



**MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (2001 – 2010)**

**Contribution of the United Nations Volunteer programme to the Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries**

**Executive Summary**

The Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was a reaffirmation by the international community of a commitment to address the special needs of the LDCs. The framework for the BPoA is represented by seven key commitments, which if achieved, are expected to result in the LDCs making substantial progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The first of these commitments is fostering a people-centred policy framework. Subsequent resolutions of the UN General Assembly have underlined the key role of volunteerism in any strategy aimed at poverty reduction. **The BPoA is explicit about encouraging voluntary actions to improve the condition of the poor through the provision of social infrastructures and basic social services, the provision of services in educational and training fields, and the enhancement of social integration and social safety nets.** The present report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) programme in the period of 2001-2005 in support of the BPoA in 42 of the 50 LDCs.

UNV is the focal point in the United Nations for the promotion of volunteerism for development. Its work includes the assignment of skilled and experienced women and men to support a broad range of development and peace-building initiatives. It is also increasingly providing support to programme countries in building up and strengthening infrastructure for local expressions of volunteerism to flourish. This report highlights the various ways UNV supports the commitments of the BPoA through the lenses of three areas of distinctive contribution that characterize UNV interventions: Access to Services and Service Delivery, Inclusion and Participation, and Community Mobilization through Volunteerism.



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## PART I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) provides a framework for national governments to articulate policies and for the international community to develop, with the concerned countries, supportive actions to develop the human and institutional resources needed to eradicate poverty, inequality and deprivation. It is therefore integral to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the 50 LDCs.

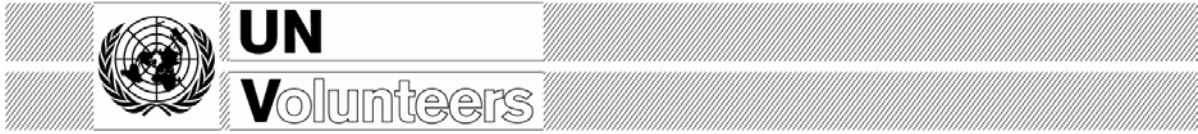
2. The United Nations Volunteer (UNV) programme, established in 1971, is the UN organization that supports sustainable human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism, including the mobilization of volunteers. UNV volunteers are skilled and experienced women and men who work in a broad range of development and peace-building areas that contribute to achieving the MDGs in some 140 countries around the world. They are drawn from 174 countries, over two thirds in developing regions. UNV provides a unique window of opportunity for qualified global citizens, whatever their origins, to share their expertise and to demonstrate solidarity with, and support for, the aspirations of the Millennium Declaration.

3. Since the adoption of the BPoA there has been a growth in UNV support for the development efforts of the LDCs. As of end 2005, UNV was working in 42 of the 50 LDCs (See Annex 1: Country-by-Country Summary and Annex 2: Volunteer Assignments).

4. The BPoA makes a few explicit references to the role of volunteerism in any strategy aimed at poverty reduction. Voluntary action is encouraged to help improve the condition of the poor members of the community through the provision of social infrastructures and basic social services; through the provision of services in educational and training fields; and through the enhancement of social integration and social safety nets. **Specifically, the BPoA recommends the following actions:**

- **“Creating an efficient environment for, and enhancing the effectiveness of, social sector investment, including through greater reliance on a participatory local community approach in the design, implementation and evaluation of measures relating to the provision of social infrastructures and basic social services, particularly to improve the condition of the poor members of the community, including through building on deeply embedded traditions of voluntary mutual aid and self-help forms of social capital” . (Commitment 3, Section A, Paragraph 32).**
- **“Encouraging and facilitating networking among educational and training institutions in developed countries and those in LDCs, including provision of voluntary services in educational and training fields”. (Commitment 3, Section C, Paragraph 37 (ii) j).**
- **“Strengthening support for policies and measures in LDCs that enhance social integration and social safety nets, including those which encourage voluntary actions, as well as organizations and mechanisms in the governmental and nongovernmental sectors promoting such policies”. (Commitment 3, Section E, Paragraph 41 (ii) a).**

5. This report consists of four parts, organized to provide an overview of the activities undertaken by UNV during the period 2001-2005 in support of the BPoA. Part I introduces the scope of UNV’s work. Part II describes UNV’s strategy in support of LDCs. Part III presents the distinctive contributions that UNV has made to the commitments articulated in the BPoA, namely: Access to Services and Service Delivery, Inclusion and Participation, and Community



Mobilization through Volunteerism. Part IV is devoted to discussing future UNV directions in LDCs and to reaffirming UNV's commitment to supporting the BPoA.



## PART II. UNITED NATION VOLUNTEER'S STRATEGY IN SUPPORT OF LDCA

6. UNV is increasingly engaged in ensuring that volunteerism in its various forms – mutual aid and self-help, philanthropy and service, advocacy and campaigning – is an activator of such drivers of development effectiveness as building national capacities; promoting national ownership; advocating and fostering an enabling environment; seeking South-South solutions; promoting gender equity; and forging strategic partnerships, which are all reflected in the BPoA.

7. The MDGs constitute the foundation, which underpins UNV's mission of supporting sustainable human development through volunteerism. Properly understood and supported, volunteerism can foster empowerment, broad-based ownership, and participation for those affected by poverty and exclusion. It has the potential to move disadvantaged populations away from being passive recipients and towards becoming engaged actors in their own development. Volunteers all over the world are helping to create awareness about the imperative of meeting the MDGs and the ways and means by which everyone, individually or through collective action, can contribute. Volunteers are being called upon to support capacity development at all levels, in particular at the grassroots, so that citizens can play a fuller role in addressing poverty issues.

8. UNV's business model focuses on three areas of support for the application of volunteerism to development issues in the LDCs, namely:

### *Advocating for volunteerism and development globally*

9. UNV works as an advocate for the contribution of volunteerism as a sustainable, cost-efficient and culturally adapted development asset.

10. Advocacy activities include: stimulating national policy and legislation supportive of volunteerism; supporting research to describe the nature of volunteering and assess its impact in the national context; and promoting the sharing of best practices.

### *Integrating volunteerism into development programming*

11. UNV is engaged in efforts to include volunteerism in activities that contribute to achieving the MDGs. UNV's Special Voluntary Fund (SVF), for example, supports innovative pilot activities that demonstrate the added value of volunteerism.

### *Mobilizing volunteers for development and peace*

12. A central feature continues to be the many thousands of professionally qualified, experienced and committed women and men of some 170 nationalities who, each year, serve as UNV volunteers in UN system-supported programmes and projects in over 140 countries. Over the 5-year period of the BPoA assignments grew by 45 per cent to reach 8,470 in 2005, while the number of individual volunteers increased by 44 per cent to 8,122, both unprecedented figures in the history of UNV.

13. In addition, UNV is increasingly being called upon to assist programme countries develop national capacities to mobilize volunteers domestically, including the establishment of national volunteer centres and networks, youth volunteer schemes, university volunteer initiatives, and intra and inter country volunteer exchange programmes.



14. The distinctive contributions of UNV in its work with LDCs generate a range of outputs that contribute to achieving the MDGs. Specific examples and their relationship with the respective commitments of the BPoA are detailed in the next section.



### **PART III. IMPLEMENTATION – PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COMMITMENTS OF THE DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

15. This section features representative examples of the distinctive contributions that UNV has made to the commitments articulated in the BPoA. The activities described illustrate the three areas of distinctive contribution that characterize UNV interventions, Access to Services and Service Delivery, Inclusion and Participation, and Community Mobilization through Volunteerism.

#### *Access to Services and Service Delivery*

16. This contribution focuses on enabling disadvantaged groups and communities to have wider access to services and enhancing the delivery of such services. UNV works with targeted groups to better articulate their demand for services and with service providers to ensure they understand local needs and are able to integrate them into the programming of service delivery.

#### *Inclusion and Participation*

17. This contribution involves promoting the inclusion of all stakeholders, in particular the disadvantaged, in processes that affect their well-being. It includes making information available on opportunities and how to participate; putting in place sustainable strategies and processes for participation; establishing and strengthening networks to facilitate access of targeted groups to decision making processes; and ensuring mechanisms are set up in a way that facilitate dialogue between actors at various levels of decision making.

#### *Community Mobilization through Volunteerism*

18. This contribution focuses on fostering community mobilization through voluntary action to address local development issues. It includes: promoting greater awareness among communities of common issues and alternative ways to address them; enhancing local capacity to develop project proposals and manage implementation; improving networking and communication among local people; establishing systems for local interaction and knowledge sharing; strengthening community leadership; and creating or upgrading instruments available at the local level to document processes and accomplishments.

