



UN
Volunteers

inspiration in action

DRC in Focus

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Online VOLUNTEERS



Dossier: Get involved in one click!

**IN
THIS
ISSUE**



Interview:
Meeting with the
girlguides in North Kivu



VIPD:
Community-building
& peace through football

Editorial

Dear reader,

It is not necessary to be in the field to volunteer; we can also do it from home with a computer and thus have the opportunity to engage in development activities around the world. It is the mission of the UNV Online Volunteering service, one of the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) programme's mobilization tools, to connect Online Volunteers with development organizations. By bringing their skills and expertise to various fields, the OV help organizations address development challenges and strengthen the impact of their actions.

Established in 2000, the Online Volunteers service, which is celebrating its 15 years this year, offers a database of over 447,000 qualified professionals willing to engage voluntarily through the internet.

Online volunteers are in the spotlight in this edition of the *DRC in Focus*. Often acting in the shadows, UN Volunteers are an invaluable resource, which is sometimes not available on site, for many development organizations. In this issue, we want to thank our online volunteers who work directly with the UNV programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) : Juliet Hindell and Denise Pavao for the English translation of our external publications, Xue-Rong Jia for the editing of our French and English newsletters, Saimeera Genegathan for designing posters for the International Volunteer Day 2014, and Amir Lasah who designed the cover of this issue of *DRC in Focus*. We commend their professionalism and their commitment.

Happy reading



Interactive and easy to access, the blog www.ponabana.com serves as a platform of exchange and information on the situation of children's rights, highlighting progress and opportunities towards the fulfillment of children's rights in the DRC. Po na Bana has the capacity to become the leading platform on children's rights in the DRC by bringing together the contributions of all those active in the promotion of children's rights: UNICEF bloggers and their team members, donors and implementing partners, but also and foremost the people who are most concerned: children.

Since the birth of the project in 2013, the blog has received the support of 47 online volunteers from all continents, including a webmaster/developer, 41 translators (31 English speakers and 8 French speakers) and 5 illustrators/graphic designers.

Po na Bana , the blog of the United Nations Children's Fund in DRC

www.ponabana.com



pour les enfants
juu ya watoto bwa bana
sambu na bana **UNICEF**

A team of 46 online volunteers collaborated on the launch of Po na Bana, the blog of the United Nations Fund Team for Children (UNICEF) in the DRC. Their essential contribution is a guaranty of the success of the blog, which counted more than 3 500 visitors last March 2015.

The direct contributions of the online volunteers include :

- the technical and graphic design and maintenance of the site in its English and French versions for over a year and a half
- the translation of articles into English, allowing the publication of the blog in English and the publication of 5 articles per week on average
- The production of visuals and graphics for specific illustration projects, aimed at enriching the content offered by Po na Bana to help reach its target audiences.

Justine Mounet, UNV Communications Officer at UNICEF, said: "Online volunteers allow us to achieve one of our goals, which is to mobilize positive energy, namely to get people to commit for the sake of children in the DRC. Volunteering for Po na Bana is a form of strong commitment. Po na Bana

would not exist without online volunteers, who constitute an essential component of it. Online volunteers bring skills to our team in the areas where we do not have the resources and then offer us a unique opportunity to add new dimensions to our blog and thus achieve our objectives of disseminating information, awareness and advocacy."

Fati Kabuika, an online volunteer native of DRC, produced the illustrations for the Convention on the Rights of the Child published on the blog, now available in booklet and calendar versions as well. He attests : "Contributing to an Online Volunteers project for my country is a way to show my commitment for the respect of children's rights in the DRC and encourage my countrymen to follow my example."



Online experiences



Zaga Gomba Rigaud

Online communication campaigns, Burkina Faso

Zaga Gomba Rigaud, a communications professional from the DRC, conducted communication campaigns online for the International Volunteers Day in 2008 and 2012 and for the My World campaign in 2013 on behalf of the UNV programme in Burkina Faso. His job was to enhance visibility and to promote the two initiatives through social networks and the website of the UNV programme in Burkina Faso. "It was the commitment and selflessness of the online volunteers and the opportunity of an international career that motivated me to participate in online volunteer projects," he says.

These online volunteering experiences have inspired Gomba to create the RDC LELO NA LOBI (today and tomorrow in Lingala), an association which aims to promote active citizenship among young Congolese through the use of workshops and social networks.



A bilingual website for UNDP-DRC

61 Online Volunteers

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the DRC is en route to becoming the first country office in Africa to benefit from a bilingual French-English website through the UNV Online Volunteering service. Started in August 2014, the project has mobilized a team of 49 translators and 12 proofreaders, for over 160 articles. The English version of the website, which will be available soon and will continue to benefit from the support of Online Volunteers, will be aimed at providing information and raising awareness among a wider audience about the activities that UNDP implements in DRC.

"Within the Communications Unit of UNDP-DRC, we often call on Online Volunteers to help us translate documents and/or make *ONE pager* models or other

electronic newsletters. Online volunteers bring us tremendous support and I am very excited by their volunteer commitment. The online volunteers also translate all the UNDP website content from French into English. Thanks to their support, UNDP-DRC will soon be the only country office in Africa to have two websites and we are VERY proud! The contribution of Online Volunteers is HUGE! Without knowing them personally, I feel that we form a great chain of solidarity, professionalism and friendship, and I want to thank every one of them!", says Geneviève Delaunoy, Communication Manager of UNDP-DRC.

Make a difference in one click

In the world every year:

11 000

online volunteers complete

17 000 assignments.

Online volunteers come from

187 countries.

