here, “the value of volunteer work is imputed by what it would cost to hire someone to do the work done by the volunteer without pay. That essentially requires measuring the duration (number of hours) of the performed volunteer work and applying an appropriate wage received by employees performing comparable work”

4.2. Contribution of Volunteering in Africa

The assessment of the contribution of volunteering draws input from the following main sources of data and information:

- Results of an online questionnaire submitted to various stakeholders in the context of this report in September 2023;
- Voluntary National Reviews⁵ (VNR);
- Results of a survey conducted by the AU Continental Volunteer Linkage Platform (AU CVLP) in 2022 where more than 300 organizations responded by filling out the survey questionnaire.

The data and information drawn from these sources allowed the analysis of the contribution of volunteering in Africa in terms of the number of volunteers, the areas of intervention, the number of hours volunteered, and the rough monetary value of these hours. Qualitative data provided by the different respondents or from a literature review complemented the numerical data. It should be realized here that the following analysis may not cover all fifty-five AU member countries

nor all volunteer-involving organizations operating in Africa. Nonetheless, it will shed light on the positive contribution of volunteering to the economic and social development endeavors of the member countries.

4.2.1. Contribution of Volunteers in Number

It is worth noting that the 2023 online questionnaire amassed the most complete data from a number of organizations/institutions, such as national volunteer programmes, ECOWAS Volunteer Programme, and some national and international volunteer organizations that provided data disaggregated by gender, areas of intervention, etc. The next section will present the main information obtained from these sources.

4.2.1.1. Number of volunteers from the online questionnaire submitted in 2023

Figure 4. Institutions and countries with data disaggregated by gender

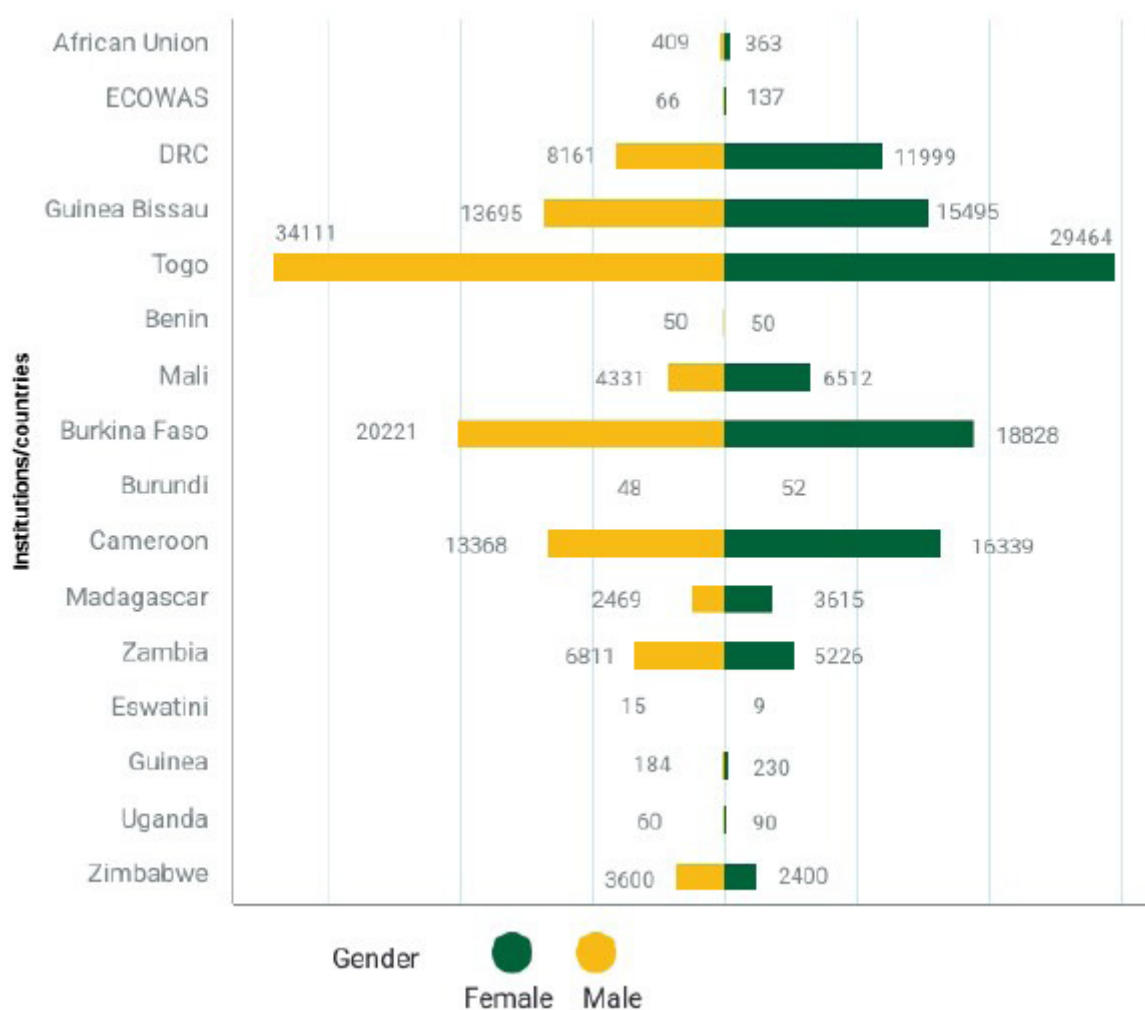


Figure 5. Countries without gender-disaggregated data of the total number of volunteers

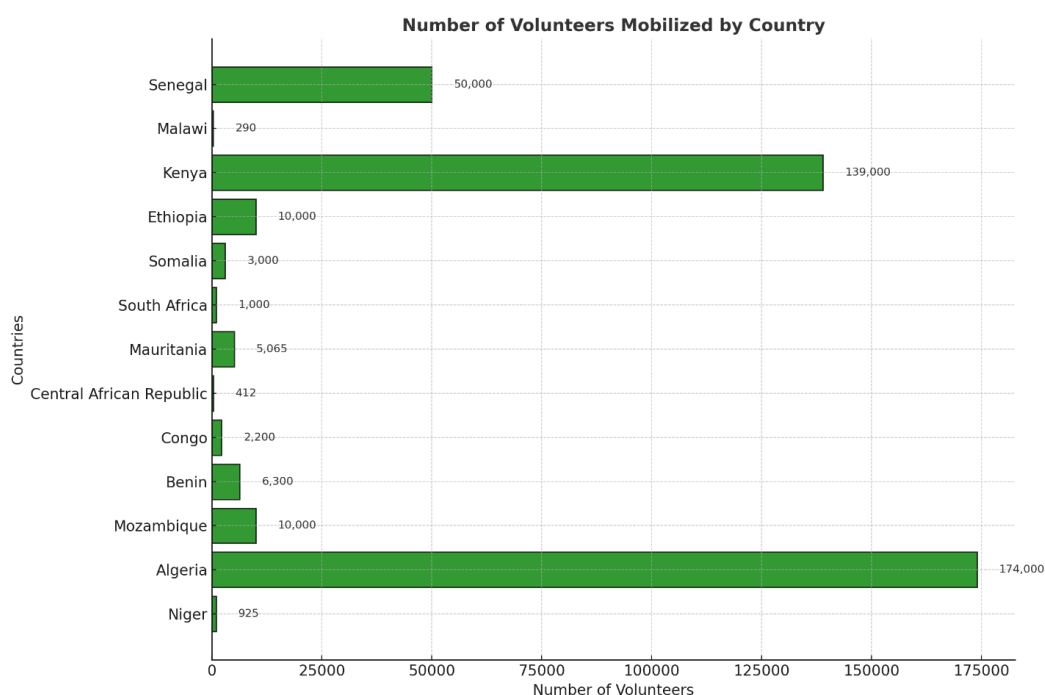


Table 3. Countries without gender-disaggregated data of the total number of volunteers

Country	The number of volunteers mobilized	Source of data
Niger	925	National Volunteer Programme
Algeria	174000	National Association of Volunteer Work Fondation Ness El khir
Mozambique	10000	Conselho Nacional do Voluntariado
Benin	6300	State agency in charge of volunteerism (AnpE) and OBSJV (Office Béninois du Service des Jeunes Volontaires)
The Congo	2200	National Volunteer Programme
Central African Republic	412	UNV
Mauritania	5065	National Volunteer Programme
South Africa	1000	WESSA
Somalia	3000	Somali Youth Volunteers Association (SOYVA) local NGOs operations in Somalia
Ethiopia	10000	VSO
Kenya ⁶	139000	Africa for SDG
Malawi	290	VSO
Senegal	50000	Corps Africa/Voluntary National Review
Total	454015	

As shown in the above table, the total number of volunteers collected from the online questionnaire is **454015**. Certainly, the figure is on the low side as a limited number of organizations responded to the questionnaire. Nonetheless, the monetary and intrinsic values of the contribution of these volunteers are significant. In addition to this, the Red Cross indicated having the following number of volunteers in different countries (Table 4):

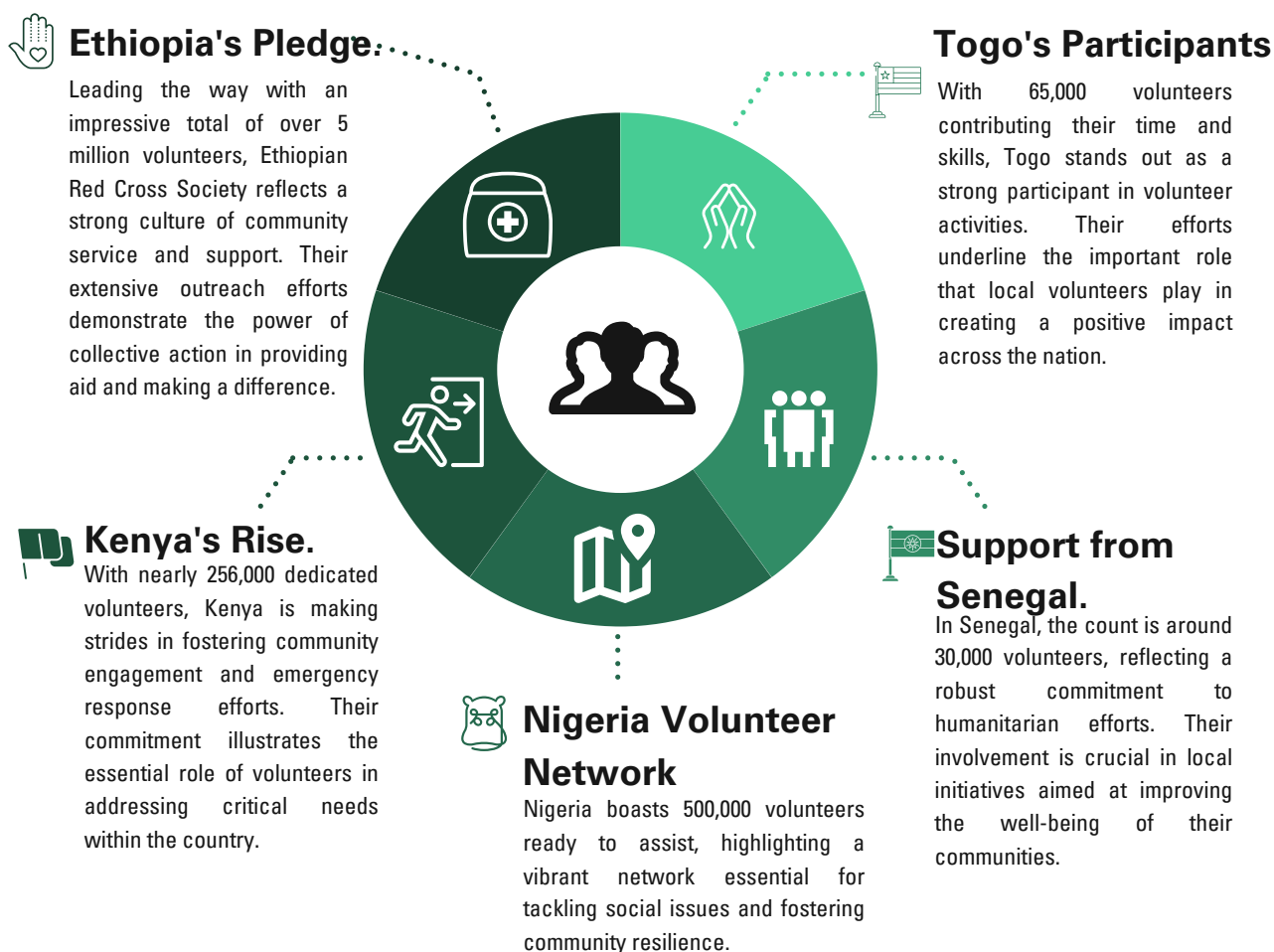
Table 4. Number of volunteers reported by the Red Cross, by country

Country	Number of volunteers
Ethiopia	5101444
Kenya	255736
Nigeria	500000 ⁷
Senegal	30000
Togo	65000
Total	5952180

Figure 6. Volunteer Efforts in Africa: Contributions from Red Cross Societies by Country.

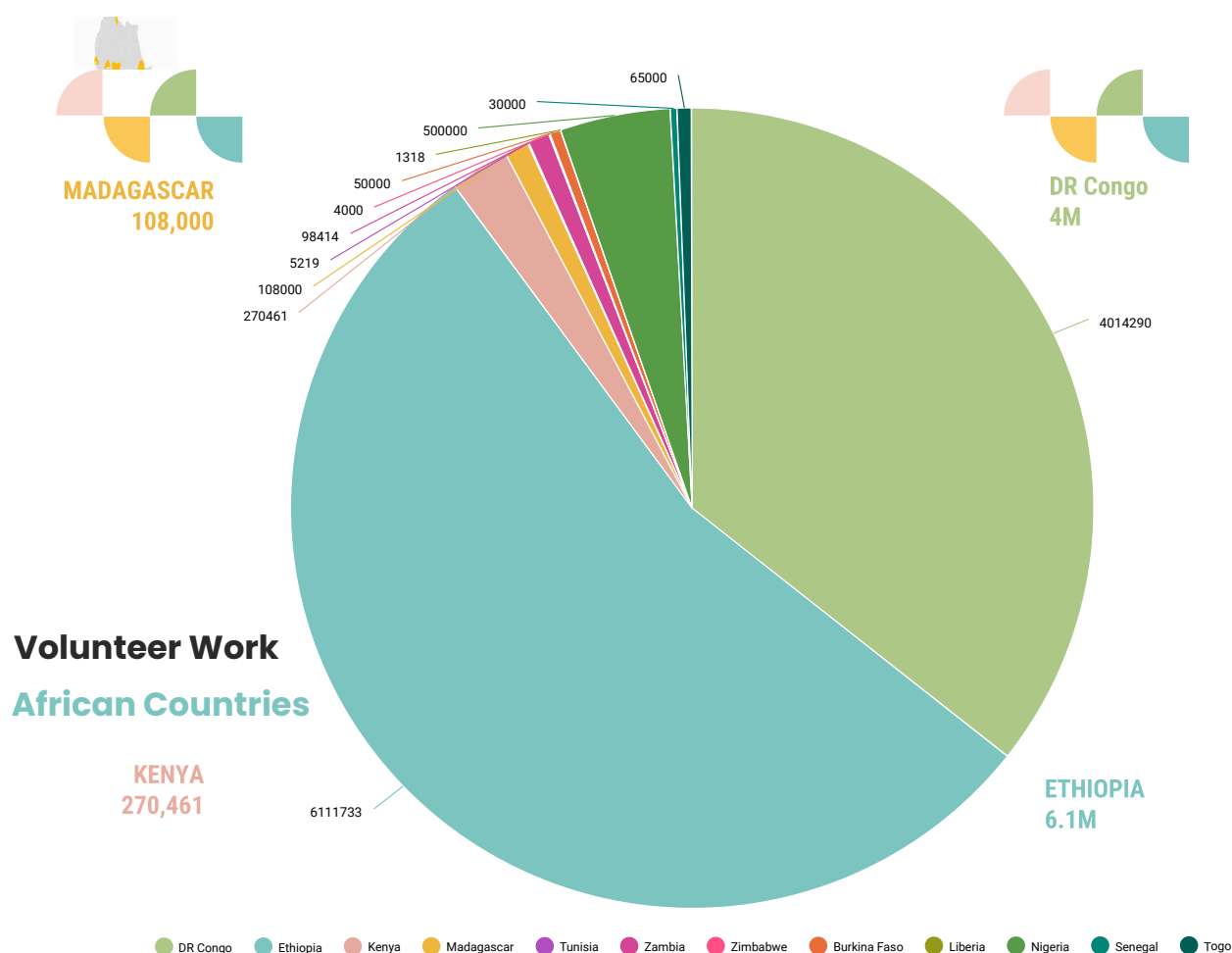
Volunteer Efforts in Africa: The Glimpse from the Red-Cross Societies

Explore the impact of volunteerism within the African Union, showcasing the dedication of individuals across various countries. This pie chart infographic is designed to highlight the significant number of volunteers reported by the Red Cross, illustrating how each nation contributes to a collective total.



Furthermore, U-report from the DR Congo reported the mobilization of **4000000** U-report volunteers.

Figure 7. Number of volunteers from national voluntary review, annual report and official websites*



The grand total is therefore 11258435+454015 (online questionnaire), which adds up to a **total number of 11712450 volunteers**.

As indicated in the introductory section of this report, volunteering is expected to contribute to the implementation of the development blueprint of the continent, particularly the AU Agenda 2063. It was because of that the African Union Decision 274(XVI) recognized volunteerism as a vital tool for Youth Empowerment and a catalyst for the continent's development. Not only that, but the decision also mandated the AU Commission to work with Member States to set up a continental Volunteer Programme and a Continental Volunteer Linkage Platform to coordinate efforts across Member States. It is against this background that this report attempts to present the effect at play for "the number of volunteers categorized by areas of intervention" under the auspices of Agenda 2063.

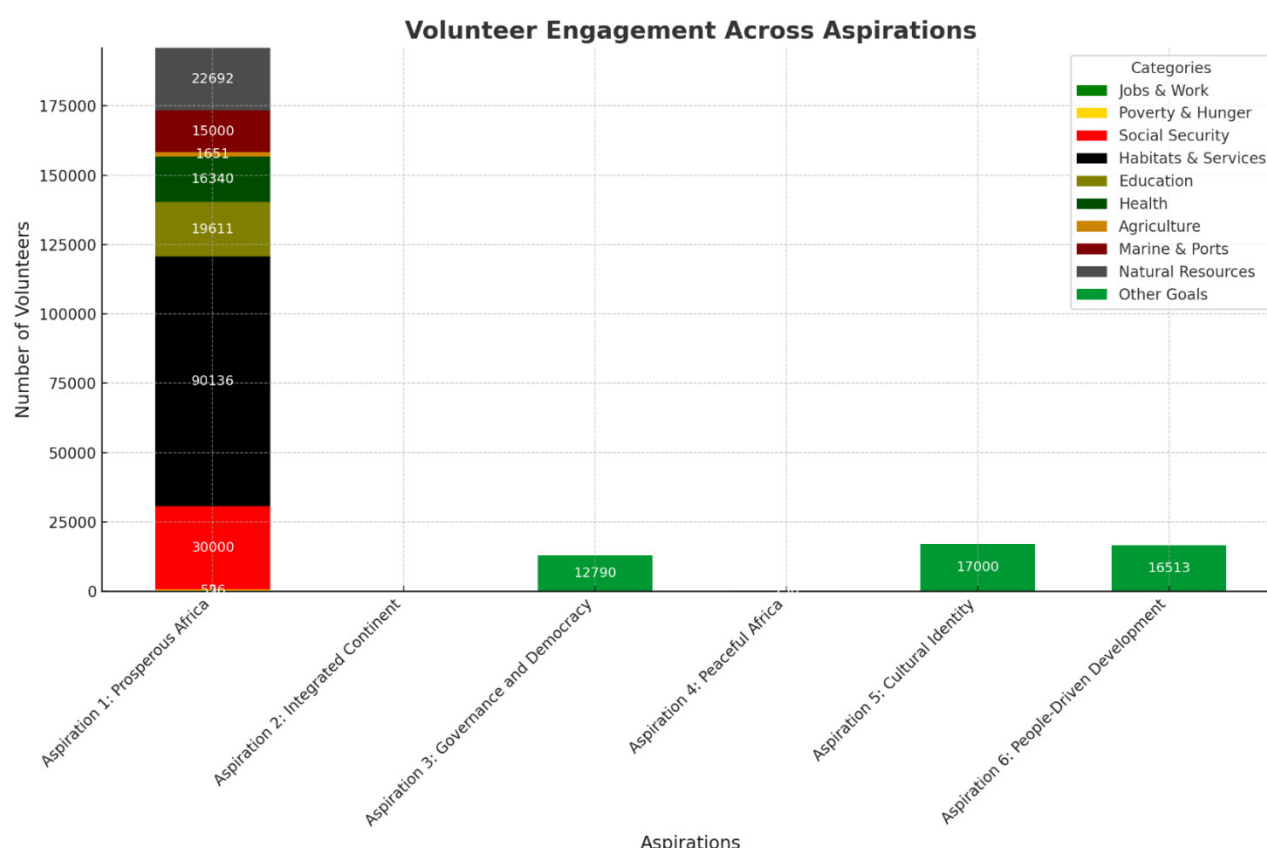
For countries that provided disaggregated data on the areas of intervention in the responses to the online questionnaire, the picture is presented in the following table.

Table 5. Number of volunteers reported in responses to the online questionnaire, by area of intervention

Aspiration	Goals	Priority Areas	Number
1) A Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development	(1) A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well- Being for All Citizens	Incomes, Jobs and Decent Work	2
		Poverty, Inequality and Hunger	556
		Social Security and Protection, including PWDs	30000
		Modern and Livable Habitats and Basic Quality Services	90136
	(2) Well Educated Citizens and Skills Revolution Underpinned By Science, Technology and Innovation	Education and STI Skills Driven Revolution	19611
	(3) Healthy and Well-Nourished Citizens	Health and Nutrition	16340
	(4) Transformed Economies	Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth	
		STI Driven Manufacturing / Industrialization and Value Addition	
		Economic diversification and resilience	
		Hospitality/Tourism	
	(5) Modern Agriculture for increased Productivity and Production	Agricultural Productivity and Production	1651
	(6) Blue/ Ocean Economy for Accelerated Economic Growth	Marine Resources and Energy	
		Ports Operations and Marine Transport	15000
	(7) Environmentally Sustainable and Climate Resilient Economies and Communities	Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation	22692
		Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns	
		Water Security	
		Climate Resilience and Natural Disasters Preparedness and Prevention	
		Renewable Energy	
Total Aspiration 1			195988

2) An Integrated Continent Politically United and Based on the Ideals of Pan Africanism and the Vision of African Renaissance	(8) United Africa (Federal or Confed-erate)	Framework and Institutions for a United Africa	
	(9) Continental Financial and Monetary Institutions are Established and Functional	Financial and Monetary Institutions	
	(10) World Class Infrastructure Criss-crosses Africa	Communications and Infrastructure Connectivity	
Total Aspiration 2			0
3) An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law	(11) Democratic Values, Practices, Universal Principles of Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law Entrenched	Democracy and Good Governance	12790
		Human Rights, Justice and The Rule of Law	
	(12) Capable Institutions and Transformative Leadership in Place	Institutions and Leadership	
		Participatory Development and Local Governance	
Total Aspiration 3			12790
4) A Peaceful and Secure Africa	(13) Peace Security and Stability is Preserved	Maintenance and Preservation of Peace and Security	150
	(14) A Stable and Peaceful Africa	Institutional structure for AU Instruments on Peace and Security	
	(15) A Fully functional and operational APSA	Fully Operational and Functional APSA Pillars	
Total Aspiration 4			150
5) Africa with a Strong Cultural Identity Common Heritage, Values and Ethics	16) African Cultural Renaissance is pre- eminent	Values and Ideals of Pan Africanism	
		Cultural Values and African Renaissance	
		Cultural Heritage, Creative Arts and Businesses	17000
Total Aspiration 5			17000
6) An Africa Whose Development is people- driven, relying on the potential offered by African people, especially its Women and Youth, and caring for Children	(17) Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life	Women and Girls Empowerment	1505
		Violence & Discrimination against Women and Girls	
	(18) Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children	Youth Empowerment and Children	15008
Total aspiration 6			16513
Grand Total			242441

Figure 8. Volunteer Engagement Across Aspirations of Agenda 2063



As depicted in Figure 8, volunteers contribute to all the Aspirations of Agenda 2063, except **Aspiration 2; 81%** contribute to **Aspiration 1**. In fact, even though every aspiration of Agenda 2063 benefit from contribution of volunteers, none more so than Aspiration 1. In a survey conducted by AU in 2022, an overwhelming number (81%) of volunteers surveyed said they were serving to contribute to Aspiration 1. This indicates that volunteerism could be used to boost access to social basic services.

4.2.1.2. Number of Volunteer Assignments from the Survey by the AU CVLP in 2022

In 2022, the AU Continental Volunteer Linkage Platform, with technical support of the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE), carried out a survey intended to capture the gender disaggregated number of volunteer assignments, the number of volunteered hours, and measure the values of volunteered hours. In this survey, **312** organizations from **35** countries responded to the questionnaire on their contribution to the goals of Agenda 2063 (Table 6).

