The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

Volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people in tackling development challenges, and it can transform the pace and nature of development. Volunteerism benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer by strengthening trust, solidarity and reciprocity among citizens, and by purposefully creating opportunities for participation.

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

All around the world, UN Volunteers help people lead more productive and fulfilling lives, such as through their work on projects in quality education and improved healthcare, or by ensuring equitable access to community resources and sustainable practices.

UNV also operates an Online Volunteering service, which connects United Nations entities, civil society organizations and public institutions directly with highly capable and motivated individuals who provide their support over the internet. The United Nations Volunteers programme is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and reports to the UNDP Executive Board.

www.unv.org
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Dear Reader,

I’m pleased to introduce to you this first edition of the UNV Tanzania Newsletter and the great achievements and relentless efforts of our national and international UN Volunteers. There is no doubt that UN Volunteers have been critical catalysts in advancing progress towards the SDGs and the 2030 agenda, as many of our volunteers are in the unique positions to positively influence the way people relate to their communities and contribute to the development efforts of all the UN Agencies and other partners in Tanzania.

UN Volunteers are a true gift to the socio-economic development sphere. They are global citizens who are willing and available to provide their expertise and dedication to change lives for the better, sometimes in difficult circumstances.

The UN system and other partners in Tanzania have enjoyed the contributions of both national and international UN Volunteers in various areas of work ranging from Inclusive and Sustainable Growth, Environment, Education, Innovation, Reproductive Health, Gender, Communications, Operations, Protection, Climate Change and Governance.

UNVs have demonstrated the ability to work effectively with a wide range of partners including communities, local authorities, central government and civil society. A majority of UNVs are currently engaged in our Youth and Community Empowerment initiatives that require strong trust with the youth themselves, community elders, local and regional authorities. High levels of expertise combined with humility have helped to yield results beyond our expectations. Development actors value the spirit of volunteerism that UNVs bring to bear upon the young men and women they encounter, which has helped to raise youth mentors that then multiply the impact of our collaborative work. Nine hundred and two (902) national and international UN Volunteers have served in Tanzania for the past ten years.

UNDP, the administrative agent for UNV has hosted over 52% of UNVs in Tanzania and we look forward to hosting more. UNV Programme is also appreciated for ensuring that the right people are matched for the right position and circumstances without delay.

The great aspirations of Tanzania in the coming decade require a critical mass of young professionals, young men and women, that are ready to take advantage of the opportunity that the world offers today. With emergence of the digital economy and acknowledgment by governments and other development actors of the demographic dividend we need to harness in Tanzania and Africa, UNVs are needed to mobilize youth, communities and other actors across the country to help accelerate Tanzania’s achievement of Upper Middle Income Status and the SDGs while leaving no man, woman, child or place behind.

As you read through the articles of this Newsletter, you will see not only the commitment, diversity and experiences of our UN Volunteers but also the passion towards making a tangible difference. I would like to thank all the UNVs who have served in various UN agencies and organizations in Tanzania. My sincere hope is that it has also been a mutually great learning and enjoyable experience for them.

Christine Musisi
UNDP Resident Representative
United Republic of Tanzania
Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the UNV Tanzania Newsletter 2019 – 2020. The articles and stories in this newsletter showcase an important comparative advantage of UN Volunteers in Tanzania. It provides a snapshot of how UN Volunteers contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 agenda. It is my sincere hope that through these stories, we can better enable volunteering in the country, and the key lessons learnt informed by a wide range of evidence from our Volunteers in the field will help us to reimagine volunteering for the 2030 Agenda.

Volunteerism is not a new phenomenon in the Tanzanian society. It has been part of the culture and civilization of this diverse society since ancient times. Some of the well-known traditional voluntary communal initiatives that have existed in the country include the type of volunteerism whereby communities collectively and freely provide labour to needy individuals or the whole community during various occasions, mainly during ploughing, sowing, and harvesting periods. In addition, Tanzania has always demonstrated community self-help and mutual social support initiatives with a view to promoting development at the grassroots.

In Tanzania, volunteerism is inspired by Tanzania’s deep-rooted values on volunteering and its cultural philosophy of Ujamaa. The word Ujamaa comes from the Swahili word which means ‘familyhood’, ‘extended family’, ‘brotherhood’; it exerts that a person becomes a person through the people or community - African socialism. The spirit of ‘others’ or ‘community’ bringing units of families together, and fostering cohesion, love, and service.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly recognises volunteer groups as stakeholders to achieve the 17 SDGs. Importantly, volunteering has a ripple effect. It inspires others and advances the transformations required for the SDGs to take root in communities. Volunteerism is universal and strengthens social inclusion, civic engagement, deepens solidarity and solidifies ownership of development results. It is indeed a global phenomenon that transcends boundaries, religions and cultures.

UN Volunteers in Tanzania contribute to expanding the space in which we achieve the future we want by engaging greater numbers of people in local and national planning and action for achieving the 17 SDGs and 2030 Agenda. Volunteers provide technical support and enhance capacity in all thematic goal areas. Through volunteering, citizens
build their resilience, enhance their knowledge base and gain a sense of responsibility for their own community. Social cohesion and trust are strengthened through their individual contributions and collective volunteer actions. They respond to a special calling above self and with their special commitment, passion and compassion as they bring in new ideas and innovations, which contribute significantly to sustainable development in the country.

UNVs are contributing to the development efforts of all the 23 UN agencies in Tanzania, which together in the spirit of United Nations Delivering as One (DaO) are supporting the Government of Tanzania to achieve national development goals set out in the National Visions (the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and Zanzibar Vision 2020) and the Second Five Year Development Plan (FYDP II 2016-2021) and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar’s MKUZA Successor Strategy 2016-2021, through the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II) 2016-2021. A Programme of Cooperation between the Government of Tanzania and the UN System that enhance opportunities for social, economic and political development which leaves no-one behind.

Articles and stories in this newsletter showcase an important comparative advantage of UN Volunteers in Tanzania. It provides a snapshot of how volunteering contributes to the achievement of the SDGs, and

As you read this newsletter, I hope you will be inspired by UN Volunteers’ stories of hope, hard work, innovation, perseverance and resilience as well as the richness and impact of the UN’s work in the country. I congratulate all UN Volunteers in Tanzania for their dedication and unselfish sacrifice. They are truly inspiration in action!