### **Commitment 1: Fostering a people-centred policy framework**

19. According to the BPoA “human beings are at the centre of the concerns for sustainable development”. Citizen involvement is both an imperative and an opportunity, and volunteerism can be a highly effective channel through which such action can be mobilized. UNV is close to communities in terms of its people-centred participatory approaches and the physical proximity of most UNV volunteers to the grass roots. People-driven development activities and effective community based organizations (CBOs) are crucial to the success of poverty reduction programmes.

20. In this context, it is particularly important to create conditions within which women can be empowered and also engage the energies of young people. The latter represents more than 50 percent of the population of LDCs. In recognition of the role youth can play in shaping the development of their societies, and the need to harness this potential, UNV with its partners is undertaking pilot projects to explore ways in which, by building up and promoting a culture of volunteerism, youth can be mobilized and engaged in activities at the community, regional and national levels.



### *Access to services and service delivery*

21. In **Burkina Faso**, UNV volunteers from the Hauts-Bassin region strengthen local structures to support underprivileged youth and enhance their social and economic reintegration. They foster systematic coordination and dialogue among civil society and public structures, and strengthen the capacities of community organizations to provide education, professional training and counseling services to young people, 70 per cent of whom are women. Some of the youth have begun income-generating activities with the

sponsorship of small grants. The involvement of young people in local poverty-reduction initiatives in their own countries is a growth area for UNV.

### *Inclusion and Participation*

22. Sustained community involvement is essential for long-term well-being of children and youth. In **Niger**, UNV works in rural villages to provide opportunities for pre-school education, especially girls, to attend school. UNV volunteers help parents, teachers and community members to organize so as to plan and monitor the construction and management of kindergartens. This allows mothers to pursue literacy, training and income-generating activities. To date, hundreds of children and mothers have benefited from the initiative. A similar project is ongoing in **Senegal**.

23. In **Malawi**, UNV volunteers are sensitizing farmers on gender issues in collaboration with regional representatives from the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM). Training workshops cover a number of topics relating to gender issues such as women's rights and HIV/AIDS. After the training participants return to their regional or community associations and are responsible for share what they learned with their members.

24. Through the UNV led United Nations Information Technology Service (UNITeS), a global web-based volunteer initiative focused on building human capacity, volunteers from around the world give their skills and time to help developing countries access the opportunities of the digital revolution. A network of qualified university student volunteers are using the service to provide training in basic computer skills, helping create web sites and databases and repairing broken computers. With CISCO Systems' Networking Academy Program, a private-sector partner, UNV volunteers share their IT skills with students in developing countries who attend computer courses to foster high-tech skills and increase their chances of finding employment in the IT sector.

### *Community mobilization through volunteerism*

25. In **Bangladesh**, UNV volunteers provide guidance to youth clubs in planning and carrying out community-level activities such as road repair, tree planting or building latrines; assisting women and children to access health care services; and supporting women's efforts to benefit from small-scale income-generating activities.

26. In **Madagascar**, UNV has mobilized communities to help marginalized young people regain confidence and self-reliance. In addition to counseling, vocational training, and the establishment of micro-enterprise schemes, UNV has developed innovative local partnerships to



ensure a lasting network of support for youth. One example is the setting up of a network of over 100 “Volontaires des quartiers”, mostly women who volunteer to help prevent violence and address social exclusion through participatory approaches.

27. In **Sudan**, UNV has provided advice and technical support to strengthen capacities of volunteer-involving organizations to contribute to achieving the MDGs. A volunteering forum, set up to coordinate and organize volunteer-related activities at the grass-roots and national levels, was responsible for a successful national symposium on volunteering for the MDGs, held in 2005.

### **Commitment 2: Good governance at national and international levels**

28. Volunteerism is an indispensable component of effective governance. Inclusion is promoted by developing mechanisms that foster full participation of stakeholders, including those at the margins of the governmental decision-making process. UNV collaborates with UN agencies and governments in support of decentralization processes that promote participatory local governance and the empowerment of communities. UNV has a long-time record of supporting democratic governance initiatives in LDCs. UNV volunteer assignments in LDCs focus on governance-related activities, including decentralization and local governance, elections, justice and human rights, public administration reform, and anti-corruption measures. These efforts

contributed to enhancing the capacity of public institutions to deliver essential services, and helped disadvantaged groups to better identify and articulate needs and implement and monitor development initiatives.

#### *Access to services and service delivery*

29. In **Niger** over a thousand local officials elected in 2004 were trained by UNV volunteers in budget and financing to improve tax revenue collection. As a result, the Mayahi District, for instance, saw a 30 percent increase in tax revenue to help finance improved local services.

30. In Darfur, UNV volunteers with the United Nations Mission in **Sudan** (UNMIS) were among the first to investigate allegations of human rights abuses. Working closely with local organizations and community leaders, the volunteers interviewed victims, reported cases, conducted follow-up of human rights abuses with police, national security services, and prison staff. UNV volunteers were also involved in developing and implementing human rights training programmes and collecting human rights indicators.

#### *Inclusion and Participation*

31. Limited opportunities for communities, and the poor in particular, to participate in formal decision-making is a major challenge faced by countries such as the **Lao People's Democratic Republic** in the context of decentralization efforts. Drawing on a long tradition of self-help ‘*asamak*’, UNV is helping to involve local Laotian communities in formulating, planning, managing, and monitoring poverty alleviation initiatives. Public officials and citizens are trained and supported in joint collection and analysis of poverty data, preparing participatory village plans, and establishing a citizen’s center. The volunteers support inclusive dialogue mechanisms such as town hall meetings where citizens can participate in discussions on public budgets, public services, and indicators for monitoring service delivery. The UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board



delegation participating in a 2005 field visit commended UNV work with local communities as deserving of replication in other countries and dissemination through knowledge networks.

32. Over 600 UNV volunteers collaborated with the United Nations Assistance Mission in **Afghanistan** (UNAMA) and UNDP to facilitate the voter registration process for the country's first Presidential Elections. UNV volunteers were mobilized throughout Afghanistan as Provincial Field Coordinators, International Registration Supervisors (IRS), Logistical Support Officers, and Civic Education Training Officers. An additional three hundred national UNVs entered data and monitored a computerized database of all registered voters. In recognition of their achievements, in March of 2005 UNV received the first Peacemaker Award for the "groundbreaking work with the October 2004 presidential elections in Afghanistan" from the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, Australia.

33. In December of 2003 the President of **Mali** and the Mayor of Timbuktu launched the City of Timbuktu's official internet site [www.tombouctou.net](http://www.tombouctou.net) at the Timbuktu community Telecenter. The "mayor's on-line office" is a UNV supported e-governance pilot project designed by UNV volunteers working with the mayor's office. The project's primary objective is to bring government and other key decision-makers closer to the people. Containing information and services, the website leads to greater transparency and accountability and connects citizens and elected officials from all the regions in the country. This supports the process of decentralization launched by the Government of Mali with UNDP and the United National Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). This project could serve as a model applicable to other remote communities in Mali and beyond.

#### *Community mobilization through volunteerism*

34. Since 2003, within the framework of the UNDP-led Good Governance for Poverty Eradication Programme, teams of UNV volunteers have worked with the **Uganda** Human Rights Commission, the Ugandan Amnesty Commission and the Ministry of Local Government to help strengthen national capacities in the observation, monitoring and reporting of human rights violations at the community level. Activities are focused on areas where human rights abuse is most pronounced. UNV volunteers have been involved in conducting outreach activities in rural and hard to reach communities, as well as training more than 1,200 local council court

officials on effectively transferring knowledge of the justice system to the grassroots. UNV volunteers also assisted citizens in forming Voluntary Action Groups, known as VAGs, training their members in human right issues. These groups are repositories of knowledge and have viable community structures with an excellent likelihood of enduring once outside involvement ceases. This kind of mobilizing community capacity has led to a marked increase in reporting of human rights violations.

35. In **Guinea**, in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA, and local broadcasters, UNV has launched a project to promote a culture of peace using mass media, the first such initiative in the country. UNV volunteers work closely with community-based radio stations and local NGOs to promote a spirit of trust and dialogue among the host country, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees. Working in Haute Guinée and Guinée Forestière, two of the regions most



affected by social tensions, the volunteers train local journalists and organizations and help develop educational radio broadcasts focusing on conflict prevention and civic education. They also mobilize local people to volunteer as peace promoters within their communities.

### **Commitment 3: Building human and institutional capacities**

36. The Programme of Action points out how efforts at development of human capacities in LDCs have been affected by low school enrolment, low health, nutrition and sanitation status, the prevalence of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, as well as other natural and man-made disasters. It is proposed that “an immediate priority is to focus greater effort on fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and their economic and social impact” (Pp. 35).

