



## Distinctive contributions to peacekeeping

**The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme plays a key role in supporting UN peace and development missions. UNV volunteers help to provide a secure and stable environment within which constitutional and political processes can begin to flourish, particularly in post-conflict countries and those transitioning to democratic governance.**

The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has been working with UNV since 1992. UNV volunteers constitute 30% of the international civilian personnel supporting DPKO missions worldwide.

UNV volunteers support DPKO uniformed peacekeepers and create an enabling environment for development. They are motivated by a commitment to promote sustainable development through volunteerism.

UNV volunteers have taken part in 44 peacekeeping operations since 1992. This has engaged more than 11,000 volunteers in over 16,000 assignments, with an economic value of approximately US\$500 million.

In 2007 alone, almost 3,000 UNV volunteers were engaged in 18 UN peacekeeping and special political operations. These volunteers



are highly skilled and motivated professionals. They are on average 39 years old, have 5-10 years of relevant work experience. Some 30% are female and 70% male.

UNV volunteers serving as civilian peacekeepers are involved in special development situations within the areas of crisis and post-crisis humanitarian assistance, conflict prevention, peace building and support to post-conflict electoral processes. They are drawn from dozens of professions and their work includes demobilization, disarmament & reintegration, political affairs, civil administration and human rights, as well as medical, administrative, logistical and technical roles.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the leadership of DPKO have strongly endorsed the distinctive contributions of UNV volunteers to peacekeeping operations. The 59<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly acknowledged “the

### United Nations Volunteers

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UN Volunteers is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



valuable contribution of the United Nations Volunteers in the United Nations system ... and takes note of DPKO's intention to continue its efforts to exploit the potential for increased use of UNV volunteers in peace-keeping operations in those functions or skills which are not normally available in the Secretariat or which are limited" (resolution 59/532 on financing the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, DPKO).

The United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) drew on almost 700 UNV volunteers in 2007, representing almost 40% of the mission's international civilian personnel.

UNV volunteers help to identify, localize, disarm and repatriate foreign combatants in remote areas, monitor and raise awareness about human rights violations, and act as spokespersons for the mission. Since facilitating the presidential and legislative

UNV volunteers are currently supporting a large number of UN peacekeeping missions:

- Afghanistan (UNAMA)
- Burundi (BINUB)
- Central African Republic (BONUCA)
- Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)
- Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE)
- Georgia (UNOMIG)
- Guinea Bissau (UNOGBIS)
- Haiti (MINUSTAH)
- Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI)
- Kosovo (UNMIK)
- Liberia (UNMIL)
- Nepal (UNMIN)
- Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL)
- Sudan (UNMIS)
- Darfur/Sudan (UNAMID)
- Timor-Leste (UNMIT)
- MINURSO (Western Sahara)

"In November 2005, my father was tortured and killed by armed men on his way back from Northern Uganda. Seven months later I met two of those ex-combatants when they came to seek amnesty. I had joined UNV attached to the Amnesty Commission, carrying out registration and needs assessment, which calls for re-humanizing the perpetrators of the conflict. There will be no future and peace without forgiveness and reconciliation among victims and the perpetrators of the conflict."

*A national UNV volunteer's personal testimony, 2007*

elections in the DRC in 2006 – the largest electoral operation ever supported by the UN – UNV volunteers have been developing the capacity of thousands of national election commission staff, enabling greater investment in civic and voter education.

UNV is also working through the United Nations Mission in Nepal to support the effective and timely implementation of the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and its transformation into lasting sustainable peace. In 2007, UNV volunteers worked within the Mission in the areas of child protection, civil affairs, gender, public information, as well as technical, administrative and electoral support. UNV helped conduct the 2008 elections for a Constituent Assembly and provided a team of UNV volunteer electoral monitors to review and report on all aspects of the electoral process.