Christian Mwamanga
Country Coordinator
United Nations Volunteers, Tanzania
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<td>25+ years</td>
<td>10 years (8 years with master’s degree)</td>
<td>3 - 48 months</td>
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<td><strong>UN Volunteers</strong></td>
<td>22+ years</td>
<td>At least 2 years of experience</td>
<td>3 - 48 months</td>
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<td><strong>UN Youth Volunteers</strong></td>
<td>18 - 29 years</td>
<td>0-2 years</td>
<td>6 - 24 months</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>University</strong></td>
<td>18 - 29 years</td>
<td>0-2 years/should be students or recent graduates</td>
<td>3 - 6 months</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>UN Community Volunteers</strong></td>
<td>18+ years</td>
<td>Basic education maximum</td>
<td>1 - 48 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Online Volunteers</strong></td>
<td>18+ years</td>
<td>Opportunity specific</td>
<td>1 - 26 weeks</td>
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Combine different categories to fit your project’s needs
Experience from UNV Partners in Tanzania
NFPA Tanzania – on both the mainland and in our sub-liaison office in Zanzibar – and our stakeholders benefit greatly from the expertise, energies and skills that UN Volunteers bring to our programmes in both the development and humanitarian nexus, supporting our mission of delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled and accelerating progress towards the three transformative results that UNFPA has pledged to achieve by 2030 – zero unmet need for family planning; zero preventable maternal death; and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices – and the Sustainable Development Goals.

UN Volunteers bring alive the best of global citizenship, allowing talent everywhere – in-country and beyond – to travel, and empowering individuals, especially young people, who want to make a difference. With their diverse backgrounds and experiences in different settings, UNFPA recognizes the added value that they bring to our work to advancing gender equality in Tanzania and to building a better and more equal future for women and girls and young people.

Their contributions to our programmes have been wide-ranging, from supporting innovative approaches to improving access to high-quality maternal and child health care to prioritizing the rights and choices of some of the furthest behind adolescent girls in coordinated humanitarian response efforts. They have also supported interventions that accelerate the elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM).

I want to thank all UNVs who have served with UNFPA and applaud all volunteers out there for the great work they are doing. As we enter the Decade of Delivery, with 10 years remaining to achieve the SDGs, we look forward to continuing our partnership to deliver on the bold pledge of the 2030 Agenda for every women and girl everywhere in Tanzania, leaving no one behind.

Jacqueline Mahon
UNFPA Representative
United Republic of Tanzania
volunteers bring unique perspective, experience and energy to UNICEF and help us achieve our mission to advance the rights of every child especially the most vulnerable. Through their creativity and passion, UNVs deliver innovative solutions for children under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Engagement between UNICEF and UNV is based on two critical ideas. The first is that volunteerism is universal and inclusive, and that commitment and engagement are important to be a good volunteer. The second is that volunteerism brings benefits to both societies at large and the individual volunteer.

At UNICEF we have always been encouraged by the commitment of the UNVs who work with us. Through their work, UNVs not only make a positive difference in their communities but also gain as individuals.

For instance, volunteering helps gain experience, improves self-confidence, and teaches new skills. Many UNVs have gone on to do exciting things with their lives after gaining valuable experience and skills at UNICEF. At UNICEF Tanzania, we are delighted to have volunteers from across specialties with a wide range of skills and experience.

The seven UNVs (both national and international), with us currently, are an excellent asset and provide valuable support across various sections including Operations, Children and AIDS (CAIDS), CAP, Innovation, Child Protection and Education.

They provide valuable technical and coordination support to multi-partner projects; support engagement of young people in UNICEF programming across various priorities including Education and CAIDS. UNVs are also supporting a country-wide volunteer network and helping build capacity of young people to express their opinions through reportage and filmmaking. They are shaping innovation work and making it possible for young people across the country to share their opinions through new and innovative platforms.

Finally, and most importantly, we are benefited from having young volunteers who continue to share their perspectives and provide UNICEF with valuable insights into the aspirations, hopes and challenges of children and young people today.

Shalini Bahuguna
UNICEF Representative
United Republic of Tanzania
The immense contributions by UN Volunteers to UN Women Tanzania Country Office is making a huge difference in the way we are delivering for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. With eight UN Volunteers currently in our country team, their work is enhancing effective delivery of programs and operational services in the areas we are operating. Our work in Tanzania spans through eight regions and Zanzibar, where we are working to transform the lives of women and girls in some of the hard to reach areas. This demands a robust team committed to the principle of leaving no one behind.

The UN Volunteers, both local and international, are instrumental in supporting our work in different programs and innovations including mobilizing traditional leaders and local communities for the implementation of strategies aimed at ending violence against women and girls; supporting implementing partners to economically empower out of school adolescent girls and young women; gender statistics; and contributing to the development of the National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

We are privileged to have unique volunteers that have demonstrated excellent leadership skills and are even undertaking key roles such as running our sub-country office in Zanzibar. As a result, they have become the face of UN Women. Their hard work and multidisciplinary backgrounds is bringing new perspectives to our work in support of creative ways and innovations for solutions to the challenges women and girls face. This depth of experience and skills in ICT, monitoring and reporting, peace, administration and human resources, gender statistics and programming, and health has improved delivery of results, especially in light of human resource limitations. In the advent of The COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women had to shift to a crisis mode, which demanded a new way of working to address the impact of the pandemic on women and girls. Our dynamic UNVs have propelled our efforts, proving they were up to the task. Through various programs, they have worked closely with our partners to map intervention strategies for the protection of livelihoods for women and girls. As work shifted to virtual platforms, we are depending on our UNV to ensure business continuity.

In Zanzibar, we have depended on our Volunteer to oversee a face mask production project that has managed to create jobs for 60 young women whose businesses were affected by COVID-19. In the remote Ngorongoro district in Arusha region, we have supported more than 100 out of school adolescent girls and young women with sewing machines and smart phones, thanks to our team of UNVs who have supported this COVID-19 recovery intervention. We have also seen a lot of innovation by the UNVs in the area of partnerships when it comes to joint monitoring of our programs and building capacities of women and girls for economic empowerment. It is indeed an honour to work with such a vibrant team of volunteers in all our programs, and in operations. I would like to thank all the UNVs for their immense contributions, together we are a great team on a journey towards ensuring a gender-equal Tanzania.

Hodan Addou
UN Women Representative
United Republic of Tanzania
UN Volunteers: A Catalyst to execution of UNCDF mandate in Tanzania

UNCDF is making a significant contribution to the national-led efforts to invest in development, enhancing peoples lives and transforming communities.

“We are very much appreciative of the incredible work of UN Volunteers within the United Nations family but also as they serve the people of Tanzania who are the ultimate beneficiaries of their work” Peter Malika, Head of UNCDF Tanzania

Meet Ms. Mariam Simba and Ms. Anna Ferracuti, two young women coming from different and diverse backgrounds, professionally and culturally. The two are playing an active role in the execution of our mandate and supporting the national priorities. Mariam joined UNCDF as a youth volunteer with energy and dedication towards telling the stories and the impact of our work and the United Nations to the local communities.

“Volunteering at UNCDF has been a journey which has unveiled a “dream come true”. I now see myself spending most of my days in the fields, supporting different people from the communities” said, Mariam Simba

“By committing myself as a volunteer, I have actively and largely participated in awareness creation and dissemination of Sustainable Development Agenda as contained in document Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

When Anna Ferracuti interviewed for the position of ‘Programme Coordinator, Financial Inclusion’ in the United Republic of Tanzania, she did not fully understand the question “How do you think that Volunteerism can contribute to the SDGs?“.