37. UNV is deeply engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS through the use of people-centred approaches. UNV volunteers provide immediate relief to over-stretched capacities of public institutions at national and local levels, as well as longer-term capacity building assistance. They also work within communities mobilizing local human resources, including people living with HIV/AIDS, as prime actors in prevention, treatment and care.

#### *Access to services and service delivery*

38. Apprenticeship opportunities at the **Lao** Youth Union’s Textile Handicraft Workshop are creating exciting economic opportunities for young people in Lao PDR. A textile project offers 6 months apprenticeships to train youth in sewing skills, and strategies on how to access markets and increase income. The textiles that are utilized by the apprentices are produced and dyed by local weavers, thus creating a network of craftswomen that will be able to profit from keeping traditional expertise alive - with the knowledge of what international consumers want, and the ability to adapt creative skills.

#### *Inclusion and Participation*

39. Strengthening local institutions and fostering ownership and participation are integral components of poverty-reduction strategies. UNV activities in **Mozambique** illustrate well how UNV volunteers support government efforts in this regard. Working closely with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and CBOs, UNV volunteers have helped strengthen their capacity to identify needs, plan activities, monitor implementation and assess performance. They provided advisory services, including training in micro-business, crop production, animal husbandry and handicraft manufacturing. The stimulus provided by the UNV volunteers encouraged the

establishment of new community groups with close to 500 members. It also led to better coordination among NGOs, traders and local government; greater ownership by communities of their own development; and expanded opportunities for income generation.

40. Since 2003, UNV has been involved in UNDP’s flagship programme to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic - the Southern Africa Capacity Initiative (SACI). Its contribution includes the provision of UNV volunteers with expertise in medical, planning, policy and technical fields. In four LDCs, **Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia**, they work with government ministries, agencies and NGOs to develop leadership capacity, accelerate skills training, and help institutions maintain the supply of basic services. UNV volunteers are also serving at the provincial district and community levels to back the planning and coordination of response mechanisms and to



support the creation of local volunteer groups to help carry out HIV/AIDS education and assist those affected and infected.

41. UNV supports the greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA), an initiative of UNDP and the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS). In **Cambodia**, for example, UNV supports the inclusion of people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS (PLHA). Placed within government institutions leading the national response to the pandemic, Cambodian UNV volunteers, some of whom are HIV positive, are helping local organizations integrate PLHA into their programmes and are advocating for the inclusion of PLHA issues in national planning processes. Focusing on gender-specific needs, they work to reduce the incidence of discrimination against women in the workplace, and have helped national PLHA networks create women-specific task forces and increase female membership, which has reached 5,000 spread across twelve provinces. A comparative study of project evaluations in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean confirmed the effectiveness of national UNV volunteers in implementing the GIPA approach. The study highlighted the tripartite partnership between UNAIDS, UNDP and UNV as an effective GIPA implementing strategy.

42. Through GIPA, UNV volunteers – many themselves living with HIV/AIDS – work with regional networks of people living with HIV/AIDS and with local institutions to develop prevention, care and support activities. Activities include promoting voluntary counseling and testing, conducting media awareness campaigns, providing home-based care, and establishing micro-grant facilities for income-generating activities. Participants share experiences, knowledge and skills to help empower their peers and influence development policies and programmes. Equally important is the opportunity UNV volunteers have to tackle stigmatization by actively bringing about positive changes to their own lives as well as the lives of others. Following piloting in **Malawi** and **Zambia**, the initiative has expanded to include other developing countries including LDCs, namely **Burundi, Cambodia, Haiti and Rwanda**.

#### *Community mobilization through volunteerism*

43. In **Nepal**, UNV volunteers were involved in efforts to engender a spirit of volunteerism among communities. One NUNV, for example, trained the community in micro hydro-operating systems and encouraged them to form a democratic 'Users Committee' (UC), to draw up an agreed constitution and to have the UC registered as an NGO. Through central-level and site-level training programmes, the UC members developed skills in account keeping, record keeping and NGO leadership and management. Once registered as NGOs, the UCs may choose to develop links with other larger NGOs, perhaps launching small savings and credit programmes in their communities, or arranging literacy programmes. In just two years, nearly 40 villages in 21 districts of Nepal have received support from the project.

44. In **Timor-Leste**, UNV volunteers through contributions in Child Protection, Social Advisory Services, Water and Sanitation, Reproductive Health Services, Gender Based Violence and training, have strengthened community health awareness and helped build solid long-term partnerships between civil society and development partners such as UNFPA and, UNICEF. UNV has served as a catalyst to raise awareness about infant/maternal health and HIV/AIDS; has supported UNICEF and UNFPA to strengthen capacity of health institutions at the district and sub-district levels; and has linked communities to health services and vice versa. UNV volunteers are working with communities to establish maternal waiting homes operated and managed by community volunteers. In the context of the Country Programme Outline (CPO) for 2003-2005, UNV has helped



to enhance the capacity of district and community based CSOs in stimulating and facilitating local development initiatives; to strengthen the role of CSOs in development support and dialogue; and enhanced the role of CSOs in sustaining and deepening democracy through enhanced cooperation with Government eg: civic education training, Training of Trainers for CSOs, raising awareness about gender, capacity building support on a range of rights based issues, etc.

#### **Commitment 4: Building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs**

45. In the UN General Secretary's report to the Millennium Summit in September 2005, the UN Secretary-General emphasized the importance of information and communications technologies (ICT) in reducing poverty. For its part, UNV has long recognized the potential of ICT as an avenue to create earning opportunities, improve access to education and facilitate information and knowledge-sharing in LDCs. One initiative to bridge the digital divide is the UNV managed UN Information Technology Service (UNITeS) that promotes volunteer involvement as critical to efforts to apply ICT for development (ICT4D).

##### *Access to services and service delivery*

46. Within the context of UNDP support to the Government of **Bhutan**, UNV volunteers have contributed to ensuring access to ICT for a broad cross-section of the population. As part of the efforts to strengthen the ICT capacity of selected technical ministries, for example, UNV volunteers provided advice on strategic planning for ICT, guidance on appropriate ICT applications, and training in communications and web design. In support of tertiary education institutions, they developed an information technology course for trainee teachers, wrote computer manuals and conducted in-service training during school vacation periods. Targeted awareness-raising programmes and specialized training courses were also set up for youth and the general public.

47. Strengthening institutional capacities for improved efficiency and accountability is a critical component of a successful decentralization process. In **Ethiopia**, the launch of a national UNV volunteer scheme is helping direct domestic expertise, often concentrated in the capital, to improve regional public sector management. Over 100 Ethiopian UNV volunteers contributed to enhancing aid coordination and financial management, involving communities in development planning and implementation. UNV volunteers also designed systems to improve access to information, including creating an e-government platform with key social and economic data, as well as an internet-based network linking 200 high schools for interactive communication and learning.

48. UNV arranged for two senior employees from the Kraft Foods Company to provide advisory services to the **Lesotho** National Development Corporation (LNDC), to help revamp industrial activities in the mountain Kingdom. The focus of the initiative has been to explore the possibility of diversifying the product/process range of the Basotho Fruit and Vegetable Cannery whose operations are hampered by inadequate supply of raw material due to seasonality of fruit and vegetable production. Kraft Foods volunteers explored and advised on the feasibility of diversifying into meat processing and other appropriate product mixes for enhanced profitability and employment.

49. **Tanzania's** economy depends on agriculture for half of the country's GDP and for the employment of around 90 per cent of the workforce. In recent years, the country has faced environmental challenges such as soil degradation, desertification and droughts. A team of 45



UNV volunteers has worked to improve agricultural techniques and strengthen communities, contributing to better management of natural resources and preventing damage to the environment. They helped introduce new technologies that are more environmentally sound, such as fuel-saving ovens and better methods of land conservation and water catchment. They have also instructed small farmers in alternative farming and animal husbandry techniques and have initiated tree-planting campaigns.

50. Over 11,000 **Maldivians** had their incomes severely disrupted and are still in immediate need of assistance following the tsunami of 2004. According to recent estimates, up to 42 percent of the population lives

in female-headed households indicating a particular need to direct tsunami reconstruction efforts specifically at helping women begin to regenerate income following the losses caused by disaster. Working with the gender ministry, UNV volunteers have worked in teams allocating grants to women who want to start small businesses in tailoring, fish processing or anything else that will help restart their lives and escape poverty.

