The Role of Volunteers in Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Presented by the Building Bridges Coalition and Partners of the Americas
Matthew Clausen (Moderator)
Senior Vice President, Public-Private Partnerships
Partners of the Americas

Amanda Mukwashi
Chief, Volunteer Knowledge and Innovation
UN Volunteers

Amanda MacArthur
VP Global Pro Bono & Engagement
Pyxera Global

Benjamin Lough
Assistant Professor
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Remarks from David Caprara
Chair, Building Bridges Coalition and Nonresident Fellow, Brookings
VOLUNTEERISM AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

Amanda Mukwashi
United Nations Volunteers
UNV

WHO ARE WE?

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN entity that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

UNV mobilizes action-oriented volunteers to make an impact in the peace and development programmes of the United Nations, and is a global advocate for the recognition of volunteerism.
FROM MDGs TO SDGs
**THE POST-2015 PROCESS: TWO STRANDS INTO ONE**

**Sustainable development**
This concept gained traction during the Rio Summits in 1992 and 2012.

**1992: Rio Earth Summit**

**2012: Rio+20**

**Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**
Served as a framework for global action and cooperation on development in 2000-2015.

**2000-15: UN Millennium Declaration & MDGs**

**Post-2015 process**
Brought together the two strands & extended public participation in defining the new agenda.

**2012–15: UN-led global conversation**
*WorldWeWant and MY World*
8.5 million people engaged in deciding what should go in the post-2015 agenda, and how the agenda should be implemented.
SDGs’ FEATURES

✓ 3 pillars: environmental – social – economic = sustainable
✓ Universal = concern all countries
✓ Holistic = work across pillars
✓ Transformative = human rights-based, governance, local dimension, inclusive (‘leave no one behind’)
✓ New global partnership = new actors, including the private sector and volunteer groups
✓ Focus on people and participation
SDGs: structured around 5 principles

- People
- Prosperity
- Peace
- Partnership
- Planet
17 Sustainable Development Goals
AND WHAT ABOUT THE VOLUNTEERS... ?
The Road to Dignity by 2030 (A/69/700)

Chapter 4: Mobilizing the Means to Implement Our Agenda

4.3 Investing in capacities for sustainable development (Paragraph 131)

As we seek to build capacities and to help the new agenda to take root, volunteerism can be another powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation. Volunteerism can help to expand and mobilize constituencies, and to engage people in national planning and implementation for sustainable development goals. And volunteer groups can help to localize the new agenda by providing new spaces of interaction between governments and people for concrete and scalable actions.
Strengthen people’s ownership of the development agenda through enhanced civic engagement and enabling environments for citizen action.

Integrate volunteerism into national and global post-2015 agenda implementation strategies.

Measure volunteerism to contribute to a holistic understanding of the engagement of people and their well-being, as well as to be part of the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.
2015: 3 UN Resolutions featuring Volunteerism and Volunteer Groups

- Addis Ababa Action Agenda A/RES/69/313
- SDG Summit Outcome Document A/RES/70/1
- Volunteerism Resolution acknowledging Plan of Action A/C.3/70/L.15/Rev.1
Volunteers can contribute to SDG achievement by...

- *raising awareness* about the 2030 agenda through local campaigns and creative approaches, including in remote areas and with marginalized populations;

- *delivering technical expertise*;

- *facilitating spaces* for dialogue and action *through participatory forms of engagement* during planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Agenda at local and national level;

- *monitoring SDG progress* through citizen driven qualitative and quantitative data collection;

- *facilitating knowledge sharing* and transfer and *leveraging local expertise*;

- *complementing essential basic services* where they are lacking or where they are insufficient;

- *modeling behaviors* to inspire others and enhance willingness to contribute to SDGs locally.
Volunteer action adds value to peace and development efforts by...