Only through practice she realized that “it’s not about SDGs”: According to Anna, “it’s not about volunteerism per se and its direct effect on achieving each one of the SDGs, but how I could use volunteerism and what it means as my lenses and yardstick in my work, to better contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.”

Overall, there must be more room to accommodate volunteers in all disciplines and not just in development. For the young people, the light and awareness that needs to come through, is that it is a good thing to volunteer and associate it with an opportunity to build critical skills and for pursuing their dreams and passions.

Peter Malika
Head of UNCDF
United Republic of Tanzania
UNV – UNEP ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP TO ACCELERATE ACHIEVEMENTS

UNEP in Tanzania has immensely benefited from partnering with UNV program through the availed young talented volunteers (categorized as UN youth volunteers) as well as the skilled and experienced professionals. These included the nationals of Sweden, Korea and Philippines. While learning and development are a central part of UN youth volunteers, UNEP has had an experience of open-minded, innovative and creative youths who actively engaged and provided advice on various initiatives including advocacy and awareness raising campaigns and events. The expertise and contribution offered through the professional experienced volunteers has also proved useful in the environmental agenda and the mandate of UNEP in Tanzania.

Given its strong focus on the normative work, advocacy and research, with limited country presence, UNEP has greatly benefitted from the pool of volunteers with diverse skills and backgrounds. The enhanced human resource capacity through partnership with UNV program, has enabled UNEP to spread its tentacles in fulfilling its role as the leading environmental authority in the United Nations system, even on the ground, as is the case with Tanzania. The available support through UNVs has enabled UNEP to embrace the trust and responsibility to lead the Donor Partners Group on Environment; to lead the Environment Outcome group of the UN Development Assistance Framework; to provide expertise and support in the mainstreaming sustainability and resilience as part of the Programming Principles in the UN business plan in Tanzania.

In fulfilling all these responsibilities, UNVs have been an integral part to provide the needed support, expertise and technical advice that enabled UNEP’s smooth and efficient leadership and coordination of the multi-disciplinary team of stakeholders, despite its limited presence on the ground. Through these commitments and roles that UNVs contributed to, UNEP has played a significant role in enhanced partnerships, built trust and strengthened coordination amongst stakeholders in the environmental agenda in Tanzania, which subsequently created awareness and raised commitments in addressing the emerging environmental challenges in the country. Through UNV’s creativity and innovation, UNEP in Tanzania established non-traditional partnerships and joint awareness creation initiatives and events with community of divers and community of cyclers (to name a few), to campaign against marine litter and air pollution. Integrating the work of the UNVs in all these engagements and programs has also provided the desired space for learning and development for the UN youth volunteers, as well as the professional volunteers, hence becoming a truly symbiotic relationship with mutual benefits to both UNEP and UNV program. The international experience brought through the professional experienced international volunteers has added value into the key programmatic aspects of the UNEP’s programs in Tanzania. It has been fulfilling to see the learning and growing curve of the UNVs within UNEP and in Tanzania as a whole, even as they also integrated their creativity, knowledge and skills into the work of UNEP in Tanzania. With the emerging environmental challenges, the ambitious targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and curb climate change impacts, UNVs program can play a critical role and become an integral part in accelerating the achievement of the desired results towards sustainable transformational development.

Clara Makenya
Head of UNEP
United Republic of Tanzania
I decided to volunteer because I want to play my part in addressing the many socio-economic related challenges people face in our society. I believe I can make a change through volunteering. Luckily my journey as a UN youth volunteer began several months after I graduated from Sokoine University of Agriculture, in Tanzania. I was seeking for volunteering opportunities across various organizations that promote volunteerism and came across a job opening for a UN Youth Volunteer in Adolescent Participation on the UNDP Tanzania website and applied.

August 2018, I reported at UNICEF Tanzania head office in Dar es Salaam, only to find myself being the youngest man in the whole building. It was not clear to me why that was until I understood the partnership between UNV and UNICEF. “To form the UNV/UNICEF Youth Advocates Program which not only serves as a platform for how young people can be part of the UN system as youth advocates but also to promote volunteerism and youth engagement”, hence led to the recruitment of up to 40 young people were recruited as UN youth volunteers and stationed in UNICEF country offices globally enabling UNICEF to work with young people for young people.

As a youth volunteer, I have been able to actively participate in national youth events that UNICEF support. To mention a few, World Children’s Day, International Youth Day, International Youth Week, Innovation Week, and International Volunteer Day (IVD). Through such, safe youth spaces promote the UN Volunteers program and volunteerism but also showcase some of UNICEFs’ adolescent and youth engagement initiatives. What I really love about my work is when I get the opportunity to share my volunteering experience with young people I get to meet across Tanzania. And through my actions on the ground, I inspire other young people, peers, and especially children on how much they can contribute to building resilient communities.

Inclusiveness ...
Inclusiveness means Fair, a Fair chance for people to have an opportunity to participate and be meaningfully engaged and creating a fair chance for everyone, people who are marginalized, people who are living with a disability, people living with HIV, people from different races, different cultural settings, anyone, make sure that everyone’s voice matters. I would like to encourage other young people out there to become volunteers like myself and become part of an even bigger entity of change and development. We are Inspiration in Action and through volunteering, we help build resilient communities.
With a population of over 50 million people and borders with eight different countries – it’s safe to say the United Republic of Tanzania is an important player in the East African region. The United Nations plays a significant role in Tanzania with 23 UN agencies working closely with the government to implementing development and humanitarian activities – including the hosting of over 300,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi.

With 77 volunteers based in different UN Agencies all over the country, UN Volunteers (UNV) is working with communities to find durable solutions in multiple sectors including health, education, women’s economic empowerment, and ending gender-based violence. During his visit to Tanzania, to kick-off his tour of East Africa, UNV Executive Coordinator, Mr. Olivier Adam, got a chance to meet with many of these volunteers and hear about what they’ve been able to accomplish and also about some of the challenges they have faced.

He also met with the UN Resident Coordinator and heads and representatives of the UN Agencies where he advocated for the UN Country Team to open up the door for more volunteerism as 80 per cent of the current 77 UNVs are spread across just nine agencies – UNDP, UNHCR, UN WOMEN, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNCDF, UNEP, UNDRR & WHO. Mr. Adam reiterated UNVs commitment to working with UN agencies to leverage the talent and enthusiasm of volunteers to enhance the impact of existing programmes in-country.

During his visit to Tanzania, the Executive Coordinator visited Zanzibar where he met with the President of Zanzibar, H.E. Dr. Ali Mohammed Shein, and got the chance to discuss how UNV can support the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar’s development priorities.

