CALL FOR EVIDENCE AND KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ON THE VOLUNTEERING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Volunteering can be a powerful means to engage people to ensure that global efforts to meet Agenda 2030 are owned by people, implemented by people and focused on people. In December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution titled "Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (A/RES/73/140). The resolution defined the overall theme of the Global Technical Meeting (GTM2020), which will be jointly organized by United Nations Volunteers (UNV) =and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), under the theme "Reimagining volunteering for the 2030 Agenda". The meeting will be held as a special event on the margins of the 2020 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. GTM2020 will take place at a critical juncture of the 2030 Agenda.

Five years after the adoption of the SDGs, development actors are reflecting on best practices and lessons learned and considering how the SDGs can be accelerated over the next decade including through innovative solutions like volunteering. Progress on both the SDGs and the role of volunteers in their delivery has been mixed, and much work remains to be done to ensure that the potential of volunteerism to accelerate and transform sustainable development, including through helping to reach the furthest behind is realized.

To consolidate the existing information and create the community of knowledge sharing on volunteerism and how it can accelerate the SDGs, UN Volunteers Programme (UNV) will launch an online *UNV Knowledge Portal*. It will be the go-to space to access up-to-date global, regional, and national data related to volunteerism. The portal will feature an *Evidence Library* that will synthesize evidence products from partners focusing initially on cross-cutting thematic areas such as youth, gender, climate change, and inequality and other on-demand topics that will help enhance our understanding of the contribution of volunteering to a specific development topic. It will contain links to carefully curated evidence products – research, findings, case studies, policy briefs, and platforms on volunteerism. The Knowledge Portal will be launched at the GTM in July 2020.

To ensure the representation of the voices from the Asia and Pacific region, as well as collect evidence on volunteerism from the region, UNV invites all individuals or institutions in the Asia-Pacific region who have expertise in volunteerism to share their knowledge products for the Evidence Library at the global knowledge portal.

WHAT IS IN IT FOR YOU?

- Join a dynamic community of practice to share ideas and exchange knowledge on volunteerism.
- Have your work published by UNV and get it featured on the global knowledge portal on Volunteerism.

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We are inspiration in action

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE EVIDENCE PRODUCTS

1) Type of Product

The product should ideally be a published piece offering data, insights, and analysis that advances learning or increases understanding about volunteerism including enabling environment and vis-à-vis other development issues. The product may be classified under report, technical paper, guidance material, contributing paper, findings, dataset, brief, and think piece. Its format may vary from multimedia to publications.

2) Copyright

The product should be an original piece for which the author/publisher own and/or have obtained all necessary licenses to the content, and is freely accessible (no paywall) to the public. It should also not contain false or misleading, defamatory, infringing, obscene, indecent, threatening or invasive of a person's privacy or unlawful in any way.

3) Thematic Relevance

The messaging and content of the product should be relevant to volunteering and specific thematic focus of the portal, specifically the:

- Volunteering for the SDGs: Distinctive contributions of volunteering under specific SDG targets, including climate change, women empowerment, youth employment, etc.
- Enabling environment for volunteering: Nature and trends of volunteering, including enabling environment, vis-à-vis changing realities; Volunteering policy approaches; Changing terms of engagement and partnerships on volunteering, etc.
- Future trends: Issues relevant to volunteering which cover issues such as collaborative governance (governance of the commons); future of work; with focus on the global south
- Measuring the contribution of volunteering: Statistical measurement of the scale, scope, and shape of volunteering across all contexts; Outcomes or impacts of volunteering from VIOs and others' experiences

4) Strength of Evidence

Ideally, the product should outline the problem/need for action clearly, is well-researched, and have a strong narrative drawing on multiple sources of evidence (if possible using balanced data from both north and south sources). The contents should ideally add value to current debates on volunteering and/or address a gap in knowledge on a specific issue. Lastly, the conclusions and recommendations should be clear, actionable and supported by the methods, data, and analysis.

5) Other Criteria for Knowledge Partners

UNV is also looking for experts on volunteering who are interested to contribute and write a blog on the thematic focus areas mentioned above.

HOW TO APPLY

Each applicant (individual or institution) is required to submit the knowledge product and fill in a short form at the following link: http://bit.ly/3784Sdf

The deadline for the proposal is **30 January 2020**.

For any inquiries, please contact: emiliya.asadova@unv.org