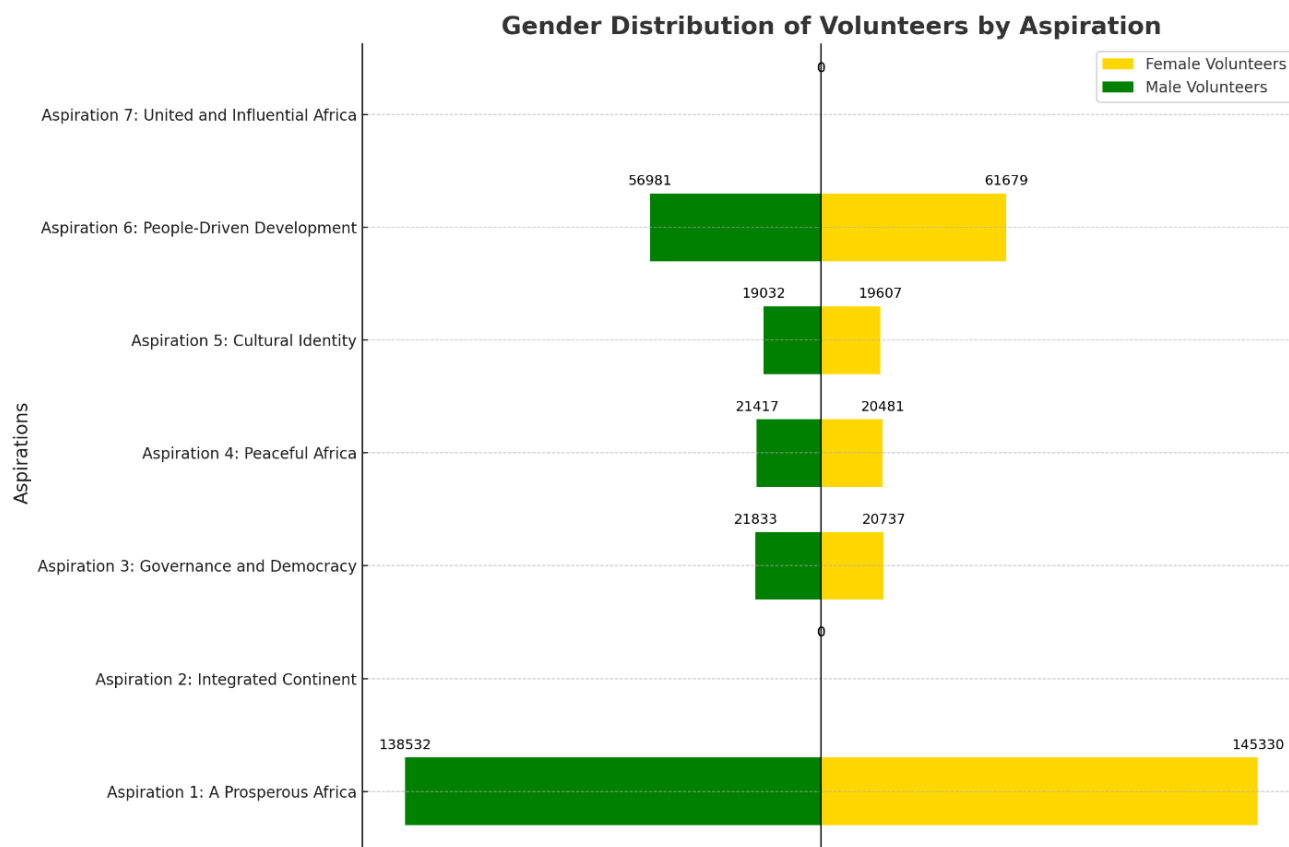
Table 6. Number of volunteer assignments reported in the survey by the AUVLP

ASPIRATION	GOALS	PRIORITY AREAS	MALES	FEMALES	Total	Number of volunteers involved in the assignments above 35 years	Number of hours volunteered per month
1) A Prosperous Africa, Based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development	(1) A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens	Incomes, Jobs and decent work					
		Poverty, Inequality and Hunger					
		Social security and protection Including Persons with Disabilities					
		Modern and Livable Habitats and Basic Quality Services					
	(2) Well Educated Citizens and Skills Revolution Underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation	Education and STI Skills Driven Revolution					
	(3) Healthy and Well-Nourished Citizens	Health and Nutrition					
	(4) Transformed Economies	Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth					
		STI driven Manufacturing / Industrialization and Value Addition					
		Economic Diversification And Resilience					
		Hospitality/Tourism					
	(5) Modern Agriculture for Increased Productivity And Production	Agricultural Productivity and Production					
	(6) Blue/ Ocean Economy for Accelerated Economic Growth	Marine resources and Energy					
		Ports Operations and Marine Transport					

	(7) Environmentally Sustainable And Climate Resilient Economies and Communities	Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation					
		Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns					
		Water Security					
		Climate Resilience And Natural Disasters Preparedness and Prevention					
		Renewable Energy					
Total Aspiration 1			138532	145330	283862		2551310
2) An Integrated Continent Politically United and Based on the Ideals of Pan Africanism and the Vision of African Renaissance	(8) United Africa (Federal or Confederate)	Framework and Institutions for a United Africa					
	(9) Continental Financial and Monetary Institutions are Established and Functional	Financial and Monetary Institutions					
	(10) World Class Infrastructure Crisscrosses Africa	Communications and Infrastructure Connectivity					
3) An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law	(11)Democratic Values, Practices, Universal Principles of Human Rights, Justice and The Rule of Law Entrenched	Democracy and Good Governance					
		Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law					
	(12) Capable Institutions and Transformative Leadership in Place	Institutions and Leadership					
		Participatory Development and Local Governance					
Total Aspiration 3			21833	20737	42570		410809
4) A Peaceful and Secure Africa	(13) Peace Security and Stability is Preserved	Maintenance and Preservation of Peace and Security					
	(14) A Stable and Peaceful Africa	Institutional structure for AU Instruments on Peace and Security					
	(15) A Fully Functional And Operational APSA	Fully operational and functional APSA Pillars					
Total Aspiration 4			21417	20481	41898		403057

5) Africa with a Strong Cultural Identity Common Heritage, Values and Ethics	16) African Cultural Renaissance is Pre- eminent	Values and Ideals of Pan Africanism					
		Cultural Values and African Renaissance					
		Cultural Heritage, Creative Arts and Businesses					
Total Aspiration 5			19032	19607	38639		326986
6) An Africa Whose Development is People Driven, Relying on The Potential Offered by African People, Especially Its Women and Youth, and Caring for Children	(17) Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life	Women and Girls Empowerment					
		Violence & Discrimination against Women and Girls					
	(18) Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children	Youth Empowerment and Children					
Total aspiration 6			56981	61679	118660		1139243
7) An Africa as a Strong, United, Resilient and Influential Global Player and Partner	(19) Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence	Africa's Place In Global Affairs.					
		Partnership					
	(20) Africa Takes Full Responsibility for Financing Her Development	African Capital Market					
		Fiscal System and Public Sector Revenues					
		Development Assistance					
Total Aspiration 7			0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total			322583	329028	651611		5916031

Figure 9. Gender Distribution of Volunteers Across Agenda 2063 Aspirations



As shown in the above Figure 9, the stocktaking of assignments rather than assignment hours gives a clearer picture about the sizable number of youths taking part in volunteer services. It is also interesting to see that 74% of the assignments were carried out by volunteers of under 35 years of age, of which more than half (50.5%) were females (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Gender Distribution of Volunteers Across African Countries

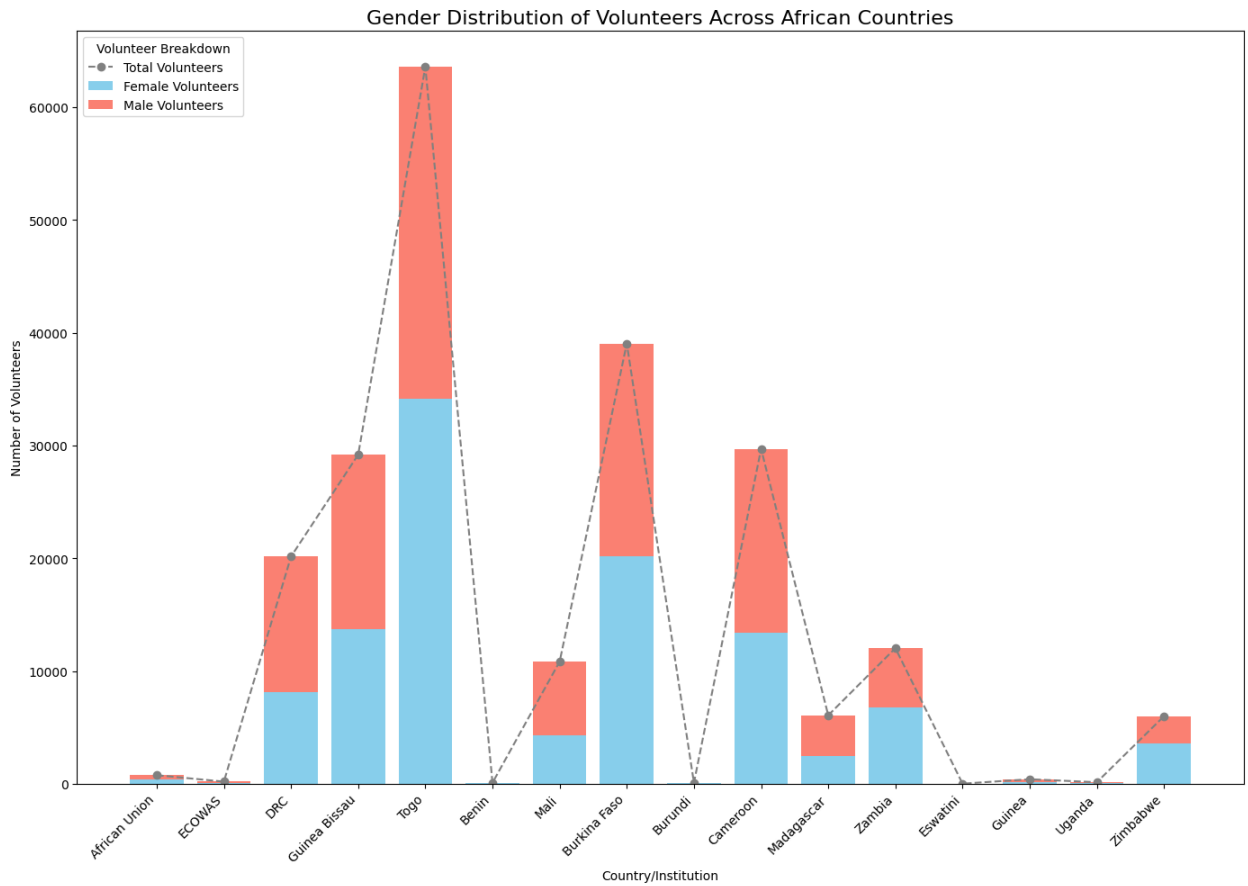


Figure 11. Number of volunteer assignments by gender

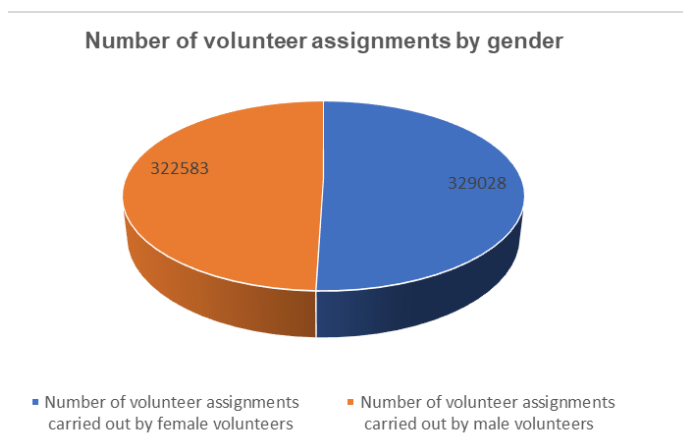
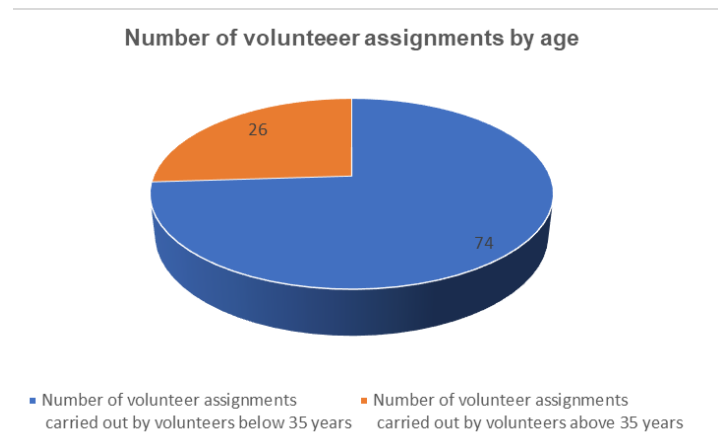


Figure 12. Percentage of volunteer assignments by age



As the figure above indicates, 74 % of the volunteer assignments were carried out by young people below 35 years of age, of which 50.5% were females.

The **651611 volunteer assignments** devoted a total of **5916031 hours per month** to volunteering. It should be noted that these figures were obtained from 312 (or 50%) organizations that filled out the questionnaires out of the 620 organizations registered on the AU VLP volunteer organizations on the continent. Thus, the aggregate volunteered hours could have been much higher than reported. And even these reports do not mention how many of the 11712450 individual volunteers this counted for or the type of services these volunteers performed together. In any case, **if the volunteered hours of the 11712450 volunteers (Table 6) were fully captured and reported, the total volunteered hours per month would have been quite huge.** (The monetary contribution of these volunteers is indicated in the next section of this report).

4.2.2. Contribution of volunteers to the achievement of the aspirations of the Agenda 2063 and their corresponding SDGs – A few instances

Some countries reported the contribution of volunteers to various aspirations of Agenda 2063 and SDGs but without breakdown in terms of number of volunteers for each aspiration/SDG. As a result, this could not be captured and/or presented juxtaposed with the respective aspirations of Agenda 2063 nor the SDGs.

In **Senegal**, volunteerism strives to "leave no one behind", and more than 50000 volunteers were mobilized for sustainable development. Volunteerism is playing an important role in community development, including health and basic education. Regarding SDG 5 or on gender promotion, 12054 females benefited from 76 community-based micro-projects. Since 2020, volunteering has also been at the forefront of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to mobilizing and deploying a vast number of human resources across the country, volunteering is also used as a vehicle for social inclusion. As such, Senegal is promoting volunteerism to combat mass youth unemployment through the rapid implementation of the emergency plan for socio-economic integration and youth employment, who represent nearly half of the total Senegalese population. In June 2021, a special campaign made it possible to recruit 1000 volunteers from the National Civic Service and 500 socio-educational animators for the management and animation of the youth infrastructure network. The continuation of this policy will enable Senegal to implement strategies and policies to "leave no one behind".

Box 2. Mini Case study - Mozambique: Holiday Programme Developing the District through Volunteerism ⁸

Young people born and brought up in urban settings are not always acquainted with the realities of the rural areas of their own country. Moreover, practical work experiences are not readily available to recent graduates from universities.

The Associação dos Estudantes Finalistas Universitários de Moçambique (*Association of University Finalist Students and Recent Graduates of Mozambique* (AEFUM)), a non-governmental organization, has thus taken up the charge to enhance their skill base and engage young university students in voluntary activities in government institutions in various districts of the country. The initiative started in 2005 in response to the Government's vision of a "District, Development Pole".

The volunteers reap many benefits from this initiative; get hands-on work experiences and deepen their knowledge of the realities of the country, which boosts their leadership skills and employability.

Another positive outcome of the programme is that a significant number of them end up employed in the very institutions in which they volunteered – a clear indication of the quality of their work and the value of their contributions.

Figure 13. Sustainable Development in Africa: Key Contributions to Agenda 2063 and SDGs



Mozambique's Volunteerism Initiative

CLIENT PROBLEM

In Mozambique, a significant gap exists between young urban graduates and the realities of rural life, along with a shortage of practical work opportunities for these recent alumni. Recognizing this disparity, the need arose for a program that would bridge these experiences and engage students in local development efforts.

OBJECTIVE

The Associação dos Estudantes Finalistas Universitários de Moçambique launched a volunteer program connecting students with the government for skill-building.

SOLUTION

AEFUM employed a comprehensive strategy that included hands-on volunteering and community outreach to provide students with real-world exposure. This approach not only enhanced their understanding of local dynamics but also fostered essential soft skills through active participation.

RESULTS

The volunteer program resulted in many participants gaining employment in the institutions they served, enhancing the local government's talent pool and boosting graduates' employability, showcasing their valuable contributions.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

This case study highlights how volunteerism fosters youth development in Mozambique. AEFUM's efforts to involve university students in impactful activities demonstrate how volunteering can close educational gaps and support local growth.

4.2.2.1. Contribution to the achievement of Aspiration 1: A Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development: Goal 1 - Goal 7, and SDGs 1- SDG 4; SDG 6 -SDG 9; SDG 11, and SDG 13 - SDG 15

Togo: Launched in 2016, the Togolese National Volunteer Programme's very innovative initiative, known as *Volontariat d'Engagement citoyen* or *Civic Commitment Volunteerism- VEC*) enabled to reach out to a vast target group of underprivileged communities that had been previously excluded from most youth programmes. This programme, which is open to out-of-school and partially schooled youths, has so far benefited 8127 young Togolese nationals out of which 5446 are young women, representing 67% of the total number.

Sustainable Development in Africa



An Africa thriving on inclusive growth means improving living standards for all. Key indicators include unemployment rates, GDP per capita, and efforts against poverty and hunger, essential for life transformation.



Empowering individuals through education and innovation is key. Metrics like preschool attendance, primary enrollment rates, and qualified STEM teachers show progress toward a skilled citizenry.



Promoting health and nutrition is vital for communities. Key health indicators include maternal and neonatal mortality rates, access to reproductive health, and disease prevalence, all vital for a healthier society.



Economic transformation through sustainable practices is crucial. By focusing on GDP growth, industrialization, and diversification, we can build a resilient economy that supports tourism and innovation.



Revolutionizing agriculture is essential for food security and economic resilience. By enhancing productivity through technology and sustainable practices, we can address hunger and poverty while boosting rural development.



Unlocking the potential of the blue economy drives growth. Harnessing marine resources sustainably ensures innovation, biodiversity protection, and a robust contribution to national economies.



Building climate-resilient economies is imperative. Through sustainable land and water management, renewable energy, and biodiversity conservation, we can combat climate change and secure a prosperous future.

Table 7. Aspirations and Milestones of Agenda 2063 and Alignment with UN's SDGs

Aspiration	Goals	Priority Areas	Corresponding SDG
1) A Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development	(1) A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and well-being for All Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incomes, Jobs, and decent work Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment rate Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty, Inequality and Hunger Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gini coefficient, % of the population living below the national poverty line Prevalence of undernourishment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social security and protection Including Persons with Disabilities Modern and Livable Habitats and Basic Quality Services Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of population with access to safe drinking water % of the population with access to electricity % of the population with access to the Internet % of the population using the Internet Proportion of urban population living in slums or informal settlements % of the population using safely managed sanitation services 	1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere in the world 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable Economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable
	(2) Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and STIskills-driven revolution Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of children in preschool age attending preschool Net enrolment rate in primary education Proportion of teachers qualified in Science or Technology or Engineering or Mathematics Secondary school net enrolment rate 	4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
	(3) Healthy and well-nourished citizens	Health and Nutrition Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of women in the reproductive age 15-49 who have access to sexual and reproductive health service in the last one year Maternal mortality ratio Neo-natal mortality rate Under five mortality rate % of deliveries attended to by skilled personnel Number of new HIV infections per 1000 population Tuberculosis incidence per 1000 persons per year Malaria incidence per 1000 persons per year % of eligible population with HIV having access to Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) Prevalence of underweight among children under 5 	3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
	(4) Transformed Economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable and inclusive economic growth Indicator: GDP Growth Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STI driven Manufacturing / Industrialization and Value Addition Indicator: Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic diversification and resilience Indicator: Manufacturing value added as a % of GDP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality/Tourism Indicator: Tourism value added as a proportion of GDP	8. Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.
	(5) Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural Productivity and Production Indicator: Growth rate of yields for the five national priority commodities	2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
	(6) Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Resources and Energy Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishery Sector value added as a share of GDP Marine biotechnology value added as a % of GDP 	14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

	(7) Environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio-diversity, conservation, and sustainable natural resource management. <p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ % of agricultural land is placed under sustainable land management practice. ◊ % of terrestrial and inland water areas preserved. ◊ % of coastal and marine areas preserved 	<p>6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.</p> <p>7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.</p> <p>13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.</p> <p>15. Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss.</p>
--	---	--	---

The contributions of volunteers to achieve Aspiration 1 undertaken through AUCVLP are enormous in both quantity and impact. They are mainly related to the improvement of access to social basic services, especially health and education. In some member countries where professional teachers, nurses, midwives, and other health personnel are reluctant to be assigned to remote areas, governments and civil society organizations rely on volunteers to ensure that the population have access to these basic services.

4.2.2.1.1. Contribution to the Achievement of Goal 1: A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well-Being for All Citizens, SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG8, and SDG 11

Figure 14. Global and Continental Impact of Volunteerism: Contributions to Development and Well-Being



To the question “*on average, how many volunteer hours are contributed towards this work in a month?*” the survey by the AU Continental Volunteer Platform (AUCVLP) provided the following result.

The total number of hours devoted to Agenda 2063 by the **651611 volunteer** assignments reported in the AUCVLP’s survey is **5916031 hours per month** (extrapolated to **70992372 hours per year**.) Considering an **average monthly salary of USD 796 in Africa**, 4 weeks per month, and 40 hours per week, the **average salary per hour is $796/4=199$ and $199/40=$ USD 4.98**. This gives an **annual monetary value of $5916031 \times 4.98 \times 12=$ USD 353542012**.

Based on the World Bank ranking, the top five highest GDP in Africa are Nigeria (USD 477386000), Egypt (USD 476748,000), South Africa (USD 405870000), Algeria (USD 191913), and Morocco (USD 134182000).⁹

volunteer and the number of hours they volunteered is likely a significant discount, which makes their contribution to GDP below the estimate obtained by other studies. For example, a previous research by Johns Hopkins University found the contribution of volunteerism to GDP to be 2.4 % at global level and 2.8% for Africa. Moreover, as stated earlier, fewer than 50% of the organizations registered on the AUCVLP’s database responded to the survey questionnaire. This was probably the main reason for the understatement of the contribution of volunteering in the AU Member States.

Moreover, had the contribution of the 11306616 volunteers providing services under the auspices of the volunteer-involving organizations been tracked, reported, and measured, the monetary contribution of volunteering for the development endeavour of AU and its members would have been quite enormous.

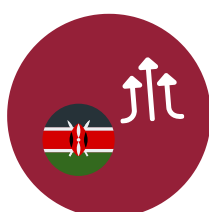
Box 3. If the volunteers who responded to the AUC Volunteer Linkage Platform’s questionnaire were to be considered as forming a nation of sorts – not by geography or citizenship but by the common bond of voluntarily contributing to a community’s well-being - this hypothetical nation would have the place of the fourth highest GDP in Africa just after Nigeria, Egypt, and South Africa.

According to the African Economic Outlook 2023 published by the African Development Bank in May 2023, Africa’s projected GDP for 2023 is USD 3.1 trillion. The contribution of the volunteers in the AUCVLP survey can be estimated to be 0.01% of the GDP in Africa ($35\,354\,2012/3\,100\,000\,000\,000 \times 100$).

It should be noted that the count of those who

Figure 15. Volunteerism's Transformative Impact on Lives and Communities in Africa

Highlighting the vital role of community service in achieving Agenda 2063 and SDGs 1, 2, 8, and 11. Discover how each nation's contribution is shaping a brighter future for Africa.



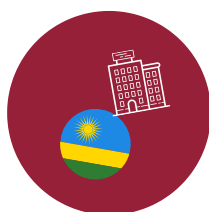
Kenya's Growth by Volunteering

Explore the vibrant initiatives where volunteers have contributed to a remarkable 3.66% of GDP (~USD 670 million). Learn how 30,000 individuals have gained skills in entrepreneurship, leading to 15,600 new job placements that uplift communities.



Togo's Empowerment Path

Togo's volunteers mobilized 1,000 people, with 60% gaining better jobs. They launched 320 projects, boosting the economy from USD 10,425 in loans to USD 58,305 in savings, helping 4,163 volunteers open savings accounts.



Rwanda's Infrastructure Up

Rwanda's volunteers helped build 17,251 km of new roads and maintain 32,386 km. They also constructed 5,647 latrines and 10,660 handwashing stations, valued at nearly USD 457,933, improving health and sanitation.



Mozambique's GDP Role

Volunteer activities led by five major organizations have contributed significantly to Mozambique's economy, representing 1% of national GDP, demonstrating the power of collective action in driving national growth.



Algeria's Green Efforts

Algeria's commitment to environmental sustainability is reflected in the efforts of 40,000 volunteers dedicated to enhancing urban greenery and preservation, fostering a healthier ecosystem for future generations.



Burkina Faso Aid

Constructed 17 boreholes and established 6 water systems, while rehabilitating 32 pumps. This initiative has directly benefitted 32,969 individuals, including 6,500 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), ensuring essential water access for the community.