Among the areas of potential collaboration that the President highlighted were finding volunteers to support the teaching of science and mathematics in schools where there is currently a shortage, and also providing technical expertise to hospitals to build capacity for specialization in areas such as orthopedic surgery. The two leaders also discussed the possibility of integrating volunteers into an incubation centre where UNVs could help women and youth to develop entrepreneurship skills.
UNV Executive Coordinator, Mr. Olivier Adam meets President of Zanzibar, H.E. Dr. Ali Mohammed Shein at the State House in Zanzibar.

UNV Executive Coordinator, Mr. Adam Olivier met the Representatives and Heads of UN Agencies in Tanzania to discuss UNV’s Strategic Framework 2018-2021 and the role of UN Volunteers in support of UNDAP II and the SDGs implementation in Tanzania.
United Nations Volunteers provide expert services in areas of sustainable development goals (SDGs), capacity building, poverty reduction, education projects, child protection and others falling within the United Nations’ Development Assistance Plan II for the period 2016 - 2021 (UNDAP II).

The field visit to UN Volunteers in the country came as a result of UNV Country Coordinator’s visit to the President’s Office -Public Service Management in Dodoma to discuss among other things how the government can be of support to speed up work permits processes to UN Volunteers in Tanzania. The purpose of visit mission was to observe and examine the work of the UN Volunteers in the country, listen to their experiences in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan II for the period 2016 - 2021 (UNDAP II), whilst also supporting Tanzania’s five year Development Plan towards its aspiration of becoming a middle income Country by 2025.

The Heads of UN Agencies in Tanzania briefed the team about their agency’s mandates and how the UN Volunteers attached to their agencies support them in fulfilling their mandates. The meeting established how the UN Volunteers play a critical role in fostering the UN agenda in Tanzania. The team got the opportunity to speak to UN Volunteers and their Supervisors which helped to shed more light on the role of UN Volunteers in the Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) projects conducted in Mwanza, Zanzibar and Tanga regions. Government delegation acknowledged that UN Volunteers perform a wide range of skilled activities in the health sector by complementing government’s efforts to curbing preventable maternal death; nutrition; water and sanitation; raising awareness about HIV/AIDS and other health related activities both in the mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

UN Volunteers contribute to Gender issues by advocating leadership roles for females, increased female participation in political arena, gender mainstreaming, fighting against gender violence and enhanced gender representation in all walks of life in Tanzania.

The mission team further noted that UN Volunteers play a significant role in voluntary repatriation, local integration and granting of affordable financial services to refugees. They help in ensuring that un-served and underserved populations like refugees, asylum-seekers, rural women, youth, and smallholder farmers receive the services they need to become more self-reliant, increase their resilience and improve their economic lives. Moreover it was acknowledged that UN Volunteers play roles in environmental issues through their various activities under UNEP as well as collaborating with the
Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) to complement efforts of the government of Tanzania in reducing/preventing violent extremism (PVE) in pilot regions of Mwanza, Zanzibar and Tanga.

In general, UN Volunteers involvement in UN activities, has brought diverse levels of expertise to support the overall agenda of the UN in Tanzania, and that of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. The different UNV modalities allow for recruitment of experienced and youth volunteers. The team noted with utmost appreciation the decision of UN agencies in hosting UN Volunteers and amongst them ensure that national UN Volunteers are included. Nevertheless, the team acknowledged that given the number of UN Agencies in Tanzania versus their vast mandates and multiple projects, there is a big room for UN Agencies Heads to increase the number of UNV’s they take.

The team further acknowledged that if all Heads of UN Agencies in Tanzania resolve to take more volunteers in their projects, some being Nationals, more youth and senior volunteers will get additional opportunities to serve as UN Volunteers, as there is a room for more. In the spirit of recognizing the skilled contribution of the UN Volunteers in complementing efforts of the government in various endeavors, the government team recommended to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to consider requesting national UN Volunteers to join the government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in order to support the interdepartmental coordination of matters related to various projects funded by UN Agencies. The remarkable job done by the National UN Volunteers engaged in a PVE Projects in Mwanza and Zanzibar is a clear testimony that volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and benefits both societies and the individual volunteers at large. The visit was an excellent initiative to show case our excellent partnerships and relationships we have had over the years with the government of Tanzania.

Through this initiative we were not only be able to engage with the government representatives to address the challenges we encounter during the accreditation of work permits or exemption certificates to our International UN Volunteers, but also it was an important platform to show case how we have been able to contribute to building capacities of our local/national staff through knowledge transfer or exchange as we implement various Agencies’ mandate in the country.

In addition, this visit helped the Tanzania government to familiarize with the UN Volunteers work as well as establish a clear understanding of UN Volunteers contribution in the country’s development.
prior to the 2019 International Volunteer Day (IVD) celebrations, the UNV Country Coordinator Mr. Christian Mwamanga sat down with the UNDP Resident Representative in Tanzania Ms. Christine Musisi for an interview on Volunteerism, her experience as UN Volunteer and how it has impacted her personal and career growth.

“Volunteerism is Essential for Harnessing individual potential.”

UNDP Resident Representative Tanzania
Ms. Christine Musisi
Mr. Christian Mwamanga: Can you please introduce yourself?

Ms. Christine Musisi: “Thank you very much for this privilege Christian, for inviting me to be part of this global agenda, my name is Christine Musisi, I am the UNDP Resident Representative Tanzania. I’ve been here for just three months, and I am very excited to be contributing to the development of this country through the UNDP initiative the United Nations work and of cause the work of the UN Volunteers.”

Mr. Christian Mwamanga: What was your volunteering experience, where was the assignment, and when did you volunteer with the UN?

Ms. Christine Musisi: “Well, actually, I entered into the UN System as a UN Volunteer. At that time, I was working with the Health Education Authority in London, and I saw this opportunity in Mongolia to contribute to Poverty alleviation and women’s empowerment. So, I took up that work because I felt then it would give me the opportunity to really contribute to challenges the people face on a day to day bases. Especially to contribute to poverty reduction.”

“So, I worked inside the government of Mongolia, I was placed in the poverty alleviation programme office.

And I think the greatest experience I had there is that I was fully integrated, into the team, I was fully integrated into the society, sometimes they even forgot that (laughs) I was a foreigner because as a UN Volunteer I was no threat as if I was somebody who is coming with directives, “this is the knowledge that you should take, and these are the perspectives that you must take” I came in, and I was accepted as somebody who has good experience but who is also ready to learn and co-create solutions for the challenges that we are facing.

“We worked with a team of national UN Volunteers, ‘we established a team with national UN Volunteers’ with whom we were able to introduce gender equality in policy and planning. We provided training to all local governments in all 21 regions, we worked with the parliamentarians to review, (and the world bank and UNDP) to review national policy, and I even ended up organizing a big charity concert on addressing issues of poverty.

