

**2012 Government survey on progress in implementing  
G.A. Recommendations on “Follow-up to the implementation of the  
International Year of Volunteers” (A/RES/63/153) and “Tenth anniversary  
of the International Year of Volunteers” (A/RES/66/67)**

*The Report of the Secretary-General on Follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) (July 2008) noted both continuing progress and continuing national disparities in the implementation of the outcome recommendations. The State of the World's Volunteerism Report (UNV, 2011) demonstrated increasing recognition of the integral connection among volunteerism, sustainable development, and global well-being.*

*The questions in this survey address the recommendations of the 2008 and 2011 Resolutions. We would appreciate your responses to as many questions as possible regarding the status of implementation of the IYV outcome recommendations, especially since 2008, and including the marking of the tenth anniversary of IYV in 2011. Please try to provide specific examples of progress.*

**1. Describe any ways your Government has created a favourable environment for volunteerism, including appropriate policies?**

Yes, the Government of Nepal has set up National Development Volunteer Service (NDVS) to promote volunteerism and mobilize volunteers throughout the nation. The NDVS was launched under the auspices of the National Planning Commission (NPC) in 1999 to support the poverty alleviation program of the 10th Plan (2002-2007) fundamentally to meet the human resources need in the country. In 2010, National Planning Commission (NPC) established National Steering Committee for Volunteerism Nepal (NSCVN) and the process was initiated by UNV Nepal as part of the efforts to mark 10th Anniversary of International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10). NSCVN was established also to strengthen the use of volunteerism as a strategic resource to support the government of Nepal to develop and sustain a national volunteer infrastructure and fully utilize the volunteerism modality to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) prioritized by the Government of Nepal. Therefore; the theme of IYV+10 celebrations in Nepal was “Volunteering for MDGs”. NPC now is drafting its first ever ‘National Volunteerism Policy’ and regional policy consultations are currently in progress..

**2. Has your Government integrated volunteerism into national development planning? To what extent is volunteering integrated into any particular peace or sustainable development objectives, e.g. sustainable livelihoods, disaster management, health, education, environment, conflict prevention and recovery? Please specify.**

Yes, the Government of Nepal has integrated volunteerism into national development planning. The establishment of NDVS by the NPC is the best example. NDVS is under the direct administrative system of NPC Secretariat and budgetary support for this program comes from government fund. The Government of Nepal provides around USD 2.0 Million annually to NDVS to run its programmes across Nepal. Government of Nepal integrated volunteerism into national development planning from the 10th 5 Year Plan of Nepal (2002-2007) and started mobilizing volunteers through NDVS.

Now, NDVS has expanded its volunteering service in all 75 districts of Nepal mobilizing volunteers in the areas of health, education, information communication and technology, agriculture, gender and social inclusion, good/local governance, infrastructure, transportation, environment, HIV AIDS, social harmony, climate change, child friendly education and child clubs, civic participation, livelihood & employment, sexual & reproductive health, partnership & advocacy, women empowerment and income generating program etc.

Besides these, Government of Nepal launched the Female Community Health Volunteer (FCHV) Programme in 1988 through the Ministry of Health and Population in order to improve community participation and to enhance the outreach of health services mobilizing local women volunteers. Over the course of 20 years, 50,000 FCHVs have helped reduce child mortality by a third for which Government of Nepal received international award from Government of USA and MDG Award in New York last year.

**3. To what extent has your Government provided adequate human and physical infrastructure for volunteering (for example by means of awareness-raising campaigns, development/establishment of a volunteer centre, public information access on opportunities for volunteering, promotion of online volunteering, etc.)?**

Before 2010, the only physical infrastructure set up by the Government of Nepal to provide volunteering services was NDVS. NDVS is working with government line agencies in all the districts. In 2010, Government of Nepal, through NPC established National Steering Committee for Volunteerism Nepal (NSCVN) as part of the efforts to mark IYV+10 and strengthen the use of volunteerism as a strategic resource to fully utilize the volunteerism modality to achieve development goals of the Government of Nepal. In every fiscal year NDVS mobilize around 1000 volunteers across Nepal. In the fiscal year 2010/2011, NDVS mobilized total 741 volunteers.

