

DRC

in focus

issue #20 August-September 2015



(UNV, 2015)

in this issue:



**Promoting language learning
and cultural diversity**



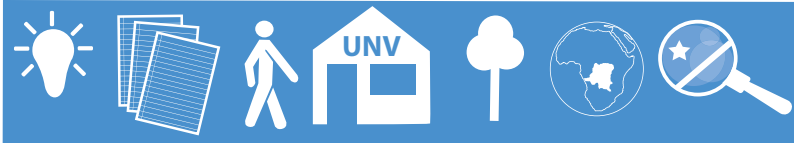
**Preparatory training Assignment
for UN Youth Volunteers**



**UN Volunteers celebrating UN
International Days**



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I am pleased, happy and honored to present this new edition of our newsletter, which tries to capture some of the continuous and powerful flow of energy that is one of the main features of volunteerism.

It is the privilege and the responsibility of every governing and decision making institution, including UN bodies, to support, strengthen and facilitate volunteerism, this unique peace and development tool that is becoming more and more critical and fundamental in the rapidly changing world.

International and National Volunteerism, in its thousands of forms and expressions, is found in every society, and it needs to be integrated, recognized, protected, valued and directed thanks to its flexibility and innovation drive.

The case of DRC is an excellent example, not only for the big and crucial presence of UN Volunteers in MONUSCO and UN Agencies, but also for the lively local civil society and its organizations, active in trying to fill in with positive energies the openings and gaps left by formal institutions.

The UNV Programme puts all its energy and means to support the mandates of UN institutions through the fielding of competent and highly motivated UN Volunteers, and to accompany the local civil society in its efforts; challenges remain high in both cases, for different reasons, but success stories are several and enlightening.

The aim is that all stories of all volunteers and local partners become a story of success, of satisfaction and of contribution to global and local peace and development goals.

The following weeks will be very important, as UNV Integrated Field Unit in DRC gathers to discuss ways to better support Volunteers and partner organizations, while fine-tuning the program for the celebration of the International Volunteer Day 2015.

Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of our 4 Online Volunteers mobilized through www.onlinevolunteering.org who supported us with the design, layout and translation of this newsletter.

Simone Beccaria
Programme Manager
United Nations Volunteers
Goma, October 2015



(F. Faivre, 2015)

United Nations Volunteers in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Promoting language learning and cultural diversity

Education, especially mastering foreign languages is an important factor in progress and development. In response to interest from the local community of the city of Goma, located in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the organization Voluntary Action for Development set up English language workshops during the school holidays. Three different schools were selected in order to develop and promote social diversity in a region which suffers from recurrent waves of conflict.

Five United Nations Volunteers working for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) took part in the project by providing English language courses every Saturday morning for children aged from 6-15 years old.

“I’m happy I could take part in my first local project in the DRC. I hope I’ll be able to repeat this valuable experience with these children during the next school holidays,” said Rory Collins, Irish international UN volunteer who is a software developer with MONUSCO.



(F. Faivre, 2015)

Rory and Phoebe providing English language courses to students.



(F. Faivre, 2015)

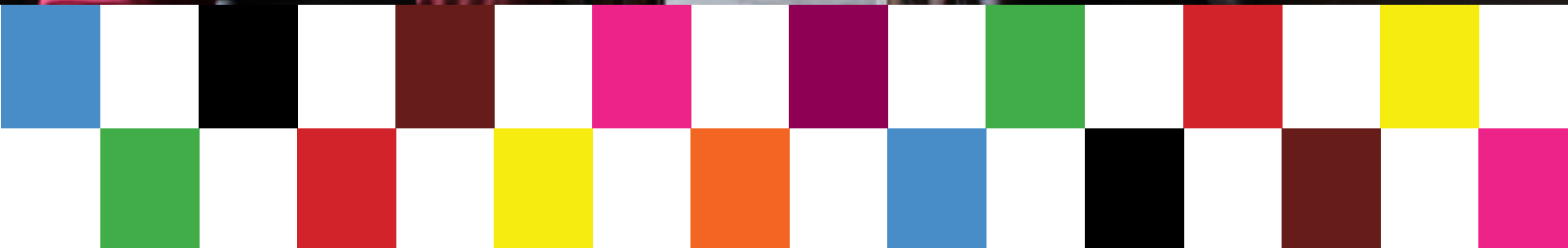
With the beginning of the new school year in mind, the group of UN Volunteers also contributed funds to provide books for the children participating in the project.