Where, as a UNV, I was told that if you are to get the philharmonic orchestra to play free of charge for you have to sing a Mongolian ballet. So, it’s a combination really of integration, at the policy level, at the technical level, community level and society level. It’s a beautiful movement the UN Volunteers, that really gives you the confidence to contribute effectively.”

Mr. Christian Mwamanga: What are the main achievements of your assignment as a UN Volunteer?

Ms. Christine Musisi: “Well, I think the first one was the fact that we started a Local Development Fund that had a micro-financing element in it, which did not work very well, and by examining how micro-financing can be adopted to Mongolia, we were able to introduce a microfinance institution.

We came together with a number of NGOs and with UNDP leadership, and that micro-finance institution developed the right products and tools that made it sustainable, it became a bank after I had left. So, I think my legacy is that we started off

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For a country to transform into its version, of a middle-income country, of an inclusive society, it is important that every region, every community, every man and woman is mobilized to make a difference, and this is not only through the work that they do in their normal jobs or firms or businesses. But that they are mobilized to give back to the community. To volunteer to make something better within their community.”

- Christine Musisi

Volunteering for the Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda in TANZANIA

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something really good that reaches out to the poor in terms of financial inclusion.”

“The second achievement was that we initiated the Local Development Fund and the Women in Development Fund, which ensured that, (you know) women had access to development financing. And that also was quite successful. But pulling all this together the fact that the work we were doing on gender equality and women's empowerment on local development and poverty reduction, ended in a review of national policy with the ministry of social welfare, for me was a very big achievement.”

“Issues of gender, poverty reduction came to the fore fact, not just because of me, but because I was the (you know) facilitating from behind and supporting the government, the partners, the NGOs, really to strengthen capacity and to let them shine.”

Mr. Christian Mwamanga: What did you learn from volunteering? What personal/professional growth did you gain from volunteering experience?

Ms. Christine Musisi: “I think the most important thing was about the preparation for volunteerism that I had, where we had the opportunity to be oriented, ‘why are we, volunteers? What difference are we going to make?’

How do we conduct ourselves?’ and I found that helped me to seek to be useful and helpful way beyond my own written terms of reference. I found that it taught me to be available willing and to do my utmost best to make a difference in the sphere of influence that I was put in. And that helped me to go beyond bounds.

And after that, actually, I ended up in Kyrgyzstan as a Chief Technical Advisor for a Poverty alleviation programme from being a UN Volunteer. There were questions with the headquarters in New York, ‘Is she senior enough? Can she really do it?’ But the person who was recruiting me said we don’t need somebody who would come and dictate high-level policies, we need to resolve real problems at the community level, and that is really where we started.”

“And from there it took me to the regional level, I was recruited as a Regional Policy Specialist and advisor on poverty reduction and Civil Society Empowerment, and that was in Bratislava in Slovakia. I was covering Eastern Europe, the former CIS countries central Asia, to really look at what are the programmes, policies, and laws that can aid the empowerment of communities to develop and come out of poverty but also contribute to the transformation of their countries, and those were many economies in transition. How do you transition from a planned economy to a capitalist system that is also inclusive of all people without leaving people behind?”

Mr. Christian Mwamanga: The International Volunteer Day (IVD) theme for 2019 is empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality through volunteerism. What does inclusiveness mean to you, and why is it so important to be inclusive?

Ms. Christine Musisi: “Well, thank you very much, the issue of inclusiveness is one of the reasons that I’m in the UN because we believe that development must be accelerated, and economies must grow. But if you leave the majority of the population behind, you’re not really developing, and you’re not growing. It’s about ensuring that every man and woman is able or empowered to influence decisions that affect their lives, that’s one.”

“Second, it’s about ensuring that every man and woman is empowered to contribute to making their lives better, the lives of their communities better, and the whole development of the nation better, be it socially, economically, politically. It’s very important that we do not leave anybody or any place behind.”

“Sometimes we have very developed cities while many rural areas are left behind. We should not leave behind people leaving with disabilities, we
should not forget the importance of young people and the contribution that they can make to this day and age. Young people are so special especially of these days, we call the ‘Dot Com’ they have fantastic ideas, fantastic ways of doing things, that if harnessed, could actually help us to accelerate development, especially in Africa and in Tanzania.”

Mr. Christian Mwamanga: IVD theme for 2019 is about ‘inclusion,’ how relevant is ‘inclusiveness,’ and ‘SDG 10’ to your service as UNDP Resident Representative?

Ms. Christine Musisi: “Well, first of all, personally am glad that as a woman, I have been given an opportunity to lead UNDP. Secondly, it is about ensuring that the way we programme, we make sure that we are inclusive of all sectors of society. Even as we recruit, we are inclusive also of men, women and of all sectors of society.

We must ensure that every policy, every programme, every action we take does not leave anybody behind. That’s what it means to me.” So, it’s not a straight forward thing, you have to actually invest to have the data to see who are we working with, who are we targeting? And that data must be desegregated, and then very specific actions must be taken to address the specific needs and interests of women, of men, of children and of people living in different conditions.”

Mr. Christian Mwamanga: Describe how UNVs under UNDP impact your organizational mandate in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 10

Ms. Christine Musisi: “UN Volunteers, we already have about 65 volunteers overall in Tanzania? And we are expecting that this will be even more because it gives the opportunity for the UN System to draw on expertise especially national expertise and international expertise to advance the work of the United Nations.” “And one of the good experiences I’ve had is combining National and International UN Volunteers around a specific task. It has always yielded very good fruit. First of all, because they know they are part of the same system and agenda so already there is a comradeship there. Secondly, the international comes in with external knowledge and experience, but the national has the indigenous knowledge, the connections, and new answers that make the work move smoothly. I would see UN Volunteers as critical in mobilizing capacity that is needed to scale up the work that we do as the United Nations.

First of all, they have the expertise. Secondly, they are volunteering so they are not costly, and sometimes we feel ‘Ooh! Are we exploiting them?’ The good thing is that they are also learning, their CV is improving and get opportunities to be promoted and the spirit of volunteerism brings a new flavor to the development space /to the development arena. Which makes those that are working with them, willing to open up to address even the difficult solutions that they wouldn’t normally open up to a consultant. So, it’s a very valuable resource, one, for enabling and scaling up development but it’s also very valuable resources for harnessing the capacity in Tanzania to contribute to development.

Mr. Christian Mwamanga: Diversity is an important asset: briefly describe how UN Volunteers showcase this in a multicultural workplace?

Ms. Christine Musisi: “Actually, having gone through the interview process for UN Volunteers, which actually, that interview process helped me to adopt interviews for some very important work that we were doing at the community level. One of the most critical elements of that is to see if one would be able to work effectively, productively, in a multicultural environment, and also in a difficult environment. So, the issue of diversity is very critical, and that’s why you see that when you have UN Volunteers, you have teams from Europe, the US, from different parts of Africa, from Tanzania and they are working together as a family. And even though they come separately in the different agencies where they are placed, they regroup, reflect, empower one another and then go back into the system. And that is something I value very much.
Volunteerism is Essential for Harnessing individual potential

because it ensures that they remain productive, they increase their learning and knowledge constantly (continuous learning) and (you know) they bring new ideas into a difficult situation.”