#### *Inclusion and Participation*

51. UNV in **Zambia** has supported the public administration to improve policy design, programming quality, and absorption capacity to effectively utilize donor resources, UNV volunteers helped create village task forces to serve as platforms for community members and traditional leaders to better articulate demands for services. They also worked with community groups and connected them to sources of funding. Local organizations in one district assisted 1,400 of the poorest women across 30 villages generate income through micro-finance projects.

52. The Savannakhet Provincial Tourism Office (PTO) in **Lao PDR**, guided by recommendations from UNV volunteers, has developed treks that allow tourists to visit and sleep in villages of various ethnic groups. The treks involve learning about the culture and traditions of each ethnic group and about local plants and wildlife, and walking through some of the most spectacular scenery in the province. In addition to stimulating economic growth through ecotourism, this project enables villagers to become closely involved in every aspect of the project development so that they can understand and truly benefit from tourism. The treks are setting the standard for community-based ecotourism projects in other provinces.

#### **Commitment 6: Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment**

53. The contributions of UNV to this commitment embrace reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment as a primary objective and as an opportunity to pursue other aims such as job creation, enhancing local governance, and fostering cross-cultural dialogue.

##### *Access to services and service delivery*

54. In **Mali**, UNV is working with communities in the Dogon County to ensure the preservation of natural and cultural heritages and to direct the benefits accruing from tourism development to disadvantaged communities. Working with customary chiefs, villagers, and municipal authorities, UNV volunteers help define priorities, including preserving and restoring monuments, managing natural sites and developing curricula on the environment for schools. They also assist



in developing income-generating skills such as training women as tourist guides and helping craftsmen better organize and market their products.

55. Following severe droughts and extreme food shortages in **Malawi**, national UNV volunteers supported local authorities in the efficient distribution of relief aid. They subsequently worked with communities in disaster preparedness, including hunger prevention and mitigation planning, vulnerability mapping and setting up drought monitoring systems.

56. Mananjary on the East coast of **Madagascar** is a high-risk zone strongly threatened by natural disasters. UNV has established a network of assistance made up of seven national UNV volunteers stationed in the capital Antananarivo and in six coastal cities. The primary role of UNV volunteers is to inform the local population about measures to be taken in the event of a natural disaster and to explain the risks of a cholera epidemic following a natural disaster. In order to disseminate their messages, the UNV volunteers employ mass media, including radio, as well as print media, such as posters. They visit local schools to share their message and distribute didactic materials to teachers.

#### *Inclusion and Participation*

57. The livelihoods of rural communities along the Mekong River depend greatly upon sustainable use of their natural resources. UNV assists the communities to understand and address conflicting and detrimental uses of the river in **Cambodia** and **Lao PDR**. Within the context of the UNDP-sponsored community dialogue initiative, and in collaboration with national counterparts, UNV volunteers promote the establishment of self-help groups to take action in areas such as riverbank protection, fish stocks conservation, water quality monitoring, and the development of sustainable tourism. They also create opportunities for dialogue on environmental governance between community members and local government, as well as with communities on the other side of the river. A multi-stakeholder workshop in 2005, which brought together government and civil society representatives, concluded that UNV plays an important role in engaging local actors in environmental management dialogues and processes.

#### *Community mobilization through volunteerism*

58. UNV volunteers in **Chad** are mobilizing community volunteers in an ambitious clean-up effort of N'Djamena. Working with UNDP's Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment, the volunteers have helped communities establish neighborhood sanitation committees to rid the capital of garbage and the associated health risks. They have also helped with the establishment of a monthly day to tidy up all five districts of the city and a weekly cleaning of N'djamena's three markets. This draws on the community for voluntary action that benefits everyone. Garbage removal is not only improving sanitary conditions, but it also provides the neighborhood sanitation committees with an opportunity to generate income by charging fees for their services and by selling small canteens made out of aluminum cans, electric materials or glass bottles they collect.



59. Promoting the involvement of communities in the sustainable use of common property resources contributes to the successful integration of environmental dimensions into poverty reduction strategies. In **Cape Verde**, for example, UNV and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) supported the Government in launching an initiative to harness volunteers to address the problems of land degradation, desertification, and youth unemployment. National UNV volunteers, together with local partners, conducted a training of trainers on social mobilization techniques and initiating pro-environment small businesses. The objective is to raise public awareness of, and community participation in, environmental protection measures and to help young unemployed people to establish environmentally-friendly enterprises. Other key objectives are to promote a culture of volunteerism among youth and build a national volunteer corps.

#### **PART IV. UNV AND LDCS – A GROWING PARTNERSHIP IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (2006-2010)**

60. The present report highlights the significant contribution of volunteerism in supporting the development goals, hopes and aspirations of LDCs. UNV, as the focal point in the UN for the promotion of volunteerism, is strengthening further its own capacity to support developing countries in their efforts to mobilize and channel volunteerism in all its manifestations towards meeting national development goals. UNV now has the experience and a number of assets to draw on in this respect. These include:

- Being a creation of the UN General Assembly to serve the entire UN system and enjoying close partnerships with the UN and most of its organizations, funds and programmes as well as with international and national volunteer involving organizations and volunteer networks;
- Being administered by the UNDP, with its extensive network of country offices throughout the developing world;
- Participating in a global volunteer network including the over 8000 UN Volunteers;
- Running an online volunteering programme (co-founded in partnership with NetAid and fully managed by UNV since 2004) that, since its launch in 2000, has seen some 40,000 people sign on ([www.onlinevolunteering.org](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org));
- Managing the World Volunteer Web ([www.worldvolunteerweb.org](http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org)), a global volunteering portal housing a growing data base of information resources that can be used for campaigning, advocacy, networking and operational activities.
- Operational and financial capacity, through the UNV Special Voluntary Fund, to explore and demonstrate the role of volunteerism to development and peace-building

61. Volunteerism is deeply embedded in almost every society but there are very great variations in the extent to which it is understood and valued in terms of its contribution to society in general and to volunteers themselves. There is a trend, including among LDCs, of seeking to develop different aspects of volunteer infrastructure, including supportive legislative frameworks, volunteer centres, and national volunteer schemes. The latter appears to be especially relevant for a number of LDCs as far as encouraging the participation of youth is concerned. However, a great deal still needs to be done to reach a shared understanding of the role of volunteerism and of the measures that can be taken to help maximize the full potential of the phenomenon. UNV sees this as an area of potential collaboration and partnership.



62. Over the second period of the BPoA, UNV expects to continue to strive to provide the LDCs with services of qualified UNV volunteers for capacity building efforts while, at the same time, helping to ensure that volunteerism, as a tremendous national resource, is brought into the mainstream of policies and programmes aimed at meeting the aspirations of the MDGs.



## **ANNEX 1. COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY SUMMARY OF KEY UNV ACTIONS IN LDCS**

### **Afghanistan**

The involvement of UNV in humanitarian and development assistance programmes in Afghanistan gathered momentum with the signing of the Bonn Agreement in December of 2001 and the establishment of the Afghan Interim Authority (AIA). Since 2001, approximately 1000 UNV volunteers have served in the country. Some of the key programmes they are engaged with are the Afghanistan Electoral Assistance Project and the Afghanistan New Beginnings for Peace (ABNP) project. UNV volunteers also support the Capacity Development Facility for Afghanistan (CDFA) by peer-to-peer capacity transfer as well as informal mentoring. UNV continues to be fully engaged in the reconstruction and development process. Earlier this year, UNV participated in the mission that looked into the restructuring of the Afghanistan governance programme during which its task was to advise on the integration of volunteerism within the programme framework. One Result from this initiative was the identification of two areas where UNV's distinctive contributions could be made, namely: (1) Support for the Capacity Development Facility for Afghanistan and (2) Youth and Governance.

### **Angola**

UNV collaboration with Angola has focused on the areas of governance and health. Building on the efforts of local NGOs who began working with the Human Rights Section of the UN Observer Mission to Angola to promote the observance of human rights practices in the country, UNV volunteers have assisted these efforts to come up with a clearer picture of the human rights situation in the country, as a contribution to assisting Angolan authorities in the consolidation of the country's judicial system. In the health area, UNV has been involved in supporting projects to combat malaria. This disease is acknowledged as being "the largest single cause of mortality in all age groups, and particularly among children and expectant mothers". As a result of its high incidence throughout the country, malaria has had far-reaching effects on economic productivity and household incomes, according to the UN System in Angola's Common Country Assessment for 2002.

