



UN VOLUNTEERS

NEPAL BROCHURE 2016

UNV NEPAL BROCHURE 2016

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UN Online Volunteers mobilized through
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BACKGROUND

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for recognition of volunteers, working with partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilising an increasing number and diversity of volunteers, including experienced UN Volunteers, throughout the world. UNV embraces volunteerism as universal and inclusive, and recognises volunteerism in its diversity as well as the values that sustain it: free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity.

UNV directly mobilises more than 7,700 volunteers every year nationally and internationally, with 80% coming from developing countries, and more than 30% volunteering within their own countries.

**UNV Nepal
country team
welcomes
UNDP Goodwill
Ambassador
and Hollywood
actress
Michelle Yeoh
in Nepal**



Photo: Laxmi Prasad Ngakhushi/ UNDP Nepal



Photo: Kamal Raj Sigdel/UNDP in Nepal



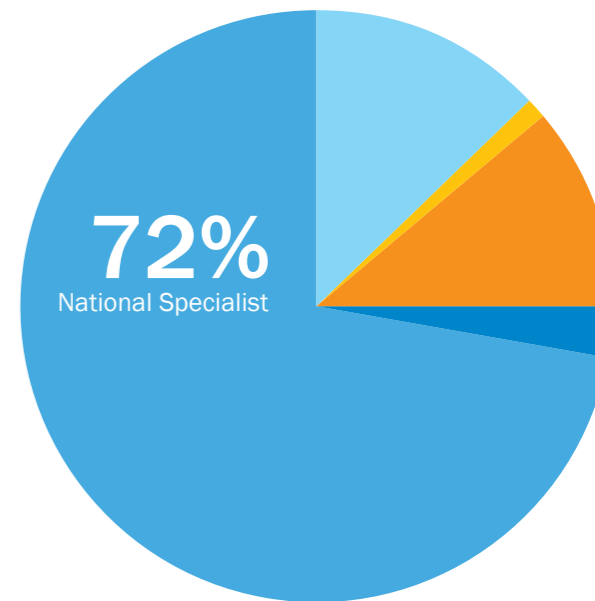
Photo: Kamal Raj Sigdel/UNDP in Nepal

UNV NEPAL MAPPING

In 2015, 188 UN Volunteers - 160 of whom were national UN Volunteers and 100 UN Volunteer Civil Engineers - were serving the Nepal recovery efforts. Likewise, 91 Nepalese nationals served as international volunteers elsewhere, was ranked second country providing largest number of UN volunteers in the development sector in 2015

As of June 2016, there were 70 UN Volunteers serving in agencies and government offices in 16 districts across Nepal. These included 50 national specialists and nine Nepalese UN Youth Volunteers.

In addition, there were 11 international UN Volunteers working in Nepal, including two UN Youth Volunteers and a university student.



HISTORY OF UNV NEPAL

UN Volunteer civil engineer Hotrika Joshi takes attendance of cash for workers deployed in UNDP's Debris Management Programme

The history of UNV Nepal dates back to 1974, when an Australian nutritionist arrived in Kathmandu as the first UN Volunteer to serve with UNICEF's field operation.

Since then, thousands of international and local UN Volunteers have served in Nepal. Likewise, hundreds of Nepalese volunteers have worked across the world as international UN Volunteers.

From its inception, UNV has played a significant role in Nepal, particularly during catastrophic events, such as the twin earthquakes that struck the country in 2015. In addition, at least 240 international and local UN Volunteers worked for the UN Mission in Nepal in the lead-up to the 2008 Constituent Assembly Elections.