Mr. Christian Mwamanga: UNV is administered by the UNDP. How do you intend to advocate for and promote volunteerism in and outside the UN System?

Ms. Christine Musisi: “Thank you, Christian, for that difficult question, but I will start with what I would like to see, that for the country to transform into its version, of a middle-income country, of an inclusive society, it is important that every region, every community, every man and woman is mobilized to make a difference, and this is not only through the work that they do in their normal jobs or firms or businesses. But that they are mobilized to give back to the community. To volunteer to make something better within their community.” “I’ would like for us to work together, with the UN resident coordinator, with UN Volunteers system with UNDP and the rest of the UN system, to see that volunteerism is a natural component of each of the UN agencies’ work. That would be very important for us as a UN System.”

“Thirdly, I would also wish to work with the government and the other partners, with the UN system to see that there is a national volunteerism policy and activation plan that can nationally, with all the relevant government departments, civil society organizations actually mobilize and establish a national volunteer corps system or a volunteerism system, that mobilizes volunteers throughout the country. I think we can, well together with the existing volunteer ecosystem, together link up with UN to see how we can develop that nationally. I know we worked together with you (referring to Mr. Christian Mwamanga) in the African Union to develop the Africa volunteer corps and it’s something that I would like to see us doing here in Tanzania (you know) so that we’d not only add value but we multiply value in Tanzania.”

Mr. Christian Mwamanga: This being your first UNDP country team retreat in Tanzania, what is your key take away?

Ms. Christine Musisi: “Well our biggest take away is that as UNDP we are ready to work as one team with one vision to ensure that we bring integrated solutions to accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the vision of this country, we are ready and willing.”

Mr. Christian Mwamanga: What should we expect for 2020?

Ms. Christine Musisi: “A very robust programme and robust team. To contribute to the UN system, trough the UN system to the government of Tanzania.”
Christine is a United Nations International Volunteer from Uganda, started her professional career serving a refugee camp in Uganda, and now works as an Associate Fleet Management Officer with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Tanzania.

We cannot underestimate the value of volunteering in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations. Twenty months of international volunteering have been fulfilling experience and has had a positive impact on my career, a decision made after years of humanitarian work at both national and expatriate level.

As the Associate Fleet Management Officer, my role is to coordinate and support all fleet management activities of UNHCR- Tanzania operations, to ensure efficiency in logistical support cost-effectively and ensuring proper accountability for resources utilized for the success of UNHCR program.

UNHCR has an active Fleet of slightly above two hundred and two vehicles, generators, water pumping equipment, and motorcycles, coupled with high amounts of fuel and spare parts. My role cuts across all the sections of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals because it provides support to every sector of the UNHCR program. This assignment has been a great learning journey, which is rewarding and satisfying.

Fleet and transport being a core logistical support section upon which program operations depend. Where UNHCR spends high amounts of money, I have the responsibility of ensuring proper resource management and accountability for the success of the UNHCR program. Volunteering directly in a refugee assistance program has always been my dream; the plight of refugees gives me a deep passion for contributing to the refugee assistance program.

Coming from Uganda, a country with one of the best refugee policies in the world, hosting big numbers of refugees from South Sudan, DR Congo, Somalia, Eritrea, among others. And having started my professional career by serving in a refugee camp, I witnessed and felt their plight. This experience drives me to fulfill my dream of rendering direct services to the refugee community around the world.

After several years as an expatriate, it gives me a high sense of duty to serve as a UN Volunteer with commitment, and it gives me joy and a great sense of fulfillment. My word to everyone, “Volunteering in whatever form creates a tremendous positive impact in a community and shows a great sense of care and support to the deprived and make them feel valued.” It is my humble appeal to everyone to step out and volunteer to make the world a better place.
Asel Suinaly is a United Nations International Volunteer serving with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tanzania. She has served as a National and International UN Volunteer since 2012.

I am always striving to do more, to contribute to positive social change, and to be of utmost service to humanity. I have proudly served as UN Volunteer both in my home country Kyrgyzstan and abroad with UNHCR in Eastern Ukraine, UN Women in Georgia, and currently, with UNHCR in Tanzania.

In my capacity as Associate Field Officer at UNHCR Kasulu Field Office in Tanzania, I have been working in the Nyarugusu refugee camp, hosting more than 150,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi since March 2019. My task is to ensure the protection of displaced populations and of their rights, to promote their participation, self-sufficiency and dignity, and to ensure the provision of assistance and access to services.

Every morning my team and I cover 70 kilometers from Kasulu to reach the Nyarugusu refugee camp to monitor and deliver services efficiently. And to identify needs and receive feedback from populations of concern. I include in designing future assistance programmes. I work hard to ensure all refugees receive food and non-food assistance such as shelter, core relief items, soap, and dignity kits for women and girls to meet their basic needs. My role also includes coordinating all activities of humanitarian partners operating in the camp to ensure synergies and avoid duplication. What I enjoy most is interacting with women refugee leaders, working together to establish their representation, contribute to strengthening their capacity through conducting training and community raising activities on women leadership, empowerment, and gender equality. It makes me feel happy and fulfilled to witness how girls and women become a force in bringing positive change to their refugee communities.

It cannot be overstated how transformative UN volunteering experience has been for me. It gives me the opportunity to follow my passion for peace and justice and a desire to empower girls and women. More to that, I continue to learn and get inspiration from refugee communities I serve to, gaining experience that has made an enormous impact on my life.
I have served as the United Nations Youth Volunteer in young people’s engagement for a year now. Working with the Innovation section has been a wonderful experience. I have received incredible support from Innovation Section and the other sections in the office. I love the fact that I’m able to learn, contribute, and drive for social progress through working with and for young people.

My role involves coordinating and managing programs that meaningfully engage with young people through working with and for young people. Together with the team, I manage the Innovative youth platforms like U-Report, generation Unlimited, and Internet of good things. These platforms, encourage young people to contribute to a positive change of their community by voicing their opinion and contribute their innovative solutions, that help to solve different social challenges. I decided to become a UN Volunteer to support groups of young people from different backgrounds across our country, with the opportunity to voice their opinions and make a real positive difference in their communities. It goes without saying that we can’t reach Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without volunteerism. I use opportunities that arise within my task to motivate young people to the whole spirit of volunteerism, as they have to be part of bringing about the change they want to see in their community.

My message to young people out there, “believe in yourself, you have the full potential to make a positive change in your community, work hard and keep your passion I’m sure you will achieve anything you set your focus in.”

Mariam Mmbaga is a UN Youth Volunteer in young people engagement for the United Nations Children’s Fund UNICEF Tanzania.