“This has been an extremely rewarding experience. Being able to meet these children who are attentive and motivated and eager to learn English, was particularly satisfying. Education is essential to the stabilization of a country. It therefore, seems to me important to participate in teaching English to these children. It was an opportunity to introduce them to learning methods that are different to the ones they know, to let them hear different English accents, and in so contribute to their openness to the world,” said Brazilian international UN volunteer Bia Albernaz who is an Associate Protection Officer at UNHCR.

In late August at the closing ceremony for the project, the students were able to practice what they had learned during the workshops by preparing songs and poems in English, to the delight of teachers, parents and many friends who attended the event.



(F. Faivre, 2015)





Preparatory training assignment for UN Youth Volunteers



Maureen Douabou, UNICEF UN Youth volunteer based in Matadi attending the training in Kinshasa.

(F. Faivre, 2015)

From 24th to 28th August 2015, nine UN Youth Volunteers who were recently recruited to monitor and evaluate the impact of The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) health and education programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as well three UN Youth Volunteers from UNICEF in Cameroon and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) in Togo, took part in training in Kinshasa to prepare them for their assignments.

This training session, provided by the United Nations Volunteers program with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), allowed participants to improve their skills in civic participation, intercultural management and promoting gender equality.

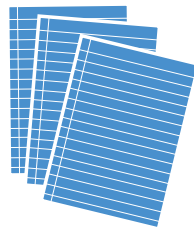
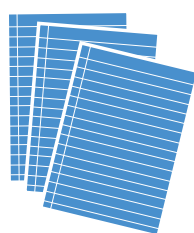
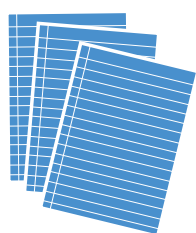


(F. Faivre, 2015)

In his opening speech, Mr. Alfredo Teixeira, Deputy Country Director of UNDP, emphasized that the concept of volunteering “is an ideal way to foster the inclusion of young people, integrating them into the process for peace and sustainable human development.”

UN Youth Volunteers is a programme developed by the UNV for people aged 19-29 years. Its overall objective is to facilitate youth engagement to promote peace and sustainable human development, giving youth a voice in the development dialogue and helping young people to realize their full social, economic and human potential.

“This training programme helped me become aware of the opportunities available to us, young volunteers, to promote peace and development through projects that we can implement in our respective provinces during our mission for UNICEF,”
said Yohann Bouvier. The French-Zimbabwean is a UN Youth Volunteer responsible for monitoring and evaluating UNICEF programmes in Goma, North Kivu.



“This pilot training session will allow this group of young people from different backgrounds to work more closely with communities, and to develop their capacity to proactively monitor programmes,” concludes Axelle Fidelin, UN Youth Volunteer, responsible for coordinating the Youth Volunteers programme in the DRC.



(F. Faivre, 2015)

According to Marc Lalanne, the UNV Programme Officer in the DRC, the UN Youth Volunteers programme is an invitation to all of us to get involved in the future of the DRC and the Congolese people, to accept challenges with courage, determination and creativity, and to find effective and lasting solutions. UNV also hopes to develop this training initiative with new partner agencies.



(UNV, 2015)

The group of UN Volunteers (minus two participants that day). From left to right: Fabien (MONUSCO UN Volunteer), Axelle, Yohann, Aida and Simon (UNICEF Cameroon UN Volunteers), Passa (UNREC Togo UN Volunteer), Gaella, Julian, Arnaud, Elise, Marguerite (UNV Programme Associate from Bonn), Maureen and Thierry.



‘Mentoring, advising and coaching’ pilot training

14 international UN Volunteers selected throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have recently participated to the first session of a learning training known as ‘mentoring, advising and coaching’ in Goma located in the eastern part of the country.

This pilot program which started in early September 2015 aims at training UN volunteers to become mentors and advisers in order to strengthen the skills of national staff of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

‘My main expectation for this project is that it helps our national staff as much as UN international volunteers to develop their skills, professionalism and improve their interpersonal relationships’ says the UN volunteer Florence M.S. Honvo-Bello from Benin, in charge of this training at MONUSCO.

Linda Dina Achieng, international volunteer from Kenya, and administrative assistant of the transport section of MONUSCO, tell us that UN volunteers have been deployed in the DRC in order to get a positive impact within the mission.

‘We are here to share our experience and our skills. This training will help me train the national employees to be highly qualified and more independent’.

For Laura Di Francescantonio, international UN Volunteer from Italy, this project is as essential for her self-development as it is for the future of the national staff. *‘I will be able to improve my mentoring and coaching skills as well as transmitting my expertise to the person who will succeed me’*, she concludes.

This pilot program will be taking place until September 2016 and is aiming to train 14 UN volunteers and 39 MONUSCO national staff.