Central Africa Impact

Community efforts restored 24 wells for 10,800 people and built 100 latrines for 2,000.

At a country level, research in **Kenya**¹⁰ conducted in 2017 found that volunteers in **Kenya** contributed 3.66 % of GDP, equivalent to 670 million hours per year. This means volunteers contribute more to the national GDP than do tobacco, coffee, or tea. The age range was 35 to 74 years. The Empowered Youth for Employment and Entrepreneurship programme in the country engaged 548 volunteers who offered 30000 youth employability and entrepreneurship skills training. 15600 of those trained got employment and entrepreneurship opportunities (SDGs 5, 6, 7, and 8).

In **Mozambique**, as found in the responses to the online questionnaire (2023), the impact of the five largest voluntary organisations was estimated to be equivalent to at least 1% of the GDP.

In **Togo**, a total of 1000 volunteers were recruited for waves 1 and 2. Of these, 604 (60%) of them found better jobs during their assignments and resigned, and 396 (40%) remained until the end of the 5-year mission. The National Volunteer Programme of Togo (ANVT) considers insertion of professional volunteers in its activities. ANVT's data in June 2023 show that 1622 female volunteers wish to move towards self-employment and 479 of the volunteers want to learn a [skill] to enhance their employability. Some of the volunteers were trained as craftsmen and 706 of them wanted an installation kit.

To help the volunteers raise funds to finance their projects and ensure their basic social needs or diversify their sources of income, 320 income-generating activities were created. ANVT supported the volunteers involved in income-generating activities and helped them get loans from savings and loan groups. The total amount of loans received was 6487505 CFA (USD 10425), and after reimbursement, the total amount saved by these former volunteers was 36281750 CFA (USD 58305). A total of 4163 (out of which 3075 were females) of these former volunteers have now a savings account.

Besides, volunteers contributed to significantly improving living conditions in cities through the cleaning of 623 garbage dump sites, the development of 355 green spaces and 574 rest

areas, and the repair of 298.47 km of roads, among others.

In **Algeria**, 40000 volunteers from “La Fondation Ness El Khir” worked on green spaces and the preservation of cities.

In **Burkina Faso**, the national volunteer programme reported the development of road repair techniques by national volunteers thus contributing to better maintenance of roads. Volunteers also helped to build 17 boreholes, six simplified drinking water supply systems, and the rehabilitation of 32 human-powered pumps that had previously fallen into disrepair in various parts of the country. These projects reached 32969 people, including 6500 Internally Displaced People (IDP), out of which 1959 people benefited from the distribution of 700 m³ of drinking water.

In the **Central African Republic**, Red Cross volunteers built 11 boreholes and organized 64 campaigns on hygiene promotion in 2021 that reached 23360 beneficiaries. In 2022, funded by the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), volunteers rehabilitated 24 water wells for 10800 beneficiaries and 100 latrines for 2000 beneficiaries. To contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda which pushes for universal access to clean and reliable water, the United Nations Volunteers helped build eight (8) solar-powered autonomous borehole systems with a storage capacity of 5m³ for the benefit of eight (8) women groups.

The **DRC** Red Cross mobilized thousands of volunteers since 2020, they work in the crucial areas of water, public hygiene, and sanitation initiatives. In **Nigeria**, the 2019 annual report of the Red Cross indicates that over 1.3 million people have seen remarkable improvements in sanitation as a result of its work.

In **Rwanda**, from June 2020 to July 2021, youth volunteers were engaged in various activities aimed at improving access to water and sanitation. Through this initiative, 5647 latrines of a total value of FRW 225880000 (Approx. USD188158) and 10,660 hand washing stations valued at FRW 53300000 (Approx. USD44,399) were constructed. In addition, youths conducted 27312 campaigns

to educate local communities on proper hygiene practices.

Volunteers also supported infrastructure development. Through community activities known as *Umuganda*, which take place at the end of each month, roads at the village and sector levels were repaired. Notably, Rwandan youth volunteers involved in community policing under the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC, 2021) have constructed and repaired roads. A total of 17,251 km of new roads were constructed, with an estimated value of Rwf 953800000 (Approx. USD188158), and 32,386 km of roads were maintained amounting to a value of Rwf 323,860,000 (Approx. USD269775).

The **Senegalese Red Cross's** 2023 Country plan reported that it relies on 30000-strong volunteers, well-trained over 100 national disaster response team members in the areas of shelters, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and cash transfers, and has mobilized over 2500 community disaster response team members. In **Zambia**, 1503 volunteers were mobilized in Infection Prevention and Control using WASH.

4.2.2.1.2. Contribution to the Achievement of Goal 2: Well-Educated Citizens and Skills Revolution Underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation, SDG 4

«La Fondation Ness El Khir» from **Algeria** reported that 30000 volunteers worked in the area of Education.

Ghana reported the mobilization of 540 national volunteer teachers who were equipped to teach literacy with 160 heads/assistants of schools and 30 District Teacher Support Teams. Sixteen Community Action Care Group volunteers were trained to provide technical support to reading clubs and other community action initiatives. They distributed 124000 copies of supplementary reading materials to schools and reading clubs. As a result, 50.8% of children assessed confirmed to having storybooks in their homes, as against 13.5% during baseline. About 157 out-of-school Reading Clubs were established with support from 403 volunteers,

which benefited over 8000 children, and 54% of the children who were sampled indicated that they improved their functional literacy skills.

Since 2018, the deployment of volunteer facilitators enabled the establishment of classes in most rural communities, which resulted in the improvement of rural enrolment rate in literacy programmes exceeding the planned targets.

In **Guinea**, the national volunteer programme deployed 32 (7 female, 25 male) volunteers to the education sector. An independent and external evaluation of the **ECOWAS Volunteer Programme** noted that 117 volunteers were deployed in the education sector, and identified the following results in the sector:

- A 100% success rate to the First Cycle Studies Diploma, and 95% at an intermediary level at **Lelouma** Secondary School. The teacher who reported this result also indicated that during the three years as a volunteer, he taught more than 600 students in physics and chemistry;
- A 100% success rate for the Baccalaureate option mathematics, and 100% success for the experimental secondary school of **Beyla** that benefited from an ECOWAS volunteer mathematics teacher;
- A volunteer Basic Science teacher in **Jaiama Secondary School** reported that he improved his academic performance in BECE and WASSCE (scored 100 % at the last BECE). The [school principals] were surprised and told him that they had not seen that happen in a decade.

Liberia: One testimony about the contribution of the volunteers deployed in **Liberia** was that of the **Buutuo** High School principal, who testified based on what he observed during a monitoring mission. The principal affirmed that the success rate in the classes taught by the volunteers has *“moved from 0% in the exams of the West African Examination Council (NAEC) before the arrival of the ECOWAS volunteers to 100% since their presence in the school”*.

Sierra Leone: In 2013-2014, the supervisors of the French teachers in Sierra Leone reported that before the arrival of the volunteers, there were no permanent and qualified/trained French teachers

in their respective schools. The same has been reported for the science teachers, which negatively influenced the performance of the students. The presence of volunteer French teachers contributed to the higher goal of the government of Sierra Leone to promote the French language as a means for better integration in the sub-region.

Box 4. Recognition of the value of volunteerism

The government of Liberia adopted a playbook entitled, “*Somebody Should Talk to Our Wives*”, which was originally written as reading material by a volunteer teacher Stephen Udu Arusi in his home country Nigeria to teach students about gender issues in Liberian schools. This book remains today as a standard reading material for students. Through this action, the government showed that the sacrifice of this volunteer who passed away during his assignment would never be in vain. This can be counted among the greatest contributions a volunteer can make to his/her host country.

79 mathematical sets, pens, and pencils to Grade 6 female students at a primary school, which enabled these girls to participate in the National Primary School Examination (NPSE). Through the same project, the organization distributed school materials to 50 primary school pupils (boys and girls) at another primary school in Freetown.

In **Togo**, under the *Plan of Action Innovation Challenge Fund*, a study provided information on the role played by volunteers in education systems. The study showed that improvements in learning outcomes can be largely attributed to the contributions of volunteer teachers mobilized by the National Volunteer Agency of Togo. As an example, the study noted that for the 2018–2019 school year, the average class size for the first year of secondary education was 37 pupils, which would have been 47 pupils per teacher without the volunteer teachers. This reduction of 10 pupils per class brings the number closer to the national minimum standard of 30 pupils per teacher. The study also indicated that volunteer teachers can increase the pass rate in secondary school leaving examinations. For instance, estimates showed that the mobilization of 368 volunteers helped 1470 students pass their exams in the fourth year of lower secondary school (2.4% of the national total) and 2223 students in upper secondary school (12.1% of the national total).

In **Kenya**, the Jukumu Letu Community Organisation (JLCBO) mobilised volunteer teachers from the community that enabled 1000 out-of-school children to access education in Mathare slums in Kenya’s capital, Nairobi.

In **Mali**, 9400 national volunteers were assigned to provide support in the education sector.

In **Sierra Leone**, the Network for Youth and Children’s Development Sierra Leone (NYCD-SL), a youth-led civil society advocacy and development organization, through its “Project-Caring 4Girls Education” (Project-C4GE) has made significant strides in what seems to be an impossible task of getting girls to school – and keeping them there. The organization distributed

4.2.2.1.3. Contribution to the achievement of Goal 3, SDG3 - HEALTH

This part showcases the contributions of international development partners and national and international volunteers to the achievement of Goal 3 of SDG and AU's Agenda 2063.

In **Burkina Faso**, 15000 national volunteers were deployed to serve as health workers at the community level. These volunteers provide a “backdoor” form of primary healthcare to people who do not have access to official health centers. In addition, these volunteers distributed 3848 exclusive breastfeeding kits to internally displaced households and flood victims in this country.

Box 5: Mini case study- Burkina Faso: Integrating volunteering in the promotion of immunization and civil registration¹¹.

High blood pressure, malaria, dengue, diabetes, immunization, and birth registration status of children, the country does not always have the appropriate manpower.

UNICEF and the National Volunteer Programme of Burkina Faso have therefore decided to cooperate and find a suitable solution to this problem through volunteers who use the U-Report concept. U-report, a social platform developed by UNICEF, is a movement of young people coming together, launching initiatives, and taking voluntary action to bring about positive change in their communities. Through their cooperation with UNICEF, which also funds the initiative, the national volunteer programme recruited and trained 1525 young national U-volunteers Reporters (constituting 51.3% or 782 females) to use digital technology to ensure that children 's immunization status in targeted households is up - to - date and births are registered. The initiative mainly covered five health districts in the capital city Ouagadougou.

To facilitate the collection, centralization, processing, and analysis of the data, a digital platform in the form of an application has been designed and installed on the smartphones of the trained volunteers. A communication campaign in French and the most widely-spoken local language in the capital was undertaken through TV, radio, social media, and newspapers to inform, prepare, and explain to the population the rationale and the importance of the

work of the volunteers. Opinion leaders and public criers also played an important role during the campaign.

Using a research-action approach and equipped with their smartphones, the U-Reporters national volunteers went door to door to collect data and sensitize the population. Some of the results achieved are:

- 125871 households visited in the five districts;
- 633947 (317203 females) were sensitized on the epidemic-prone diseases and their level of knowledge of these diseases was tested;
- 3,925 (1965 females) children who were missed during routine immunization were identified, registered, and their vaccination status updated;
- Out of 16192 children of 5 to 9 years seen, 12,746 had not been immunized against cervical cancer and thus their immunization status was updated;
- Of the 633947 children evaluated, 79739 (40,588 females) did not have a birth certificate. With the help of dedicated volunteers, they all now have their birth certificates.



In the **DRC**, since 2020 the DRC Red Cross has mobilized thousands of volunteers to provide services and respond to emergencies in the areas of health: reproductive health, HIV, vaccination, polio, malaria, etc. They also provide community-based first aid, operational first aid, and specific training to groups of people, companies, organizations, or community members who express the need.

In **Cameroon**, 12977 national volunteers were deployed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other national volunteers were also deployed in various areas of the health sector.

In the **Central African Republic**, as part of the fight against COVID-19, more than 400 volunteers from the Central African Red Cross (CRCA) raised awareness of prevention strategies reaching 1050000 people through the dissemination of information.

An independent external evaluation of the **ECOWAS volunteer Programme** found that 44 ECOWAS volunteers were assigned to the health sector in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Some of their key achievements were as follows:

- Reduction in the number of pregnant women giving birth at home;
- Decrease in non-desired and early pregnancies;
- Increased number of pregnant women attending prenatal consultation and family planning sensitization sessions. Because of the presence of the volunteer midwives, more pregnant women were coming to the health centers instead of traveling to the nearest city where there is a gynecologist. One of the midwives reported doing 90 consultations and 30 assisted deliveries of pregnant women per month, and a second one reported conducting about 1,155 consultations;
- Better access to emergency medico-surgical treatment situations. One volunteer assistant surgeon reported that, in collaboration with the chief surgeon, 19 surgery interventions were undertaken, constituting five (5) cases of appendicitis, eight (8) cases of Caesarian, four (4) cases of non-strangulate *inguinal hernia* and one (1) case of *hydrocele*;
- Decrease in child mortality. It was very difficult

for babies under 1kg to survive before the deployment of one of the volunteers, but the nurse's presence improved the survival rate of underweight babies a lot, which went from 60% when the volunteer arrived at the hospital up to 95% thanks to the work of the volunteer. This incredible achievement prompted UNICEF to have the volunteers help with the development of a curriculum materials for the University of Sierra Leone.

In **Ethiopia**, the Red Cross Society addressed 5892307 people through COVID-19 response activities, such as Community sensitization and awareness creation, distribution of sanitizers, provision of sanitization services, distribution of face masks, disinfecting of facilities/offices, ambulances, and other vehicles, schools, houses, and distribution of food items to communities affected by COVID-19.

In **Guinea**, the national volunteer programme deployed 65 (47 females, 18 males) national volunteers in the health sector over the last five years. In 2021, 12 (10 females and 2 males) of these volunteers participated in a caravan tour across the country and achieved the following results:

- ◇ 257 assisted deliveries;
- ◇ 3461 prenatal consultations;
- ◇ 2953 Malaria treatments;
- ◇ 4539 vaccinations against COVID-19.

Box 6. Mini case study- Guinea¹² : Remote areas get access to health services thanks to the volunteers

Guinea faces two key challenges in terms of access to basic social services, which are illiteracy and recurrent epidemics such as cholera, Ebola, and COVID-19.

To address these challenges, the National Volunteer Service deployed volunteers in the fields of health and education, which helped fill the gap and even offered more health and education services to parts of the country that would not normally have qualified personnel in these two areas.

The strong support communities provided to the volunteers during their deployment helped reinforce the bonds between them. As a result, access to health and education services has improved in some remote zones of the country. Another interesting result is that after their voluntary service, most of these volunteers are often retained by the host communities as they become more aware of the importance of these services.

In **Kenya**, the Presidential Awards engaged 14725 national graduate volunteers who formed medical camps across the country benefitting 294500 people. The camps offered general check-ups, advisory services, and follow-ups. They also assisted in referrals for specialized treatments, which helped the community in getting access to improved healthcare. The volunteers further offered voluntary health-related services in schools.

Moreover, the **Kenyan Red Cross** in 2022 reached out to 4388200 Kenyans through its different interventions envisaged to improve the health condition of the target beneficiaries. These interventions included Ebola contingency planning, risk communication and communication, and community-based surveillance. Besides, 392162 people benefited from the HIV/AIDS project; supported by the Global Fund, 562064 beneficiaries received WASH-related services, and 15000 households got nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene support.

In **Liberia**, the Ministry of Health mobilized 1318 national volunteers to support the workforce of this ministry in various areas.

In **Mali**, 250 volunteers were assigned to assist in the health sector.

In **Namibia**, the work of volunteer groups and volunteers at the national and sub-national levels contributed to generating solutions and accelerating actions to address systemic gaps in SDG implementation. Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers were involved in sensitization efforts as part of the National Response Mechanism and preventive measures of the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteers played a pivotal role in critical areas of service delivery, disseminating information and awareness creation, and developing localized solutions. Obviously, these efforts were critical for the overall sustainable and resilient recovery of citizens from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In **Niger**, the national volunteer programme mobilized 955 national volunteers for the health sector. These volunteers contributed to the following percentage of the total delivery rate in their host health facilities:

- 35.99% for curative activities and 43.79% for preventive activities;
- 33.90% of cases of childbirth attended by qualified personnel;
- 43.43% of laboratory activities;
- 40.88% of caring for cases of malnutrition;
- The volunteers also attended 13,620 cases of diarrhea, 13197 cases of pneumonia, and 11312 cases of malaria.

Box 7. Mini case study - Niger: Volunteerism as a strategy to ensure the continuity of public service delivery in areas plagued with insecurity¹³

The Sahel is currently among the major crisis environments in Africa. This situation has created insecurity in various parts of the sub-region, which has led to the disruption of public services.

It is in this context that the High Commission for the Modernization of the State developed and implemented the project “Support to State Modernization for a Quality Public Service (AMESP) Project in Areas of Insecurity in Niger” with funding from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). */French Development Agency*. As part of the implementation strategy, the project decided to collaborate with the Agence Nigérienne de Volontariat pour Développement (ANVD)/*Nigerien Agency of Volunteerism for Development* to deploy volunteers in 11 municipalities,¹⁴ classified as at-risk areas from a security perspective that were part of the intervention zone of the mobile public service scheme (*Service Public Ambulant/SPA*). Eleven volunteers, qualified and motivated technicians in community development, were recruited to serve in rural areas affected by insecurity for the delivery of mobile public services. These volunteers facilitated the synergy of actions between a variety of actors, such as the public sector, the local private sector and civil society organizations working in these municipalities.

The volunteers, equipped with vehicles, worked closely with the different municipal technical services (health, agriculture, livestock, environment, women protection and education). They visited communities to deliver services such as vaccination, disease prevention and management, and awareness raising on relevant topics.

To ensure the sustainability of the interventions of the delivery of the mobile public service, ANVD, in collaboration with the AMESP Project, decided to conduct a pilot phase of using mixed teams of volunteers (Volunteer of competence and community volunteers) in two municipalities¹⁵. One hundred sixty-six (166) (*Relais Communautaires de Développement (RCD)* volunteers who were recruited from the communities to facilitate the implementation of activities under the SPA scheme were recruited and deployed in two municipalities to allow the population to benefit from services, such as health, education, water, hygiene and sanitation.

As a result, these mixed teams of volunteers ensure the continuity of public services delivery and establish the state presence in these zones.

In conclusion, this experience of using volunteers in development projects shows the importance of volunteerism for the sustainable development of communities in Niger.



Volunteerism: A Path to Resilient Public Service in Niger

Overview

Insecurity in the Sahel disrupts public services. The Nigerien government launched the AMESP project to modernize services with volunteer support.

Challenges

Insecurity has hindered service delivery, leaving many communities without essential services. This highlights the need for innovative approaches that leverage local volunteers to ensure public services reach vulnerable populations.

Solutions

Partnered with ANVD to recruit volunteers in high-risk areas. These volunteers helped access essential services via mobile units, fostering collaboration among public, private, and civil sectors, while also offering crucial outreach in health, education, and agriculture.



Results

- Enhanced public service access in 11 municipalities
- Improved health through vaccination and awareness
- Strengthened community resilience and engagement
- Ongoing volunteer involvement framework.

Conclusion

Niger's volunteerism illustrates how community initiatives improve public services during crises. The AMESP project highlighted volunteers' vital role in sustainable development and strengthening state presence in underserved regions.

The **Nigerian Red Cross**, in its 2019 annual report, indicated that in the area of health, 3329514 people were reached with preventive messages on yellow fever; 1501340 were reached with outreach services and community health programming, and 102782 children were vaccinated against yellow fever and *poliomyelitis*.

Rwanda reported the deployment of community health workers as volunteers in all its villages.

In **Sierra Leone**, the Network for Youth and Children's Development Sierra Leone (NYCD-SL) undertook community sensitization on health and sanitation through a hospital clean-up exercise. The aim was to contribute to the fight against malaria and other communicable diseases. The NGO also provided foodstuff for 280 less privileged people in Freetown who were facing severe hardship and difficulties during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In **Togo**, the National Volunteer Programme (ANVT) conducted a study on the contribution of national volunteers to the strengthening of the health sector¹⁶. According to the data collected during this study (in the years 2018 and 2019), ANVT mobilized 218 national volunteer nurses and 194 national volunteer midwives for the benefit of 412 health facilities (218 from the public administration and 194 from civil society).

In the fight against HIV/AIDS, a total of 491263 people were screened in 2018 and 451736 in 2019. Out of these numbers, the national volunteers screened 19068 people in 2018 and 11375 people in 2019, representing respectively 3.9% and 2.5% of the total number of persons screened, thus contributing to the reduction in the rate of HIV/AIDS transmission by allowing populations to test for HIV, which is the only way to know their HIV status.

By comparing the data collected and the administrative data of the health sector using indicators, such as Malaria mortality rate, HIV/AIDS transmission rate, and maternal and infant mortality rate throughout 2018 - 2019, the ANVT was able to show that its volunteers contributed to bolstering the health sector and that the effects of the volunteers' interventions have been positive at the local and national level.

Based on estimates of the Togo Ministry of Health, to achieve a much more visible impact at the national level, the study recommended that the number of volunteer nurses deployed by ANVT be increased and represent 20% of the total number of nurses from the 10% it was during the time of the study.

In **Tunisia**, the 240 local branches of the Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC), spread across the country's 24 governorates, mobilized and trained 2,500 national volunteers to support the implementation of the Government's response to COVID-19, led by the Ministry of Health. As a result, 2,158 million people were made aware of the pandemic. Volunteers also participated in the implementation of the barriers through the distribution of masks, disinfectants, temperature checking, etc. In addition, the Ministry of Public Health mobilized 61 national volunteers to provide support to residents quarantined in the eight national quarantine centers. They also contributed to the distribution of public welfare to vulnerable groups.

Also, a total of 1774 National Scout volunteers monitored the adherence to social distancing measures positioned in post offices, banks, and public institutions. About 857 national volunteers facilitated passengers' transportation at transport stations around the country, ensuring the limited number of passengers in each vehicle and distributing 43000 protective masks, among other items. Besides this, 63 United Nations volunteers and 25 French volunteers supported the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in Tunisia.

In **Zambia**, a volunteer programme known as Community Welfare Assistants Committees (CWACs) under the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) mobilized 90006 Volunteers for the health sector. These volunteers helped to reduce the pressure on the public service workers due to the increased number of patients, enhance health service delivery, improve the client-to-health personnel ratio, and increase access to quality health services. As a result of this measure, the client-to-health personnel ratio is expected to decrease from 2020 to 2026 as follows:

- From 6750 persons per doctor to 3500;
- From 4600 persons per clinical officer to 3000; and
- From 750 persons per nurse/midwife to 500.

In **Zimbabwe**, over the past five years, VSO Zimbabwe mobilized more than 4000 volunteers (60% of women and girls) who were assigned to various health and livelihood projects.

4.2.2.1.4. Contribution to the achievement of Goal 4: Transformed Economies

Based on the data gathered from the limited respondent nations, only **Zambia** seems to have made strides concerning this Goal, where 87750 volunteers were mobilized for the various programmes under the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS).

4.2.2.1.5. Contribution to the Achievement of Goal 5: Modern Agriculture for Increased Productivity and Production

Figure 16. Agri Modern Initiatives: Contributions to Increased Productivity and Sustainable Agriculture in Africa

Agri Modern Initiatives

Overview of Goal 5 Contributions

This guide explains how volunteers enhance agriculture to increase productivity and meet Sustainable Development Goal 5.



Education and Training Contributions

In Burkina Faso, volunteers played a crucial role by introducing innovative farming methods to local producers, fostering greater knowledge and application of sustainable agricultural techniques.



Environmental Restoration Support

In Ethiopia, the Red Cross Society distributed 25,000 seedlings in 2022, restored ecosystems, and trained local leaders in water management skills.



Livelihood Enhancement

In Kenya, the Red Cross Society helped over 1.3 million people by providing drought-resistant seeds to 3,000 farmers and implementing Agroforestry for community resilience.



Aid for At-Risk Communities

In Uganda, SORUDA distributed over 5,000 poultry birds to refugees, improving their nutrition and income through local sales, enhancing household welfare.



Advancing Agriculture

In Togo volunteer contributions have significantly bolstered agricultural productivity and sustainability. 2000 Anacardium were generously donated to local farmers to enhance their farming practices. 2 hectares were reforested, showcasing the impact of community-driven agroforestry initiatives.

