

DRC

in focus
April 2016



in this issue:



*UN Secretary-General
Ban Ki-moon visit
to the DRC*



*Volunteer Initiatives
for Peace and
Development*

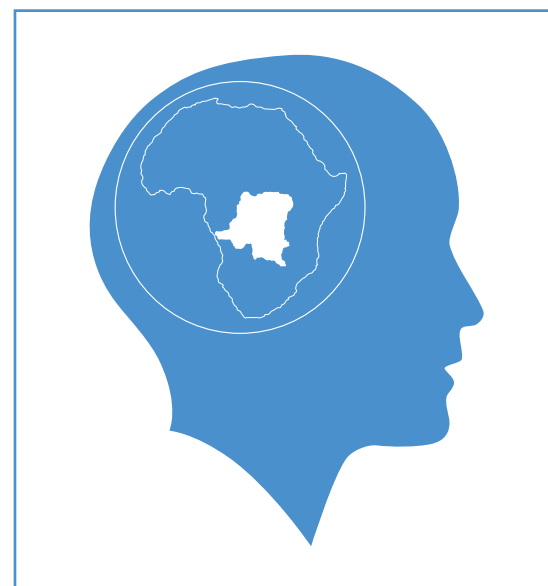


*UNV celebrating
International
Women's Day*



UN
Volunteers

inspiration in action



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Dear readers,

To act in the interests of sustainable development is not only a choice, it is also a state of mind embodied by volunteerism: commitment to building a better world!

In Democratic Republic of Congo, over 500 United Nations Volunteers working for The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and seven different UN agencies willingly give every day their time and skills in bringing forward peace and development in this vast country. UN Volunteers are on all fronts. They take actions both in operational areas such as political and civil affairs, human rights, development of institutional capacities but also technical areas such as transport and supply.

They are also involved in volunteering projects outside their working hours to be closer to local communities, which is rewarding and educative. In this new issue of “RDC in focus”, we acknowledge the commitment of United Nations Volunteers who contribute to development while advocating for volunteerism.

Let us be inspired by them for committing to build a better world. All these volunteer actions together are the ones making us realize that we can make a difference.

Mr. Mamadou Diallo,

Deputy Special Representative for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Facts and figures about the UNV programme in the DRC



500
UN Volunteers

on assignment in the DRC

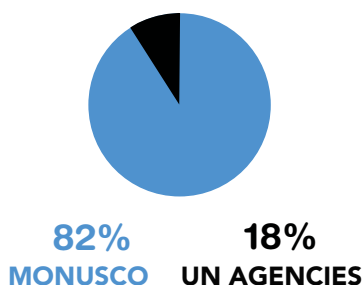


Half of International Civilians working for **MONUSCO** are **UN Volunteers**



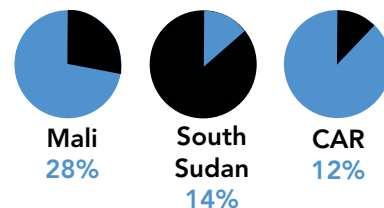
UN Volunteers are deployed in **23 locations** across the **DRC**

Deployment of **UN Volunteers** within **MONUSCO** and **UN Agencies**



70%

of **UN Volunteers** on assignment in the **DRC** come from **the global south**



Congolese citizens serving abroad as UN Volunteers (first three countries)



More than
100
UN Online Volunteers

mobilized through www.onlinevolunteering.org provided constant support to **MONUSCO** and **UN Agencies**.



1
Volunteers Platform

In Goma (North Kivu), UNV established a **Volunteers Platform** composed of 25 members from civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations with the objective of strengthening their capacities to develop and manage projects.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visit to the DRC

In May, world leaders will gather in Istanbul, Turkey, for the first World Humanitarian Summit which aims to propose solutions and set a new agenda for global humanitarian action. Ahead of the Summit, the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon travelled to Ethiopia, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan to highlight his Agenda for Humanity. In DRC, SG Ban Ki-moon visited a site hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the eastern part of the country (North Kivu) and discussed with President Joseph Kabila and Senior Government officials where he reiterated his call for support from Member States to resolve such global humanitarian issues as the refugee and migrant crisis.

More than 15 UN Volunteers mainly working for MONUSCO Movement Control Unit facilitated SG Ban Ki-moon's visit in Goma and Kinshasa. They provided real-time forecast weather information at the airport and supported the delegates with Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) needs.