(F. Faivre, 2015)



(F. Faivre, 2015)



#SHAREHUMANITY

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY 19 AUGUST



Goma street photo exhibition

(F. Faivre, 2015)

World Humanitarian Day is a time to recognize those who face danger and adversity in order to help others. On August 19th, the United Nations Volunteers in the Democratic Republic of Congo wanted to inspire the world's humanity by supporting the online community of people who want to make a difference to the world we live in. Positive and empowering messages were shared on our social media platforms.

Moreover, the UNV Support Office took part in a street photo exhibition organized by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with NGOs and other UN agencies in Goma (North Kivu).

For more information, please visit:
www.worldhumanitarianiday.org

International day for peace

Capoeira: peace instrument in the DRC



copyright : UNICEF DRC/2015/ Kasereka

The International Day of Peace is observed every year, everywhere in the world, on September 21st. This year's theme, 'Partnerships for Peace - Dignity for All', aims to highlight that it is essential for all segment of society to work together to strive for peace.

Since 2014, UNICEF and its partners have put in place an unprecedented program for the reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups and forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): the capoeira. Dieudonné, who is a national volunteer at the UN, Child Protection specialist supervises and trains these young people throughout this Afro-Brazilian martial art.

'I see capoeira as a tool to strive for peace. It is a fun game which facilitates contact between these young people as they are often come from different communities' says Dieudonné.

'The music and rhythm free them and give them real self-confidence. They give me as much energy as I give them!' he adds.

During his spare time, Dieudonné also trains underprivileged young people from the town of Goma, located on the east side of DRC. 'I want to give to young Congolese the desire to move forward and to show them that there are simple ways to encourage reconciliation and dialogue between them and the community' he concludes.

Dieudonné and his colleagues were able to train 800 children formerly associated with armed groups and forces thanks to capoeira, and gave them the opportunity to transit with more confidence and serenity towards civilian life

World Day against Trafficking in Persons

Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex. The International Labour Organization estimates that 21 million people are victims of forced labour globally. The World Day against Trafficking in Persons was supported by a social media campaign with the tagline [#givehope](#), which encouraged people worldwide to express their solidarity with the victims of human trafficking wherever they may be.

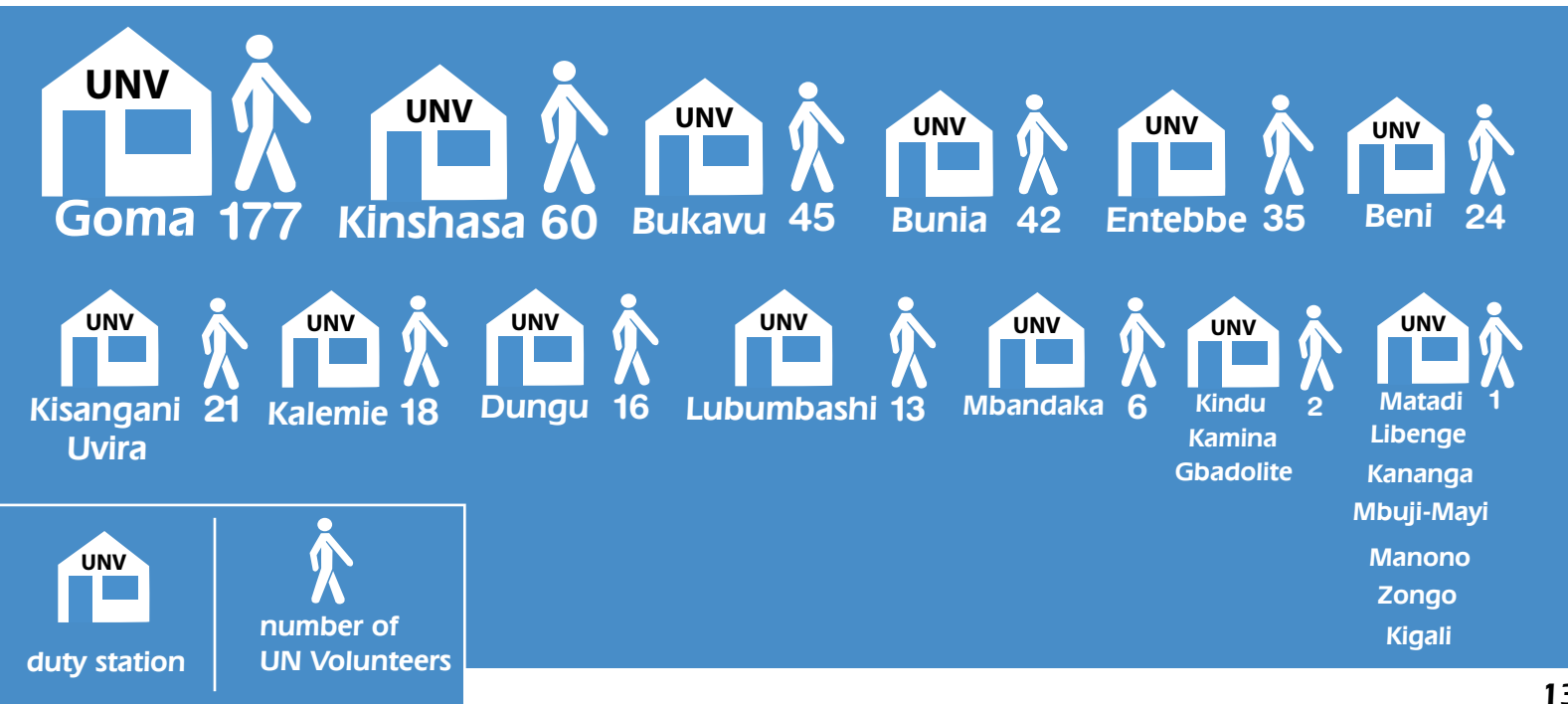
Some United Nations Volunteers shared photos of themselves and their friends online making the universally recognized hand heart symbol - a gesture of solidarity representing love and friendship.