**4. In what ways if any has your Government encouraged and facilitated, prepared, trained and/or otherwise recognised volunteers and volunteer trainers and managers?**

Training and recognition is provided to NDVS volunteers. Volunteers recruited under NDVS receive training opportunities during their service as for example the orientation training. After completion of their 2 years assignment volunteers are provided with certificate of service.

**5. In what ways if any has your Government encouraged:**

- a. Public sector workers to volunteer (or otherwise set a positive example for society)?

There are many respected volunteers in Nepal who have been recognised as role models to the society. In 2001, role model volunteers across Nepal were awarded and recognized for their outstanding public services on IVD celebration event. But workers volunteering from public sector in this country are actually unidentified.

b. Volunteering within educational establishments and youth services?

The NPC wants to revive the National Development Service (NDS) that was launched in 1971. The objective behind NDS was to change the education system in Nepal by involving youth volunteers (post-graduate level students) to render voluntary service for one year in the districts. The Ministry of Education & Sports requested the Tribhuvan University Grants Commission to conduct a study on reviving of National Volunteers Service program among university students.

c. Volunteering by the private sector?

Previously, private sector involvement was not in practice. In 2001, Government of Nepal organized national workshop on “Corporate Volunteerism” in partnership with Nepal Chamber of Commerce. But the most significant change in the recent partnership is the inclusion of private sector as member of the national volunteerism committee established to mark IYV+10. Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and Nepal Chamber of Commerce are proving their interest and commitment for the volunteering initiative by participation in the volunteerism steering committee, which is surely an expression of their momentum agenda of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

d. Partnerships and networks involving civil society, NGOs, etc. concerned with volunteering?

In terms of volunteer mobilization, NPC/NDVS is only active government entity in the country and doesn't duplicate with any other government institutions. Therefore, NDVS is taking the lead in promotion of volunteerism joining hands with most of the national and international volunteering stakeholders. NPC/NDVS is partnering with ministries, NGOs, INGOs, Civil Societies and Media houses. Like in the IYV+10 celebration, ministries, UNV, VSO, JICA, KOICA, Youth NGO Federation and private sector were actively involved. National and local volunteer host organization like NGOs and CBOs based in districts have been mobilizing volunteers. Also the contribution of international volunteer sending agencies (VSAs) in the socio-economic development of Nepal is remarkable.

**6. Describe your Governments involvement in any initiatives to ensure inclusion of specific segments of the population (e.g. youth, disabled, migrants, HIV/AIDS, seniors) with volunteering?**

NDVS implemented “**Dalit (So called untouchables) Social Development Programme**” which is in operation in 10 districts of Nepal. Total 187 volunteers were mobilized in 10 districts. This has a great impact in the socio-economic development of Dalit Community of selected districts. It also helped for good health practice and hygiene, adult and female literacy and children schooling.

Similarly, NDVS has implemented “**Indigenous and Janajati Development Program** with the financial support from DFID in 9 districts of Nepal. Total 214 volunteers are mobilized to cater this programme. This programme has covered indigenous communities like Rai, Limbu, Tamang, Sherpa, Kami, Damai, Gharti, Magar, Raute, Sunar, Nepali, Chaudary, Paswan, Mushahar, Dom and others. After the implementation of the programme, the social awareness of the target groups has been raised. The number of people using toilets, washing hands before eating, awareness on personal hygiene, concern on children's health, balanced diet is the crucial indicators of awareness increased at local level. This programme has also

contributed in school enrolment rate and helped decreasing the rate of school dropout.