Meet the UN Volunteers in charge of Movement Control who facilitated SG Ban Ki-moon visit in the DRC

Moreover, national UN Volunteer Dieudonné Mosi Kikongo Nkoy, assigned with UNICEF as Child Protection Administrator had the chance to provide a demonstration of Capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art that he teaches to children formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups in a rehabilitation camp



Faivre, 2016



Yolanda Sibiya,
international UN Volunteer,
Movcon Assistant for
MONUSCO

***“As a UN Volunteer,
it was a great honor and
privilege to facilitate SG Ban Ki-
moon’s visit in Goma along with my
other colleagues. This is not an
opportunity you could have
every day!”***



Patricia Giraldo,
international UN Volunteer,
Associate Political Affairs
Officer for **MONUSCO**

***“It was impressive
to be part of a very
important moment for
North Kivu history”***





Faivre, 2016

Volunteer Initiatives for Peace and Development

Improving the living conditions of orphans in Goma

Since October 2015, 15 UN Volunteers working for MONUSCO and different UN Agencies, UN staff and uniformed personnel have been involved in a Volunteer Initiative for Peace and Development (VIPD) project in an orphanage located in Goma. After realizing that the building did not have access to clean water, UN Volunteers helped building a rain water recovery system. Moreover, UNV created a partnership with the doctors of MONUSCO's hospital who are providing free consultations for the 80 children. In addition, an electronic archive system is being implemented where the profiles of the children can be stored with more confidentiality. Every week, a group of UN Volunteers is going to the orphanage in order to provide recreational activities and hygiene promotion sessions to the children.



Faivre, 2016

Military doctor from MONUSCO Indian Field Hospital providing a treatment against worms to a child



Faivre, 2016

Potable water provided to the orphanage



“Volunteering at the orphanage centre has given me a hands on volunteer project and the chance to really make a difference in the lives of Congolese children directly affected by the ongoing conflicts and insecurity in the East. The children are vibrant and happy and I love visiting them each week to play, hang out and help out the Center in any way”

Michele Churchley,
International UN Volunteer
(USA), Human Rights
Officer for MONUSCO



The VIPD is a “zero cost” project. UN Volunteers were able to raise money to fund the project by organizing several fairs, fundraising events and created a successful crowdfunding campaign. The rent of the orphanage is now secured for 6 additional months.



It is the first time that UNV in the DRC was able to mobilize UN Volunteers from MONUSCO, UN Agencies, UN staff and uniformed personnel on a same project.



Participants of the workshop

Promoting Volunteerism in a conflict zone workshop

In partnership with the local association Humanité Plus and the volunteer platform of local associations of Goma, the UNV programme organized a workshop on the promotion of volunteerism in a conflict zone. 35 participants coming from North Kivu province have been sensitized on voluntary actions which could ease tensions, contribute to efforts to stop conflict and generate a feeling of inclusiveness in order to prevent violence.



“I had the opportunity to facilitate this workshop and think it is my role to sensitize my brothers and sisters on the role they can play in favor of peace and development in this specific part of DR Congo”

Elysée Mbula, member of the Volunteers Platform of Goma established by UNV



UNV celebrating International Women's Day

On March 12 2016, more than 800 participants took part in International Women's Day celebrations in Goma, North Kivu organized by MONUSCO Gender Section, in collaboration with the UNV programme, UN agencies, international NGOs and civil society organizations. Under the theme for 2016: "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it up for Gender Equality", the event aimed at calling for a change while celebrating the numerous acts of courage of women and men in the region. Two UN Online Volunteers mobilized through www.onlinevolunteering.org provided support by designing the poster of the event and translating the flyers which were distributed during the day from French to Swahili.



Check out Phoebe Goodwin, international UN Volunteer (Australia) with UNHCR video interview. She tells a bit more about her role and the importance of making women's voices heard in each and every space.

You Tube

**click
here**

For this special day, UNV interviewed as well two male UN Volunteers who are working respectively for MONUSCO and UN Women.