The following AU Member Nations reported the contribution of volunteers of different forms to the achievement of Goal 5:

- In **Burkina Faso**, national volunteers contributed to teaching new farming techniques for the benefit of producers;
- In **Ethiopia**, in 2022, the Red Cross Society produced and distributed 25000 seedlings; restored five (5) hectares of Ecosystem through soil and water conservation measures (stone bund), and trained 33 (27 females and 6 males) water management committee members on water management;
- In **Kenya**, the **Red Cross Society (KRCS)** served 1331431 people through livelihood interventions, including interventions intended to ensure food security. 3000 farmers were supported with drought-tolerant seeds, and through its Climate Smart Agriculture in Tana River County, contributed to building up the resilience of communities by introducing Agroforestry intervention targeting nine farmer groups and five primary schools;
- In **Uganda**, Soroti Rural Development Agency (SORUDA), a national NGO distributed 5031 poultry birds to 370 refugees (142 males and 228 females) considered as PSN and start-up feeds worth 20kgs to 161 vulnerable hosts (77 males and 84 females). As a result, PSN were able to consume vegetables that improved their nutrition status. Some PSNs even sold their surplus to generate income to fulfill basic household needs and to start up or boost businesses. Part of the harvest was dried and locally processed for consumption in the dry season and during food scarcity;
- In **Togo**, AVES, a non-governmental organization established in 2001 by multidisciplinary groups of development actors, assisted farmers by donating more than 2000 *Anacardium* plants to them. In addition, to promote agroforestry two (02) hectares of leached areas were reforested by farmers supported by volunteers. Moreover, AVES conducted training in conservation agriculture for sustainable fertility and the fight against bushfires.

4.2.2.1.6. Contribution to the Achievement of Goal 6: Blue/ ocean economy for Accelerated Economic Growth

Among the achievements reported in this regard, AU CVLP registered volunteer-involving organizations and the organization “La Fondation Ness El Khir” in Algeria are notable. This organization reported having 15000- strong volunteers working toward the achievement of this goal.

Similarly, activities carried out during the commemoration of International Volunteer Day (IVD) in the AU Member States indicated that the AU CVLP registered volunteer-involving organizations have been engaged in the preservation of water bodies, particularly oceans. Their activities include removing plastic waste and debris from beaches, which could otherwise have sunk into dorsal habitats or floated off into the ocean surrounding the African continent. These interventions contributed to onshore and offshore clean-up activities to reduce environmental, ecological, and economic consequences affecting marine life and human health.

4.2.2.1.7. Contribution to the achievement of Goal 7: Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities

In **Burkina Faso**, volunteering activities focused on building the capacity of actors in environmental promotion and protection and emergency assistance. In 2021, 100 scouts, students, and parents were trained in reforestation and the manufacture of plant protection grids;

“La Fondation Ness El Khir” from **Algeria** indicated that 5000 volunteers worked in the Sahara Desert.

In the **DRC**, since 2020, the DRC Red Cross mobilized thousands of volunteers for environmental protection and the fight against climate change. In order to realize the impact of volunteers’ contribution, it would be necessary to look into what the situation had been before the intervention of volunteers (Box 8);

Box 8. Mini case study- The DR Congo: “KOMBOLA KINSHASA” or the use of volunteering for a healthy environment in the city of Kinshasa¹⁷

The management of household waste represents a big challenge in Kinshasa. Disrespect or indifference and lack of awareness have led to bad management of waste by the population, which further complicates the tasks of the municipal authorities. The following scenarios are observed in the city:

- Presence of mountains of solid waste on the streets due to inadequate treatment of household solid wastes. In some cases, solid waste such as plastic bottles and packaging is burned or buried. This leads to clogging gutters and narrowing riverbeds, which in turn causes flooding, and landslides that cause hundreds of deaths each year; losses of property, soil destruction, air pollution, and significant production of greenhouse gases that impact climate change, etc.;
- Improper wastewater handling and lack of public toilets lead to cases of malaria due to the proliferation of mosquitoes and other diseases such as typhoid fever, and diarrhea which are among the main causes of death in the city of Kinshasa. The impact is greater especially on children under 5 years and pregnant women;
- Public ignorance of the consequences of bad waste management on human health and the integrity of the environment;
- Lack of a strategic plan for sanitation and disaster risk reduction. For instance, there is no early warning system as part of disaster risk prevention plan;
- Poor application of health-related decisions and regulations, insufficient public policies on urbanization, hygiene and sanitation, corruption, and poor management of human, material, and financial resources allocated to the health sector.

To address these challenges 120 volunteer organizations from all 24 municipalities of the city, grouped within the “National Coalition of Volunteer Organizations for Sustainable Development”/ *Coalition Nationale des Organisations de*

Volontariat pour le Développement durable (CNOVD) joined their effort to support the KINSHASA BOPETO City Hall campaign on waste management.

The contribution of these volunteer organizations consisted of raising awareness and educating the population on sustainable management of their household waste, which will lead to a safer and healthier environment. The voluntary actions will also strengthen the role of the State in protecting the health of the inhabitants of the city of Kinshasa.

More than 2600 volunteers (men, women, and youth) were mobilized in advocacy for change of mindset and attitude, education for eco-citizenship, and promotion of leadership of volunteers in the coordination of “voluntary citizen actions for sanitation and disaster risk reduction” in their neighborhoods.

The following actions were undertaken:

- Installation of coordination teams in 120 districts of the city of Kinshasa;
- Capacity building of the 50 municipal workers in charge of health, 120 workers in charge of household waste collection, and health officers on sustainable management of municipal waste;
- Recycling and recovery of household waste collected through composting;
- Education for eco-citizenship in households, schools, universities, churches, and other workplaces; Sensitization and support to households on hygiene and sanitation of the plots by the volunteer eco-citizen counselors of the neighborhoods; door-to-door awareness-raising of the population in 120 neighborhoods of the city on the sustainable management of their household wastes and the danger that the wastes represent for their health; production of an eco-citizen guide for primary and secondary school students; and the promotion in the city of Kinshasa of “eco-households”, “eco-schools”, “eco-universities”, “eco-neighborhoods”, “eco-businesses”, and “eco-communes”;
- Destruction of breeding grounds for mosquitoes (vectors of malaria, *Chikungunya*, dengue fever, yellow fever, etc.);

- Organization of Voluntary Citizen Sanitation Actions/*Actions Citoyennes Volontaires d'Assainissement* (ACIVA/SALONGO) every Saturday on the streets and avenues of the 120 neighborhoods of Kinshasa;
- Fundraising to support the Kombola Kinshasa project;
- Advocacy works for:
 - ◇ the implementation of public policies on urbanization, hygiene, and sanitation;
 - ◇ the construction and development of resilience infrastructures (gutters, trenches, collectors, etc.);
 - ◇ the participatory implementation of a disaster risk reduction strategy plan in the city of Kinshasa;
 - ◇ the establishment of an early warning system as part of disaster risk reduction;
 - ◇ the adoption of specific regulations limiting the misuse of plastic packaging;
 - ◇ the adoption and implementation of the Citizens' Code of Conduct on hygiene and sanitation;
 - ◇ the rational management of human, material and financial resources allocated to the health sector;

Some of the results achieved are:

- The resilience of communities was enhanced;
- State authority was restored and governance in the sustainable management of municipal waste was improved;
- The population of the city of Kinshasa was informed about the dangers that the presence of waste presents to their environment, for humans, and for the planet, and therefore to get mobilized to take initiatives for action;
- A community-based disaster risk management approach was implemented through the massive mobilization of the population in the 120 neighborhoods supported by the volunteers.

In **Ethiopia**, the Red Cross Society Rehabilitated 6 hectares of degraded land through a plantation of 23980 selected seedlings. In **Nigeria**, the 2019 report of the Red Cross indicated that 67692 persons were reached in the area of disaster risk reduction.

In **Madagascar**, between 2016 and 2019, 2000 posters were put up every year on the instructions and information needed to cope with cyclones and floods by Ministry officials and volunteers. 18000 volunteers were mobilized each year on all risk and disaster management themes. This represents 72000 volunteers over the four years.

Promoting sustainable forest management in protected areas, renewable natural resources, and ecosystems requires an assessment of the trends in the status of threatened species as noted in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List Index. The Ministry of Communication and Culture mobilized communities and coordinated volunteers to raise awareness of deforestation and forest restoration and promote sustainable forest management, slash-and-burn agriculture, and reforestation in 12 communes per year. Between 2016 and 2018, the Ministry planted

3000 seedlings each year in several regions of Madagascar. An increase of 15 percent was noted in 2020 due to the efforts of the volunteers. With an average of 12000 volunteers per year for this activity, this totaled 36000 volunteers over the three years.

In **Togo**, AVES raised the awareness of community leaders on environmental pollution and its effects on the environment. Thanks to the “Green Life” project, AVES gave an opportunity to young men and women to know more about active citizenship, thus allowing them to take responsibility in their community and participate in the decision-making process concerning the protection of the environment.

AVES also brought together children to provide them with skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for the inclusion of young people in activities related to environmental issues. Sharing experiences and examples of poor and good practices through non-formal education methods were utilized.

4.2.2.2. Contribution to Aspiration 2: An Integrated Continent Politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of African Renaissance, Goals 8, 9, 10, and SDG 10

Table 8. Contributions to Aspiration 2, Goals 8, 9, 10, and SDG 10

Aspiration	Goals	Priority Areas	Corresponding SDG
2) An Integrated Continent Politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of the African Renaissance	(8) United Africa (Federal or Confederate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political and economic integration Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Proportion of reported NTBs that have been eliminated ◇ % change in value of intra-African trade per annum 	
	(9) Continental Financial and Monetary Institutions are established and functional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial and Monetary Institutions Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ The extent to which AU Member States have domesticated the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) ◇ Number of countries that have ratified the protocol on the establishment of the AU Monetary Union 	
	(10) World-Class Infrastructure crisscrosses Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications and Infrastructure Connectivity Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ % of progress made on the implementation of the Trans-African Highway Missing link ◇ % of progress made on the implementation of the African High-Speed Rail Network ◇ Number of AU Member States that have signed the Solemn Commitment to join the SAATM and implement all its measures ◇ Number of AU Member States that have signed the Memorandum of operationalizing the SAATM ◇ Increase electricity generation and distribution by at least 50% by 2020 ◇ No. of Mega Watts added to the national grid in the last two years ◇ Proportion of the population using mobile technology for communication e.g., mobile phones, iPads, computers, laptops ◇ % of the contribution of ICT to GDP 	9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.

Figure 17. Contributions to Aspiration 2: Advancing Goals 8, 9, 10, and SDG 10 in Africa

Contributions to Aspiration 2

Overview of Goals 8, 9, 10, and SDG 10

This section highlights key contributions to Political Unity and Pan-Africanism, showcasing our progress.



Goal 8: United Africa

Evaluate the status of political and economic integration initiatives. Identify barriers to trade and track the annual growth of intra-African commerce to inform strategic decisions.



Goal 9: Finance

Determine the extent to which African nations are embracing the African Continental Free Trade Area. Measure the number of nations that have ratified the foundational protocols for the AU Monetary Union.



Goal 10: Infrastructure

Compile relevant details about the infrastructure projects including major communication networks, rail systems, energy initiatives, and the commitment of nations toward SAATM implementation.



Monitoring Progress

Assess key indicators such as progress on transcontinental highways, rail networks, and electricity generation to ensure that the development targets align with the SDG objectives.

4.2.2.2.1. Contribution to the Achievement of Goal 8: United Africa (Federal or Confederate)

The establishment of the AU Youth Volunteer Corps, the ECOWAS Volunteer Programme (EVP), and the ECCAS Volunteer programme aim to contribute to better integration, thus instilling pan-Africanism in the minds of young people.

The AU-YVC which is an AU-initiated and led Pan-Africa Youth Volunteerism programme that was launched in December 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria, as a continental youth volunteer initiative, recruits and works with young professionals in all 55 AU Member States and AU organs as professional volunteers.

By the end of the pilot phase in 2014, AU-YVC had deployed **104** volunteers from **30 countries**, including the United States of America (USA). The top six nations recruiting volunteers were **Nigeria** (14), **Kenya** (12), **Cameroon** (11), **Ethiopia** (10), **Burkina Faso**, and **Uganda** (7). Collectively, these six countries contributed **61 volunteers**, accounting for more than half (**58.6%**) of the total number of volunteers deployed during the pilot phase.

Figure 18. Regional Distribution of Volunteers (2010-2014)

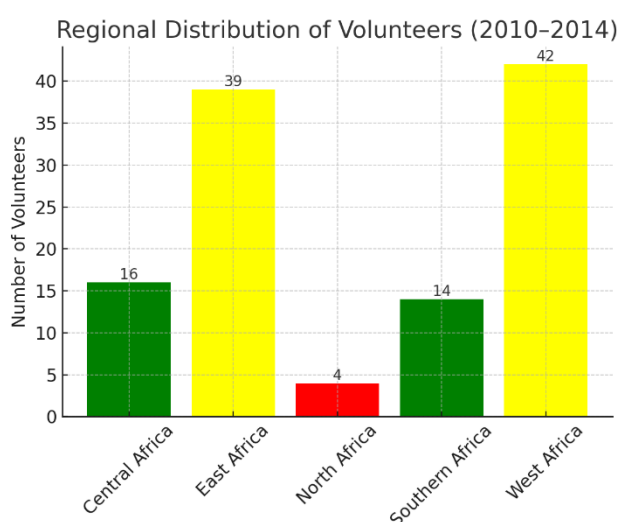


Figure 19. Top 6 Contributing Countries in the Pilot Phase

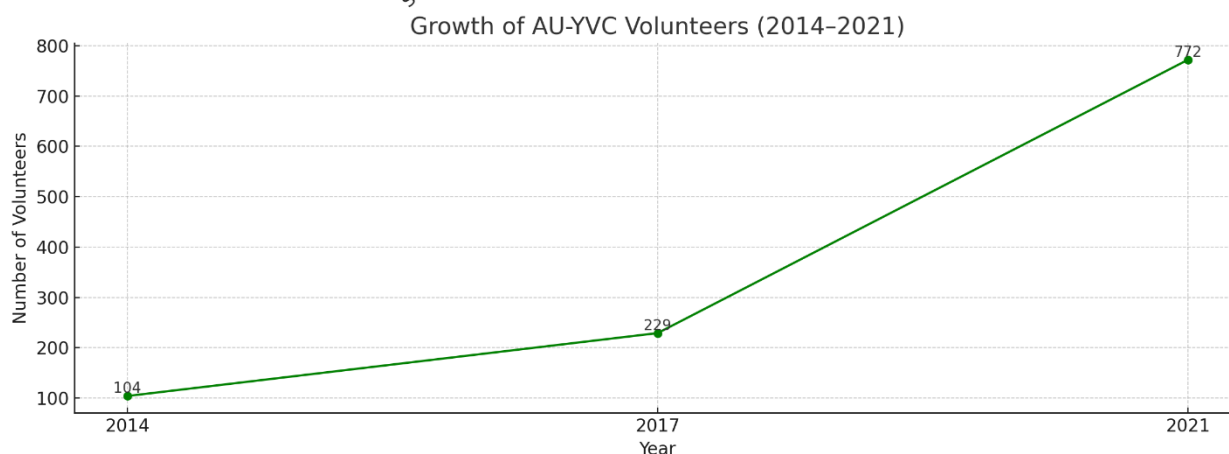
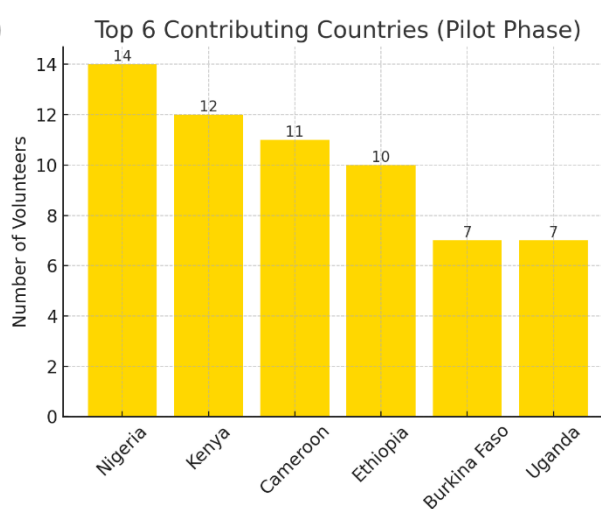
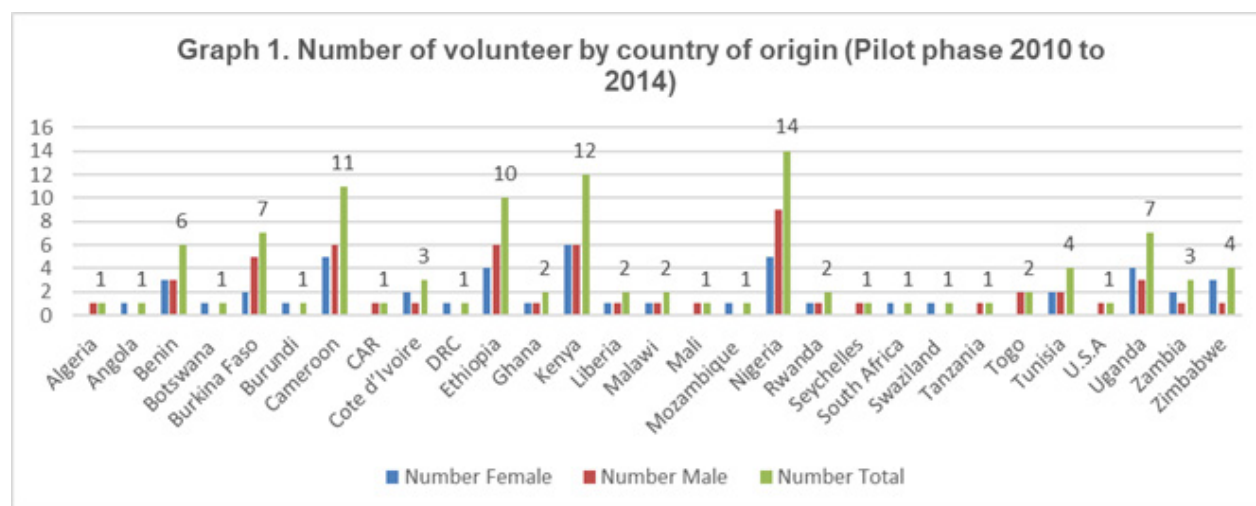


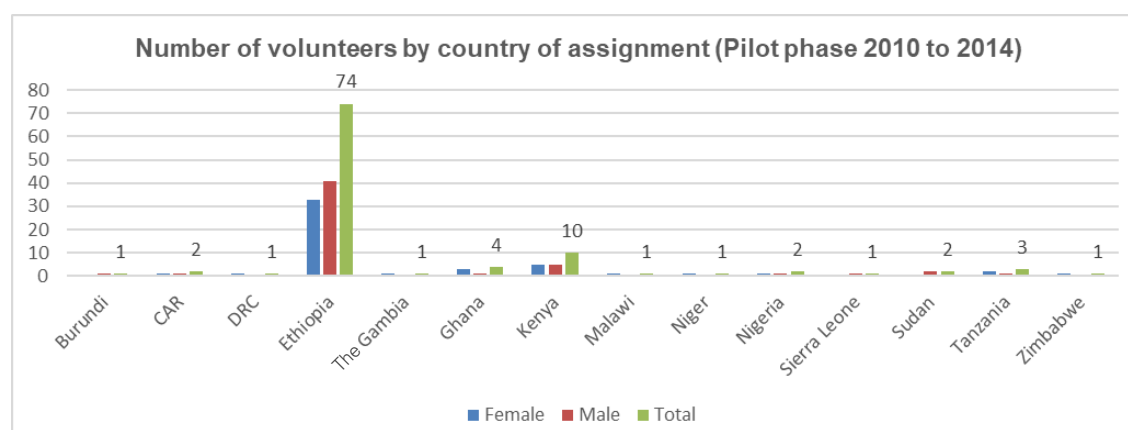
Figure 20. Growth of AU-YVC Volunteers (2014-2021)

Figure 21. Number of volunteers deployed during the pilot phase from 2010 to 2014, by country of origin



These volunteers were deployed to 14 countries: **Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe** (Figure 22).

Figure 22. Number of volunteers during the pilot phase 2010 to 2014, by country of assignment



The distribution of volunteers by Region was: 16 in **Central Africa**, 39 in **East Africa**, 4 in **North Africa**, 14 in **Southern Africa**, and 42 in **West Africa**, representing the largest share of volunteers.

Twenty-four countries had no deployed volunteers: Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

By July 2017, the total number of volunteers deployed in the field had more than doubled - from **104 in 2014 to 229 volunteers** coming from **44 countries**. The top five providers of volunteers are **Nigeria (25), Ethiopia (23), Kenya and Cameroon (18 each)** and **Uganda (12)**. The volunteers were serving in **22 countries**.

By the end of 2021, the AUYVC had sent forth 772 (363 males and 409 females) volunteers from 53 of the 55 AU Member States to serve across the continent. Seychelles and Western Sahara were the only two Member States that [have yet to send] their young people to serve as volunteers.

An assessment of the AUYVC for the period 2010 to 2017 indicated that *“most of the volunteers found that their volunteer experience was a rewarding one as they have gained professional experience and skills in their respective areas of work, such as marketing, research, communication, project management, filmmaking, campaign design, etc. They have also acquired generic skills such as working in a multicultural environment, communication skills, learning new languages, enlarging their network, building an international friendship, renewing their “sense of Africanness” and pan Africanism, and obtaining an international experience.”*

The ECOWAS Volunteer Programme, which was also launched in 2010 has deployed, to date, 203 (137 male and 66 female) volunteers from 13 nations out of the 15 ECOWAS member countries. Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau are the two countries whose citizens have never been deployed as ECOWAS volunteers. This could be partly explained by language barriers, as these two countries are Portuguese-speaking while two of the four countries where the volunteers were deployed were English-speaking (Liberia and Sierra Leone) and two French-speaking (Burkina Faso and Guinea).

In the evaluation of the ECOWAS Volunteer Programme, some volunteers intimated:

“Before that [volunteering] experience, I was [a kind of shy and lone person without much intermingling] introvert but that has changed. [Volunteering] gave me the opportunity to understand the diversity of African culture and traditions. I realized that African challenges are common, cross-border and can better be addressed by ourselves through interventions such as ECOWAS Volunteers Programmes. ... It has been a great privilege to create a network of colleagues from different African countries and I learnt a lot from them.”

“Being an ECOWAS volunteer established my interpersonal relationship with people from different countries irrespective of different culture. I also gained more knowledge in writing skills. I personally gained entrepreneurship skill by travelling to Liberia as a proud ECOWAS volunteer”

“The volunteering experience taught me about cultural integration, tolerance, [and] above all, boosted my professional career as a teacher.”

The assignment of volunteers to countries other than their countries of origin equipped young people with a spirit of belongingness to Africa and also helped break barriers and prejudices, which are significant and necessary steps to create a spirit of pan-Africanism and real integration of the continent. In other words, volunteering in other countries helps African youth develop a sense of attachment and informed commitment to the continent as a whole, and eliminates parochialism and prejudice. By all measures, these are quite important initial steps towards inculcating the spirit of the long-cherished pan-Africanism and a strong sense of integration and unwavering dedication across the continent – which is high on the agendas of the AU.

4.2.2.2.2. Contribution to the Achievement of Goal 9: Continental Financial and Monetary Institutions are Established and Functional

No contribution was reported under this goal as it is a higher-level goal. The strategic level this goal operates at seems to disregard or oversee any contribution volunteers might have in this regard. So far, the only type of contribution by volunteers could have been engaging in advocacy work for its implementation.

4.2.2.2.3. Contribution to the Achievement of Goal 10: World Class Infrastructure Crisscrosses Africa

In the **DRC**, the TOBONGISA NGO¹⁸ faced a difficult battle in 2021 to collect and properly register important, identifying information (like IMEI numbers) for mobile devices necessary for digital economy and improvement of the RAM (Registre des Appareils Mobiles/ Mobile Devices Register)'s policy. In the long battle in which a memo with recommendations was prepared and signed by 200 telecommunication subscribers and filed against top-ranking officials and ministerial offices, including the President of the Republic, and wide media, TOBONGISA's grassroots assembly was able to win a few victories in the past year. However, the Mobile Device Register (RAM) is still seen as an unreliable governance measure for the country. If the recommendations are implemented, the expected result would be a significant increase in terms of access rate to mobile phones and the Internet.

4.2.2.3. Contribution to Aspiration 3: An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law Goals 11, 12, and SDG 16

Table 9. Contribution to Aspiration 3 - Goals 11, 12 and SDG 16

Aspiration	Goals	Priority Areas	Corresponding SDG
3) An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law	(11) Democratic Values, Practices, Universal Principles of Human Rights, Justice, and the Rule of Law Entrenched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Democratic Values and Practices are the Norm <p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people who believe that there are effective mechanisms and oversight institutions to hold their leaders accountable % of people who perceive that there is press freedom % of people who believe that the elections are free, fair and transparent The extent to which the African Charter on democracy has been domesticated 	16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.
	(12) Capable Institutions and Transformative Leadership in Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutions and Leadership <p>Indicator: Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public/private official and asked or paid a bribe during the previous twelve months</p>	16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

In the areas of contributions to Aspiration 3, Goals 11, 12, and SDG 16, only a few contributions were reported, the main one of which is in the **DRC**.