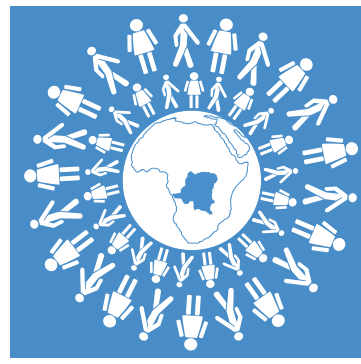
For more information, please check

<http://www.unodc.org/endht/>



(F. Faivre, 2015)





85 different nationalities



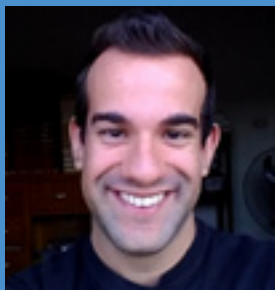
483 UNV currently on board



deployed in 23 duty stations

Online volunteers' contributions

This newsletter was designed in collaboration with :



César Augusto
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layout and design



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translation



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translation



Gabrielle Compas-Dumonteil
translation

mobilized through www.onlinevolunteering.org



UNV Voice: Jessieca

UNV Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) inspector



Jessieca Aduca is an international UN Volunteer from the Philippines currently based in Goma, a city in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). She works as a Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) inspector for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO). Jessieca almost completed six years of services and is now one of our most senior UN Volunteer in the country.

After completing her Master's degree in Public Administration, she worked as an Administrative Assistant Officer for the Philippines National Police Headquarters before joining the United Nations Volunteer programme. *"I knew some friends who served as United Nations Volunteers in different peacekeeping missions in the world and wanted to follow their path"*, says Jessieca.

"I was eager to learn about a new culture and tradition, meet new people coming from different backgrounds and have always been motivated by the desire to give back to the community"





UNV, 2015)

As a Contingent Owned Equipment inspector, her role is to inspect and verify the equipment of the different military and police contingents deployed in the mission area.

“I am currently responsible of providing the necessary inspection and verification reports of the Tanzanian Force Intervention Brigade who has recently been deployed in the volatile eastern part of DRC to bring peace and stabilize the area by neutralizing rebel armed groups”, she explained.

“There isn’t really a typical day at work and that’s what I like about my job. When there is a scheduled inspection, I either travel by car or by airplane to the contingent’s place of deployment. There are some factors that might affect our schedule such as the security situation or the bad road conditions. We try to be as flexible as we can, otherwise it cannot work!” Jessieca adds.

Talking about the most memorable moment of her job to date, Jessieca mentioned the day she was asked to quickly jump out of the helicopter for her security because of a technical problem that was resolved during the day:



“It was quite scary to be in this situation for the first time but I always trust the professionalism of our United Nations colleagues.”



“You should take your job as a challenge. Going out of one’s comfort zone can only bring valuable experiences and I am blessed to be part of the UN Volunteer family”, Jessieca concluded.





