

#PartnerUp



PARTNER UP WITH

THE SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND (SVF)



*We are
inspiration
in action*

What is the Special Voluntary Fund?

The Special Voluntary Fund (SVF) is an open trust fund, through which the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme flexibly and strategically allocates un-earmarked resources to support its mandate.

UNV Mandate: the promotion of volunteerism for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the deployment of volunteers to support United Nations peace and development initiatives worldwide.

Since its establishment in 1970, partners have made financial contributions to the SVF to support UNV as a system-wide service for the United Nations.

The SVF supports UNV in placing UN Volunteers in peace and development initiatives globally. Through the SVF, UNV responds to UN-wide capacity demand with speed and agility, including in response to crises and emergencies, as well as the pursuit of expanding the global agenda on volunteerism.

Why contribute to the Special Voluntary Fund?

The SVF enables UNV to implement the full scale of its ambitious Strategic Framework 2022-25. Development partners and organizations that partner up with UNV send a clear and positive signal of the importance of UNV and the placement of UN Volunteers throughout the UN system to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through the SVF, partners will enable UNV to:

Respond to emergencies and crisis; promote volunteerism globally, walk the talk on diversity and inclusion.

What is the impact of the Special Voluntary Fund?

1

Response to crises and emergencies

2

Support diversity and inclusion

3

Support data and digital solutions

4

Research and advocacy

1 Response to crises and emergencies

The SVF supports UNV in responding to **emergencies and crises worldwide**. Recently, the fund mobilized **UN Volunteers for response efforts** to the war in Ukraine, the floods in Pakistan, and the earthquake in Haiti. **Volunteers provide community-level and high-impact support**, including coordination, data and information management, and post-disaster needs assessments.



Sanam Gul (left), community UN Volunteer with WFP distributes food ration packets to people affected by floods in the Dadu District, Sindh Province, Pakistan. @WFP, 2022



UN Volunteers with the UNHCR have been instrumental in responding to the needs of people displaced by the war in Ukraine. @UNV, 2022

2 Support diversity and inclusion

The SVF plays a key role in UNV's efforts to **“walk the talk” on inclusion and diversity**, as well as to contribute to a UN that is fully representative in terms of personnel of the world it serves. This includes **amplifying gender parity and increasing the number of persons with disabilities** among UN Volunteer assignments globally. It also includes engaging UN Volunteers from **un- and underrepresented Member States**, for instance from Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean and the North Pacific.



A team of Disability Inclusion UN Volunteers in Indonesia, (from left to right) Herzel Mukandi, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer with UN Women, Chiara Aurelia, Data Support Assistant with UNDP, and Gwangsu Hwang, Monitoring and Evaluation Reporting Associate with IOM. @Anto Wicaksono, 2022



Raymonda Chamoun, national UN Volunteer Water and Irrigation Engineer with UNDP Lebanon monitors the implementation of irrigation canal rehabilitation project in Sir El-Denniyeh, North Lebanon. @UNDP, 2022

3 Support data and digital solutions

Some 114 countries have laws, schemes and policies on volunteering; 98 countries have measured volunteering at least once since 2007; and 112 countries have reported on the positive contribution of volunteering in their Voluntary National Review. All these numbers, part of the SVF-funded **UNV Knowledge Portal**, show growing recognition of volunteerism around the globe.

UNV's Digital Strategy aims to utilize its digital knowledge, platforms, and tools to continue to move one step ahead and put a stronger focus on business value for partners, UN Volunteers, candidates, and staff. On this basis, UNV commits resources from the SVF to review and update business processes for efficiency and cost-recovery improvements.

The UNV Online Volunteering service, funded through the SVF, is a powerful way for volunteers to make a difference in the world through e-based working arrangements. Online volunteers contribute to providing critical services such as communications support (graphic design, translation, campaign creation), situation analysis and data, and education and training.

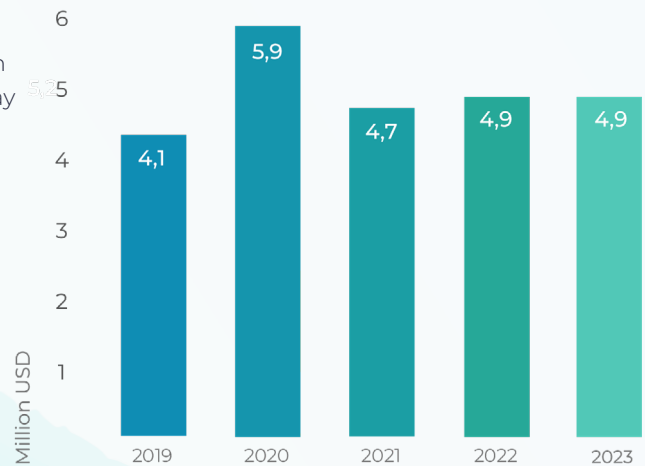
4 Research and advocacy

The SVF enables UNV to broker **research and knowledge on volunteerism** and to support the integration of data and evidence on volunteerism in development policy and planning. This includes research on the impact of volunteerism on the Sustainable Development Goals as well as activities that elevate volunteerism visibility through **special recognition initiatives** - International Volunteer Day (5 December) and award ceremonies at country level.

The SVF also enables UNV to develop the **State of the World's Volunteerism Reports**, a UN flagship publication that informs and advocates for the role and contribution of volunteerism for peace and development globally with varying themes per edition.

Finally, UNV with SVF support works closely with United Nations Country Teams across the globe on **integrating volunteerism in the country-level programming plans**.

Total annual contributions to the SVF



Contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund from 2019 - 2023



GERMANY

2019: 2,002,715
2020: 3,102,705
2021: 3,445,609
2022: 2,702,720
2023: 2,905,394



SWEDEN**

2019: 957,799
2020: 1,681,521
2022: 982,608
2023: 484,543



SWITZERLAND

2019: 802,994
2020: 818,032
2021: 864,865
2022: 842,105
2023: 875,274



FRANCE

2019: 200,000
2020: 200,000
2021: 225,940
2022: 213,220
2023: 269,687



IRELAND*

2019: 55,006
2020: 59,737
2021: 59,666
2022: 52,687
2023: 160,869



CHINA

2019: 30,000
2020: 30,000
2021: 27,000
2022: 27,000
2023: 26,000



KAZAKHSTAN

2019: 2,000
2021: 50,000
2022: 50,000
2023: 50,000



INDIA***

2019: 20,000
2020: 19,975
2022: 20,000
2023: 19,998



CZECHIA

2019: 12,974
2020: 12,544
2021: 13,709
2022: 12,761
2023: 14,038



SPAIN

2023: 53,706



THAILAND

2019: 41,628
2020: 1,521
2021: 1,443
2022: 1,325
2023: 1,464



TÜRKIYE

2020: 10,000
2023: 10,000



BANGLADESH*

2019: 2,000
2020: 2,000
2021: 2,000
2023: 2,000

Note: All contributions are in USD
* Ireland (US \$100,000) and Bangladesh (US \$2,000) 2022 contributions were accounted for in early 2023.
** Sweden's 2021 contribution (US \$1,681,521) was accounted for in 2020.
*** India's 2023 contribution (USD \$19,998) was received in 2024.

Interested to contribute to the SVF?

If your institution is interested in hearing more or exploring how to contribute to the SVF, please [visit the SVF website](https://www.unv.org/svf) or contact us on partnershipsupport@unv.org.