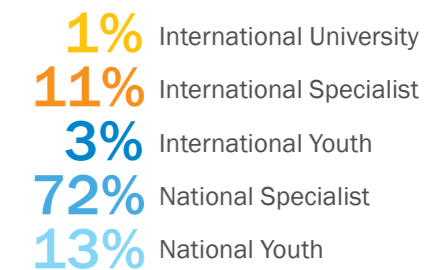




Photo: Lesley Wright/ UNDP Nepal



Photo: Ayush Karki/UNV Nepal

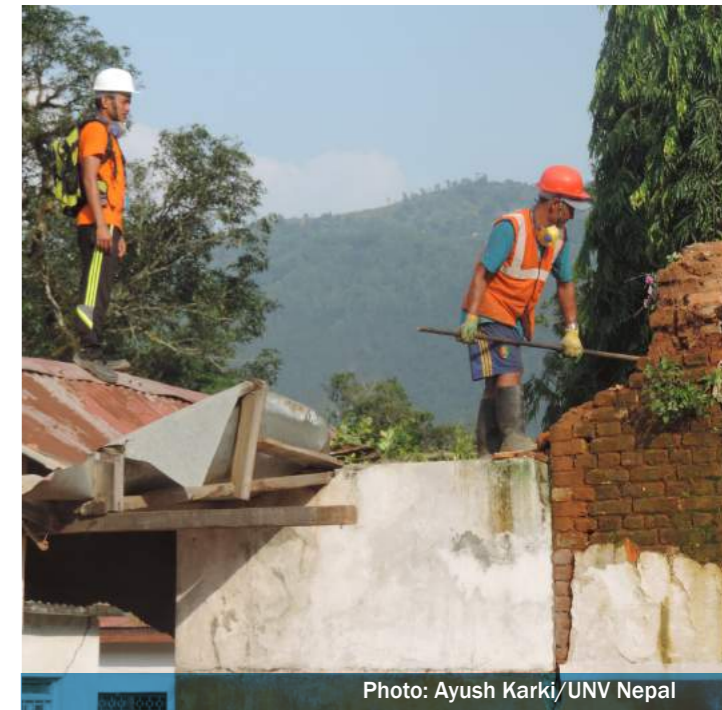


Photo: Ayush Karki/UNV Nepal

UNV EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

UN Volunteers Civil Engineers interact with the earthquake victim while assessing the damage of their houses in Kunchowk VDC of Sindhupalchowk District

On 25 April 2015, a devastating earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale struck Nepal, killing more than 8,800 people and injuring over 23,000. This was followed by a major aftershock on 12 May 2015.

Almost 500,000 houses were destroyed and entire villages were flattened. It was estimated that around 2.8 million people required humanitarian assistance, while more than 860,000 faced poverty, limited accessibility and homelessness.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, volunteers were rapidly mobilised from other parts of Nepal to provide vital emergency onsite aid. National UN Volunteers were on the front lines of emergency response efforts, supporting government-led efforts alongside approximately 300 agencies.

UNV established a Nepal Earthquake Taskforce to co-ordinate essential support on the ground.

SAFE DEMOLITION AND DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PROJECT

An initial group comprising 37 UN Youth Volunteers and 47 specialist UN Volunteers were mobilised across three Village Development Committees – Irkhu, Kunchowk and Karthalli – within the Sindhupalchowk district of Nepal.

These volunteers served under the UN Development Programme’s (UNDP) Safe Demolition and Debris Management Project. Their responsibilities included assessing the structural integrity of each building in the villages and overseeing the safe collapse of those found to be unstable. This initiative was a successful collaboration between UNDP, the Government of Nepal and UNV.

Prior to their deployment, UN Volunteers received a week-long induction training session led by disaster management experts hired by UNDP.

The UN Volunteers were divided into teams, each led by one of nine national UN Volunteer Civil Engineers. Each of these ‘brigades’ included local community volunteers.

Two hundred community workers were trained in measuring the width and length of buildings during the damage assessment process. The community volunteers also took the attendance of workers participating in the UNDP’s Cash-for-Work temporary employment scheme, reported on progress, and supervised the work to ensure continuity following the departure of the UN Volunteer Civil Engineers.

A total of 4,321 locals were employed through the Cash-for-Work programme and supervised by UN Volunteers.

Due to its effective and rapid response, UNV was invited by Nepal’s newly established National Reconstruction Authority to contribute to recovery and reconstruction efforts, in partnership with other UN entities and the Government.

UNV NEPAL'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

During the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016, national UN Volunteer Prakash Sharma represented UNV Nepal at a panel discussion entitled, 'Volunteers as first responders in emergencies and complex environments'.