Interview of **Germán Vega Cortés**, international UN Volunteer (Colombia), gender adviser for MONUSCO

[click here](#)

Interview of **Norbert Mweze**, national UN Volunteer (DRC), gender and reproductive health expert for UN Women

[click here](#)





UNV VOICE

Gheorghe Panait

Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo: In 2015, I joined the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO) as a UN Volunteer for the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement (DDRRR) section. After working several years for the Romanian Armed Forces in my country, I decided to completely change my career perspective and work in a more challenging environment while making a difference. There are dozens of active and illegal foreign armed groups operating in eastern Congo and my role in the mission aims at facilitating their voluntarily repatriation to their respective countries of origin. I mainly work at the Bauma camp located near Kisangani where combatants decided for various reasons to leave their armed groups and await integration into civilian life. When you work in a highly sensitive section like DDRRR and collaborate with many institutions and organizations, each day is never the same. In addition to the logistics support we are providing to the camp such as food, medicine and fuel for running the generators. We are also using different sensitization mechanisms such as radio, video or face to face interaction to ensure that illegal armed groups are sensitized to the DDRRR processes and benefits they will accrue when they voluntarily enter the DDRRR process.

“I will always remember the day my team safely repatriated to Rwanda an ex-combatant and his dependents who have spent several years in the bush living a life punctuated by violence and lack of medical assistance. It is rewarding to know that this volunteer assignment gave me the opportunity to significantly impact the lives of people.”



Gheorghe Panait, international UN Volunteer (Romania),
Bauma camp, Kisangani, DR Congo



CONGO JAMBO

The UNV Welcome Newsletter



MONUSCO Entebbe

name: Ellen Chirenda

nationality: Zimbabwean

title: Budget & Finance Assistant

my expectation as UN Volunteer: *"To gain a new experience, learn new skills, learn about different cultures, languages and contribute to the community"*



UNDP Goma

name: Fatou Tandiang

nationality: French/Senegalese

title: Communication & Information Officer

something that my colleagues don't know about me...

"I was the first rap tv show presenter on Senegal national TV"



MONUSCO GOMA

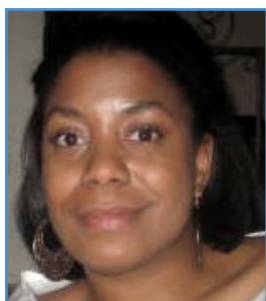
name: Israel Gestoso Morote

nationality: Spanish

title: Medical Doctor

my favorite quote

"Live as if you will die tomorrow. Learn as if you'll live forever"



MONUSCO Entebbe

name: Pascale Bijoux

nationality: Canadian

title: Technical Business Writer

volunteering for me, is

"A way to channel all my energy and give back to my community, whether in a local or global capacity"



UNICEF Kinshasa

name: Valentina Codeluppi
nationality: Italian
title: Child Protection Officer

how did my family react when they discovered that I'm going to be an UN Volunteer:

"They are quite used to it, as I served as a volunteer also before in different programmes. They are really proud of what I am doing"



MONUSCO Goma

name: Mathieu Legros
nationality: French
title: Environmental Officer

my expectations as a UN Volunteer:

"Help MONUSCO in achieving its environmental objectives and discover a new culture"



MONUSCO Kalemie

name: Adama Konate
nationality: Ivorian
title: Women Protection Adviser

volunteering for me is:

"A contribution to peace and development"



MONUSCO Goma

name: Gabrielle Biron Hudon
nationality: Canadian
title: Associate Civil Affairs Officer

something that my colleagues don't know about me:

"I have been training at kickboxing for 3 years"



MONUSCO Goma

name: Shahin Praveen
nationality: Indian
title: COE Database Assistant

a message to the UN Volunteers:

"Volunteering is not an easy task. Thank you for making the world a better place"



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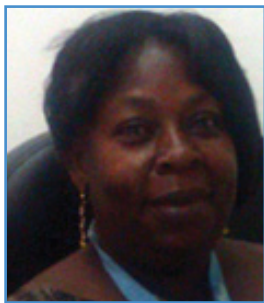
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FIELD UNIT IN THE **DRC**

Goma Office (DRC):

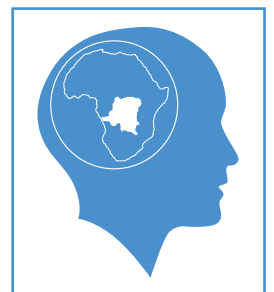
1. Simone Beccaria, UNV Programme Manager
2. Rory Collins, Software Developer
3. Saidath Nganizi, Administrative Assistant
4. Fabien Faivre, Public Information Officer
5. Katalin Kaplar, Administrative Officer

Entebbe Office (Uganda):

6. Agatha Aheisibwe, Administrative Assistant
7. Endang Thamrin, Administrative Officer
8. Naylya Berezovskaya, Administrative Officer
9. Dinah Kemigisha, Administrative Assistant

Kinshasa Office (DRC):

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



The **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)** programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.



UNVs in the **DRC**



@UNVsintheDRC