

Daily Digest

#volunteerSDGs #GTM2020

Issue # 4: 15 July 2020

TOP STORY

Hacking the future of volunteering and other innovative ideas for next-gen volunteering zeroed in at GTM2020

Inclusive. Innovative. Hopeful — these were some of the keywords that popped up when thinking about the future of volunteering. But what innovations are needed to future-proof volunteering? How can we reimagine structures and enabling environments that foster connectedness and the inclusion of those furthest left behind?

Day 3 of the Global Technical Meeting on Reimagining Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda, shone the light at alternative visions and models of volunteering support that are fit for the future.

In a more digital future, **volunteering can play an active role in shaping the digital public realm**, for example through connecting citizens and participating in decision making spaces online.

"For me, the future of volunteering is about building a digital infrastructure for people to collaborate, share knowledge and learn from each other, said Marko Russiver, Founder of the Global Hack in Estonia. His organisation ran a Hackathon mobilising the innovative ideas of thousands of volunteers from across 70 countries for COVID-19 response. Lana Anaya, a volunteer at MyWorld Mexico, also highlighted that, 'digital connections and community engagement through platforms such as MyWorld are driving changes in local communities in Mexico".

"Our understanding of volunteering and the structures that support it need to evolve as we face new challenges and realities", emphasised Fine Tuitupou-Arnold, Secretary General of the Cook Islands Red Cross. The Plan of Action secretariat today released the <u>draft blueprints for next generation volunteering models</u> that address two primary issues: humanitarian volunteering and volunteering to address inequalities.

Aarathi Krishnan, Humanitarian Futures and Strategic Foresight Advisor on behalf of IFRC, identified four action areas in humanitarian volunteering over the next decade, including the need for a whole of society and integrated approaches and for social safety nets for volunteers.

In addition to providing social protection and digital readiness, "we also need to change the way we engage with volunteering in humanitarian crisis. It's not just about responding in a siloed approach. Humanitarian crisis is more complex and occurring alongside other ongoing and emerging crisis", remarked Amal Emam of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society.

In the context of unequal societies, Matias Acosta, Head of Exploration at UNDP Accelerator Lab in Argentina, stressed the need for new ways of working with actors from different sectors and across all levels - from grassroots to global - to address inequalities through volunteering. This was echoed by Yang Yang, Vice Chairperson, Chinese Young Volunteers Association, who said that 'cooperation is very important, even more today – we need to share both knowledge and resources."

These blueprints for next generation volunteering support will need to be resourced in a long-term and sustainable manner. Ahmed Talib Ali Al Shamsi, CEO of the Emirates Foundation, underscored that, "The future of sustainably financing volunteering that is fit for the future lies with the public and private sectors. The secret ingredient is their effective engagement."

WHAT'SCOMING

GTM to close with a Call-to-Action

On Thursday, the meeting will culminate with a call-to-action, capturing the key points and action areas raised during the past three days. It will also reflect the feedback and inputs from the consultations and evidence gathering processes led by the Plan of Action secretariat from 2016 to date. Check out the <u>programme for more information</u>.

Read the related documents:

- Read the Call to Action
- Read the paper on Flourishing in the New Normal

#GTM2020 ON THE WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- o Watch the live recordings of Session 1, Session 3 and Session 4
- o Read the Daily Digest from the day before, Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3
- See the social media wall here: https://walls.io/volunteerSDGs
- Interact with us on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Youtube</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>LinkedIn</u> using #volunteerSDGS #GTM2020 #HLPF2020

VISUAL SUMMARY