Mr. Sharma was part of a group of UN Volunteer Engineers that provided support to the UNDP-led Safe Demolition and Debris Management Project. As such, he was able to share his experiences as a first responder.

Mr. Sharma said: "After the earthquake, 90% of houses in some villages were demolished and unusable. We needed to do something. We need more volunteers in the country. Humanity glows in the most difficult environments."

In times of crisis, first responders are very often volunteers from local communities. They arrive before the professional humanitarian organisations, and stay on after other aid teams leave.

The panel discussion served to highlight the vital contribution of these local volunteers and to emphasise how their efforts need to be recognised, supported and integrated into an overall humanitarian response.



Prakash Sharma, a national UN Volunteer shares his experience as volunteers as first responders during the Nepal earthquake 2015.

UN DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO NEPAL

In May 2016, UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson visited Nepal as part of the organisation's wider Mission for Humanity. The mission was arranged by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Mr. Eliasson ahead of the World Humanitarian Summit.

The purpose of Mr. Eliasson's visit was to shed light on the humanitarian response to the 2015 Nepal earthquake, including the vital contribution of local communities.

During his visit, Mr. Eliasson met with UN Volunteers working in Irkhu, one of the villages directly affected by the devastating earthquake.

Mr. Eliasson was briefed by UN Volunteer Civil Engineers about the volunteers' work in response to the earthquake. The engineers also showcased new technologies used by the UNDP in Nepal's Safe Demolition and Debris Management Project.

During his visit, Mr. Eliasson congratulated the UN Volunteers and UNDP's Cash-for-Work participants for the tremendous job they had done for Nepal. He said: "I am very glad to come out and meet with you so that I can tell these stories when I get back to New York and Geneva."

He added: "You should know that what you have been doing is not in vain. It is very important for people here and I will send the message from you to others. And I say everybody must do something. Because we have an



UN Volunteers welcome and brief UN Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson about their work in Sindhupalchowk.

obligation to the people of the world – where they are struck by natural or man-made disasters – to show solidarity."

UNV

PROJECT INVOLVEMENT

SITE PREPARATION FOR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

UNV is currently providing support to the UNDP, the Korea International Cooperation Agency and the Government of Nepal in their joint Site Preparation for Reconstruction Project.

Twenty national UN Volunteer Civil Engineers are preparing sites for the reconstruction of ten health posts and a district hospital building, in order to restore vital health services across Nuwakot.

The project is expected to improve health care access for around 50,000 people, employ around 200 workers, and train 75 local engineers and masons in safer construction practices.



Photo: Ayush Karki/UNV Nepal

With the support of Local cash for workers UN Volunteers prepare site for reconstruction of health posts in Nuwakot district.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY PROGRAMME

UN Volunteers are providing support to UNDP's Community Infrastructure and Livelihood Recovery Programme. This programme was established to restore community infrastructure and livelihoods within earthquake-affected communities.

There are currently five civil engineers serving as national UN Volunteers in five districts: Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Dolakha, Nuwakot and Rasuwa.



Photo: Rachit Shrestha/UNV Nepal

Community infrastructure restored with the support of UN volunteers.

The 2015 Nepal earthquake caused substantive damage to community infrastructure, including:



Buildings



Roads



Bridges



Micro-hydro plants



Irrigation



Trails and market facilities



Drinking water schemes

The damaged infrastructure was rendered largely non-operational, promoting a risk of migration for several communities.

To date, 20,000 households have benefited from the livelihood promotion initiatives and 250 earthquake-damaged community structures have been restored.

COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (CDRMP)

This UNDP programme aims to strengthen disaster risk management in Nepal by building the capacities of the Ministry of Home Affairs, as well as other local and national government departments.

The programme focuses on:

NEPAL'S BUILDING CODE SAFER CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES RISK SENSITIVE LAND USE COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

The goal is to strengthen the overall system of disaster risk management across Nepal.

There are currently 11 national UN Volunteers serving in various CDRMP projects, including engineering, architecture and information technology.