NDVS has also implemented “**Youth Volunteer Mobilization Program**” in 30 districts of Nepal. Total 889 youth volunteers (604 from general youth volunteer program and 285 youth volunteers from need based program) were mobilized for 9 months in 2009/10. They were Development Facilitator, Technician/non-Technician; male and female teachers and social mobilizers.

**7. Has your Government created enabling fiscal, legislative and other frameworks (for example: tax incentives and subsidies for volunteers or volunteer involving organizations, insurance coverage and protection, etc)? Please provide examples.**

Yes, following the successful celebration of IYV 2001 and the beginning of the Nepal's 10th Five Year Plan, a number of volunteering promotion strategies and programmes were launched. But the government has not provided incentives in the form of tax subsidies, insurance coverage and other protection to VIOs.

**8. To what extent has your Government built up, or helped to build up, a knowledge base on volunteerism, disseminated data and reports, expanded research, etc?**

A recommendation was made during the IYV 2001 celebration in Nepal to facilitate volunteer networking. For this, all the stakeholders agreed to establish a volunteer resource centre, manage a volunteer information system and conduct different research on volunteerism. Following that recommendation, a book titled “**1974-2002, Counting Three Decades: A retrospective Strategy Paper on UN Volunteers in Nepal**” was published in 2002 by UNV/UNDP Nepal. This book explored the cooperation between UNV and the Government of Nepal. Similarly, in December 2002, NPC and UNV published a book titled “**Volunteerism in Nepal**”. The publication of this book was an important step towards the promotion of volunteering in Nepal. Articles and other write-ups contributed by prominent writers and experienced volunteers helped people to understand the aspects of volunteerism in general, and its status in Nepal in particular. This also helped to bridge the gap observed in the documentation of volunteering activities in this country. Both of these books were effectively disseminated within and outside Nepal to concerned stakeholders. Over the course of time, following this trend, different scholars, experts and volunteers published different articles in relation to volunteerism in Nepal.

NPC has also carried out an impact study in 2010 to assess the programmes launched through NDVS in relation to poverty reduction. In general the main objective of the study was to evaluate impact of National Development Volunteers Services (NDVS). Moreover the study was focused on group formation, social mobilization, and status of resource mobilization, coordination and collaboration between communities at local level. Similarly, the study has focused on the construction of physical infrastructure, service delivery mechanism in health and education, income generation and employment creation from skill development intervention.

Right now, NPC is restructuring and capacitating NDVS as the resource centre and umbrella organization of volunteerism in Nepal. In 2011, NDVS has collected data of

different VSAs, VRAs, VIOs, CSOs and compilation is underway to maintain a database in the website of NDVS

**9. Describe any steps taken by your Government to establish the economic and/or social value of volunteering?**

Till date, the Government of Nepal has not taken any steps to recognize the economic contribution volunteering services is making in Nepal. If a system to assess the value of voluntary service in monetary terms is developed, it would also help to promote a favourable environment for volunteering in all sectors.

**10. Is there any way your Government encourages the media to support volunteerism and/or expand the concept of pro bono public service announcements? Are there examples of supporting volunteerism through the use of new technologies and new media?**

NDVS is using print as well as electronic media to promote volunteerism in Nepal. Every year NDVS announce volunteer service opportunities in national newspapers and also broadcasts in national TV channels. Last year, NDVS collaborated with Image Channel of Nepal and developed as well as broadcasted a Weekly TV Talk Show on volunteerism promotion and IYV+10. Similarly, last year NDVS also partnered with one FM Radio Station and aired weekly volunteering programme.