- ...widening inclusive spaces for engagement, including for remote and marginalized populations, as well as for youth and women;
- ...enhancing capacities and developing skills;
- ...building trust as well as ‘bridging social capital’ between diverse people who are not used to interacting with each other;
- ...developing a sense of opportunity and ownership for local challenges, leveraging collective engagement;
- ...strengthening local governance and accountability through increased people’s participation;
- ...building resilience and preparedness, enhancing knowledge and a sense of responsibility for one’s community;
- ...building an enabling environment for volunteerism as a form of civic engagement.
LOOKING AHEAD

From 2016, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) will conduct regular reviews on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives within the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

As recognized stakeholders of the HLPF*, volunteers have therefore a voice in the review process of the post-2015 agenda.

*UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/290, Para 16
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

MAKE THE GOALS KNOWN AND TAKE ACTION!
Global Goals Campaign: http://www.globalgoals.org/

MONITOR PROGRESS:
MY World 2030: https://myworld2030.org/

Toolkit at VOLUNTEER ACTION COUNTS/POST2015
THANK YOU!

www.unv.org
www.volunteeractioncounts.org
Acting on the Sustainable Development Goals

Amanda MacArthur
Pyxera Global
Acting on the Sustainable Development Goals

No goal stands in isolation, nor are they a check list
FROM ASPIRATION TO ACHIEVEMENT:

Breaking down the UN Sustainable Development Goals

GOAL 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

GOAL 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

GOAL 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

GOAL 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

GOAL 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

GOAL 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

GOAL 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

GOAL 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

GOAL 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

GOAL 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

GOAL 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

GOAL 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

GOAL 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

GOAL 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

GOAL 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

GOAL 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
Impact Areas

What impact area matters most to your organization?

How can your expertise help address that impact area?

• Expertise
• Partnership
• Real Impact
• Accountability
PYXERA Global Targets Nine SDGs

- **Goal 2**: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- **Goal 3**: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- **Goal 4**: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- **Goal 5**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **Goal 6**: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- **Goal 7**: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- **Goal 8**: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- **Goal 11**: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- **Goal 15**: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

**Methodology and Approach**
Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (Goal 17).

*the UN’s goal numbering is maintained here for clarity*
PYXERA Global’s SDGs Champions

• Engage and educate employees

• Create goal experts

• Monitor progress
The Distinctive Contributions of Volunteers in Development Cooperation

Benjamin J. Lough, PhD
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Presentation Outline

• Why measure volunteers’ contributions to the SDGs?
• Is it helpful to align your organizational objectives with the SDGs?
• Consider benefits and challenges to the collective impact model
• Take a closer look at measuring volunteers’ contributions to SDGs 16 & 17
"IVCOs should make explicit the philosophical frames of their work for the SDGs (for example, in the areas of development, civil society and global citizenship) as a basis for making decisions about what to measure, and how to measure it, and these should be linked to defined policy objectives..."

-Haddock and Devereux, 2015

“Documenting the contribution of volunteering to the SDGs”
Is measuring worth the expense?

• Which policy and development objectives does your organization hope to achieve when measuring volunteers’ contributions to the SDGs?

• How will data on volunteers’ contributions to SDGs help your organization?
  – open spaces and create new opportunities and partnerships with other IVCOs or donors?
  – attract more qualified volunteers?
  – increase recognition and public support for international volunteering (advocacy)?

• Is investing scarce organizational resources in research worth the expense?
Mapping Activities to SDGs

- Providing training to school teachers
  - SDG Goal 4: Education
    - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- Technical support & advice to teachers of children with special needs through workshops & sports activities
  - Goal 1: Eliminate Poverty
  - Goal 4: Education
  - Goal 5: Women
  - Goal 8: Decent Work
  - Goal 10: Reduce Inequality
  - Goal 17: Means of Implementation / Partnerships

Source: Haddock and Devereux (2015)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IVC0 Activity</th>
<th>Goals and Targets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical support &amp; advice to teachers of children with special needs through workshops &amp; sports activities</td>
<td><strong>Goal 1: Eliminate Poverty</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Target 1.5 build the resilience of the poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Goal 4: Education</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Target 4.5 equal access to education&lt;br&gt;• Target 4.a build and upgrade education facilities&lt;br&gt;• Target 4.c increase the supply of qualified teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Goal 5: Gender Equality</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Target 5.5 women’s full and effective participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Goal 8: Decent Work</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Target 8.5 productive employment &amp; decent work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Goal 10: Reduce Inequality</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Target 10.2 social, economic and political inclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Goal 17: Means of Implementation: Partnerships</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Target 17.16 global partnership for sustainable development complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships…that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Haddock and Devereux (2015)
Example: From inputs to impact