Photo: Pragati Manandhar/UNV Nepal

Pragati Manandhar, UN Volunteer Architect provides information on earthquake resistant houses via a mobile van in Bhaktapur.

MOBILE VIDEO VAN

Supported by UN Volunteer Engineers, the mobile video van is another UNDP initiative. The purpose is to reach rural households and educate communities about earthquake-resilient homes in order to encourage safer construction practices and reduce future risk. The van facilitates a number of activities on safe construction, including presentations, counselling and orientations.

In co-ordination with the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, District Development Committee, and Municipalities and Village Development Committees, the van travels across three districts. It has so far reached over 10,000 people.

UNV's key roles in this initiative include:

- ✓ Co-ordinating the initiative
- ✓ Designing the van's promotional stickers
- ✓ Co-ordinating the modification of the van

- ✓ Managing the information, education and communication materials
- ✓ Procuring the necessary equipment for the van
- ✓ Co-ordinating with those involved in manufacturing the van
- ✓ Overseeing the engineer recruitment process, including interviews and employment documentation
- ✓ Regularly co-ordinating with the field engineers
- ✓ Reviewing daily reports sent by the field engineers and answering any queries

COMMON FEEDBACK PROJECT

Launched on 29 April 2015, the Nepal Earthquake Flash Appeal and Action Plan was developed by a number of humanitarian partners.

The project has several strategic objectives aimed at meeting humanitarian needs relating to:

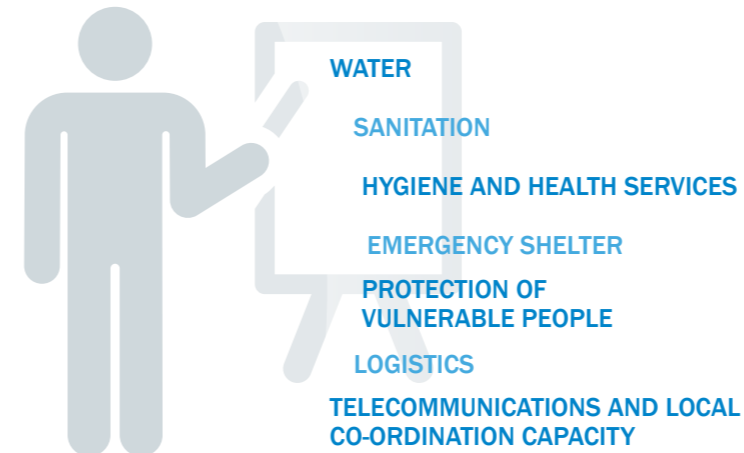


Photo: Ayush Karki/UNV Nepal

UN Volunteers serving in the Common feedback project facilitate the Comm-a-thon event, to develop an effective mechanism to provide information in the grassroots.

The Common Feedback Project provides a comprehensive set of common tools and protocols which are rolled out in each affected district, taking into account the language, gender and diversity of each community.

The project provides support services to the country-wide humanitarian team, including all clusters and organisations, as well as civil society and other actors.

Within this project, four UN Volunteers are working as District Liaison Officers and Information Management Officers. These volunteers contact a range of representatives of international and national agencies, government and civil society and youth organisations.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (LGCDP)



Photo: UNV Nepal

UN Volunteer ICT Coordinators are currently supporting ICT volunteers in all 5 development regions of Nepal.

UNV Nepal has contributed to this Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) programme since Phase I.

Phase I involved UNV Nepal closely worked with the National Development Volunteer Service (NDVS) to promote volunteerism for development.

UNV funded and co-ordinated the deployment of 100 national NDVS volunteers, who supported LGCDP community empowerment activities. UNV also provided NDVS staff with training and assistance during the process of formulating a national volunteering policy. In addition, UNV assisted in the establishment of a

Volunteer Resource and Information Centre and an Integrated Volunteer Management Information System at NDVS.

Phase II of LGCDP provides the systems, procedures, structures, tools and capacities for facilitating the transformation of local bodies into local government entities.

Building on the experience of the UNV component of Phase I, in Phase II UNV Nepal will support MoFALD in its new pilot initiative, University Youth IT Volunteers.