**11. In what ways if any does your Government highlight the contribution of volunteering through observing International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development (5 December), or other high-profile events, public meetings, conferences, etc.?**

The IYV 2011 celebration through high profile activities focused on achievement of the MDGs. Specially, the IVD celebration in Nepal is more on Socio-economic Development by holding charity events and rallies. Government of Nepal always invite high level dignitaries in the annual IVD celebration and is frequently organizing high profile events and conferences. For example, in 2011 on the occasion of IVD and marking of IYV+10, a large number of high level events were organized with involvement of well-known national personalities. The national steering committee organized a high profiled SWVR launch programme in President's House where the Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baram Yadav graciously launched the report. Similarly, the government and key volunteerism stakeholders also organized a National Volunteer Conference 2011 where the Social Welfare Minister inaugurated the event. Likewise, in connection with the IYV+10 Volunteer Caravan, the national steering committee invited Hon'ble Vice-Chair of NPC, Mr. Deependra Bahadur Kshetry and UN Resident Representative for Nepal, Mr. Robert Piper for the inauguration. By conducting these events, Government of Nepal is ensuring large media coverage and awareness.

**UN system response to G.A. recommendations on IYV Follow-up**

**12. To what extent have UN agencies contributed in any way regarding the role and contribution of volunteerism in their area of work in your country?**

As reflected in the current Nepal UNDAF (UN Development Assistance Framework) as well as in the recently formulated UNDAF for the period 2013-17, the UN system fully recognizes volunteerism as a significant factor in the development of Nepal and has through the years been giving high priority to the creation of an enabling environment for civic engagement and community participation through harnessing the strong cultural and historical traditions grounded on volunteerism in the country.

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has played a leading role in this regard, coordinating an effective and systematic approach to volunteerism and thus facilitating and benefitting the work of all UN agencies and in turn, significantly promoting national ownership, gender equality, inclusive participation and sustainability. Supporting volunteerism for peace and development through, for example, assisting the re-generation of social capital and livelihoods during national reconciliation is seen as constituting a particularly important comparative advantage of the UNCT in Nepal.

### **Marking the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IYV in 2011 (A/RES/66/67)**

#### **13. What does your Government want to highlight on the national marking of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers?**

Please see the answer to question 1 above, where the highlights of the national marking of IYV+10 is already featured.

### **Ideas for the next ten years after IYV + 10 (A/RES/66/67)**

#### **14. What recommendations or ideas do you have on ways to further integrate volunteering into peace and development during the next decade and beyond, especially in relation to the post MDG 2015 agenda.**

. The following opportunities and potential areas for expanding the volunteerism agenda in Nepal through collaboration between the government and major volunteerism stakeholders should in particular be noticed:

- A new strategic volunteering campaign with vision and plan at least till 2015 should be formulated by NPC targeting the MDGs.
- All national and international volunteerism stakeholders should embrace the agenda of volunteerism and support NSCVN and NDVS in continuing the IYV+10 volunteering campaign till 2015.
- Donor agencies should support the Government of Nepal in replicating successful volunteering modalities already developed in the country as well as in similar South East Asian countries.
- As NPC is restructuring and capacitating NDVS, UNV should support the initiative being one of the key volunteering stakeholders of Nepal
- The UN system (primarily ) should support NSCVN and NDVS to implement a revived National Volunteer Service Programme.
- As NDVS is drafting its first ever National Volunteerism Policy, key stakeholders should provide financial as well as technical support.

- In Nepal, half of the section of the total population is occupied by youths who are unemployed. Therefore; the culture of volunteerism should be promoted targeting the youths. This will be very a strategic step to get them engaged and transforming themselves into agents of change in rural communities. Therefore; UNV and other main volunteerism stakeholders should support the Government of Nepal to initiate youth volunteer mobilization and empowerment programmes through NDVS.
- The NSCVN should be further strengthened and institutionalized. The unique position of NSCVN within NPC, playing the role for promotion of volunteerism among all the agencies, departments and ministries, is strategically very suitable for development.
- NDVS will need more robust and consistent financial contributions from Government of Nepal together with a specific action plan for its organizational and institutional development.
- UNV, International Agencies, Multilateral and Bilateral and Non State International Partners should step in and support NDVS and NSCVN through financial and technical support.