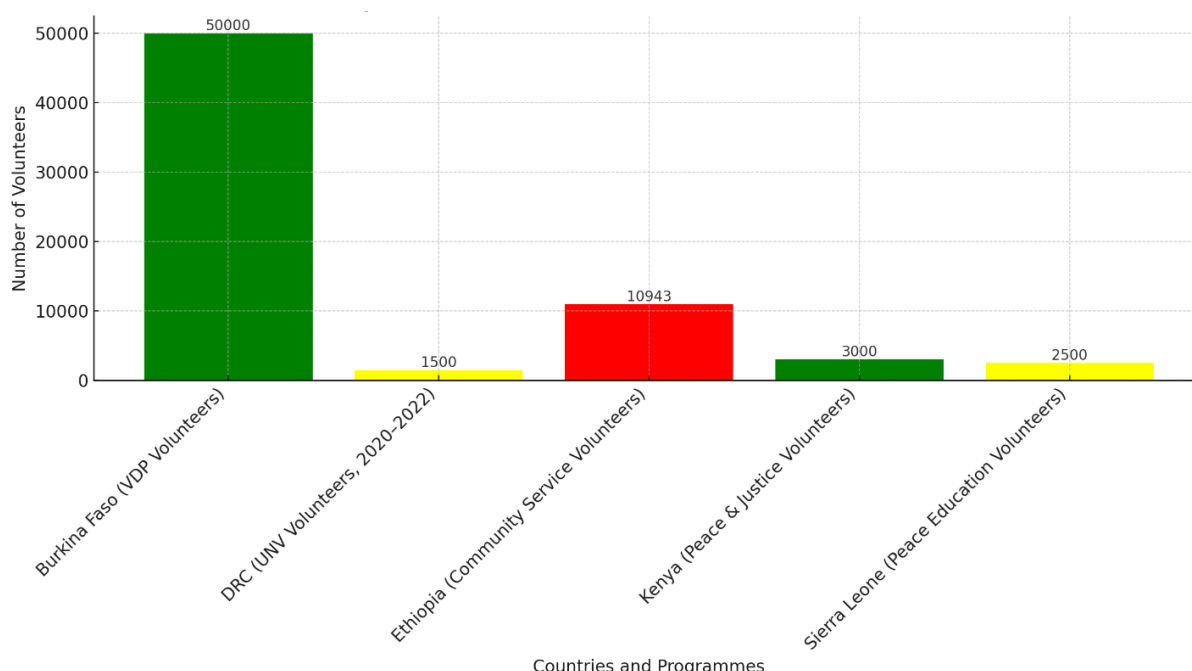
In the **DRC**, 12790 national election observer volunteers, organized by TOBONGISA, were deployed under the campaign “Congolese Want to Vote for Change”. Cognizant of the low knowledge of the youth in human rights, TOBONGISA organized a two-day training in December 2021 to strengthen the capacity of young people in human rights. Thirty (30) young people aged 18 to 33 (09 young women and 21 young men) participated in the training. As a result, these trained young people are now defending the rights of vulnerable people in their communities and developing initiatives, such as *Nga mutu na kobongisa mboka oyo*, which can be translated literally as “*it is I who will change this country*”.

4.2.2.4. Contribution to Aspiration 4: A Peaceful and Secure Africa – Goals 13, 14, 15 and SDG 16 ¹⁹

Table 10. Contribution to Aspiration 4 - Goals 13, 14, 15 and SDG 16

Aspiration	Goals	Priority Areas	Corresponding SDG
(4) A Peaceful and Secure Africa	(13) Peace Security and Stability is preserved	Maintenance and restoration of Peace and Security Indicator: Conflict-related deaths per 100000 population	16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
	(14) A Stable and Peaceful Africa	Institutional structure for AU Instruments on Peace and Security Indicator : % change in the number of armed conflicts	
	(15) A Fully functional and operational African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)	Operationalization of APSA Pillars Indicator: Existence of an operational national peace	

Figure 23. Contributions to Aspiration 4: A Peaceful and Secure Africa (Goals 13, 14, 15, and SDG 16)



In **Burkina Faso**, under the volunteer scheme “Volunteers for the Defense of the Fatherland” (or VDP in its French acronym), a grassroots movement that was established by law in January 2020 and later abrogated in December 2022, more than 50000 national volunteers were deployed alongside the army. By law, a VDP is “a person of Burkinabe nationality, auxiliary to Forces Armées Nationales (FAN)/*National Armed Forces* and Forces de Sécurité Intérieures/*Internal Security Forces* (FSI), voluntarily serving the security interests of the village, municipality or any other locality in the national territory, by virtue of state contract”. As such, volunteers registered in the national volunteer programme promoting peace and social cohesion between host populations and internally displaced persons.

In the **DRC**, since 2020, at least 400 United Nations Volunteers (UNV) have been deployed each year. These volunteers worked mainly under SDG 16 that promotes “peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development”. From 2020 to 2022, UNV in the DRC mobilized more than 850 volunteers. Additionally, the DRC Red Cross mobilized thousands of volunteers to work in prevention,

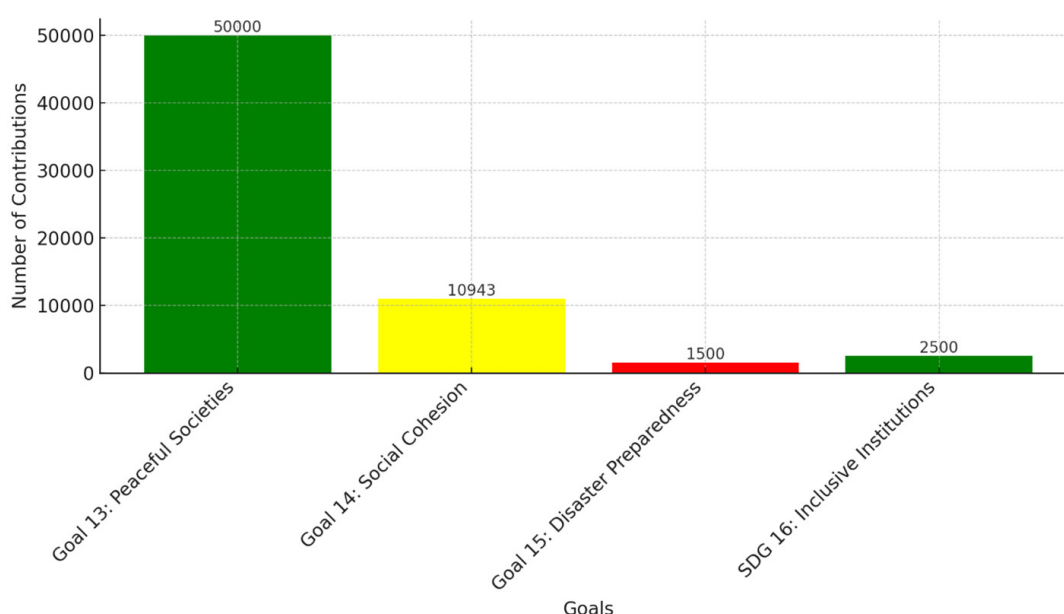
mitigation and preparedness for disasters and conflicts.

The National Voluntary Community Service programme in **Ethiopia**, with support from VSO, mobilized 10943 youth composed of 3915 females and 7028 males). After 45 days of pre-deployment training that was facilitated and coordinated by VSO with the implementation of Ministry of Peace, 9646 of them were deployed for ten months of community service in the 10 targeted regional states and two city administrations. This programme contributes to Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063, through its outcome of well-trained youth in soft skills and entrepreneurship skills that improve the potential of young people in development. This programme responds to SDG 16: *Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*, and **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** of the UN. The programme fostered constructive engagement and peaceful coexistence among the youth who gathered from different parts of the country. Moreover, the trainings given to the youth equipped them with the required skills to tap into decent work opportunities.

In **Kenya**, since 2016, volunteers have been working to foster peace and improve justice in the parts of the country that are affected by conflict. Their work is not limited to talking to conflicting parties in conflict hotspots, but also goes to trying to understand the underlying causes that lead communities to violence.

In **Sierra Leone**, the Network for Youth and Children's Development Sierra Leone (NYCD-SL) conducted awareness raising on peace and non-violence education in communities. This was also carried out in schools to educate young people on the importance of peace, stability and tolerance.

Figure 24. Comparison Across Goals in Aspiration 4: Contributions to Peace and Stability in Africa



4.2.2.5. Contribution to Aspiration 5: Africa with a Strong Cultural Identity Common Heritage, Values and Ethics, Goal 16

Table 11. Contribution to Aspiration 5 - Goal 16

Aspiration	Goals	Priority Areas	Corresponding SDG
5) Africa with a Strong Cultural Identity Common Heritage, Values and Ethics	16) African Cultural Renaissance is pre-eminent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Values and Ideals of Pan-Africanism <p>Indicator: Proportion of the content of the curricula on Indigenous African culture, values, and language in primary and secondary schools</p>	

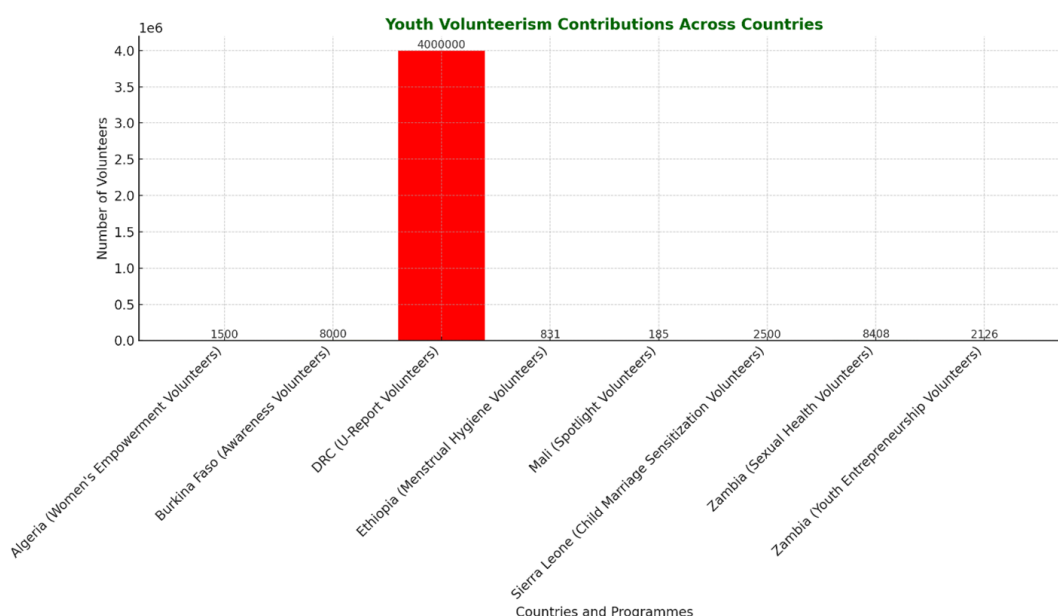
In connection with Aspiration 5, only “La Fondation Ness El Khir” from **Algeria** reported that it has assigned 17000 volunteers who are working on culture and art.

4.2.2.6. Contribution to Aspiration 6: An Africa Whose Development is people-driven, relying on the potential offered by African People, especially its Women, and Youth, and caring for Children - Goals 17, 18, and SDG 4 and 5

Table 12. Contribution to Aspiration 6 - Goals 17, 18, and SDG 4 and 5

Aspiration	Goals	Priority Areas	Corresponding SDG
6) An Africa Whose Development is People Driven, Relying on the Potential Offered by African People, Especially Its Women and Youth, and Caring for Children	(17) Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women Empowerment Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of women in total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments, regional and local bodies Violence & Discrimination against Women and Girls Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of women and girls subjected to sexual and physical violence Proportion of children whose births are registered in the first year 	5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
	(18) Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Empowerment and Children Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment rate among the youth % of children engaged in child labour % of children engaged in child marriage % of children who are victims of human trafficking Level of implementation of the provisions of the African Charter on the Rights of the Youth by Member States 	4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Figure 25. Youth Volunteer Contributions Across Countries for Aspiration 6



In **Algeria**, “La Fondation Ness El Khir” indicated that 1500 of its volunteers worked on women's empowerment and protection. Their essential undertaking reflects the vital role that gender equality can play in bringing about social stability in general and achieving a peaceful society in particular.

In **Burkina Faso**, there are more than 8000 volunteers who are busily engaged in raising awareness among 3870 people on sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, early marriage, forced marriage, female circumcision, sexual assault, rape, and sexual abuse. What makes the works of these volunteers uniquely important is the approach they use that involves engaging in serious talks with men and women of all ages. The communities directly addressed in this way testified that they “have had life-altering conversations with them [the volunteers]”.

In the **DRC**, U-Report, a social platform developed by UNICEF, is a powerful movement of youth coming together, launching initiatives, and taking voluntary action to bring about positive change in their community. To date, U-Report the DRC has mobilized about **4 million volunteers** who express themselves on issues that are important to them, through short surveys, reporting on the problems they face, and developing proposals of solutions and actions with the resulting impact of positive change reaching far beyond their own immediate communities.

One **ECOWAS volunteer**, a female Youth Specialist assigned to the ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre (EYSDC) in **Burkina Faso**, contributed to establishing a crowd-funding mechanism to support youth projects. She also organized and delivered training sessions to over 60 young individuals, from 13 ECOWAS countries in Auto Mechanics and Agro-silvopastoral systems. The benefit of these trainings is not only for the attendees but also the achievement of sustainable development across other member countries.

Another **ECOWAS volunteer** deployed in **Guinea** worked with organised and unorganized young people to conduct participatory needs assessments, and based on this, she put together a capacity strengthening strategy for ECOWAS volunteers. For example, awareness-raising training was organized on gender-based violence (GBV) in partnership with the NGO MDT (les Mêmes Droits pour Tous) that was attended by more than 400 students from the Julius Nyerere University in Kankan. NGOs, such as the Association for the Socio-Economic Sanitation of Cities (AADSEV) and Kankan Green City (KVV) were restructured thanks to her advice on the formalization and legalisation of these associations. A dozen projects, developed with her support, were launched in Kankan, accompanied by intensive advocacy work with donors to secure funding. NGOs involved in these projects included the Network for Alliance and Friendship among Young People of the World for Development (RAAJEUNET), the *Association des jeunes pour la promotion de l'espace francophone*, the National Coordination of Youth Associations of Guinea in Kankan (CAJEG / Kankan), the Guinean Network of Associations of People Infected and Affected by HIV (REAGAP+), *Kankan Green City* (KVV), the *Regional Office of the Condé Djéné Kaba* Foundation for the Promotion of Maternal and Child Health in Guinea (F PROSMI).

Five **ECOWAS volunteers** were deployed in **Liberia** within the Ministry of Gender as Women Empowerment and peace-building specialists, gender specialists, etc.

These volunteers contributed, among others, to:

- Awareness-raising on domestic violence in schools, which created a positive impact. As a result, boys who were used to violating girls' rights became aware of the negative impact and confessed and pledged that they would stop it;
- Mentoring of girls who were reluctant to take their schoolwork seriously. Thanks to this mentoring, some of these girls continued their education at the university level and some of them continued their studies at the secondary school level;
- Organization of a community street

campaign to sensitize the public on the Gender-based violence against women and girls and drug abuse;

- **One ECOWAS volunteer** within the Ministry of Youth and Sport did a thorough evaluation of the country's sports federations and constructed a database that now serves as an invaluable resource for that Ministry.

In **Ethiopia**, the Red Cross Society supported the management of menstrual hygiene by providing essential kits to 831 female students in seven schools. These kits contain underwear (4000) pieces, sanitary pads (4000), soap (4000 bars), and an additional 2500 pieces of underwear.

In **Mali**, a group of dedicated volunteers works to improve the provision of quality services to gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, thanks to the Spotlight project. The Spotlight project aims to eradicate GBV and harmful traditional practices affecting women and girls through capacity building of five networks of women's organizations (comprising a total of 250 organizations), implementation of 768 community platforms, setting up 10 One-Stop Centers, training of 171 service providers, and deployment of 185 volunteers to assist victims. The remarkable achievements of Spotlight volunteers include, among others, informing 1074722 people about the availability of these services in 2021 alone, and they supported 217,959 GBV victims between 2018 and 2021, with 869 victims being cared for in the One-Stop Centers.

In **Sierra Leone**, the Network for Youth and Children's Development Sierra Leone (NYCD-SL) conducted a community sensitization on child marriage in communities as part of "Child Marriage: A 9-Year-Old Says No!" – a lead operation of a U.S.-based NGO that works to eliminate child marriage. NYCD-SL also makes use of dramas and other engaging interactive methods to enlighten the community on the importance of girl-child education and to improve their knowledge of the plight that awaits the girl-child without a basic education in the future.

In **Zambia**, 8408 volunteers were mobilized under Sexual and Reproductive Health interventions, and 2126 volunteers were mobilized under Youth Entrepreneurship and Employability.

In sum, it should be noted that the beneficiaries of most of the national volunteer programmes are young people. And the fact is that volunteerism provides them with opportunities to get hands-on experience and exposure to the working environment, which could determine their job prospects. Youth volunteerism for development engages young men and women in a range of activities that can improve youth participation, and positively harness their energy and vigor to contribute to the realization of national and global development goals while enhancing their livelihood, citizenship, and working skills. Young people can boost their qualifications and readiness for employment through the professional or technical experience acquired in the workplace, and interpersonal expertise gained through volunteerism. Moreover, volunteering for development further exposes the youth to different situations and contexts that broaden their worldview and challenge them to deal with matters in an open-minded fashion.

Box 9. Mini case study- Benin: Enlisting community leaders in the cause to protect children²⁰

In Benin, the most vulnerable members of society - children, youth, and women are at high risk of experiencing considerable levels of violence of all forms in their communities.

In an effort to remedy this situation, civil society and community organizations join forces to hold general assemblies with community members, during which participatory diagnosis of community needs are carried out. In some municipalities positive volunteer leaders of traditional and modern commit their time and effort to the development of their communities and as members of child protection committees.

The leaders of these committees then develop action plans and mobilize resources through advocacy in collaboration with contributors, such as people of goodwill, companies, and institutions, to implement these plans. The result is that thanks to the resources mobilized, these committees now support orphans and vulnerable children by granting them, among other things, school access, nutritional kits, and shelters. They also help to support children who are survivors of violence, abuse, and exploitation or who are neglected.

In addition, these committees take initiatives in various chores, such as repairing roads and building latrines in public spaces, like schools, mosques, churches, marketplaces, etc. – activities that are aligned with AU's Aspiration 6, Goals 17 and 18. They also build straw huts to accommodate women and children in health centers. Last but not least, volunteers who are members of these committees organize sensitizations on several topics related to the promotion of health, hygiene, children, and women's rights.

4.2.2.7. Contribution to Aspiration 7: Goals 19, 20 and SDG 10, 17

Table 13. Contribution to Aspiration 7- Goals 19, 20 and SDG 10, 17

Aspiration	Goals	Priority Areas	Corresponding SDG
7) An Africa as a Strong, United, Resilient and Influential Global Player and Partner	(19) Africa as a Major Partner in Global Affairs and Peaceful Co-Existence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africa's place in global affairs. <p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Availability of national legislation on statistics that complies with fundamental principles of official statistics ◇ Proportion of the national budget allocated for the implementation of a functional statistical system ◇ Existence of formal institutional arrangements for the coordination of the compilation of official statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership 	17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
	(20) Africa Takes Full Responsibility for Financing Her Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Capital market <p>Indicator: Proportion of public sector budget funded by national capital markets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiscal system and Public Sector Revenues <p>Total tax revenue as a % of GDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Assistance <p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Total Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a percentage of the national budget ◇ Resources raised through innovative financing mechanisms as a % of the national budget </p>	<p>10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.</p> <p>17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.</p>

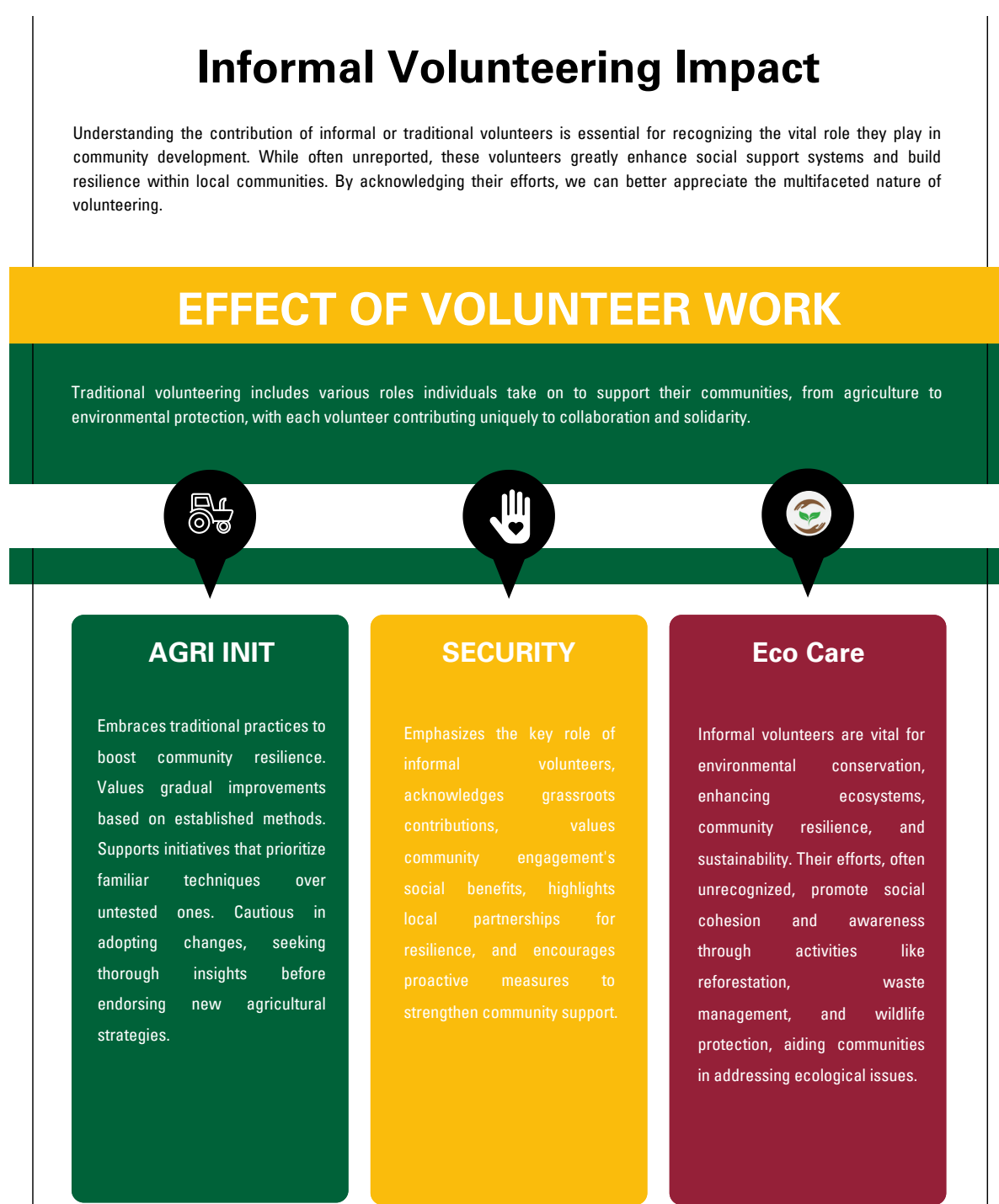
4.2.2.8. Contribution of the Traditional forms of Volunteering

In addition to the contribution of organization-based volunteers, there is a large proportion of volunteers referred to as informal volunteers whose contribution is not reported because of the lack of data and information.

Traditional or informal volunteering -while not well known or overlooked in most cases - remains a crucial resource for social development at the local level. Indeed, beyond rendering material service to others, it also ensures the production of social and symbolic values such as social cohesion. Community-level interventions, through traditional volunteering in partnership with other local actors, could be an important source of social support and community resilience building. Indeed, these voluntary actions fortify the adaptability of community members to overcome collective adversity and help local communities develop their capacity to find solutions to local needs. Even though numbers of volunteers from traditional forms are not available, the following areas of intervention can be deduced from the literal translation of names given to these traditional volunteering forms in the national languages:

- Agriculture/Fishery: the fight against scourges, collective farm work, the defense of crops in the farms, community agricultural work;
- Self-defense, security;
- Environment protection: fight against bush fire and poaching;
- Community agricultural work; the construction of huts, houses or tent-making;
- Social protection: supply of drinking water for the elderly without children and the vulnerable, cultivating the farms of the elderly and sick persons, etc.

Figure 26. Impact of Informal Volunteering: Contributions to Agriculture, Security, and Environmental Care



In the health sector, conventional volunteering has also served people well. For instance, prior to modern healthcare, traditional birth attendants have long helped millions of women give birth safely.