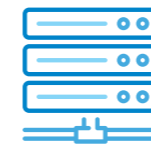
This initiative aims to digitise the operational procedures

of the Government of Nepal, in addition to strengthening and maintaining the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure of local government bodies.

Since it was introduced in 2014, ICT has brought about significant changes in local governance throughout Nepal. All 292 local governance infrastructures have new websites with content management systems, along with standard domain names. Traditional paper-based working procedures have been transformed digitally through the use of software.

UN Volunteers have provided valuable ICT support within local body offices. More than 2,000 staff members have received basic ICT training, including software and website maintenance. Grievance handling has improved and media outreach has increased due to the launch of a social media platform.

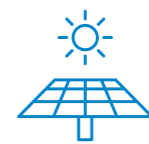
ICT infrastructure within local bodies has been strengthened with implementation of:



Computer servers



Computer networks



Solar backup



Free WiFi



Advanced free phone



Digital notice board



Group SMS messaging



Biometric attendance



Queue management system

Eight national UN Volunteers are working closely with University Youth Volunteers in supporting e-Governance in local government institutions throughout Nepal. Under this programme, 136 volunteers are placed as ICT Volunteers for an initial period of two years in each of the 75 District Development Committees, as well as in 58 municipalities. Three volunteers work directly within MoFALD.

Additionally, UNV Nepal has placed eight national UN Volunteers as ICT experts in the six Regional Cluster Units and two in the Programme Co-ordination Unit of MoFALD to oversee and co-ordinate ICT Volunteers and their activities.

Through the UN Joint Programme, UNV Nepal will continue to support capacity enhancement of Youth Volunteers, the promotion of volunteerism and voluntary action at the local level.

UNV

ACROSS ALL AGENCIES (VOLUNTEER VOICES)

International UN Volunteer specialist: Maria Paula Reinbold, an international UN Volunteer from Colombia interacts with the local kids in the early childhood development centers of UNICEF.



INTERNATIONAL UN VOLUNTEER SPECIALISTS

Maria Paula Reinbold: In March 2015, I joined the UNICEF Nepal Country Office in the Education Section as an international UN Volunteer. I have been heavily involved in the L2 emergency response as a result of the

April and May earthquakes and have supported the Education and Protection Sections, the Nepal Education Cluster, the Ministry of Education and relevant Early Childhood Development (ECD) stakeholders in the

UN Youth Volunteer Yngve Braaten from Norway is serving as Gender Based Violence Programme Analyst at UNFPA Nepal.



country to develop ECD psychosocial and pedagogical materials for parents and ECD Facilitators. I also have been involved in the development of the ECD guidebook for the Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs), emergency kits and Child-Friendly Spaces in Nepal.

My role as ECD Officer was extended to Programme Manager for seven months, and I have been responsible for the planning, implementation, reporting, and monitoring of the ECD component of the Country Programme, including PCA development, donor relations, and representing the Country Office in international ECD events. I have also been the UNICEF focal point of the Government Thematic Working Group that is developing the new School Sector Development Plan, including establishing goals and addressing challenges for Nepal in terms of quality and access to ECD services.

I am passionate about ECD. I believe it can significantly improve not only the lives of the most disadvantaged

and vulnerable children but also their societies, while also helping to break cycles of poverty, violence and despair.

Yngve Braaten: My name is Yngve, and I am a fully funded UN Youth Volunteer serving as a Gender Based Violence (GBV) Programme Analyst at the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) country office in Kathmandu. I am 26 years old, and I am a lover of coffee, cats and nature. Being passionate about gender equality, I have previously worked for UNICEF, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other organisations on issues related to gender. I finished my MSc at the London School of Economics in 2015 and worked a short period in Oslo before moving to Nepal.

As a GBV Programme Analyst, I am responsible for co-ordinating the UNFPA's health response to GBV. As such, my work is focused on making sure that health systems in Nepal are able to respond to the needs of survivors of GBV, and that health care providers (i.e.

doctors and nurses) have the capacity to give GBV survivors proper care. In this regard, I am very lucky to be able to work with Nepal's civil society and government agencies to address GBV, and continuously emphasise that GBV directly breaches an individual's human rights. Furthermore, as a part of UNFPA's gender team, I am currently supporting the implementation of a project that is aimed at both preventing and responding to GBV at the community level in Nepal.