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Goma Office (DRC):

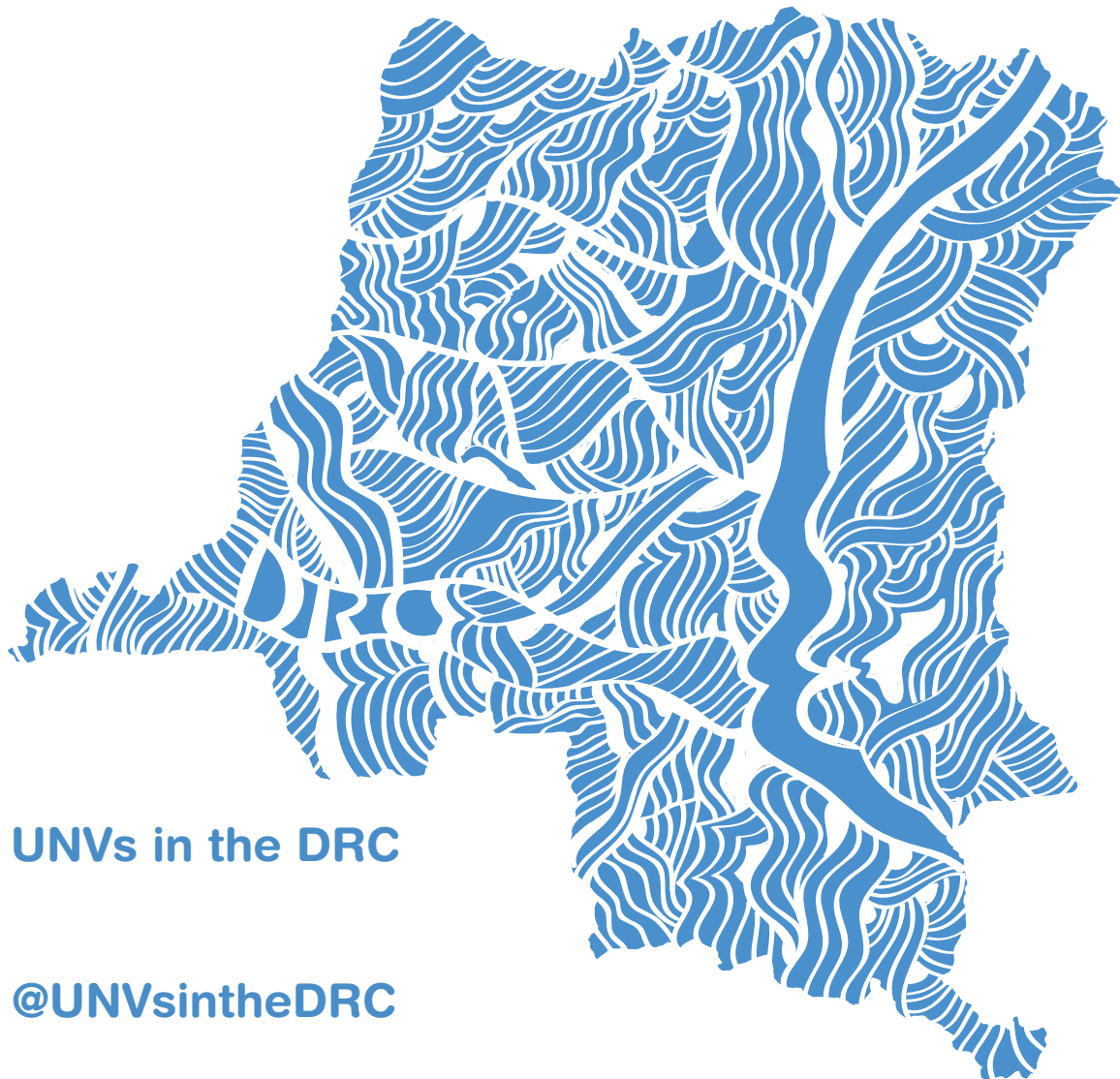
1. Simone Beccaria, UNV Programme Manager
2. Maryse Boulanger, Recruitment Officer
3. Rory Collins, Software Developer
4. Saidath Nganizi, Administrative Assistant
5. Fabien Faivre, Public Information Officer
6. Katalin Kaplar, Administrative Officer

Entebbe Office (Uganda):

7. Agatha Aheisibwe, Administrative Assistant
8. Naylya Berezovskaya, Administrative Officer
9. Dinah Kemigisha, Administrative Assistant
10. Edgang Thamrin, Administrative Officer

Kinshasa Office (DRC):

11. Marc Lalanne, UNV Programme Officer
12. Zabibu la Banzira (Bijou), Administrative Assistant
13. Brigitte Mamfwa, Country Operations Assistant
14. Meschac Kamanda, Country Operations Assistant



UNVs in the DRC



@UNVsintheDRC