### **Bangladesh**

UNV's work in Bangladesh is contributing to the achievement of the MDGs with their direct links to local communities, promoting solidarity and volunteerism. They make a difference in fighting poverty and creating jobs (MDG 1), improving educational facilities (MDG 2), access to safe drinking water, sustainable environment (MDG 7) promoting empowerment of women (MDG 3) and providing information on HIV/AIDS (MDG 6). UNV volunteers have also played an important role in providing guidance to youth clubs in planning and carrying out community-level activities. UNV has also supported the UNDP (DEX) Chittagong Hill Tracts project for Development and Confidence Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The project aims at reducing poverty, especially among the very poor, and consolidating harmony and stability by helping local institutions function more effectively and spearhead economic progress. UNV volunteers work with local communities and local municipalities in Dhaka and 3 Hill districts (Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati) to actively promote volunteerism and community empowerment.

### **Benin**

Volunteerism in Benin has a long tradition. In the period of 2001-2005 UNV has been involved in health, democratic governance, poverty reduction, the environment, human rights, HIV/AIDS and ICT. One example has been collaboration with the Benin Scout Movement to train volunteer



youth to who will help disseminate locally adapted HIV/AIDS campaign kits for out of school and apprentice youth. The UNV National Modality in Benin has been a tool for strengthening national capacities, while contributing to increasing the scope of volunteerism in the country. Volunteerism is being operationalized in UN system operations for the period 2004-2008, through the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). As a result, UNV will be collaborating in the areas of Decentralization, Environment, Job Creation and Employment Opportunities for Women and Youth, Reproductive Health, Functional Literacy, Gender, Health and HIV and AIDS.

### **Bhutan**

Within the context of UNDP support to the Government of Bhutan, UNV volunteers have helped ensure access to ICT for a broad cross-section of the population. As part of efforts to strengthen the ICT capacity of selected technical ministries, UNV volunteers provided advice on strategic plans for ICT, guidance on appropriate ICT applications and training in communications and web design. In support of tertiary education institutions, they developed an information technology training-course for trainee teachers, wrote computer manuals and conducted in-service training during the vacation periods. Targeted awareness-raising programmes and specialized training courses were also set up for youth and the general public.

### **Burkina Faso**

Since start-up of UNV activities in Burkina Faso in 1973 more than 400 UNV volunteers have been assigned to the country. Priority areas in 2001-2005 have centred around extending employment opportunities and income generating activities, guaranteeing access to basic social services, promoting good governance, reducing vulnerability of rural economies while supporting sustainable development, and stabilizing HIV/AIDS prevalence. In 2003 UNV began implementing a poverty reduction project among marginalized youth in the Western provinces of Houet and Tuy. Largely financed by the government of Luxembourg, the project provides psychosocial support and orientation of youth, training for income generating activities, as well as strengthening institutional support structures. A pilot project, using IT, to sensitize young people about HIV and AIDS has also been implemented. More recently, UNV's assistance has been requested for setting up of a National Volunteer Corps for the country.

### **Burundi**

UNV's cooperation with Burundi dates back to the 1970's, when the areas of support were the traditional ones of development assistance, and has continued through the 1990'. Beginning in the late 1990's, assistance has also been provided in the area of governance, notably through the UNESCO supported project on peaceful conflict resolution. In addition, the area of good governance has seen support for sustainable and transparent electoral processes to help ensure credible and transparent electoral processes. In 2002-2003, UNV demonstrated its capacity to bring together qualified, experienced UNV volunteers of different nationalities and cultures to work primarily at the community level. In addition, UNV supports the Greater Involvement of Persons living with HIV and AIDS (GIPA), an initiative of UNDP and the Joint and UNAIDS. UNV volunteers from Burundi initially supported the pilot project of the GIPA, which constituted the first experience of that kind in Francophone Africa.

### **Cambodia**

Following the successful work undertaken by HIV-positive UNV volunteers in several African states, similar initiatives were expanded to eight countries in Asia and the Caribbean, including the following two LDCs: Cambodia and Haiti. The involvement of UNV volunteers who are themselves HIV-positive continued to be an effective means of building networks among people living with HIV/AIDS and strengthening the capacity of self-help groups in dealing with the social and economic impact of the epidemic at the community level. UNV, together with an international NGO, is working with the Government to facilitate the registration of newborn



babies through mobile teams. With the improved registration statistics, state and local administration will be better able to target policies and control child labour, trafficking and other illegal practices. Cambodia also participated in a regional initiative, together with Laos and Thailand, aimed at assisting community-level management of natural resources. This programme, the Community Dialogues Initiative, which fell within the area of environment governance, relied on local-level interface and knowledge exchange for the improved management of forestry and fishery resources. Local volunteers, with guidance from National UNV volunteers from the three countries, were able to mobilize and engage communities in the project area and were able eventually to run the project independently.

### **Cape Verde**

Cape Verde has a strong tradition of mutual assistance and contribution to community development. NGOs have recently expanded their national outreach, contributing to a rich civil society framework offering many opportunities for expressions of volunteerism. UNV, UNDP, and the Secretariat of the UNCCD have launched a joint initiative to address the problems of land degradation desertification and youth unemployment through volunteering. UNV volunteers raise public awareness of environmental protection measures, provide training on the management of natural resources, promote volunteer action for the environment, and help unemployed youth establish enterprises that are environmentally friendly. The project was implemented successfully in six municipal districts on Santiago Island, with the result that the Government has indicated interest in broadening the initiative to other communities. A National Volunteer Corps for the Environment was established, and UNV has been requested to support its extension to other islands.

### **Central African Republic**

UNV started work in the Central African Republic in 1973. While the focus has been to support grassroots development initiatives, national institutions have also benefited. For instance, UNV volunteers lectured at the University of Bangui's Department for Information Technologies and the Institute for Rural Development in M'Baiki. Other UNV volunteers provided intensive training on community health to thousands of women in the prevention of diseases such as HIV/AIDS. UNV also promotes volunteerism through lobbying the government, partnering with other volunteer-involving organizations, and outreach to civil society – including the media and providing support to the country's national and community-level voluntary organizations.

### **Chad**

Since the start of UNV in Chad in 1971, more than 150 UNV volunteers have worked in the fields of health and social affairs, education, rural development and the environment. They have contributed to establishing the country's regional strategies for development, reinforcing the institutional capacities, valuing social capital and human resources, and promoting development at community level. In the 2001-2005 co-operation framework, poverty eradication and governance are emphasized.

### **Comoros**

UNV activities began in the Comoros in 1977, when the country financial resources and qualified manpower. Over time, the cooperation has expanded with recent emphasis on electoral assistance. Between December 2001 and April 2002, about thirty (30) international UNV volunteers helped promote democratic participation and good governance, participated in the preparation and organization of transparent election, and assisted in the democratization process of the new Comoros Union. Marine resource protection and the promotion of eco-tourism are other areas in which UNV volunteers (national and international) have been involved, including support for the Moheli Sea Park, a nature reserve representative of



community participation in the management of protected areas. Due to the country's specific needs, it was established that the main focus of UNV's activities for the period 2003-2007 should be in political and economic governance, inclusion of poor people in the productive process, environmental preservation, HIV/AIDS, and human rights.

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

"Keep up the good work you are doing," said United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the UNV team during his recent visit to the DRC. He was visiting DRC to examine the progress achieved in the preparations for the country's first general elections held on 18 June 2006. More than 600 UNV volunteers – in addition to the staff of the UN Mission in DRC (MONUC) – were involved in the preparations for the elections. The DRC has the largest UNV contingent deployed anywhere in the world and are involved in different mission activities: child protection, gender equity, human rights respect, reintegration of former combatants, public information, electoral registration and logistical support.

### **Equatorial Guinea**

UN Volunteers have supported the activities of a number of UN System agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP) working in the country, in such diverse areas as agricultural production and commercialization; family planning, mother and child care, as well as the provision of safe drinking water. UNV volunteers involvement in activities geared to support Equatorial Guinea's (EQG) programmes for achieving the MDGs is foreseen in a number of programmes under development, including the UN Development Assistance Framework. Areas identified for such cooperation include the Environment and HIV and AIDS. There is also interest in working with UNV's programme on the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) to assist the country access the expertise of EQG nationals living abroad.

### **Eritrea**

UNV collaboration with Eritrea resumed in 2001 after four years of absence due to the 1997- 1998 border war with Ethiopia. A small team of UNV volunteers was deployed to support the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) initially. Since that time, UNV volunteers have participated in programmes in the areas of community participation, gender, fisheries, water and sanitation and, HIV and AIDS. In one programme, HIV and AIDS positive women were trained in income generating activities. Local volunteers have also been mobilized to support these programmes.