“I’m humbled to be part of the United Nations Volunteer Programme (UNV), as it provided me with a phenomenal opportunity to grow my personal and professional skills. I enjoy being part of providing an enabling environment for young people to be agents of positive change and drive progress in our country.”
Amalie Aase Boge is a United Nations International Volunteer from Norway serving in as a Health Systems Specialist with UNFPA in Zanzibar. Amalie Boge arrived in Zanzibar, a semi-autonomous region of Tanzania, in 2018 as a UN Volunteer in UNFPA Tanzania’s Zanzibar liaison office. As a Health Systems Specialist her focus is to monitor UNFPA’s support and initiatives to strengthen human resources for health and build capacity for the delivery of high-quality maternal and child health services, in partnership with the Ministry of Health Human Resource Division, and in line with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar’s (RGoZ) national and global commitments – including the 2030 Agenda – to reduce maternal and newborn deaths by 2030.

Challenges in the provision of maternal and child health services. In spite of strong government commitment, as evidenced by reductions in maternal deaths from 277 per 100,000 live births in 2016 to 191 per 100,000 live births in 2018,¹ a

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¹ DHIS2 Reports.
Innovating to improve the quality of care
In late 2016, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Zanzibar, under the Afya Bora ya Mama na Mtoto Project funded by the Government of Canada, UNFPA initiated a mentorship programme to address the knowledge and skills gap among healthcare providers as well as to advance the professional development of existing staff to establish a core of highly-skilled and independent RMNCH service providers.

The mentorship programme was based on a flexible model allowing providers (mentees) to learn from a more experienced colleague (mentor) while continuing to deliver much-needed RMNCH services at their respective health facilities. Amalie was responsible for monitoring this innovative approach to improving maternal and child health outcomes and met with both mentees and mentors at Mnazi Mmoja – the biggest hospital in Zanzibar where the programme was being implemented.

The benefits of mentoring
On one monitoring visit Amalie interviewed Dr. Salum, a mentee at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital and Dr Hamed, his mentor, to learn how the mentorship initiative was helping them to improve the quality of care for patients at the hospital.

“Dr Salum said that due to the demand for maternal health services at the hospital and staff shortages he has to work independently most of the time and cannot leave his station for training,” says Amalie. Off-site training is not only time-consuming for busy healthcare professionals but can also be costly. “With his mentor – Dr Hamad – on site at the hospital, who Dr Salum can consult with at any time of the day or night, he can continue to learn and build his skills on-the-job,” she adds. With more experienced Doctors transferring their knowledge and skills to those with less experience through the mentorship programme, the quality of care delivered to mothers and patients is improving at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital.

Supporting efforts to improve maternal and child health outcomes
UNFPA will continue to support efforts to accelerate progress towards national and global commitments to improve maternal and child health outcomes in Zanzibar and the Tanzania mainland, including through innovative approaches. In 2019 the first ambulance boat of its kind was delivered to Zanzibar to increase access to timely and quality maternal and child health care for women living in the islands of the Zanzibar archipelago – again with support from Global Affairs Canada.

As a volunteer I am happy that I have contributed to efforts that ensure pregnancy and childbirth are healthier and safer for women wherever they live in Zanzibar; and proud to be part of an UN agency that works to create a better and brighter future for women and girls, ensuring no one is left behind.

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3 UN Tanzania, UNFPA, Fact Sheet: Mentorship, Improving maternal and child health outcomes in Zanzibar.
ne year and a half ago, Stephanie didn’t know Lea, and neither of them knew Simeon, nor Enrique, nor Celine. They were living their lives day by day, with their own loopholes and coping mechanisms, until they were brought together during a UNCDF-organized training with GNTZ (our field-based partner) on savings groups in a UNHCR multipurpose training centre, (established as part of the Kigoma Joint Programme, Youth and Women Economic Empowerment – YWEE). They were taught about life skills, entrepreneurship, budgeting, savings and record-keeping. This is where, Stephanie tells us, she and the other 19 refugees met and started their own savings group and decided to try to become entrepreneurs together. As we talk to them, they’re peeling and grinding cassava. They will wrap the ugali in banana leaves and sell it in the camp. There are two main benefits of this activity: (i) They diversify the food that can be bought in the camp, especially now that the common market is closed and (ii) They sell enough ugali to make a little profit.

Part of what they earn is invested in borrowing equipment for the transformation of cassava into ugali – the bins to dip the cassava and the other materials that helps transform the cassava into ugali that can be seen in the photos; the remaining proceeds from their sales is distributed among the.
members for their personal and household-related expenses. Their children’s education is a priority. As a group, they meet every week to pool their savings and buy ‘shares’. They deposit TZS 200 every week (the maximum is TZS 1000) and share out every 9 months, which is the standard duration of a savings group cycle. They would save more, they say, but the closure of the common market has shrunk their opportunities to sell, which has also reduced their income. When they share out, not all the accumulated savings are disbursed. One part is deposited in a social fund, which is there to support the members during hard times – paying for burial ceremonies and medical assistance, for example. It is hard to believe but the members benefit more from the group than just financial services. Not only do the 20 members of this group work in the same business and save together for emergencies, they discuss their personal struggles and are there for each other when a member needs a hand to hold, like in a hospital bed.

When asked why they decided to start a second savings cycle, Stephanie laughs as if to say “What kind of question is this? Isn’t it obvious?”.

“Do you plan to start a third cycle?”, we continue. And in a tone that leaves no room for doubt, while still peeling the cassava on her laps, she responds with a resounding “Ndiyo!” (“Yes!”).
My Experience, Success & Recognition towards VOLUNTEERISM

Shamimu Siraji serves as National UN Volunteer, Information Technology Associate with the United Nations Sub Office Zanzibar. Shamimu received a Regional Volunteer Champion Award in recognition of her efforts and contribution towards volunteer activities.

Volunteering means offering your strength, your time, and using your skills and knowledge to help the community at no cost. I started volunteering at a tender age in our community, we offered to clean market areas and fetch water for the elderly women in the village.

I became a UN Volunteer because I want to offer my skills to make the world a better place. This experience has not only been a platform to gain professional experience, meeting and working with people from different cultures or improve my communication and social skills, but it has also changed my life.

The IT associate serves all the 10 UN agencies currently present in Zanzibar. It’s an important role because Information Technology (IT) is essential in all stages of projects implementation and towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) i.e. internet connectivity, proper working conditions of the laptops/computers, provision of training so that all agencies can shift do their work more digitally and reduce the use of paper/manual works.

Since joining the UN in Zanzibar, I have achieved the following, among others; Timely response to user needs and questions regarding network access, trouble-shootings and monitoring of network problems. Enabled users to migrate from Microsoft Office 2013 to Microsoft Office 365. Reintroduction of Preventive maintenance to all UN agencies working tools with the purpose of increasing performance and speed through Disk Fragmentation and disk clean up and facilitated the proper working condition of the Rapiscan X-ray machine at the UN Office in Zanzibar.