4.2.3. Difficulties Encountered by Volunteer Organizations in the Accomplishment of their Mission

Respondents to the online questionnaire of 2023 identified some hindrances to the expression of the full potential of volunteering, as depicted in the figure below:

Figure 27. Challenges Faced by Volunteer Organizations in 2023

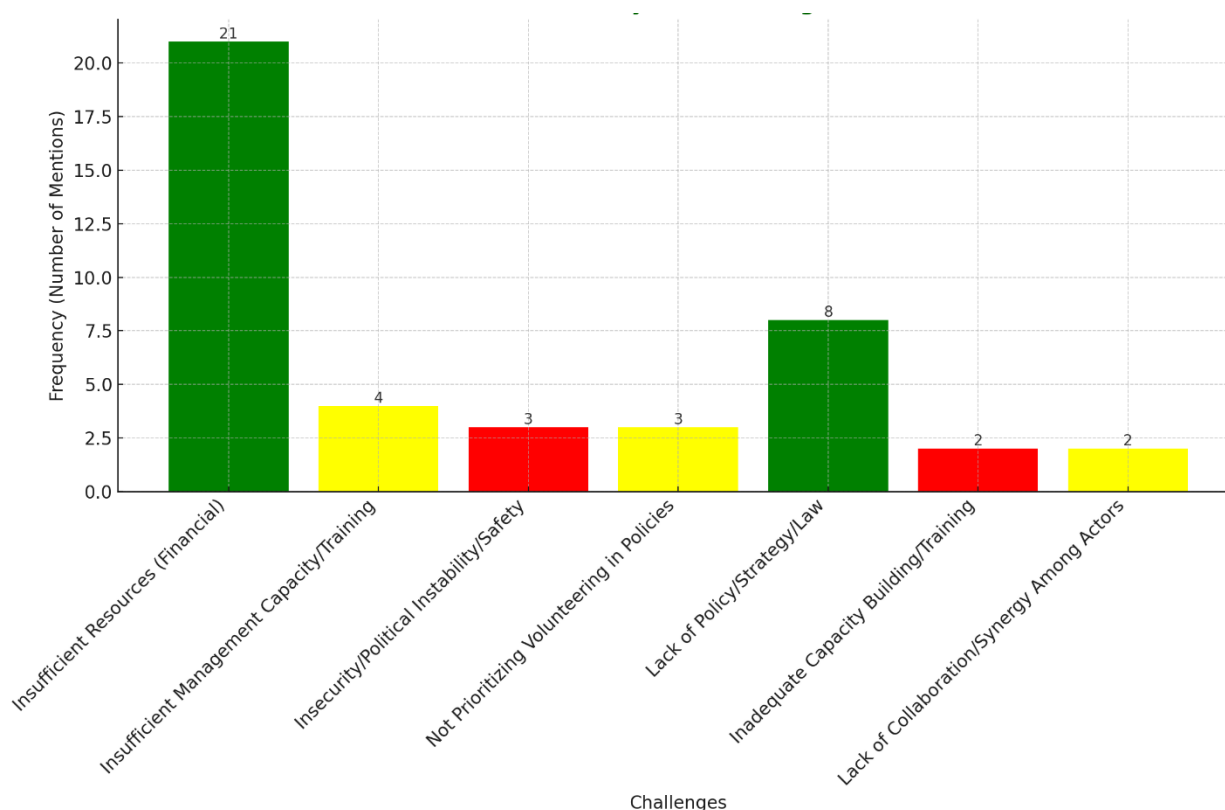


Table 14. Main difficulties/challenges reported, by frequency

Difficulties/challenges	Frequency (Number of times they were mentioned)
Insufficient resources (especially financial) for volunteering	21
Insufficient volunteer management capacity /training	4
Insecurity/political instability/volunteer safety	3
Not prioritizing volunteering in development policies and strategies	3
Lack of policy/strategy/ law, etc.	8
Inadequate capacity building/training	2
Lack of collaboration/synergy among voluntary actors	2

The biggest challenge for most of the volunteer organizations is the lack of financial resources. In the second position, there is a lack of sufficient policy/strategy/ law or framework in some countries. To optimize the contribution of volunteers, it is therefore important to address these challenges. Governments and financial partners need to invest in volunteering to create a critical mass of volunteers who will bring about meaningful effects on development and peace on the African continent.

4.3. Conclusion

Volunteering plays an important role in the development of nations. However, a major constraint to integrating it into development programming continues to be the limited availability of specific data on volunteers and their contributions. This calls for the need to measure the contributions of volunteering to have a better understanding of its added value. Most of the volunteer works, including that of traditional forms, is not counted in the different studies. **Nevertheless, and to reiterate, even the underestimated value of the contribution of volunteerism to the GDP shows that if the volunteers who responded to the online questionnaire were to form an imaginary country, with a GDP of USD 353,542,012, this hypothetical country would be the fourth top performer of the GDP ranking in Africa.** Therefore, volunteering must be more integrated into development programming than it is today.

This report clearly showed that volunteers contribute to all the goals of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs except for some high-level goals, such as Goals 8, 9, and 10 of Aspiration 2, which are under the responsibility of decision-makers, policymakers, and political leaders. However, the number of volunteers mobilized through continental, regional, and national volunteer programmes is not sufficient enough to create the kind of critical mass needed to get a fundamentally meaningful shift in the lived reality of the people. This means that governments and financial/technical partners must dedicate more resources to volunteerism. When it comes to youth,

some governments see volunteering as a solution to unemployment problems. While it is recognized that volunteering can inarguably contribute to improving the employability of young people, caution must be exercised not to lose sight of one of the key characteristics of volunteering, which is ***citizen engagement without commensurate or reciprocal individual compensation.*** As youths are eager to contribute to the development of the continent it would be worthy to harness their energy through civic engagement.

Finally, Africa must uphold its values by integrating traditional volunteering into its modern volunteer programmes. This will ensure the necessary and impactful complementarity between modern and traditional forms of volunteerism.

This chapter also demonstrated that volunteerism is deeply rooted in African traditions and cultures that manifest in all aspects of people's activities. It is an infinite resource that can be leveraged to solve local development challenges and significantly contribute to the achievement of the development goals of Africa. In the continued effort towards realizing the Aspirations and Goals of Agenda 2063 and SDGs, some good practices have been reported that will be presented in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 5: GOOD PRACTICES OF VOLUNTEERING IN THE AU MEMBER STATES

According to the United Nations Agricultural Fund (FAO) “A good practice is not only a good practice, but a practice that has been proven to produce good results and is therefore recommended as a model. It is a successful experiment, tested and validated, in the broad sense, repeated, that deserves to be shared so that more people appropriate it”

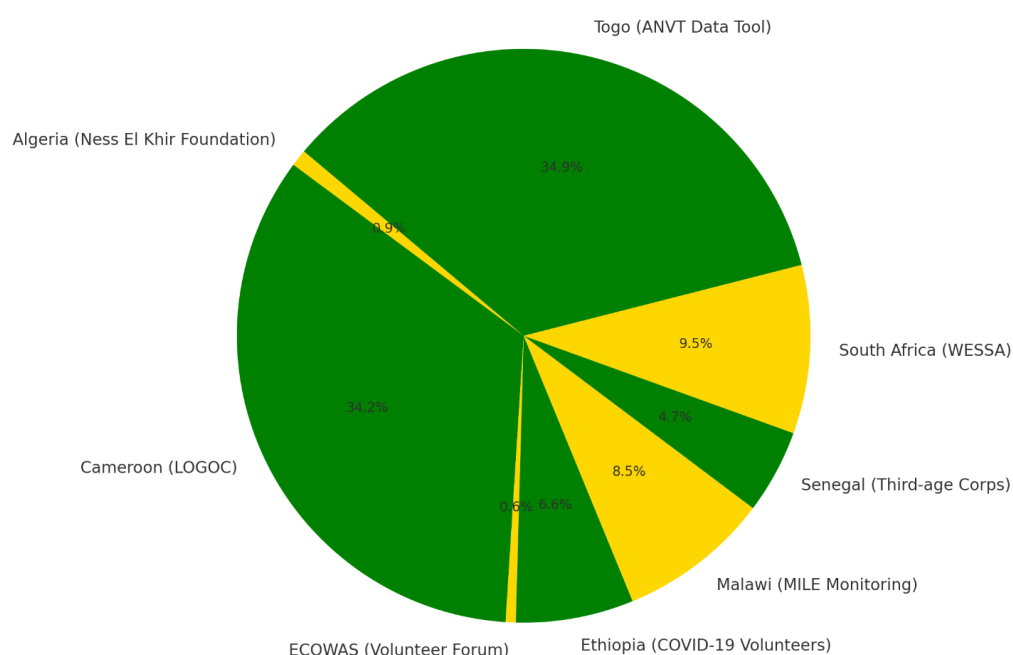
Good practices are shared to promote learning among volunteering stakeholders. This will allow organizations with poor performance to get closer or reach the level of those who perform well. The use of good practices will also save costs and time while increasing effectiveness and efficiency and avoiding reinventing the wheel.

In the particular area of volunteering, some criteria used to measure good practices are:

1. Improve access to:
 - Basic social service through, among others, increasing the number of social service recipients, introducing breakthroughs in social service delivery modalities, ensuring social services to marginalized or less-served communities, etc.;
 - Social justice: the role of volunteers in avoiding exclusion, equity, rights for marginalized in the hard-to-reach areas of a country, etc.;
2. Ensure sustainability;
3. Promote coordination and coherence among volunteers involving organizations;
4. Develop the capacity of different stakeholders; and
5. Enhance the environment for the promotion of volunteerism.

From the 29 AU Member Nations that responded to the online questionnaire, 21 good practices were submitted. Of these, five (5) were dropped as they did not have enough information to qualify as good practices, six (6) were used as mini-case studies (presented in the preceding chapter), and the finally selected ten practices worthy of replicating are presented hereunder.

Figure 28. Impact of Good Practices Across African Union Member States



5.1. Algeria: Good Collaboration Between Volunteering Actors and Support from the Authorities²¹

The Ness El Khir Foundation has set up emergency cells to help, rescue, and accompany people in need through three sections: 1) First Aid Training; 2) Caregiver Platform; and 3) Stock of Para pharmaceutical products and supplies.

With this initiative, the foundation aims to solve problems in the following areas:

- **Social:** Despite the free access of Algerian citizens to medical care, some citizens face financial constraints in acquiring the equipment and para-pharmaceutical supplies they need for their care. This is more pronounced, especially among people living in remote areas, who often suffer more during medical emergencies or natural disasters as they cannot access emergency care due to lack of transport.
- **Economic:** The existence of a workforce in need of a decent income and able to meet the demand of the social welfare profession; but training opportunities in this area are low and platforms for connecting qualified life support workers with people in need of this service were not available.
- **Humanitarian/ disaster management:** Algeria faces several climate change-related adversities and frequent natural disasters, such as floods, snow cyclones, sand winds, and earthquakes. Despite the solidarity and unity of the citizens during these catastrophes, there is a significant lack of qualified volunteers and professionals in rescue and first aid to support the management of risks and disasters.

The Ness El Khir Foundation implemented the following actions to address these challenges:

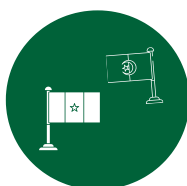
- Establishment of an emergency Ness El Khir cell in each of the foundation's 58 offices throughout the national territory; and
- Training: Professionalize the Ness El Khir Emergency Cells staff by equipping them with qualified volunteer rescuers for prevention missions, first aid, and rescue services in places assigned to them in coordination with the official Risk and Disaster Management bodies.

This initiative served as a good mechanism that synergized the efforts of all local actors, public, private, and citizens to manage risks and disasters in an integrated and participatory manner and in coordination with local authorities. Today, thanks to this initiative, an average of 10 humanitarian interventions are carried out each week at the national level help to bring relief to vulnerable people. Added to this, several volunteers were mobilized to participate in the fight against forest fires in the country.

Figure 29. Notable Good Practices: Community Support and Resilience Strategies Across Africa

Notable Good Practices

In recent months, various countries have implemented unique strategies that demonstrate effective community support and resilience. From Algeria's disaster management initiatives to Ethiopia's inclusive volunteer efforts, these practices are truly inspiring.



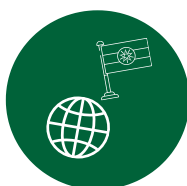
Algeria's Crisis Plan

The Ness El Khir Foundation has been making strides in providing weekly humanitarian support, enhancing emergency operations, and offering crucial assistance during forest fires. Discover how they are setting benchmarks for crisis response within the region.



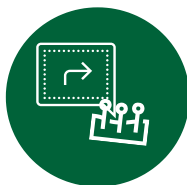
Cameroon Groups

By 2026, Cameroon plans to establish 360 functional clusters that integrate volunteerism into grassroots development strategies. This initiative aims to foster community engagement and sustainable growth through localized teamwork.



ECOWAS Volunteer Forum

This gathering enhances regional collaboration by facilitating experience exchange and the compilation of a comprehensive 'Good Practices Guide.' It represents a collective effort to improve volunteer engagement across the West African region.



Ethiopia's Youth Response

Ethiopia's inclusive outreach during the pandemic utilized youth volunteers to connect with marginalized groups, notably employing sign language for broader accessibility. This initiative has notably supported over 70 vulnerable individuals in restoring their livelihoods.



Malawi's Monitoring Plan

The VSO's Monitoring Initiative for Learning and Evidence (MILE) has seen a remarkable 90% satisfaction rate, empowering local communities to actively participate in addressing climate challenges and enhancing their resilience.

5.2. Cameroon: Integrating Volunteering into Public Policies at the Local Level Through the Establishment of Local Goodwill Clusters (Municipal Volunteer Spaces)²²

Even though **Cameroon** has adopted a law on volunteerism, very few Local Decentralized Authorities (LDA), were aware of the law and its use in local development strategies.

To address this crucial gap, the government, through the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education (MINJEC), more specifically the National Volunteer Programme (NVP), set up Local Goodwill Clusters (LOGOC). These groups were assigned not only to sensitize the LDA but also to accelerate the ownership of volunteering by them and its integration into their annual action plans, which is anchored both in the SND30 (*Stratégie Nationale de Développement-Cameroun 2030*/ National Development Strategy-**Cameroon** 2030 (SND30) and Axis 3 of the National Volunteerism Strategy.

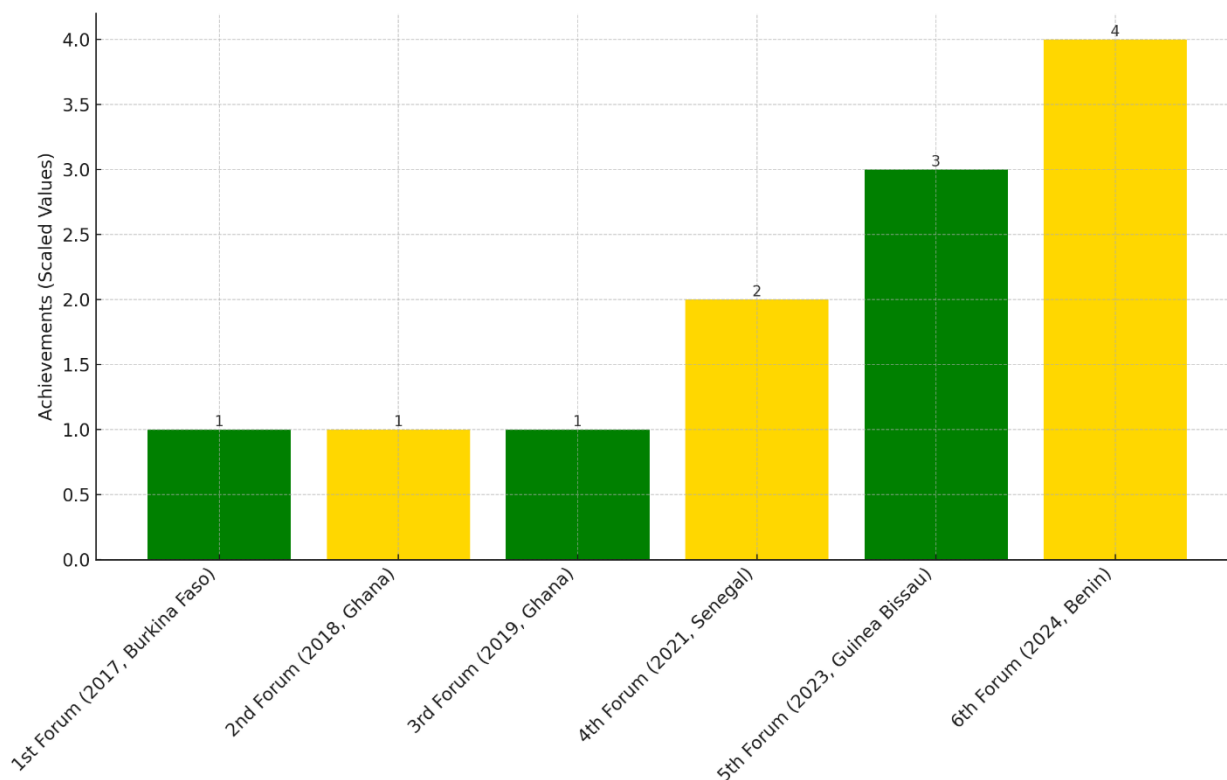
Taking voluntary action into account at local level is an innovative approach that should position it as a credible alternative among the tools for planning and implementing local development. The expected result is to have 360 functional Local Goodwill Clusters by 2026, with 720 volunteer work camps completed and 360 local development plans modified.

5.3. ECOWAS: Forum of National Volunteer Agencies in the ECOWAS Region²³

The ECOWAS Volunteers Programme (EVP), initiated by the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with the support of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), was launched in Monrovia, Liberia on 26 March 2010.

In addition to the mobilization, training and deployment of its own volunteers called “ECOWAS volunteers”, the EVP has also the mission to promote volunteering at the level of all ECOWAS Member States. Following this, the ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre (EYSDC), which administers the EVP, embarked on organizing an annual Forum of National Volunteer Agencies in West Africa to provide them with opportunities to share experiences and strengthen volunteering in the ECOWAS region. Participants of the forum usually include heads or representatives of national volunteer agencies, technical and financial partners, national volunteers involving civil society organizations, directors of ECOWAS national offices, Resident Representatives of the ECOWAS Commission, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender, the Director and staff of the EYSDC and the ECOWAS Volunteers Programme (EVP).

Figure 30. Achievements Across ECOWAS Volunteer Forum Editions



The first edition of the forum was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in 2017, the second and third in Accra, **Ghana** in 2018 and 2019, the fourth in Saly, Senegal in 2021, and the fifth, in Bissau, Guinea Bissau in 2023. The sixth edition was organized in Benin in 2024. Moreover, a theme has been dedicated for each edition starting from the second by the participants as follows: **Second edition:** “The Role of Volunteering in the Fight Against Youth Unemployment in ECOWAS Member States”; **Third edition:** “Volunteerism for Peace And Security”; **Fourth edition:** “Regional Volunteering in the Face of COVID 19 in the ECOWAS Region”; and **Fifth edition:** “Volunteers, Agents of Social Cohesion and Promotion of the Culture of Peace in the Face of Insecurity in the ECOWAS Region.”

The key results achieved from the first to the third edition were: i) Experience sharing became a reality as each country presented its contribution to that year’s theme, allowing fruitful discussion among participants; ii) Creation of strong bonds among the agencies, which led to study visits, signing of agreements to exchange volunteers, etc.; and iii) Setting up of an online platform to continue experience and information sharing.

In addition, good practices on the contribution of volunteerism to the fight against epidemics were collected during the fourth edition. The contributions of the different countries were compiled in a document *“Guide to Good Practices in the Contribution of Volunteerism to the Fight against Epidemics in the ECOWAS Region”* which is used today as a reference document to the fight against epidemics through volunteerism. The good practice guide was based on the experiences volunteer organizations acquired during the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The successful outcomes of these forums led the Commission to establish a budget line in the EYSDC’s budget to fund small voluntary initiatives from national volunteer agencies and national volunteers involving civil society organizations, which will undoubtedly boost the contribution of volunteerism to development and peace in the ECOWAS region.

5.4. Ethiopia: An Inclusive Approach to the Fight Against COVID-19 Through Youth Volunteerism²⁴

The COVID-19 hit Ethiopia in early 2020. To mitigate the impact of the epidemic, a national task force was established, comprising influential persons across the country. Preventive measures were put in place and disseminated to the populations. Various information dissemination and awareness-raising campaigns were organized by the government and various actors.

However, people without access to the Internet and people with disabilities were often left behind during these campaigns.

It is against this background that youth volunteers of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) in Ethiopia joined hands with the national COVID-19 task force to support communities. The volunteers targeted those communities who were more exposed to the pandemic because of a lack of access to appropriate information regarding the barrier measures. They covered the capital city and surrounding communities.

When everyone was staying at home and gripped by fear, these young volunteers put their lives at risk for the well-being of their communities. They adopted an inclusive approach and used various communication modalities (sound and visual), which added value to the efforts of the different stakeholders who were fighting against the pandemic. Through door-to-door engagement, the distribution of communication materials and verbal guides to raise awareness of gender-based violence (GBV) and the support available, the volunteers were able to reach out to more people. For instance, they used sign language to inform the hard of hearing on the precautionary measures of Covid-19. Their voluntary actions led to many other cases, where abuse against children and people with disabilities were identified, reported, and managed by the government.

The VSO youth volunteer Lukas describes how quickly they were able to respond in Ethiopia:

"We were the first in the city to integrate audio, sign language, and visual resources during house-to-house awareness creation campaigns against COVID-19 and GBV. We [also] supported 30 people with disabilities and 40 highly vulnerable women through livelihood recovery. That included vulnerability assessment, intervention design, and purchase and provision of start-up kits for them... Volunteering against COVID-19 was unforgettable. Beyond serving our community, we were seen as role models who showed the local government how volunteering plays a key role in development efforts, as well as during emergencies"

5.5. Malawi: Using VSO's Blended Approach in Project Monitoring and Evaluation²⁵

VSO's Volunteering for Development (VfD) framework is primarily actor-centric with programme design and implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, where organization learning is informed by the primary actor's views and feedback. To this end, processes have been institutionalized to enable periodic evidence generation, collation, organization, analysis, and dissemination for learning. Such a process is being implemented at each project level and the information is processed at the global portfolio levels to inform the organization. Through Measuring Impact for Learning and Empowerment (MILE), the VSO seeks to establish its own accountability and that of its partners towards primary actors and improve project implementation. In short, MILE is a systematic process of designing, setting up, and practicing participatory planning, monitoring, evaluation, and learning (PMEL) with the participation of the key project stakeholders and primary actors.

About 90% of survey respondents rated MILE as good (50%) or very good (40%) in promoting the participation of primary actors – including parents, teachers, students, youth groups, and community volunteers. These positive survey findings are mirrored and reinforced by the powerful testimonies of the primary actors themselves, citing tangible and compelling examples of how MILE has yielded positive impacts through the in-country fieldwork designed to capture, promote, and learn from the experiences of those who have directly contributed to and/or been affected by MILE and its roll-out and impact to date.

The young women who participated in both MILE and the in-country fieldwork in Malawi, among other countries in Africa and Asia, are commendable cases who spearheaded local responses to the climate crisis that is blighting their communities. Thus, one of VSO and MILE's

central objectives is “to empower” to yield the desired impacts.

As part of the program design for the Active Citizenship Through Inclusive Engagement (ACTIVE) grant in Malawi, for instance, several cadres volunteered to promote participatory monitoring in two categories:

- **National Volunteers:** These are volunteers recruited nationally. They prepare and make modifications to monthly reporting tools; these are further translated into the local language for better understanding. The tools align with the key indicators of the grant and provide room for the primary actors to detail what the key challenges have been, and this improves the overall grant implementation.
- **Community Volunteers:** These are part of the youth network in various rural locations. They gather the data required to fill out the reporting tools.

In view of its benefits and effective contribution to easing project monitoring and evaluation as well as handling data-related tasks, this approach is deemed a best practice worth replicating.

5.6. Senegal: Bridging the Intergenerational Divide Through Volunteerism: the Case of the Third-age Volunteer Corps²⁶

Most of the national volunteer programmes in Africa focus on youth and do not sufficiently consider seniors in the design of these programmes. This is a challenge as volunteerism is basically about integration that promotes the concept of “Not leaving anyone behind”.

In 2004, a group of retirees decided to establish an organization called “Third - age Volunteer Corps” (*Corps des Volontaires du 3ème Age/CV3A*), to value the expertise and experience of seniors and promote intergenerational solidarity through volunteerism. Members of the CV3A are senior

citizens retired from public and private sectors, army and civil society organizations, and any Senegalese citizens older than 55 years, which includes army officers, university professors, secondary and primary school teachers, physicians, nurses, midwives, diplomats, engineers, etc.

In 2008, the project “Support to the Coordination and Promotion of Volunteerism (*Appui à la Coordination et la Promotion du Volontariat/ACOPROV*)” included in its activities and budget support to this initiative. The project enabled CV3A to have an office in the “Maison des volontaires/Volunteers’ house” that the government provided to all volunteers. It also helped increase the number of regional branches of the CV3A from the initial four to ten, thus covering the entire country.

This interesting and maybe unique initiative in West Africa and even in Africa at large added value to the coordination and promotion of volunteerism through capacity-building seminars for its members on several themes, such as *the fight against poverty, gender equity, age-related diseases, voluntary service and local development, and household waste management*. The capacity-building enabled the senior volunteers to contribute their respective areas of competence through their voluntary actions.

Some of the results achieved by this initiative are:

- One branch of the CV3A developed and implemented a project for the treatment of municipal waste in their town of residence. The activity was later passed on to the town council. Thanks to this project, plastic wastes are now recycled to make useful products for sale and part of the waste is transformed into organic fertilizer;
- Another branch helped pupils in their town by preparing for exams and providing courses to strengthen their knowledge;
- Members of the CV3A coach young civil servants serving in their region in various areas of competence.

These are indeed good practice achievements that may be of value to other similar national as well as international volunteer organizations.

5.7. South Africa: Matching the Passion and Skill of Volunteer Candidate with the Right and Meaningful Volunteer Assignment: Case of the “Co-benefits Model” of WESSA²⁷

Young people with the energy and enthusiasm to volunteer are eager to contribute to a better world in the most effective way they can. It is therefore important to not only let them participate as a volunteer but to also encourage them in what they do as volunteers. Aligning their innate passions with meaningful participation can act as a catalyst in optimizing their potential contribution. To achieve this, it is important to not only understand the needs behind the voluntary tasks required, but to also appreciate the benefits individual volunteers can bring to addressing those needs and create a voluntary relationship of “co-benefits”.