### **Ethiopia**

UNV has been operating in Ethiopia since the early 1970s. Over time, UNV has worked in various areas of development assistance including education, agriculture, health, ICT and water. Over the period of the first half of the BPOA Decade, as the Ethiopia and UNV partnership has expanded, the cooperation has been shaped by the country's key development challenges: achieving sustained economic growth; productive employment; food security; sustainable agricultural development, access to basic social services; good governance and combating HIV and AIDS. Specific areas of work have included: population and demographics; nutrition, health, soil conservation and emergency response. Much of this work has been carried out through programmes implemented by UN Agencies, e.g., as UNFPA and WFP. UNV has also provided technical guidance in the setting up of the country's National Volunteer's Programme.

### **Gambia**

Over 200 UNV volunteers, both national and international, have served in the Gambia, since the first one was deployed in 1973, contributing in fields such as research, statistics, technical skills and business/project management, government decentralization, trade and industry, youth,



health, communication, and micro-credit initiatives. The “UNV Support to Decentralization and local Empowerment Initiatives”, with 19 UNV volunteers, aimed to support the participatory planning process to assist the Government in implementing its governance and poverty alleviation programmes. An evaluation conducted in 2005 revealed that UNV volunteers were instrumental in helping remote villages form development committees and forge linkages between these local development committees, thus building capacities at the grassroots level.

### **Guinea**

Since 1980, UNV volunteers have been engaged in promoting good governance, poverty alleviation, and the environment. UNV volunteers in Guinea provide much needed support at various levels to the agencies of the UN, including assistance to refugees. In 2001-2005, UN agencies in Guinea requesting UNV volunteers included HCR, WFP, WHO, UNOPS, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO, and the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL/MINUSIL). UNV has worked within the UNDP cooperation programme (2002-2006), with its three focus areas of: Promotion of Good Governance; Poverty Reduction and Cross-Cutting Areas such as the Environment and Gender. Within these programmes, UNV’s have focused on initiatives around self development and decentralization. Other areas include humanitarian assistance and civic education for conflict resolution and prevention. An innovative programme promoting the use of radio to sensitize populations in Haute Guinee and Guinee Forestiere on conflict prevention and encourage dialogue between displaced persons, refugees and other communities, was successfully implemented, with notable results for helping to improve the acceptance level of peaceful co-existence among the various groups in the participant communities.

### **Guinea Bissau**

UNV has developed a strong partnership with the Government of Guinea Bissau, especially in the area of health and environmental management. Since 2001 several multi-sectorial projects have been developed, including projects intended to strengthen institutional capacities and human resources in public health, and projects to mobilize and to promote volunteerism through poverty reduction and good governance programmes. As an example of activities executed by UNV in Guinea Bissau, UNV partners with a French-based international public utilities management corporation to improve local waste management. In cooperation with local authorities, the corporate volunteers provide local organizations with technical expertise while UNV volunteers help set up a community-based system to monitor and improve garbage collection and disposal. In 2000, UNV continued its involvement in a key area for the country with participation in the UNDP-support project for “Strengthening Capacity for Good Governance”

### **Haiti**

Over 200 UNV volunteers served in Haiti in 2005 alone. UNV volunteers in Haiti are involved in a range of activities to promote peace and cooperation, economic sustainability and the rule of law. Beyond the UN mission, they also support activities of the FAO, UNDP and WFP. As part of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti, known by its French acronym [MINUSTAH](#), UN Volunteers working with the mission’s electoral division were stationed in the country’s ten departments to coordinate the electoral process. Together with the Organization of American States and the country’s Provisional Electoral Commission, they established and managed election registration bureaus—fixed locations and mobile—to register an estimated 3.5 million Haitians. In the capital city of Port-au-Prince, some 1.5 million voters were registered. UNV volunteers prepared the ballot counting centres, as well as put together all voting material, from ballots to voting boxes. UNV volunteers also supported awareness raising activities to educate the population on the electoral process. This involved distributing pamphlets in Creole and French describing



registration and holding presentations at schools and other public areas to introduce and discuss the elections.

### **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

Over the years, UNV has evolved into a substantive development partner with the Lao PDR, supporting a diverse array of projects and organizations throughout the country. Technical advice has been provided to development partners in a range of sectors including democratic governance, livelihood and poverty alleviation and HIV/AIDS. An example of this is the UNV-executed project to support UNDP's Governance and Public Administrative Reform (GPAR) programme in Luang Prabang province. UNV Volunteers are working to extend governance initiatives to the district and community level. Another example is UNV support through projects providing skills training for Lao youth (through the Lao Youth Union) and supporting management activities at UXO Lao, the government agency which deals with unexploded ordnance left over from the Indochina war.

### **Lesotho**

Building on their early partnership since 1972, when Lesotho was one of the first countries to host a UNV volunteer, the collaboration has spanned a number of areas, including agriculture, community and rural development, infrastructure development, health care and employment creation. Currently, UNV support is being provided in the areas of **(i) HIV and AIDS**, with support for the Southern Africa Capacity Initiative (SACI) and the programme to combat the spread of the disease among adolescent girls and youth; **(ii) Governance** - providing expertise to the Maseru City Council through the UNDP-funded project for "Empowering Communities in Development Planning, and **(iii) Poverty** - supporting the recent expansion of UNDP-Lesotho's work in poverty monitoring and the reporting of the MDGs. UNV is also involved with the initiative to promote a more strategic use of ICT. Other national UNV volunteers have been working to implement the UNiTeS project as information technology teachers at a local technical school.

### **Liberia**

UNV volunteers have helped to renew Liberia by improving roads, schools, health services and access to water. They have rehabilitated 24 health posts and centres and dug many deep or shallow wells to increase the availability of water. Additionally, they have expanded the network of major roads through rebuilding and construction. Much of the infrastructure had been destroyed during the civil war. UNV volunteers have contributed to creating a stable, peaceful Liberia by organizing community-based workshops. They have established tailoring and carpentry activities, thus considerably improving the livelihood of women and young people. They have also mobilized communities to become involved in self-help ventures and initiated the building of community-based libraries. These projects have increased social cohesion and created a sense of belonging amongst the members of each community. Additionally, UNV volunteers aim to improve the participation of women in every aspect of society; to this end, workshops have been held to discuss and emphasize the role of gender in development work. In 2004, scores of UNV volunteers were engaged in all aspects of the preparations for the elections. They played a vital role in conducting the polls, helped register 1.35 million voters across the country, carried out civic education campaigns traveling on foot to the remotest villages, identified more than 1,500 registration centres and 3,070 polling stations, and trained over 18,000 national staff. Other teams of Electoral UNV volunteers also advised on legal matters, designed ballot papers and public information materials and ran a data/tally centre where all the data of registration and polling results were processed.

### **Madagascar**



UNV has been active in Madagascar since the 1990's, with an expansion of this collaboration from 2003 largely in the context of a growing partnership between Madagascar and UN Agencies, including WFP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP. Among more recent activities, UNV has mobilized communities to help marginalized young people regain their confidence and self-reliance. In addition to counseling, vocational training, and the establishment of micro-enterprise schemes, UNV has developed innovative local partnerships to ensure a lasting network of support for youth. One example is the setting up of a network of over 100 "Volontaires des quartiers", mostly women who volunteer to help prevent violence and address social exclusion through participatory approaches.

### **Malawi**

The Malawi/UNV partnership started in the early 1980's. Today, the collaboration has seen a continuation in some areas such as health, decentralization and development Planning, while some new ones have emerged, notably that of HIV and AIDS. Malawi, like many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, is facing a complex mix of challenges created by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In the past decade, the disease has quickly taken root in Africa and is now threatening future advancements in human development. UNV has extensive experience in addressing HIV/AIDS in Malawi, which was one of two countries chosen to pilot the Greater Involvement of Persons Living with HIV and AIDS (GIPA) project. UNV expects to continue its work in HIV/AIDS in Malawi by addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS on human resources in the public service. In this regard, since 2004, UNV in collaboration with UNDP, the World Bank and the government of Malawi, have been placing medical doctors and other health specialists in government hospitals to provide much needed health services and build the capacities of young doctors in specialized areas. Other areas in which UNV is working with Malawi are: Elections, Institution-Building, Decentralization, Functional Literacy, Disaster Preparedness, Relief and Rehabilitation.

### **Maldives**

The priority in the development of the country has been capacity-building at the national, island and atoll levels. In order to enhance community capacity-building, UNV volunteers have served in: agriculture, where they have promoted income generation and created employment opportunities by training women and youth in agricultural skills; and in sustainable development where they have helped improve living conditions by giving vocational and management skills training. UNV volunteers have been distributing grants to women who want to start small businesses in tailoring, fish processing or anything else that will help restart their lives and escape poverty. This work is part of a US\$5 million UNDP programme to help tsunami-affected families restore livelihoods across the Maldives.