**Advocacy strategies and political engagement training for women**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Input IVCOs</th>
<th>6 IVCO volunteers, 100 hours, $1,500 in costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input local</td>
<td>10 local volunteers, 150 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output</td>
<td>5,000 poor women trained, 50 communities, countries (list)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>3,000 women reported using a skill learned in the training (quant), Lessons women learned in using skill shared with others (qual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>60% more of these women engaged in public affairs (quant), Policy makers show increased concern for role of women (qual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links to</td>
<td>Goal 1: Poverty, Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 4: Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinctive contribution</td>
<td>Facilitating grassroots voice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>With govt, With non-profit, With private business</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Haddock and Devereux (2015)
Evaluation or Research?

- The preceding examples follow an evaluation framework, often tied to logic models.
- Evaluation is far more common than research to document how volunteers contribute to SDGs.
- Are your organizational measurement goals flexible enough to also contribute to collective measurement and reporting goals?
- How might your M&E framework contribute to evidence for the field?
Collective Impact

- Assuming one reason for gathering data is for advocacy, aggregated evidence of volunteers’ contributions is needed (i.e. research).
- Even with evidence of collective impact, how well does this sell international volunteer service as a model?
  - Does it make a case for why volunteering is important?
  - Does it persuade donors to support volunteers in the competitive mix of other development actors?
- How might we make a stronger case for the volunteer service model?
  - What is distinctive about international volunteer service?
  - What is the competitive advantage of volunteers and IVCOs in comparison with other development actors?
  - What added value do IVCOs and volunteers provide?
Closer Look at SDGs 16 & 17

- **Target 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
  - governance-building initiatives, volunteers promotion of participation and inclusion, civil-society strengthening goals, etc.

- **Target 17.3** Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources...
  - resource contributions and mobilization from IVCOs, current and returned volunteers, ensuing social entrepreneurship, etc.

- **Target 17.6** Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms...
  - capacity building, knowledge and skills development indicators tied to international volunteer cooperation projects
Closer Look at SDG 17

- **Target 17.9** Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries...
  - capacity building as a competitive advantage of relationship-based models

- **Target 17.16** Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the SDGs...
  - linkages and partnerships forged and strengthened by IVCOs and volunteers; qualitative measures documenting knowledge sharing, financial resources, capacity building, etc.

- **Target 17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships....
  - measured through enabling environment indicators within for e.g. the CIVICUS Enabling Environment Index (EEI) or at lower levels by IVCOs’ and volunteers’ contributions to partnership-building across sectors
What Attribution Problem?

• We don’t necessarily need to solve the attribution problem; volunteers ideally work in co-productive partnership.
• As a field, we haven’t done well at articulating volunteers’ complementary contribution as development actors.
• SDG 16 & 17 targets validate the importance of:
  – participatory and inclusive approaches
  – capacity building to achieve the SDGs
  – relationships and multi-stakeholder partnerships as a means of implementing all the SDGs.
• Evidence can clarify why volunteers are valuable actors for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
Measuring volunteers contributions to the SDGs

How feasible is it for your organization to gather and aggregate data on volunteers’ contributions to:

• Improving people’s participation and inclusion in decision-making?

• building people’s capacity to achieve various SDGs (i.e. poverty reduction, health, education)?

• strengthening relationships to encourage effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships?

• developing partnerships to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources in support of the achievement of the SDGs?
Resources for IVCOs


Selected Upcoming Events

BBC 10th Anniversary Forum
International Volunteering and the 2030 Development Agenda
Washington, DC
June 14, 2016
www.buildingbridgescoalition.org/10thanniversaryforum

Partners of the Americas International Convention
Inclusion and Innovation in the Americas
Guadalajara, Mexico
October 25-28, 2016
www.partners.net/convention

IAVE 24th World Volunteer Conference
Mexico City, Mexico
November 7-9, 2016
https://www.iave.org/mexico2016