To enable young people to contribute meaningfully through voluntary participation, Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) strives to strategically “match” the passion and skills of the young to the existing gaps that need to be addressed through voluntary action.

The outcomes of the practice of the ‘co-benefits model’ are:

- Young people are enabled and feel empowered through meaningful contributions as volunteers;
- Young people are more motivated to volunteer;
- The outcomes of their voluntary contribution are strengthened as a result of the volunteers’

passion, abilities, and enthusiasm to contribute in a positive manner; and

- Both the volunteer participants and the co-benefits model benefit from the practice.

5.8. Togo: Data Collection and Evaluation System for Volunteers' Contribution to Development, Developed by *Agence Nationale de Volontariat du Togo (ANVT)*^{28 29}

Collecting data to monitor and evaluate the contribution of volunteering is a challenge for many volunteer organizations. Good tools and methodologies are not readily available to most of them. Therefore, the data collected does not always enable the production of reliable and robust information on the contribution of volunteering to development. This would have allowed better recognition of the value-addition of volunteerism and improving or bringing about its integration into national development programming and policy decision-making.

In an effort to alleviate this challenge, the National Volunteer Programme of Togo (*Agence Nationale de Volontariat du Togo/ANVT*) was created in 2014. The programme was aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the mechanism for promoting and managing volunteerism in Togo and showing how the initial focus of volunteerism on youth issues has moved on to a more global approach focused on contribution to development goals. This ambition required the production of information on volunteering to demonstrate its impact and provide a solid justification for investing in it.

It was in this context that, three years after its establishment, the National Volunteer Agency of Togo (NVAT) decided to develop an IT application in 2017 for collecting, processing, and analyzing data

on the various activities undertaken by volunteers (see the presentation in Appendix 1). The objective was to have reliable and usable information aimed at measuring the contribution of volunteers to development. This mechanism concerns all volunteers deployed in four (4) development sectors: health, education, agriculture, and environment. Each year, data was collected from a sample of 1,000 volunteers deployed, which represented 6,000 volunteers over the period from 2017 to 2022.

As a result of the implementation of the above mechanisms, ANVT was able to produce well-informed and reliable reports on the contribution of volunteerism to development. So much so that some of the reports were published on the United Nations Volunteers' Knowledge Platform.

Some examples of the data compiled by this application and published in these reports are:

- In the education sector, analysis of the data collected for the 2018-2019 school year showed that: (i) the deployment of 368 volunteer teachers at the Secondary 1 level and 721 volunteer teachers at the Secondary 2 level, contributed to decreasing the pupil-teacher ratio by 10 points from 47 to 37 and 5 points from 33 to 28 respectively; (ii) the intervention of these volunteers contributed to the success of 1,470 pupils for Junior Secondary School Certificate (i.e. 2.4% of the national total of admitted pupils) and 2,223 pupils for Senior Secondary School Certificate (i.e. 12.07% of the total on the national scale) ;
- In the health sector, the analysis showed that 110 volunteer nurses and 87 volunteer midwives deployed in 2018, and 106 volunteer nurses and 101 volunteer midwives deployed in 2019, were involved in the actions to fight against malaria and HIV/AIDS and improve maternal and child health over these years.

5.9. VSO: Community Volunteers as local Community Development Experts: Practical Examples of VSO's Blended Approach from Malawi and Uganda³⁰

Communities in Africa face multiple social and economic challenges. The people within these communities are aware of community coping mechanisms and thus are experts in generating relevant solutions.

Cognizant of this untapped potential, VSO has developed the blended volunteering approach which is its flagship method in the field. This approach brings together volunteers from the local community and other parts of the global South alongside volunteers from the global North with the aim that their collective experiences can be synergized on projects to maximize impact. Volunteers working together is not new, but VSO's blended approach is unique in that it aims actively to maximize the opportunities such blends can offer. As such, the objectives of this approach are: to strengthen the outcomes of volunteering; and to facilitate effective participation of the community as experts during design, delivering, and measuring the impact of Volunteering for Development (VfD) programmes.

The VfD approach attracts, recruits, prepares, and places the right volunteers strategically across the system to bring about transformational change. VfD aims at engaging community primary actors to identify risks and vulnerabilities and strengthen resilience by building their assets and capabilities to address shocks and stresses. Whereas international experts were initially fronted as key experts, VSO's learning over the years showcased the need to promote a more blended model where national and community volunteer experts are recruited and blended to achieve results more effectively.

The number of international experts has since significantly reduced while that of national

experts and community volunteers has increased. International experts continue to bring a significant technical capacity, but always ensure that their technical assistance is of short duration and focuses on building local systems and capacity.

For instance, within the framework of the project "ACTIVE (Active Citizenship Through Inclusive Volunteering and Empowerment)," the mixed team was composed of:

- International volunteers: They build the capacity of the education system's actors to recognize the Early Childhood Development (ECD) strategy, and strengthen outreach and supervision;
- National Volunteer experts in early childhood, Education in Emergencies, disability inclusion, livelihoods, and advocacy;
- Community Volunteers: ECD caregivers, male champions of champions, youth volunteers, and community-based trainers.

International and national volunteers build the capacity of community volunteers to support the establishment of ECD centers, operationalization, training, and building resilient and context-specific solutions to education challenges while community volunteers support their communities in building mechanisms for community resilience, ownership, and support by parents and development partners including local government agencies.

Research showed that for blended volunteering to work effectively in development projects, two critical factors need consideration: (1) The tendency for top-down volunteer planning and placement must give way to the emergence of a blended model that acknowledges that each modality is as critical as the other, and (2) a blended model is designed based on an informed understanding of specific primary actor contexts.

Some exemplary results of this approach are:

- **Increased community participation:** Community experts/resource persons contribute in a participatory way through community volunteers in designing development responses to their challenges;
- **Better resilience mechanism:** Community Volunteers have experience in building the best

resilience mechanisms for their communities;

- **Greater impact and sustainability of development results in the lives of marginalized and vulnerable communities:** International and national expert volunteers build the capacity of local community volunteers, which enables local experts to sustain the changes brought about after international and national experts have left the community at the end of the technical assistance.

In conclusion, the value of international volunteers may indeed be better realized when the value of local volunteers, through a blended model of volunteering, is recognized as a value addition to the volunteering for development methodology for sustainable development.

5.10. Intersectional³¹ Community Scorecard-Tool for Advocacy.³²

The Intersectional community scorecard is introduced by VSO. The idea of using an intersectional community scorecard to mainstream the intersectional lens arose to tackle specific issues, especially regarding marginalized communities such as:

- **Overlooking Intersectionality:** Traditional community scorecards or assessment tools may not adequately consider the intersecting factors of identity and marginalization, such as race, gender, class, and disability. This oversight can result in policies and programmes that fail to address the unique challenges faced by individuals with intersecting identities.
- **Inequitable Impact of Policies:** Without an intersectional lens, policies and interventions may inadvertently perpetuate or exacerbate existing disparities.
- **Limited Representation:** Traditional community assessments might not capture the diverse voices and experiences within a community.

- **Incomplete Understanding of Needs:** Without accounting for intersectionality, there is a risk of overlooking the nuanced needs of specific communities. For example, a programme designed to address economic challenges might not be effective if it fails to recognize the additional barriers faced by individuals who belong to both economically disadvantaged and marginalized racial or gender groups.

Moreover, these issues, if not adequately addressed, could lead to:

- **Ineffective Resource Allocation:** Traditional scorecards might not provide accurate insights into where resources are most needed. By contrast, an intersectional community scorecard intends to guide more targeted and effective resource allocation by revealing how various factors intersect to create complex challenges that require specific interventions.
- **Failure to Achieve Inclusive Development:** Communities are diverse, and a one-size-fits-all approach to development may not be inclusive or sustainable. The intersectional community scorecard aims to promote a more nuanced and inclusive understanding of community needs, fostering development strategies that consider the multifaceted nature of identities and challenges.

Figure 31. Power of the Intersectional Scorecard: A Tool for Inclusive Community Advocacy

POWER OF THE INTERSECTIONAL SCORECARD

Understanding the Tool

A pivotal resource in advocacy, the Intersectional Community Scorecard (ICS) redefines how we approach community assessments by integrating diverse identities.



Addressing Complex Issues

It may seem straightforward, yet advocacy can often dismiss the complexities that marginalized groups face, making nuanced understanding essential.



Engage Community Insights

While some advocates claim to intuit community needs, genuine engagement and research are imperative to inform effective strategies.



Focus on Long-Term Impact

Real change emerges when advocacy targets long-standing issues that often go unnoticed, paving the way for sustained community growth and resilience.



Embrace Diverse Views

There isn't one clear solution that applies universally; understanding distinct community layers is crucial for effective intervention.



Empower Through Resources

While challenges abound, effective resource allocation can uplift communities. However, be cautious—resources that seem abundant may not be sustainable long-term.



The intersectional community scorecard has therefore been developed based on the following premises to ensure, among others:

- **Inclusive Assessment:** Community assessments and evaluations consider the intersectionality of identities, acknowledging the complex ways in which various social categories (such as race, gender, class, and more) intersect and influence experiences when accessing services;
- **Equitable Resource Allocation:** The allocation of resources must be done in a way that accounts for the diverse needs of individuals with intersecting identities, aiming to address disparities and promote equity within the community regarding access to services;
- **Targeted Interventions:** Specific challenges faced by different intersectional groups within the community must be identified and addressed, allowing for the design and implementation of targeted interventions that are more likely to be effective;
- **Representation and Participation:** The active participation and representation of all intersecting identity groups in community decision-making processes must be encouraged, ensuring that diverse voices are heard and considered when it comes to access to services;
- **Policy Impact Assessment:** Assess the impact of existing policies and programs on different intersecting identity groups to identify any unintended consequences or disparities that may arise from these initiatives;
- **Holistic Development:** Promote a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of community development that goes beyond a single-dimensional approach. Recognize that individuals with intersecting identities may face unique challenges that require multifaceted solutions;
- **Social Justice and Advocacy:** Contribution to social justice initiatives by highlighting and addressing systemic inequalities that affect marginalized and intersectional communities in

accessing services. The scorecard can serve as a tool for advocacy and policy change;

- **Community Empowerment:** Community members, particularly those with intersecting marginalized identities, must be empowered by providing them with the knowledge to actively engage in shaping their development and advocating for their rights;
- **Cultural Competency:** Cultural competency and sensitivity among policymakers, service providers, and community leaders must be fostered to ensure that strategies and interventions are respectful and responsive to the diverse cultural contexts within the community.

The practice of using an intersectional community scorecard is therefore a useful tool or method for evaluating and assessing the performance or well-being of a community. This can include aspects like social, economic, and environmental factors, among others. Therefore, an intersectional community scorecard could potentially refer to a tool or approach that considers and evaluates community well-being or development in a way that recognizes and accounts for the intersectionality of different social identities and experiences. It has five steps and may involve assessing how policies, programmes, or interventions impact various intersecting dimensions of identity within a community. If these steps are followed, the intersectional community scorecard provides valuable insights into the well-being of a community, highlights disparities for advocacy, and guides targeted interventions (for more details on this good practice please use the source indicated in Endnote No. 32).

The next chapter will summarize the key data on the state of volunteerism in the AU Member States.

CHAPTER 6: AGGREGATE DATA ON VOLUNTEERING IN THE AU MEMBER STATES

6.1. Table 15: Enabling Environment for Volunteerism

[illegible]

6.2. Table 16: Volunteer Hours in Numbers

Country	Male	Female	Total assignments	Hour
Algeria	14451	13780	28231	133681
Benin	5884	6221	12105	105131
Burundi	753	495	1248	1050
Cape Verde	1638	1774	3412	23125
Cameroon	7349	9032	16381	137284
Chad	4516	3855	8371	71318
Côte d'Ivoire	299	60	359	120
The DR Congo	19779	16600	36379	376880
Eritrea	6995	7213	14208	144108
Eswatini	16	21	37	60000
Ethiopia	2022	573	2595	50522
The Gambia	2906	5040	7946	39254
Ghana	15667	15946	31613	355534
Kenya	22243	24554	46797	546463
Liberia	17463	15308	32771	238996
Madagascar	1552	1208	2760	34769
Malawi	16516	17232	33748	319163
Mali	24	18	42	35750
Mauritania	7	3	10	340
Morocco	5218	5210	10428	136104
Mozambique	89436	88093	177529	1338001
Namibia	4618	5024	9642	105964
Niger	212	80	292	4053
Nigeria	19739	19187	38926	341984
Rwanda	2669	3699	6368	87737
Senegal	563	414	977	4965
Sierra Leone	13732	11663	25395	163588
South Africa	1713	2678	4391	48012
South Sudan	243	138	381	3443
Sudan	3650	4046	7696	21020
Togo	6598	6265	12863	658580
Uganda	24359	30982	55341	78080
Zambia	3754	3498	7252	68268
Zimbabwe	5999	9118	15117	182744
Total	322583	329028	651611	5916031

6.3. Table 17: Number of assigned volunteers and volunteered hours per aspirations of the Agenda 2063).

Aspiration	Number of assignments			Number of hours
	Male	Female	Total	
Aspiration 1	138532	145330	283862	2,551310
Aspiration 2	64788	61194	125982	1084626
Aspiration 3	21833	20737	42570	410809
Aspiration 4	21417	20481	41898	403057
Aspiration 5	19032	19607	38639	326986
Aspiration 6	56981	61679	118660	1139243
Aspiration 7	0	0	0	0
Total	322583	329028	651611	5916031



CHAPTER 7: RECOMMENDATIONS

This section first highlights some of the key challenges observed in the implementation of volunteerism in Africa, followed by the strategies and actions recommended in order to further promote and build up on the achievements of volunteerism registered so far on the continent.

7.1. Some key Challenges

- Lack of resources (especially financial) for volunteering: Some governments with state-managed national volunteer programmes have a budget line on volunteerism in the national budget even though the budgets are very often insignificant. In many AU Member countries, the funding of voluntary activities comes mainly from NGOs.
- The non-prioritization of volunteering in development policies and strategies is one major hindrance in many member countries.
- Nowadays, volunteering is increasingly cited in official discourses, but few countries consider volunteerism as an untapped asset that needs to be taken into account when developing their policies and strategies on sustainable development and peace, together with their alignment with the continent's greater Agenda 2063 of AU and the UN Agenda 2030 or DDGs.
- Little or no consideration of the power of traditional forms of volunteerism: Traditional forms of volunteerism have not yet been adequately explored, documented and harnessed as effective instruments and an untapped asset for development and social cohesion on the continent.
- Scarcity of robust and reliable data and knowledge on volunteerism; only a few countries/volunteer organizations have effective data management systems on volunteerism (systematic data collection and analysis), and even the data available on volunteering is not often integrated into national censuses/surveys.

7.2. Recommendations

The recommendations are presented and divided into two broad categories:

7.2.1. Recommendations on the celebration of volunteerism for the AUC and all Member States

Recommendation 7.2.1.1.

Member States are encouraged to dedicate sufficient resources (especially financial) to volunteerism to optimize its contribution to sustainable development and social cohesion;

Recommendation 7.2.1.2.

Consider the traditional forms of volunteerism when developing national volunteer programmes and strategies;

Recommendation 7.2.1.3.

The AU Commission to take the recommendation on the integration of volunteering into official and regular statistical measurements to strengthen data on the scale and scope of volunteers work.

Recommendation 7.2.1.4.

Enhance the advocacy effort for the development of national volunteer programme as the existence of these programmes will optimize the contribution of volunteerism to development and social cohesion as well as facilitate data collection and provide official information.

7.2.2. Recommendations for the elaboration of future state of volunteer report in Africa for AUC

Recommendation 7.2.2.1.

AU Commission to budget the cost of elaboration of the AU report on volunteering. This will allow for more study/research and organization of workshops, which will lead to production of a more robust report;

Recommendation 7.2.2.2.

Explore a more systematic method of data collection. For instance, in addition to the AU Volunteer Linkage Platform's survey, the application developed by Togo could be customized to make it relevant and applicable in all countries. Each year, Member States will collate annual data to be consolidated by the AUCVLP. A pilot phase could start with countries that have well-functioning national volunteer programmes;

Recommendation 7.2.2.3

Assess the impact of volunteerism through independent reviews by local research teams that include academia, volunteer organizations, local consultants, etc.



APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Presentation of the Data Collection Process of ANVT

The mechanism was implemented in several stages:

- Identification of development sectors and the main volunteer profiles concerned by data collection;
- Mobilization, preparation, and involvement of internal and external stakeholders;
- Determination of the indicators on which to collect data;
- Design of data collection tools and development of a data storage and processing application;
- Data collection and storage;
- Data processing and analysis, and production of statistical information on a semi-annual, annual, and as-needed basis;
- Evaluation and review of the data collection system.

The mechanism involved several players: ANVT technical staff, including its regional entities (*Centres Régionaux du Volontariat /CRV*), host structures, and representatives of the technical services of the sectoral departments concerned (health, education, environment and agriculture). In addition, to structure the implementation approach, a methodological guide was specified for evaluating the contribution of volunteers to development.

Collection operating framework

To implement the system, clear responsibilities have been specified for the various players involved:

The volunteer: S/he has a collection form that s/he fills in at the end of each month, according to his/her profile and the corresponding relevant indicators. S/he does this with the support of his/her host structure (in particular, his/her technical referent, tutor or host structure manager), and under the supervision of the Monitoring Officer of the Regional Volunteer Centre. The volunteer also reports to the Monitoring Officer any difficulties encountered during the data collection process and corrective measures are taken.

Monitoring Officer: S/he is responsible for ensuring that the volunteer completes the form. S/he collects data from all the volunteers in their area of intervention and enters it into the application by the 5th of the following month at the latest. Once the data has been entered into the application, an Excel file is generated and forwarded to his/her supervisor (the regional Centre's senior manager) by the 10th of the following month at the latest.

The supervisor: S/he monitors the activities of the Monitoring Officers in her/ his region and ensures the relevance and quality of all data recorded. S/he then forwards all the data generated (in Excel format) to the National Monitoring and Evaluation Manager in the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Department. The supervisor is supported in this task by a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer assigned to the regional Centre. The supervisor, through the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer can, if necessary, provide feedback to the Monitoring Officers to ensure data quality.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Manager: S/he is the national manager responsible for collecting data from volunteers and evaluating their contribution to development. In this capacity, s/he monitors the Regional Centres' activities in terms of data collection and recording. At the end of each month, s/he receives the compiled files from each regional Centre, by the 15th of the month at the latest. S/he then forwards the data to the IT manager.

The IT Manager: The IT Manager records the data transmitted in the national database and supports the National Monitoring and Evaluation Manager in its processing. At the end of each semester, year, or as required, ANVT analyzes the data and produces statistical reports and management charts under the coordination of the Director of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation. ANVT benefits from the support of the National Institute of Statistics, Economic and Demographic Studies (Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques et Démographiques/INSEED) in data analysis and the production of reports and studies within the framework of a partnership.

Appendix 2. List of AU and National Volunteer Programmes

No.	Name of entity in charge of volunteerism/ Country	Year of establishment	Contact person and function	Line ministry/department
1	African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (AUYVC)	2010	Daniel Adugna AG Head, Youth Division-Youth Development Portfolio adugnad@africa-union.org	Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD)
2	Groupeement d'Intérêt Public/Programme National de Volontariat au Burkina Faso (GIP/ PNVB)	2006	Boureima Nabaloum Director General nabaloum2013@gmail.com	Ministry in charge of Youth
3	Agence Nationale pour la promotion de l'Emploi (AnpE) ; Benin	2010	Urbain Stanislas AMEGBEDJI General Director u.amegbedji@anpe.bj DOYIGBE Colombe, Technical Director in charge of Volunteerism moustcolombe@yahoo.fr c.doyigbe@anpe.bj	Ministry in charge of employment
4	Corps des Volontaires Burundais (CVB), Burundi		Burundi	Ministry in Charge of Youth
5	Programme National de Volontariat (PNV), Cameroon		Mamat Boukar Alipha National Coordinator mamatboukaralipha@gmail.com	Ministry in Charge of Youth
6	Programme National de Volontariat au Cap Vert (PNV-CV)			Ministry in Charge of Youth
7	Agence Nationale de Volontariat du Tchad (ANAVOT)		ISMAIL Mahamat Saleh Director general ismael_mht@yahoo.fr	Ministry in Charge of Youth
8	Corps des Jeunes Volontaires du Congo (CJVC)			Ministry in Charge of Youth
9	Secrétariat National de Volontariat (SNV), The DR Congo		KISIMBA LUMBWE Albert National Secretary snv.congord@gmail.com	Ministry in charge of planning
10	Office du Service National (OSCN) Côte d'Ivoire		Datte Moko Lydie Director Volunteerism lydiedatte@gmail.com	Ministry in Charge of Youth
11	Ethiopia National Voluntary Community Service Programme	2021		Ministry in Charge of Peace
12	ECOWAS Volunteer Programme (EVP)	2010	Francis Chuks Njoaguani Director, ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre fnjoaguani@ecowas.int	Department of Human Development & Social Affairs

13	Agence Nationale du Volontariat Jeunesse (ANVJ), Guinea		Mamadou Macka BALDE, General Director baldemackab@gmail.com contact.anviguinee@gmail.com	Ministry in Charge of Youth
14	Instituto Nacional da Juventud, Guiné Bissau		Namir Silva Morgado President National Youth Institute silnasido@gmail.com ;	Ministry in charge of youth
15	National Youth Volunteers Service (NYVS) programme of Liberia	2007	Mr. Isaak Bropleh National Coordinator broplehib@gmail.com	Ministry in Charge of Youth
16	National Volunteer Corp (NVC) programme Lesotho	2010		
17	Centre National de Promotion du Volontariat au Mali (CNPVM)	2009	Sekou Oumar Coulibaly, Director General sekoumar_coul@yahoo.fr	Ministry in charge of Youth
18	Programme National de Volontariat pour le Développement Durable en Mauritanie (PNVDDM) « WATANOUNA » Mauritanie		Ahmed Abderrahmane National Coordinator ahmed.deihy@gmail.com	Ministry in Charge of Youth
19	National Young Volunteers Scheme (NYVS)/ Now called Youth Volunteer Mauritius Mauritius	2015		Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation
20	"Moutatawi3" (volontaire) Morocco	2018		Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication
21	Conselho Nacional do Voluntariado (CNV) Mozambique	2010	Deedar Guerra, Presidente Executive President deedar.guerra@cnv.org.mz Cnv.conselho@gmail.com	Ministry in charge of Youth
22	Agence Nigérienne de Volontariat pour le Développement (ANVD), Niger	2006	Hassane Hamidine Director General hhamidine1@gmail.com	Ministry in charge of community development
23	The Nigerian National Volunteer Service (NNVS)			
24	Senegal			Ministry in Charge of Youth
25	Agence Nationale de Volontariat au Togo (ANVT)	2011	Omar Agbangba Director General oagbangba@yahoo.fr	Ministry in charge of community development and youth employment
26	Programme national du service civil volontaire. Tunisia			Ministry in charge of employment
27	Uganda Graduate Volunteer Scheme	2018		Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

Appendix 3. Details on the Number of Volunteers and Volunteer Assignments

Region/ Country/Insti- tution	Number of volunteers from an online questionnaire in 2023				Number of volunteers from National Volunteer Review, annual report and official websites				Number of volunteer assignments from AU Volunteer Linkage Platform in 2022			
	Female	Male	Total	Age range	Female	Male	Total	Grand Total Number of volunteers	Female	Male	Total	Total of hours volunteered
Continental and regional institutions												
African Union Youth Volun- teer Corps	409	363	772	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	772	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ECOWAS Volunteer Pro- gramme	66	137	203	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	203	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total 1								975				
Central Africa												
Country	Female	Male	Total	Age range					Female	Male	Total	Total of hours volunteered
Burundi	48	52	100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	495	753	1248	1050
Cameroon	13368	16339	29707	17-67	N/A	N/A	N/A	29707	9032	7480	16512	137284
Central African Republic	N/A	N/A	412	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	412	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chad	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		3855	4516	8371	71318
Congo Repu- blic	N/A	N/A	2200	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
D.R Congo	N/A	N/A	20160	N/A	N/A	N/A	4014290	4034450	16600	19779	36379	376880
Equatorial Guinea	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gabon	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
São Tomé and Príncipe	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Total 2								4064669				
Eastern Africa												
Country	Female	Male	Total	Age range	Female	Male	Total	Grand Total Number of volunteers	Female	Male	Total	Total of hours volunteered
Comoros	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Djibouti	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eritrea	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		7213	6995	14208	144108
Ethiopia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6111733	6111733	573	2022	2595	50522
Kenya	N/A	N/A	139	N/A	N/A	N/A	270461	270600	24554	22243	46797	546463
Madagascar	2469	3615	6084	N/A	N/A	N/A	108000	114084	1208	1552	2760	34769
Mauritius	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rwanda	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		3699	2669	6368	87737
Seychelles	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Somalia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Sudan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		138	243	381	3443
Sudan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		4046	3650	7696	21020
Tanzania	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Uganda	60	90	150	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	150	30982	24359	55341	78080
Total 3								6496567				
Northern Africa												
Country	Female	Male	Total	Age range	Female	Male	Total	Grand Total Number of volunteers	Female	Male	Total	Total of hours volunteered
Algeria		N/A	177500					177500	8677	14451	23128	133681
Egypt		N/A	N/A	N/A					N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Libya		N/A	N/A	N/A					N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mauritania		N/A	5065	N/A				5065	3	7	10	340
Morocco		N/A	N/A	N/A					5210	5218	10428	136104