### **Mali**

Over the past four years UNV volunteers in Mali have been involved in a number of projects including initiatives to improve nutrition, human rights and citizenship promotion, decentralization efforts, and developing ICT infrastructure. At present, 21 nationals from Mali are serving abroad as UNVs in 14 countries, while 43 UNVs, 21 national and 22 international, are currently serving in Mali. The majority of UNVs are working under 2 UNV executed projects, one in decentralization, and the other in sustainable development, with others supporting UN agencies such as UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WFP in the areas of Public Health, Environment and Poverty Alleviation. Promotion of volunteerism in Mali is evident in other sectors of society: as part of the follow-up to the IYV, the Minister of Youth and Sports is creating a Center for the promotion of volunteerism that will provide a mechanism through which newly graduated students can volunteers for their community and country.

### **Mauritania**



In January of 2001 a Strategic Plan for the Reduction of Poverty (PRSP) was created with the principal goal being to improve the living conditions significantly by 2015. To contribute towards meeting the objectives laid down by the plan for the period of 2002-2008, UNV volunteers have supported the efforts of various UN agencies with regard to governance, human rights, facilitating the creation of community action plans around development; decentralization, reduction of poverty and inequalities of all kinds, promoting sustainable development and environmental protection, and supporting micro-credit projects.

### **Mozambique**

The UNV supports development initiatives in Mozambique with a project focused on promoting and strengthening NGOs and CBOs working in development and gender issues. In 2002, the project's participating NGOs and CBOs received training in negotiation, planning and monitoring skills and in the evaluation of development projects and activities at the community level. The partners established coordinating mechanisms and produced a manual on participatory methodologies. Micro-business projects were also initiated. The next phase of the project will focus on the continued strengthening of the NGOs and CBOs in civic education and income generating activities. In the Country Cooperation Framework for 2001-2005, the main areas of development are democratic governance, poverty reduction, the environment, HIV/AIDS, ICT, and crisis prevention and recovery. Activities within HIV/AIDS will increase in Mozambique, and it is estimated that more than 100 UNV volunteer posts will be created in the next two years to join the fight against the disease. All current UNV volunteers are encouraged to take part in HIV/AIDS activist training and to mainstream HIV/AIDS advocacy into their work plans. As the majority of UNV volunteers work at the community level, they have the ability to communicate the HIV/AIDS message with and through project participants.

### **Nepal**

The first UNV volunteer arrived in Nepal in 1974. Since then, an estimated 500 international and national UNV volunteers have worked in various projects in the country, with assignments in a range of host organizations and projects in support of Nepal's socio-economic development. Their areas of expertise have been equally diverse, covering climatology, culture and community mobilization. Today, UNV collaboration is aimed at assisting Nepal achieve its MDG objectives. Among activities, support is being provided to the Municipality Association of Nepal by a team of international and national UNV specialists to build capacity within this fledgling association over a three-year period and thus directly and indirectly assisting in the urban development of Nepal. In 2005, an interaction programme on promoting volunteerism for achieving MDGs was initiated by the Returned UNV volunteers Association in Nepal (RUNVAN) with the Kirtipur Volunteer Society whose project was to build a maternity hospital in the municipality. This will help them to respond better to MDGs # 4, 5 & 8 and to develop better and closer cooperation with an active network of volunteers in Nepal.

### **Niger**

The democratization process in Niger has created an enabling environment for the promotion of volunteerism and traditional mechanisms of solidarity and social cohesion from the grassroots to the policy decision-making levels. UNV's areas of distinctive contribution are well evidenced in Niger, where UNV volunteers are active in helping to improve "access to service delivery", promote "inclusion and participation" and advocate for "community mobilization through voluntary action. As examples, since 2004, seventy-nine (79) UNV volunteers have served in Niger, addressing issues related to poverty, education, health, gender, governance, peace building, and food security, as well as elections. In addition, thirteen (13) UNV volunteers who served under the Peace Consolidation Project successfully achieved the economic and social integration of 890 ex-combatants in the Manga and Kowar regions through targeted trainings,



while others are working with other ex-combatants towards their reintegration and participation in social and economic development activities. Because of its success, UNDP, the Government of Niger, the French Cooperation, the United States, and Libya will mobilize resources to replicate this project in the northern regions of Air and Azawak. UNV volunteers in close collaboration with communities have also been actively involved in a project to enroll children in community kindergartens. UNV volunteers facilitated the full participation of the community in building classes and managing the project. The Government of Niger has requested UNV and UNDP assistance to carry out a feasibility study on the promotion of volunteerism and to formulate a project for the creation of a national volunteer infrastructure.

### **Rwanda**

Since its start in 1974, UNV's cooperation with Rwanda has gone through different phases. In the earliest period, they were targeted at supporting small, medium and micro enterprises. In 1994, activities were focused more in response to the post genocide period, with emphasis on supporting resettling and reintegration activities and the protection of returning refugees. Between 1996-2001, this entailed income-generating activities literacy training, finance, while some volunteers worked as professors at the National University and at the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology. Currently, the focus in Rwanda is directed to providing ICT support under the framework of the Cisco-Learning Academies Programme; supporting other UN agencies and programmes, promoting nutrition and food security; and protecting the rights of refugees and IDPs by providing expertise in the field of protection work, logistics and public information.

### **Samoa**

The earliest UNV assignment in Samoa was in 1976. Since that time UN volunteers assigned to Samoa have worked in the fields of Health, Education, Administration, Social Sciences, Agriculture, as well as communications and transport and Human Settlements and Construction. In a more recent activity, which has proven to be an innovative one of its kind, UNV is providing support to some 200 to 300 rural people with physical and mental disabilities in the first project of its kind in the country. Living in rural communities, UNV volunteers are helping increase understanding of disabled people's needs, setting up support groups for parents and families to network with each other and working with the government to identify and develop inclusive legislation and policies. UNV volunteers also help to address the challenge of unemployment among people with disabilities by coordinating trainings in basket and hat making, mat weaving and organic farming techniques.

### **Senegal**

Since the beginning of the 1980s, UNV has been contributing to the development of Senegal by participating in campaigns against poverty, supporting decentralization in rural areas, installing local development funds, promoting small and medium enterprises, supporting micro-credit and income generating activities, and developing ICT. UNV volunteers are involved in multi-sectorial projects in the fields of education, child welfare, health, and nutrition promotion, environment and water conservation. As of 2004, UNV involvement with Senegal has fallen within the three areas of Governance, Poverty Eradication and ICT, with activities in decentralization at the rural level, urban poverty reduction and ICT, the last with assistance from UNDP/UNV/CISCO participation. For example, UNV is executing agency for a kindergarten project in rural areas. The project aims to improve the quality of preschool education in rural areas, which includes components for raising awareness on hygiene, nutrition, and health issues for teachers and parents involved in the programme. The approach is to promote involvement of communities in advocacy activities and in the education of their children. Efforts are also being made to develop initiatives and partnerships with the private sector and universities.



### **Sierra Leone**

Since January 2000, the UNV has supported the UN Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) by supplying UNV volunteers to assist in the peacekeeping mission. They work as water and sewage specialists, field engineers, construction site supervisors, warehouse managers, inventory managers, supply assistants, air traffic controllers, nurses, civil affair officers and human rights specialists. In 2003 a UNV/UNAMSIL pilot project promoted reconciliation and reintegration in the communities of Sierra Leone that were the most devastated by the civil conflict through activities that combined the transition to peace-building with reintegration. Besides providing logistical and administrative support to the Mission and substantive support to the Government in re-establishing state authority in all parts of the country, the volunteers have formed a UNV Action Team to help, in their own time, various causes and to work on community-based projects.

### **Sudan**

Sudan is a strong proponent of promoting volunteerism as social capital for national and global development. UNV support is extended to poverty reduction, governance, gender, and crises prevention and recovery. UNV has also supported human rights, peace building, and post-conflict recovery through its support of UNMIS. With UNV's assistance, a Volunteer-Involving Organization Forum, V-Forum, was formed to promulgate stronger and strategic partnerships, greater involvement in the peace building and development process, capacity strengthening for volunteers and volunteer involving organizations, as well as advocating for enabling legislation to promote volunteerism. In July 2005 the V-Forum organized a national symposium on the Roles of Volunteers in the MDGs, which was attended by over 1500 representatives to re-affirm the commitment to volunteerism. It was the first such activity initiated by civil society in over 4 decades and welcomed a cross-section of participants from all over the Sudan. UNV's support to the Sudan presently covers poverty reduction, governance (Rule of Law), Gender, and Crisis Prevention and Recovery. UNV's support to the UNMIS mission focuses on Human Rights, Peace Building, Post-conflict Recovery and Humanitarian and Relief Operations. UNV started to extend assistance to South Sudan in all of the above areas, in addition to HIV and AIDS and planning and capacity-building initiatives.

