

*The best way  
to find yourself is  
to lose yourself in  
the service of  
others.*

Mahatma Gandhi



## UN Volunteers India

*The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers.*

**Globally**, UNV partners with UN entities, governments, civilsociety, volunteer-involving organizations, regional organizations and the private sector to leverage volunteerism as an essential mechanism that meaningfully engages people in social, environmental and economic transformation.

UNV's comparative advantage is its knowledge and ability to leverage the transformative potential of volunteerism, community voluntary action and civic engagement through active partnerships with diverse partners.

UN Volunteers are willing and able to work in all development and peace situations, including some of the most difficult contexts and remote locations. They work in local communities to leverage synergies between local knowledge and expert solutions.

### UNV in numbers

- Established in 1970
- 7,500 qualified and experienced women and men of around 160 nationalities are serving worldwide
- They are assigned to around 130 countries.
- As a bridging organization between the UN, NGOs and governments, UNV is ideally suited to help partners leverage the power of youth through volunteerism.



**inspiration in action**

# UN Volunteers in India

## History

- 1971 Partnership between UN Volunteer Programme and Government of India initiated
- 1970s Deployment of Indian nationals as international UN Volunteers initiated
- 1999 Deployment of the first national UN Volunteer
- 1999 – 2009 The UNV programme in India becomes one of the biggest programmes worldwide coordinating up to 250 national Volunteers. They play a key role in managing the aftermath of the 1999 Super Cyclone in Odisha, the 2001 Gujarat Earthquake and the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami
- 2013-2014 UNV mobilizes Indian volunteers and partner organisations to gather more than 180.000 offline votes for the MY World survey



Photo: UNV India

## UN Volunteers in India work on

- Women empowerment
- Access to Justice for marginalized
- Physical and Mental Health
- Child protection
- Community Resilience to Climate Change & Disaster Risks
- Nature conservation and biodiversity
- Good Governance
- The Post-2015 Agenda
- Support in refugee status determination and protection
- Education



Photo: UNV India

## FACTS and FIGURES 2014:

- 55 UN Volunteers (49 national and 6 international) currently serving throughout India
- 170 Indian nationals serving as international UN Volunteers worldwide
- 787 UN online Volunteers supporting activities in India
- 1211 Indian nationals serving as online volunteers, 52% of these volunteers are women



Photo: UNV India



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