Sahrawi Republic		N/A	N/A	N/A					N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tunisia		N/A	N/A	N/A			5219	5219	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total 4								187784				
Southern Africa												
Country	Female	Male	Total	Age range	Female	Male	Total	Grand Total Number of volunteers	Female	Male	Total	Total of hours volunteered
Angola												
Botswana												
Eswatini	15	9	24					24	21	16	37	60000
Lesotho												
Malawi			290					290	17232	16516	33748	319163
Mozambique			10					10	88093	89436	177529	1338001
Namibia									5024	4618	9642	70105
South Africa			1					1	2678	1713	4391	48012
Zambia	6811	5226	12037				98414	110451	3498	3754	7252	68268
Zimbabwe	3600	2400	6000				4000	10000	9118	5999	15117	182744
Total 5								120776				
Western Africa												
Country	Female	Male	Total	Age range	Female	Male	Total	Grand Total Number of volunteers	Female	Male	Total	Hours volunteered
Benin			6400					6400	6221	5884	12105	105131
Burkina Faso	20221	18828	39049				50000	89049				
Cape Verde									1774	1638	3412	23125
Côte d'Ivoire									60	299	359	120

The Gambia									5040	2906	7946	39254
Ghana									15946	15667	31613	355534
Guinea	184	230	414	18-35				414				
Guinea-Bissau	13695	15495	29190									
Liberia							1318	1318	15308	17463	32771	238996
Mali	4331	6512	10843					10843	18	24	42	35750
Niger			925					925	80	212	292	4053
Nigeria							500000	500000	19187	19739	38926	341984
Senegal			50				30000	30050	414	563	977	4965
Sierra Leone									11663	13732	25395	163588
Togo	34111	29464	63575	18-65			65000	128575	6265	6598	12863	658580
Total 6								172574				
Grand total for Africa								11712450	323925	322714	646639	5880172

Appendix 4. List of Organizations that Participated in the Survey Conducted by the AU Volunteer Linkage Platform in 2022

No	Name of organisation
	Algeria
1	Ness El Khir Foundation
2	Youth Capacities Development
3	Les Enfants du Quartier Ali Meddouche
4	عوطم الم بابशल
5	Association Dalil des Jeunes Volontaires
6	National Association of Solidarity for Algeria
7	Algerian Youth Leaders
8	Association Future for Development Batna AFD
9	Ness El Khir Foundation
10	Association INFO-COM 'Jeunes de Guelma
11	Coordination de la société civile
12	Sanabel Elkheir
	Benin
13	APFDC-BENIN
14	ONG Verre D'eau Fraîche
15	Soleils Du Bénin
16	Youth Union for Peace and Development
	Burundi
17	Youth Union for Peace and Development
	Cape Verde
18	World Impact Cape Verde
	Cameroon
19	YIPAC
20	Women as Agent of Transformation
21	Hope For a Better Tomorrow (HOBET)
22	Superior Health Foundation
23	Programme BUWOFA
24	Yes Health
25	Mandela Voluntary Foundation Cameroon
26	Institute of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences of the University of Douala at Yabassi
	Chad
27	Investir au Tchad Agro-Business

	Côte d'Ivoire
28	OJPDEL (Organisation des Jeunes Pour le Développement Local)
	The DR Congo
29	Accountability Lab RDC
30	TOBONGISA Asbl
31	Pour Elles Initiative
32	Omega Tech
33	Jeunes Engagés pour le Développement
34	Armée des Jeunes Contre le Paludisme
35	Enable the Disable Action
36	La Coalition Nationale des Organisations des Volontaires pour le Développement Durable (CNOVD)
37	Union nationale des Jeunes Acteurs du Changement
38	Communauté U-Report Kineshasa
39	Youth Forward Congo
	Eritrea
40	Young Female Professionals
	Eswatini
41	Sinatsisa Lubombo (NGO)
	Ethiopia
42	Enquopa Charity Organization (ECO)
43	O-YES Global Foundation
44	Eshet Children and Youth Development Organization (ECYDO)
45	Bethlehem Ermias
	The Gambia
46	Internet Village
47	The Gambia Ministry Of Youth and Sports/ Founder Leadership Initiative Network For the Advance-ment of Women and Youths- LINWAY
	Ethiopia
48	Destiny Fulfillers Time
49	Coalition of Volunteering Organisations
50	Hope and Service to Mankind Foundation
51	Light for Chidren
	Ghana
52	Centre for Social Mobilization and Sustainable Development (CENSODEV)
53	Fair River International Association for Development (FARIAD)
54	Network of Hope
55	Sustainable Education For Initiative
56	SEB Foundation
57	Centre for Volunteerism and Social Transformation

58	Community Concerns and Care foundation(CCCF)
59	Migrant Labour General Workers Union International (MLGWUI)
60	LA TIERRA Logistics
61	Dreams of Africa Youth for Change Organisation
62	Destiny Fulfillers Time
63	Coalition of Volunteering Organisations
64	Hope and Service to Mankind Foundation
65	Light for Children
66	Dzobo Skills Training Center
	Kenya
67	Football Without Borders Kenya
68	Women Against Violence and Exploitation
69	Homa Bay County Women Against Gender Based Violence
70	WARIDI CBO
71	Slum Child Foundation
72	VIO Society Kenya
73	Tiaty Youth Development Association CBO
74	UKOO (Believe Mental Health Care) CBO
75	Government of Makueni County
76	Imarisha Africa Initiative
77	The Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK)
78	Nderitu Waturu & Associates Advocates
79	Transhuman Project
80	Dignified Children International
81	The Survivor Mentors
82	African Institute for Children Studies (AICS)
83	Action for Children with Disabilities (ACD) Society
84	WeRise Africa Community Based Organization
85	Art Affair For Development Goals Organization
86	Dream Achievers Youth Organization
87	Ageing Concern Foundation
88	Polycom Development Project
89	agrokenya
90	Makueni Youthnet
91	Safe Community Youth Initiative
92	A Bag to a Kid Initiative
93	Climate Change Restoration Initiative
94	Nawiri Sisters Foundation
95	Do it With Boldness Foundation

96	Tuungane CBI
97	Action for Change and Progress
98	Amazon Theatrix Ensemble
	Liberia
99	Community Healthcare Initiative
100	Peace Links Liberia
101	Global Emergency Trust
102	Ganta Youth Assembly
103	African Upliftment
104	Community Healthcare Initiative
	Madagascar
105	Association FAFAMA
106	CODE Menabe
107	JADD MADA (Jeunes Actifs pour le Developement Durable de Madagascar)
108	Liberty 32
109	Tsiafara Madagascar
110	Tea and Talk Madagascar
	Malawi
111	Volunteer Involving Organisations Society Malawi
112	Youth Development and Innovation Center-Grassroot soccer program
113	Independent Advocate, Activist
114	Arise Youth
115	Zatonse Youth Club
116	Mulanje Youth Organisation
	Mali
117	Association Wassoulou-Solidarité (Wa-So)
	Mauritania
118	African Consult International
	Morocco
119	Library Sara Zehraoui
120	Atlas for Development
121	Chantiers Jeunesse Maroc
	Mozambique
122	Associacao Nhapupwe
123	Instituto de Psicologia
124	APEC - Associação Para a Promoção do Emprego e de Apoio a Criança
125	Associacao Forum dos Academicos de Mocambique
126	Coalizao Da Juventude Mocambicana
127	Gabinete Juvenil do Conselho Islâmico de Moçambique

128	AIDGLOBAL - Acção e Integração para o Desenvolvimento Global
129	PRODEA -Programa de Desenvolvimento Ambiental
130	Visão para o Desenvolvimento Comunitário
131	AUJPS Associação União Juvenil para promoção social
132	Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique
133	League of Scout of Mozambique
134	Associação Helpo
135	AWOLCINA
136	ASSCODECHA - Associação Comunitária para o Desenvolvimento Humano
137	APC -Associação Projeto Cidadão
138	Associação para o desenvolvimento da comunidade HIXIKANWE 18
139	Organização para o Desenvolvimento e Educação Infantil
140	Cantinas escolares
141	AJAMO - Associação Dos Jovens Académicos De Moçambique
142	AJALCOM - Associação de Jovens Apostados na Luta Contra os Males
143	Associação Amizade Solidária De Moçambique - AASM
144	Movimento Académico Sagrada Família
145	Associação de Jovens Voluntários para o Desenvolvimento da Zambesia
146	Foco Juvenil Moviment
147	Comercio e Serviços IC
148	Associação Txivuno Txa Vanana
149	Associação Takaezana-ATK
150	Instituto Médio do Desporto e Educação Física de Moçambique - IMEDE
151	Associação De Estudantes Inovadores Pesquisadores
152	Associação Osunza
153	Let's do It Mozambique
154	Associação Mocambicana para Saude e Ambiente
155	AJUPIS
156	Associação Txivuno Txavanana
157	Khandlelo - Associação para o Desenvolvimento Juvenil
158	Associação Cuidados Pela Vida
159	Associação Nacional da Rapariga/ANAR
160	AJUDE - Associação Juvenil Para o Desenvolvimento do Voluntariado em Mocambique
161	AAIED - Associação Académica e de Inovação Espinha Dorsal
162	Associação Kindlimuka Nucleo de Boane
163	No Poor Among Us
164	Fundação Sérgio Gago
165	Associação Kupulumuswa
166	Associação Iniciativa para o Desenvolvimento Rural

167	CESC
168	Associação de Jovens da Soalpo
169	KUTONGANA
170	Associação Kupulumussana
171	AJUDESE
172	Associação Comunidade Resgate Juvenil
173	Associação Moçambicana dos Promotores da Participação e Educação Comunitária (AMOPEC)
174	Associação Tipfuni
175	Associação União Para Prosperidade
176	Niassa Criando Riqueza
177	Liga dos Escuteiros de Moçambique
178	Associação Para Sanidade Ambiental
179	Associação dos Parceiros Comunitários (ParCo)
180	APC - Associação Projeto Cidadão
181	Association of University Student Finalists of Mozambique
182	Saude Desenvolvimento comunitário SADECO
183	Associação de Aconselhamento Chengera HIV-SIDA-Machipanda
184	Associação Txivuno Txavanana
185	Moviment for Citizenship-MPC
186	ACCESS Mulher
187	Associação Humanitária de Educação e Ambiente
188	Conselho Nacional do Voluntariado - CNV
189	Associação de Naturais e Amigos de Machanga - ANAMachanga
190	MONERELA+
191	Associação Nzembe África
192	Associação Para o Desenvolvimento Sócio-económico das Comunidades Rurais-Orowa Oholo
193	Associação dos Jovens Voluntários
194	Associação Geracao Saudavel -AGS
195	UTOMI (Association of people living with HIV and AIDS
196	Associação Coalizão da Juventude Moçambicana
197	ACOMA, COMÉRCIO INFORMAL
198	Associação Jovens Amigos do Ambiente
199	World Organisation Scout
200	Associação para o Desenvolvimento Económico Cultural e Cívico de Nampula - EKWEI
	Namibia
201	Suama a Volunteer
202	Climate Change
	Niger
203	JVE Niger

204	Les Jeunes Champions de Lutte Contre le PALUDISME de African Leaders Malaria Alliance (Alma)
	Nigeria
205	Accountability Lab Nigeria
206	Brave Crown
207	Village Farmers Initiative (VFI)
208	American Football For African Mission (AFFAM)
209	Better Nigeria Foundation
210	Street Kids Helping Initiative
211	United Way Greater Nigeria
212	Global Environmental and Climate Conservation Initiative
213	Sustainable Society for Environment and Women Initiative SUSEW INITIATIVE
214	CENGAD Nigeria
215	Club25 Nigeria, Lagos State Chapter
216	Smiles Africa International Youth Development Initiative
217	Youth Develop the Future Initiative
218	Better living Foundation And Capacity Development
219	Charis Black Project
220	Nigerian Red Cross society
221	All Nations Volunteers Ministry (A. K. A. Outreach Ministry)
222	One Voice Initiative For Women and Children Emancipation
223	Triumphant Health and Development Initiative (THAD)
224	Rural Community Children Academic and Vocational support initiatives CAVSI
225	Transforming Education of Students Through Initiative Foundation (TESTi Foundation)
226	Global Environmental and Climate Conservation Initiative (GECCI)
227	Shepherd Cares Family Health and Education Initiative
	Rwanda
228	Kigali Hope Organization (KHO)
229	We Got Your Back Rwanda
230	Rwanda Volunteer Network
231	I Matter Initiative
232	Icyerekezo
233	CorpsAfrica
234	Rwanda Youth Clubs for Peace.
235	OFYER Rwanda
	Senegal
236	Nouvelle Vision des Jeunes Casaçais
237	REVOCAP
238	Très'Or
239	CONFEJES

240	ASBEF
241	Corps Africa Senegal
242	Santé
	Sierra Leone
243	Sierra Leone Police Children Advocacy for Relentless Embrasures
244	Focus on Women Empowerment and Children's Right (FOWEC)
245	Danabelsandy Development Organization
246	Association of Volunteers for Social Development Sierra leone
247	Women Initiative for Safe Environment
248	Forum for the Development of Young People
249	VIONet Sierra Leone
250	Network For Youth And Children's Development Sierra Leone
251	Community Based Empowerment
252	Young potential Initiative Sierra Leone (YPISL)
	Somalia
253	WOH Epidemiology
	South Africa
254	National Altruistic Youth Organization
255	Lungelo Youth Development
256	Knowledge of Self
257	DevTrends
	South Sudan
258	Action Aid Intervention for Development Organization (AAIDO)
259	Generation Peace Foundation
	Sudan
260	Kashif Organization for Breast Cancer
261	The Gambia Ministry Of Youth and Sports/ Founder Leadership Initiative Network For the Advance-ment of Women and Youths- LINWAY
	Togo
262	ASAV-TOGO
263	Association Un Regard un Geste un Sourire
264	Jumeaux Républicains du Togo (JU.RE.TO.)
265	AVCED Togo
266	Saveur Sante Services
267	Association Découvrez Autrement
268	Let's Go Midzo
269	IDM.TOGO
270	Fédération des Organisations Féminines d'accueil des Volontaires Internationaux FOFAVI
271	Association des Volontaires pour l'Environnement Sain

272	Association Jeunesse - Sensibilisation - Action (JSA)
273	Sauvons-les
274	NGO Mission Des Jeunes
275	Renaissance Plus
276	Association ESSONOUTI
277	Crossroads International / Volunteer Cooperation Program (VCP)
	Uganda
278	Deborah Ricciu Espandere Orizzonti
279	Action for Development of Grassroots Communities (ADEGCO)
280	MUB - Home Foundation
281	Curtin Child Learning Center (CLICCS)
282	Agape of Hope Female Youth Development Association
283	Able-Uganda
284	Rwenzori Rural Health Services
285	Rwenzori Trust for Community Development
286	Love Alive Uganda
287	Rural women and Orphans Empowerment Initiative
288	Change African Child International
289	Yes Empowerment Services - Uganda
290	Kaghorwe Savings and Credit Schemes Group
291	IHALAL AFRICA
292	Global Networking Apac
293	SORUDA
294	Big Family
295	ABA Foundation
296	Sprout Up Youth And Women Initiative (SUYAWI)
297	Open Community Foundation
298	The Sickie Cell Voice Kasese
299	Equality Mission Uganda
300	Mtindo Network
301	Busoga Governance and Social Accountability Network Net
	Zambia
302	Centre for Young Leaders in Africa (CYLA- Zambia)
303	Zambia Malaria Youth Army
304	Youth Movement for Positive Change Zambia
	Zimbabwe
305	Zimbabwe United Nations Association (ZUNA)

306	Mwana Wevhu
307	The Medical Assist Network Trust
308	#Whispers
309	Women Excel Trust
310	Zimbabwe Institute of African Integration

Appendix 5. List of Organizations/Institutions that Responded to the Online Questionnaire

African Union Youth Volunteer Corps
ECOWAS Volunteer Programme (EVP)
COMESA
Algeria
National Association of Volunteer Work
Fondation Ness El khir
Burundi
UNV Field Unit
Central African Republic
UNV Field Unit
Republic of Congo
National Volunteer Programme
The DR Congo
• Coalition Nationale des Organisations des Volontaires pour le Développement Durable (CNOVD)
• National Volunteerism Secretariat
• CUSO International
Guinea Bissau
National Youth Institute
Togo
• National Volunteer Programme
• Association Jeunesse - Sensibilisation - Action (JSA)
• ATPD (Action Togolaise pour la Population et le Développement/ Togolese Action for Population and Development)
Benin
• CUSO
• State Agency in Charge of Volunteerism (AnpE)
Burkina Faso
National Volunteer Programme
Mali
National Volunteer Programme

Cameroon
National Volunteer Programme
Madagascar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consortium National pour la Participation Citoyenne (CNPC) • Club Vinty • ONG Nationale • Focus on Youth Madagascar Association
Mauritania
• National Volunteer Programme
Mozambique
Conselho Nacional do Voluntariado-CNV
Niger
National Volunteer Programme
Zambia
VSO
Eswatini
VSO
Guinea
National Volunteer Programme
Uganda
VSO
Zimbabwe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSO • Epworth Harare
South Africa
WESSA
Sierra Leone
VSO
UNDP (Country not indicated)
Somalia
SOYVA
Malawi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corpsafrika • VSO
Senegal
Corpsafrika
Ethiopia
VSO
Kenya
Africa for SDG
Tanzania
VSO



ENDNOTES

1. Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, The DR Congo, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
2. The vision is what the country or organization wants to accomplish. The mission is a general statement of how the vision will be achieved and the goals are statements of what needs to be accomplished to implement the strategy.
3. Composed of 43 countries out of which 28 are from Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central Africa, Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Mauritania, Niger, Democratic Republic Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Togo and Tunisia.
4. School of Social Sciences, The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji Islands; Society, Work and Development Institute, The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa ([Mati_Horizontality.pdf \(ymaws.com\)](#))
5. Countries that mention volunteering in their reports are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, The DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, North Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.
6. The NGO is based in Kenya but the number of volunteers is for several countries'
7. 60% are youth.
8. For more information, contact Deedar Guerra, Presidente Executivo do Conselho Nacional do Voluntariado at gdeedar19@gmail.com or deedar.guerra@cnv-mz.org
9. Source : https://databankfiles.worldbank.org/public/ddpext_download/GDP.pdf
10. Tuesday Gichuki, Judy Gachathi, Jane Njiru, Usitawi Consultants, Measuring the Contribution of Volunteer Work on Kenya's Gross Domestic Product, 31 December 2017
11. For more information, please contact Boureima Nabaloum, Director General National Volunteer Programme at nabaloum2013@gmail.com
12. For more information, contact Mamadou Macka BALDE, Directeur Général ANVJ at baldemackab@gmail.com or anvjguinee@gmail.com
13. For more information, contact Dr HASSANE Hamidine , Directeur Général de l'ANVD at hhamidine1@gmail.com
14. The eleven (11) municipalities were from Tahoua region (Tassara), Tillabéry Region (Abala, Banibangou, Tondikwindi, Inatès, Bankilaré) and Diffa Region (Toumour, Bosso, Kablewa, N'Guelbéli, Goudoumaria).
15. The two municipalities concerned are Abala in the Tillabéry Region and Goudoumaria in the Diffa Region
16. Agence Nationale du Volontariat au Togo, "Etude approfondie de la contribution du volontariat au renforcement du secteur de la sante au Togo," 28 Jul 2021
17. For more information, contact Gilbert MUGISHO, Coordonnateur de la CNOVD at cnovd@hotmail.fr
18. TOBONGISA Asbl is a development organization that works for positive change. It awakens and challenges the consciences of the population and those of duty-bearers to fight against the structures and actions that generate injustice, inequality, poverty and discrimination, oppression to improve the living conditions of the population. TOBONGISA Asbl intervenes in the fields of human rights, democracy, gender (gender-based violence), social and economic justice and environmental protection. Its activities include training, information and sensitization of communities, organization of advocacy, surveys, organization of days of reflection and experience sharing.
19. SDG 16 is also a corresponding SDG of Goal 5

20. For more information, contact MRS DOYIGBE Colombe, Technical Director in charge of Volunteerism at moustcolombe@yahoo.fr or c.doyigbe@anpe.bj
21. For more information, contact : KORICHI Abdelkrim, infonesselkhir@gmail.com + korrichiabdelkarim@gmail.com , 00213775224388 or NECHAR Kenza, infonesselkhir@gmail.com + kenzanechar@gmail.com , 00213551007332
22. For more information, contact MAMAT BOUKAR ALIPHA, Coordonnateur National du Programme National de Volontariat at mamatboukaralipha@gmail.com ou Mathias Gérard Kana, Chef de Département de la Gestion des Volontaires at mathiaskana@gmail.com
23. For more information, contact Francis Chuks NJOAGUANI, Director, ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre ; Ouagadougou, BURKINA FASO at fnjoaguani@ecowas.int
24. For more information, contact Temesgen Bireda, Global Volunteering Standard and Volunteering for Development national volunteer for Voluntary Service Overseas at Temesgen.Bireda@vsoint.org
25. For more information, contact Mayamiko Mgwadira, Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant at Mayamiko.mgwadira@vsoint.org
26. For more information contact Mareme Ndour, Country Office Liaison for CorpsAfrica at mdnour@corpsafrica.org
27. For more information, contact WESSA: Margaret Burger at margaret@burgerip.co.za - WESSA Green Matching or visit <https://www.wessalife.org.za/green-matchmaking/>
28. For more information, contact Omar Agbangba, Directeur Général ANVT at oagbangba@yahoo.fr
29. More detail on the description of the tool in appendix 1
30. For more information, contact Ochiengh David at ochiengh.davidandrew@vsoint.org for Uganda and Mayamiko Mgwadira, Monitoring And Evaluation Assistant at Mayamiko.mgwadira@vsoint.org for Malawi
31. Intersectionality refers to the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender, and how they overlap and intersect, creating unique experiences for individuals who belong to multiple marginalized groups
32. For more information, contact Gift Mwanza at Gift.Mwanza@vsoint.org



SOURCES USED

- African Union Volunteer Linkage platform, Survey on the contribution of volunteering to the achievement of the goals of Agenda 2063
- Agence Nationale de Volontariat du Togo, Présentation de l'application de collecte des indicateurs de suivi-évaluation, 2020
- Agence Nationale de Volontariat du Togo, VNU, Etude approfondie de la contribution du volontariat au renforcement du secteur de la sante au Togo : Projet de modélisation et standardisation de la méthodologie d'évaluation de la contribution du volontariat au développement
- Agence Nationale de Volontariat du Togo, PNUD, Etude de capitalisation du volontariat d'engagement citoyen (Rapport provisoire), 2018
- Agence Nationale de Volontariat du Togo, VNU, Evaluation de la contribution du volontariat au développement socio-économique du Togo (Rapport provisoire), 2020
- Government of Benin (2020) Contribution Nationale Volontaire à la mise en œuvre des ODD. Report to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, New York
- Government of Burkina Faso (2016-2022) Rapport National Volontaire. Report to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, New York
- Government of Cameroon, Stratégie nationale du volontariat au Cameroun, 2014
- Government of Central African Republic (2023) Rapport National Volontaire sur les cinq ODD retenus, Report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. [Report to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development], New York
- Government of Democratic Republic of Congo (2023) Rapport d'examen National Volontaire des Objectifs de Développement Durable [Report to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development], New York
- Government of Egypt (2021) Voluntary National Review, Report to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, New York
- Government of Rwanda (2023) second Voluntary National Review, Report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Report to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, New York
- Government of Senegal (2022) Revue Nationale Volontaire, Report to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, New York
- Government of Zambia (2023) Voluntary National Review. Report to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, New York
- International Labour Organization (2011). Manual on the measurement of volunteer work. Geneva: International Labour Office.
- Jacob Mwathi Mati in his paper "The ignored particularity of African volunteerism " notes that *"...volunteerism in the [African] continent is expressed through formal groups or informally outside of any organized context. What constitutes formal and informal expressions of volunteering is, of course, contextual and debatable."* (https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.istr.org/resource/resmgr/WP_Stockholm/Mati_Horizontality.pdf)

- Red Cross Society Ethiopia, Physical & Financial Report August, 2022
- Red Cross Kenya, Annual Report, 2022
- Red Cross Society Nigeria, Annual Report, 2019
- Red Cross Senegal , IFRC Network Country Plan, 2023
- Red Cross Togo , IFRC Network Country Plan, 2023
- Tobongisa, Rapport Narratif Exercice 2021, Kinshasa
- United Nations (2019-2023) Voluntary National Reviews Database. United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, New York
- United Nations. Economic Commission for Africa (1990-02). African charter for popular participation in development and transformation. UN. ECA International Conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process in Africa (1990 : Arusha, Tanzania). Addis Ababa
- UNV, <https://knowledge.unv.org/glossary>
- UNV, State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2018: The thread that binds - volunteerism and community resilience, 19 July 2018

STATE OF VOLUNTEERISM IN AFRICA REPORT



African Union Commission (AUC)
Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate (WGYD)