### **Timor-Lesté**

In addition to playing a crucial role in the first national elections on 30 August 2001, UNV volunteers in East Timor were involved in all aspects of development as well as in national reconstruction and capacity-building. Serving as the outreach arm of the UN Transitional Authority in East Timor (UNTAET), and acting as advisors to the East Timor Transitional Authority (ETTA), the UNV volunteers – representing 140 professional specializations – supported work at the district and the community levels. Their activities ranged from assistance to refugees who had fled during the post-referendum violence, to support in building up the public sector in areas such as administration, health and education. They also helped to establish customs and immigration offices and developed strategies for agricultural production. During the biennium, almost 900 UNV volunteers from 106 countries served with UNTAET in development-related activities. Given the demonstrated contributions of volunteers in developing local capacity, it is envisaged that about 250 UNV volunteers will continue to work with the new national authorities in economic, social and administrative capacity-building.

### **Togo**

UNV has been active in Togo since 1985. From 2000 to the present, interventions have centered on the reduction of poverty. UNV volunteers have also been recruited to reinforce the capacity of communities in the development of village action plans and to work in the health and



education sectors. Three programs are currently underway: "Programme of Improvement of the Means of existence of the Population" - PAMEP-; "Reinforcement of the Community Capacities" Programs carried out by UNICEF; "Cisco University of Lome". Promotion of Volunteering the year 2002 was marked by the creation of the Network of Associations of the Volunteers (RAV-Togo) aimed at pursuing the goals of IYV 2001. On International Volunteer Day in 2005 demonstrations were held in favour of a supportive legal framework to make volunteerism an effective instrument of sustainable human development in Togo. In this connection, a conference was held on "Volunteerism, an Alternative for Local Development". In November 2002, a documentary on volunteerism in Togo was produced with the aim of publicizing interventions carried out on the ground, as well as highlighting prospects for promoting voluntary action in the country. A National Strategy is under preparation to allow for better promotion of volunteerism in the country.

### **Uganda**

UN volunteers have been posted to Uganda since the 1970's and were involved in relief projects with WFP, as well as providing support for post-civil war reconstruction and rehabilitation activities. In the ensuing years, UNV's involvement has been closely integrated within the UNDP cooperating programme with Uganda. In 2002, volunteers were assigned to the thematic areas of Promotion of Good Governance for Poverty Eradication; the Environment, HIV and AIDS and Gender. Beneficiary institutions under this programme included the Uganda Human Rights Commission and its partners through training and the development of human rights materials for local government bodies. Another area where UNV is working with Uganda is in the promotion of IT education among women and girls for skills enhancement and employability within the wider national poverty reduction programme. The Cisco Information Technology (IT) Networking Academy programme has the aim of promoting gender equality and empowering women in the area of IT. Significant results have been achieved in the increased enrolment among female participants, job entry facilitation through a workforce development programme and improvement in the employment profile of successful graduates of the programme. The project, which started in 2002 now operates in 10 universities and is being considered for further expansion. During the period (2001-2005), UNV also expanded its partnership with other UN Agencies, including UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNCDF. Uganda also saw growth in the number of its nationals being assigned as UNV volunteers to other countries.

### **United Republic of Tanzania**

Building on the country's long tradition of volunteerism, the cooperation between Tanzania and UNV has enjoyed a rich history since the latter's establishment in 1971. This reached a significant point in 2001 when country-level commemoration of the IYV was led by the Government, another tradition which has been maintained in the years following. In 2005, UNV completed a study on how volunteerism could be further enhanced in Tanzania to assist in meeting the MDGs, within the framework of the Mkukuta, Tanzania's Poverty Eradication and Growth Strategy. UNDP has provided some seed financing to start implementing the resulting programme from that study. It will be able to build on the areas in which UNV's distinctive contributions are being implemented in Tanzania. Among these are the UNV Multi-Sectoral Support to Capacity Strengthening Project, which is assisting the government to strengthen the institutional capacity of selected institutions in the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba to manage and deliver effective public services in such key areas as health, fiscal management, poverty monitoring and roads design and construction. In addition, with UNV Support to the Informal Construction Workers project in Dar es Salaam, a participatory action research was developed which allowed staff to work with the more than 12,000 informal sector construction workers, representative of a vital but largely unrecognized group in that industry, to identify their problems and possible solutions.



### **Yemen**

Yemen's partnership with UNV began in 1971, the year the programme was established. Since that time, an estimated 600 UNV volunteers have assisted programmes of the Yemeni government and local NGOs. During 2001-2005, activities focused on strategic financial planning and management; management development through capacity-building; human development and natural resources. UNV also participated in the monitoring and evaluation of an FAO watershed management and wastewater use project in urban areas, provided support to a UNFPA reproductive health project through implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities, and also provided support to the Ministry of Planning and Development by setting up a computer unit, database, and information systems, as well as training for national staff on database management. In addition, UNV volunteers have supported women's groups and trained local volunteers in human rights issues in Yemeni law to assist them in disseminating these values in schools, institutions, and associations.

### **Zambia**

Since the 1970s UNV has worked in Zambia with a range of partners including the Government, other UN agencies, development banks and NGOs. Currently 131 UNV volunteers are assigned in Zambia with UNDP, UNFPA, the UNITEs, the WFP, the UNHCR, Government of Zambia line Ministries and Districts, as well as UNV projects related to HIV/AIDS prevention and care, technical support, humanitarian and relief assistance and in the ICT sector. They are working as food aid monitors, UNV field officers with UNHCR, UNV humanitarian support officers, transportation managers, reproductive health specialists with UNFPA, emergency officers in disaster and mitigation, information technology specialists and research and development specialists. In 2001, the Committee commissioned a study on the contributions that volunteering made to the national economy. A more focused assessment was completed four years later, when the UNV, German DED and the local YMCA, carried out an assessment in 2005 of the viability of establishing a national infrastructure to manage volunteering nationwide. This latter assignment was inspired by the enormity of the assistance that individuals and communities provided to people affected by HIV and AIDS. An Outcome Document has been produced and is under discussion. Meanwhile, UNV volunteers, international and national, are working in the three areas of distinctive contributions in Zambia at national, provincial and community levels.

**ANNEX 2. VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS (2001-2005)**

Country	Serving National	Serving International	Total	% Total LDCs
Afghanistan	377	36	413	9.3
Angola	6	15	21	0.5
Bangladesh	35	102	137	3.1
Benin	27	121	148	3.3
Bhutan	0	36	36	0.8
Burkina Faso	70	56	126	2.8
Burundi	63	51	114	2.6
Cambodia	31	40	71	1.6
Cape Verde	7	4	11	0.2
Central African Republic	24	51	75	1.7
Chad	9	15	24	0.5
Comoros	11	3	14	0.3
Congo, Democratic Republic	64	133	197	4.4
Djibouti	0	3	3	0.1
Equatorial Guinea	10	0	10	0.2
Eritrea	0	33	33	0.7
Ethiopia	145	111	256	5.8
Gambia	26	49	75	1.7
Guinea	16	72	88	2.0
Guinea Bissau	3	11	14	0.3
Haiti	37	17	54	1.2
Kiribati	0	0	0	0.0
Laos People's Democratic Rep.	36	4	40	0.9
Lesotho	8	0	8	0.2
Liberia	7	79	86	1.9
Madagascar	50	23	73	1.6
Malawi	125	20	145	3.3
Maldives	0	1	1	0.0
Mali	25	82	107	2.4
Mauritania	7	13	20	0.5
Mozambique	90	20	110	2.5
Myanmar	4	58	62	1.4
Nepal	39	220	259	5.8
Niger	66	80	146	3.3
Rwanda	52	142	194	4.4
Samoa	12	0	12	0.3
Sao Tome and Principe	0	5	5	0.1
Senegal	55	60	115	2.6
Sierra Leone	10	232	242	5.5
Solomon Islands	4	0	4	0.1
Somalia	0	11	11	0.2
Sudan	3	85	88	2.0
Tanzania	73	133	206	4.6
Timor Leste	5	28	33	0.7
Togo	15	58	73	1.6
Tuvalu	0	0	0	0.0
Uganda	61	176	237	5.3
Vanuatu	2	0	2	0.0
Yemen	16	6	22	0.5
Zambia	145	69	214	4.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>2564</b>	<b>4435</b>	
<b>% TOTAL</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>100</b>	