



**Reimagining  
Volunteering**  
for the 2030 Agenda  
JULY 2020

# Daily Digest

**#volunteerSDGs #GTM2020**

Issue # 2: 13 July 2020

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## TOP STORY

### Changing mindsets and rediscovering the true spirit of volunteering for development spotlighted at the GTM2020 opening

When we think about volunteering, the common perception has been that volunteering is about the North helping the South. But examples of people's voluntary actions from across all borders, countries and regions during health and environmental crises challenge this view.

"Beyond regional solidarity, countries of the South are working together through volunteering", said Ambassador Neil Pierre, G77 Coordinator, Permanent Mission of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations. He further stressed the **need to change our mindsets to recognize the diversity of volunteering practices in both northern and southern countries.**

This was one of the key points raised during the opening session of the Global Technical Meeting on 'Reimagining Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda' (GTM2020) which took place virtually today. Over 1500 people attended the event from across the globe.

UN Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed opened the meeting by reminding the global community that the efforts of 1 billion volunteers is an important foundation at a pivotal moment for development to enable us to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

But for volunteers to make an even bigger difference in local and global communities, **their contributions need to be better recognized, supported and integrated into wider efforts.**

One way of doing this, according to Xavier Castellanos, Under Secretary General for Programmes and Operations of IFRC, is by providing insurances, incentives and other measures to support and protect volunteers from all backgrounds, particularly informal volunteers, migrants and those furthest left behind.

**The inclusion of all groups of people was another key thread that emerged during the discussions.** Both speakers and participants stressed the urgency of unleashing the power of volunteering to build more equitable societies – for example, by using new technologies and innovation to reach more people and allow for exchange of knowledge, skills and experience.

“Volunteering has so much potential to transform societies and accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals,” expressed Kamilla Sultanova, a volunteer at Global Dignity Finland.

UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner agreed, and furthered, “We tend to focus on the formal sectors of our economy, and **yet in our communities, there is a clear development contribution through volunteering**, both through the activities that volunteering delivers, but also the ethos or spirit embedded when we work together”.

“We need to rediscover that spirit as part of development efforts”, Steiner concluded.

## WHAT'S COMING

# Day 2 to focus on knowledge, evidence and policy integration

The back-to-back sessions on Tuesday will explore answers to the questions, ‘how can evidence and knowledge help us reimagine volunteering?’, and ‘how can we best embed volunteering into policy coherence and integration efforts for the 2030 Agenda’ Check out the [programme for more information](#).

Read the related documents:

- [Measuring Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda: Toolbox of Principles, Tools and Practices](#)
- [Acceleration Matrix: Volunteering for the SDGs](#) (Working Draft)

## #GTM2020 ON SOCIAL MEDIA

# Check out some tweets from today's session

See the social media wall here: <https://walls.io/volunteerSDGs>

Keep following #GTM2020 on social media. Interact with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) using #volunteerSDGS #GTM2020 #HLPF2020

## TWITTER WALL

**UN Volunteers** @UNVolunteers · 3h  
 .@UNDP Administrator @AchimSteiner shares his thoughts on the need to rediscover the spirit of volunteering for development #GTM2020 #HLPF2020 #volunteersdgs



ACHIM STEINER  
UNDP Administrator

**UN Volunteers** @UNVolunteers · 4h  
 How can volunteering help empower #refugees and #migrants? #volunteersdgs #HLPF2020 #GTM2020



Mr Xavier Castellanos,  
Under Secretary-General for Programmes and Operations of IFRC

**UN Volunteers** @UNVolunteers · 5h  
 What does "reimagining volunteering" mean for the value that we assign to volunteers? @KamillaUbuntu discusses the need for incentives and recognition #volunteerSDGs #HLPF2020 #GTM2020



MS KAMILLA SULTANOVA  
Volunteer Representative,  
Global Dignity Finland

**UN Volunteers** @UNVolunteers · 6h  
 What are 3 ways in which developing countries are #volunteering together under the #2030Agenda? #G77 Coordinator @UNGuyana highlights the importance of volunteering #cooperation in the #Caribbean and beyond #VolunteerSDGs #HLPF2020 #GTM2020



NIEL PIERRE,  
G77 Coordinator, Permanent Mission of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations

**UN Volunteers** @UNVolunteers · 6h  
 #GTM2020 #Keynote speaker UN Deputy Secretary General @AminaJMohammed reminds us that the efforts of the one billion #volunteers are critical for "building back better" from #COVID19 #DecadeofAction #volunteersdgs #HLPF2020



Amina J. Mohammed,  
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group

**Toily Kurbanov** @ToilyKurbanov · 1h  
 If you care about #volunteerism, then this knowledge portal is for you: [knowledge.unv.org/volunteering-d...](https://knowledge.unv.org/volunteering-d...)

**Piera Zuccherin** @ZuccherinPiera · 5h  
 @ToilyKurbanov launched the UNV Knowledge Platform containing the most important data and evidence on #volunteering at the world level #volunteersdgs #GTM2020



**UN Volunteers** @UNVolunteers · 5h  
 Question from #G77 #Fiji: How can we begin to quantify the impact of informal #volunteering and thus give these informal volunteers a greater voice and visibility in the upcoming #DecadeofAction? #VolunteerSDGs #HLPF2020

Session 1

A Global Invitation to Reimagine Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda

Q: How can we begin to quantify the impact of informal volunteering and thus give these informal volunteers a greater voice and visibility in the Upcoming DecadeofAction?

**Richard Blewitt** @richardblewitt · 6h  
 Francesco Rocca IFRC President. "Our volunteers have been critical in the time of COVID-19. The volunteers need to be better accepted and supported to do their work." @IFRC\_NYC @jagan\_chapagain @Francescorocca @UNVolunteers @cecile\_aptel @amjadmsaleem



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