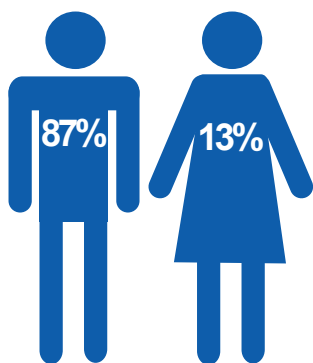
94%

of organizations and online volunteers rated their collaboration as good or excellent.

In the DRC since 2000:

250

online volunteering assignments have been carried out by online volunteers DRC-based organisations.

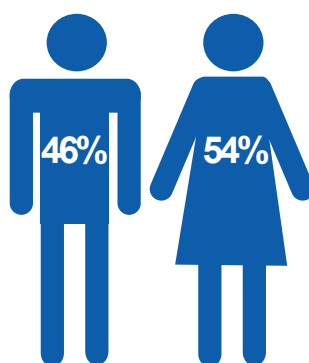


327

online volunteers from DR Congo have contributed to **637** online peace and development projects in the DRC and all over world.

470

online volunteers around the world have contributed to online peace and development projects in the DRC.



How can online volunteers contribute?

- . Project management
- . Design
- . Coordination and facilitation
- . IT development
- . Research
- . Writing, editing and translating
- . Training and coaching
- . Consulting

For more information on how to become an online volunteer or to recruit an online volunteer, visit the website.

www.onlinevolunteering.org



Volunteer Initiative for Peace & Development

Children, both from the community and released from armed groups, were mixed into 2 teams: the Barça and the Real Madrid.



Football to promote social reintegration of former child soldiers

An exclusive football match Barça against Real Madrid took place in Bunia this Saturday, April 11th. This very important sports event pitted teams from the local communities of Dhele and Kindia against each other, who had named themselves after the two famous Spanish teams. After a superb match, Barça was defeated in favor of Real Madrid 0-2.

Under the initiative of Catherine Baumann, UNV Child Protection Officer at United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), the UN Volunteers from Bunia organized an inclusive football match bringing together young people in the community and young people released from armed groups who are residents of the Youth Association for Community Development (AJEDEC). The sporting event, which saw two mixed teams play against each other, was aimed to promote the social reintegration of former child soldiers into the community.

According to Aimé Birido, AJEDEC Coordinator, sport, especially football, helps children from armed groups with the challenges and difficulties related to the return to civilian life and a successful reintegration. This sporting activity re-teaches children life skills that are essential to their development and personal growth, including self-respect, respect for others and for property, and playing by the rules of the game - while strengthening the sense of belonging and participation in a collective project: sharing the wins and losses, training together and sharing the enthusiasm. "Playing football with other children helps me see myself differently

and to feel like a child of my age," says Freddy (name changed), a former child soldier.

Successful reintegration depends not only on the child but also on the surrounding community. Therefore, positive support from the community where the child is reinserted is very important for his personal development. This is one of the reasons that motivated Catherine Baumann to organize this football game. "It is about giving children the opportunity to better know each other and to share recreational time together in a welcoming environment, and thus dispel misconceptions and prejudices that the community may have about them."

The event brought together about 150 young people and adults from the community, including players and spectators who came to watch the game and support the players. "The fact that the community attends the match helps to increase the level of acceptance among the local population towards children of AJEDEC and reduce the social stigma associated with these young people, which was facilitated by the good relations between children during the game," said Christine Burbach, UNV Civil Affairs Officer.

Mireille KAFELE

Community Development Officer,
Association of North Kivu Guides

Promoting leadership among girls and young women

Guiding, the female version of Scouting, is a youth movement based on volunteer engagement and oriented to volunteers. From very early ages, the Girlguides are initiated to become agents of change through several community service projects. In North Kivu, about 5000 Girlguides are engaged in community development.

DRC in Focus - What is about Guiding?

Mireille Kafele - Guiding is an educational movement for young girls and women aged 6-25 years. It is a movement that is based on volunteering and is open to all, regardless of race, religion, or origin. Our mission is to promote leadership amongst young women by contributing to the development of their intellectual, spiritual, moral, and physical capacities as individuals, responsible citizens, and community members at the local, national, and international level.

Why is it important to promote Guiding in North Kivu?

Guiding is based on learning strong values, such as solidarity, mutual assistance and respect. These values, which are also the basis of volunteering, are essential to the development of responsible citizenship. For a country like the DRC, which has experienced years of conflict, our movement helps form the personality of Congolese youth so they can in turn take an active part in peace and society building.

On the other hand, as a form of informal education that caters to female youth, we are also working in favor of gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women by building their capacity to participate in all levels of decision making and to make their voices heard.

What are the activities that the Guides are implementing in North Kivu?

We have training courses related to the different themes such as leadership activities. We also have programmes related to education for peace and child protection in internal displaced people camps.

As an example, Amahoro Amani - meaning peace in Kirundi and Kinyarwanda (*Amahoro*) and Kiswahili (*Amani*) is a joint peace education programme implemented by the Guide and Scout associations in the Great Lakes region and Sweden. The project consists in the establishment of local peace clubs led by a Guide or Scout trained in community mediation. In other words, each Guide's mission is to create a peace club with youth in the community as to collectively identify community problems and find solutions. The objective of these peace clubs is to educate the community to fight against ethnic prejudice, which is often at the origin of conflict, and invite them to participate in local development initiatives with a view to sustainable peace.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Photo MONUSCO/Abel Kavanagh, VNU Photographer

The International Peacekeepers Day, observed on May 29, is a day to pay tribute to all those who serve the cause of world peace, civilian and military personnel. In DRC, among about 1,300 international civilian personnel stationed at MONUSCO, over 400 are involved as UN Volunteers in peacekeeping operations. This day is also dedicated to them.



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The DRC in Focus is the official newsletter of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

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