At UNFPA I am also working on a project aimed at ending child marriage. The project is being rolled out in five districts, and as a part of my job I get to travel Nepal and meet project partners and other stakeholders. I especially like working together with youths, and giving them the venue to provide UNFPA with inputs on how our project can be better sensitised to cater to the needs of the younger population.

I have been in Nepal for only four months, but I have already learned more than I did throughout my studies! Despite often feeling that I am 'hitting the ground running', I find my work very rewarding. I have been given a lot of responsibility, and I have already gained valuable experience that I will make use of later in life, both socially and in the workplace. Being a UN Volunteer has also enabled me to meet amazing people. For me, being a UN Volunteer has been equal to being an adventurer; not only have I met interesting people, but I have also travelled to remote areas and seen things that I will remember for the rest of my life.

Indeed, moving to a country so different from my own has taught me a lot: how to work in a multicultural office, how to adapt to a new culture, how to do yoga in front of the Himalayas, and of course how the UN system is implementing projects 'in the field' (amongst other things). I had always been curious as to how it would be to work for the UN in a low-income country with issues related to gender, and UNV has provided me with this exact opportunity!

UN UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER

Seungyoung Hong: My name is Seungyoung Hong and I'm currently in Nepal working as an international UN University Volunteer at the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). I've been working as a Communications Associate since mid-February 2016.

My main responsibilities so far involve contributing to the effective delivery of activities for UNFPA's mandate and documenting UNFPA Nepal's good practices through various communications tools. This involves producing communication materials, such as designing and developing fact sheets, videos and reports, etc. I have also focused on maintaining a strong social media presence on such sites as Facebook and Twitter by producing a more diverse range of materials related to sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and youth.

My experience in Nepal as an UN Volunteer so far has been filled with endless learning opportunities, due to both my responsibilities at work and the people I have met. Not only has this been a chance for me to improve my on-the-job skills, but I have been able to meet a number of people as an UN Volunteer who are passionate about the work they are doing. For me that has been the most valuable experience, being in such an inspirational environment, and I hope to make the best out of it during the rest of my time in Nepal.

UN University Volunteer: Seungyoung Hong, an international university UN Volunteer from Republic of Korea is currently working in UNFPA.



Photo: Ayush Karki/UNV Nepal

UNV ONLINE VOLUNTEER

Hannah Giles: I'm a UK-based freelance writer and editor with around 14 years' professional experience in editing, copywriting and journalism. I signed up to be a UNV Online Volunteer as I wanted to help international non-profit organisations that are in need of writing and editing skills for one-off assignments.

My first project was assisting with a website re-launch for Kitega Community Centre in Uganda. This involved editing and rewriting several pages of web content. My most recent project was editing and proofreading the 2016 UNV Nepal brochure (the one you're currently reading!).

Overall, I find online volunteering to be an incredibly rewarding experience. Not only do I get the benefit of contributing to the vital efforts of international

organisations, I get to expand my professional experience and work on a range of interesting writing and editing projects.

For anyone interested in volunteering from home, UN Online Volunteers provides the ideal opportunity to connect with organisations worldwide, develop your skills and make a real difference.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

UNV is driven by the belief that volunteerism is a powerful means of tackling global development challenges through citizen engagement.

Volunteers contribute their free time, skills and knowledge, while gaining a greater understanding of important issues affecting communities around the world.

Volunteering is a challenging and rewarding experience that has a lasting impact on those in need. It also promotes a more cohesive society by building trust and reciprocity.

For information on serving as an international UN Volunteer, please visit www.unv.org

For information on serving in your own country as a national UN Volunteer, please contact your local UNV Nepal office or visit www.unv.org.np

Through the UNV Online Volunteering service, volunteers can support the activities of international development organisations. Online volunteers can work remotely from anywhere in the world.

For details on how to become an Online Volunteer and for more information about the UNV Online Volunteering service, visit the Online Volunteering service website, www.onlinevolunteering.org