“Volunteerism is a way to explore the world, a chance to live an altruistic life, and an experience to see and act differently. More talented young people with relevant back-grounds should consider participating in constructing the capacity of Information technology through the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme.”

In 2019 I was fortunate to participate in three big events, the first was the commemorations of International Youth Day that was held on 12th August 2019, where we facilitated a dialog among secondary school youths on the Theme of Transforming Education from the Information Technology point of view. The second was the Commemorations of the International Day of Peace where we planted a total of 500 mangrove trees in Unguja Ukuu, Zanzibar and lastly, the International Volunteers Day.

I celebrated International Volunteers Day 2019 in Kenya. The UNV Eastern and Southern Africa Region (ESARO) office, hosted the first-ever Regional Volunteer Awards Festival to show immense value of volunteering and strengthen volunteer platforms in the region. The event took place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 5th December 2019. Being one of the Regional
Volunteer Champions, I had the opportunity to participate in this exciting event which involved other champions from each country of the region. The event theme focused on promoting inclusion and reducing inequalities in line with SDG 10.

More than 50 Volunteers from across the region received awards. I am honored to be one of them. And it is really a great privilege to receive an award from the UNV Eastern and Southern Africa Region (ESARO) office, in recognition of my efforts and contribution towards volunteering activities.

This award has become my motivation to uphold the spirit and attitude of volunteerism, the readiness in my working environment and outside. It has empowered me to be a positive force for change, by recognizing that each of us no matter who you are, can make a difference.

“Inclusiveness is a basic right of everyone, and its objective should be to embrace everyone regardless of race, age, gender, disability, religious and cultural beliefs, and sexual orientation.

When we have true inclusiveness, it is when all barriers of discrimination and intolerance have been removed. And when implemented properly, it should make everyone feel included and supported, whichever environment they are in.

“Becoming a UN Volunteer has critically strengthened my perspective of how I view the world in terms of supporting organizations and communities to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I have learned more about people, current global issues and challenges and efforts made to address them by committing myself as a volunteer. Technology is not a silver bullet, but it holds the incredible potential to transform sectors rapidly and globally, to increase the productivity of systems while lowering emissions and waste, to enables us to monitor and manage the Earth’s surface and resources at a speed and scale we couldn’t have dreamed of before, to collect and harness vast amounts of data, and make breakthrough advances in areas like healthcare, agriculture, energy, education, and mobility.
Volunteering for the Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda in TANZANIA

The United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) is a common business plan for 23 United Nations agencies and national partners, aligned to the national priorities (The Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and Zanzibar Vision 2020) and the Sustainable development goals (SDG).

In Tanzania, UNDAP II has 12 Outcomes including Economic growth and employment, Education, Social Protection, Health, HIV/AIDS, Nutrition, WASH, Governance, human right and gender equality, Women political participation and leadership, Violence against women and children, refugees and Migrants and Environment and Disaster risk management. The 12 Outcomes are grouped under four inter-related mutually dependent themes, which acknowledge that Inclusive Growth requires a Healthy Nation, which is Resilient to shocks within the context of transparent and accountable governance serving citizens’ needs.

As a UN Volunteer with experience in programme management and monitoring and evaluation my main support is to offer coordination, programme, monitoring, and evaluation support to the 12 outcome groups (result groups) by supporting administration of the web-based planning, monitoring and reporting system UN Info to track country’s contribution Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and National Priority.

The system’s data helps periodic reviews of the programme (Mid-year review and Annual reviews. The review reports inform the UN country team, donors, government, and all other partners and stakeholders on the progress of the programme, financial delivery and overall implementation rates.

It is also part of my responsibility to provide Quality assurance to the UNDAP Monitoring and Evaluation framework and Result Based reporting as part of the UNDAP II M&E working group. In supporting the outcome groups in planning, implementation and
reporting of the programme I am also responsible for facilitating knowledge management and capacity development of the groups by offering training and consultations through the day to day consultations and training around Result Based Reporting and management, Use of UN info, Theory of Change development etc. It has been one year now since I joined the UN as a Volunteer, and I admit having a fantastic experience with the UN system. A place where I always fantasized working, this platform has not only made my dream come true, by also made me feel important and valued in what I am contributing to the programme. The feeling of being part of a team that aims at creating a positive change and growth of my own country’s economic and social welfare is what keeps me positive.

The scale of impact that UNDAP II aims at is mostly national level impact to support the government reaching its national priorities and to contribute to the SDG goals. My engagement and participation in all 12 Outcomes Groups and 23 different UN agencies that specialized in various issues enhances my knowledge and extend my connections. There is much more that I have acquired in this experience, apart from enhancing my RBM (Result based management) and programme knowledge. I also learned to effectively communicate, how to manage people, extended my training and facilitation skills, learned to be emotionally intelligent, learned the value of human rights and gender equality, respect to authority, and being humble.

As per my assignment, I oversee the individual case management system in the camp, conduct UNHCR mandate RSD assessments and monitor and coordinate with one of UNHCRs partners, Women’s Legal Aid center (WLAC), which is responsible for access to legal service and justice in the refugee camps.

Being a United Nations Volunteer is a very exciting, rewarding, challenging, and learning experience. It has given me the chance to live in a community different from my own, to learn a new language, culture and a way of living, and to appreciate the beauty of diversity and the universal nature of humanity. Becoming a UN Volunteer also gave me the opportunity to live and to visit beautiful Tanzania. I have met friends, mentors, and influencers while on duty. Being a UN Volunteer has also given me the unique opportunity to gain work experience in different refugee settings. When I first came to Kasulu, I was overwhelmed as I was not sure I would be able to fit in with the large team, which has been here for a long time. It was nerve-wracking to work with and sometimes supervise staff with a lot of years of experience. However, I managed to get courage and adapt to the new environment.

Being an International UN Volunteer also creates a vast learning opportunity as there are vast amounts of in-person, online, and on the job training and different workshops in which people learn from one another. I am grateful for my host agency United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), my direct supervisor, the Head of Field Office, and the Country Representative for providing me and other UN Volunteers guidance and assistance whenever necessary.
Promoting Gender Equality & Women Empowerment

Contribution to Gender structures strengthening in Zanzibar

After a long struggle of numerous communications, collaboration, and networking with the Ministry responsible for Gender in Zanzibar and the Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS), we managed to establish the Gender Unit at the Office of Chief Government Statistics in Zanzibar (OCGS). We established the Gender Unit for the aim of making availability of gender-disaggregated data and information, which will inform planning and decision making hence make the realization of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment. This also results in the inclusion of a chapter of unpaid care work at the recently developed Household Budget Survey (HBS). The unit conducts mapping of SDGs gender indicators and provides those which have a baseline.

The main objective of the gender statistics unit will be to collect, compile, analyze, and disseminate gender statistics required for national and international stakeholders.

Ally Chikira is a National UN Volunteer, working with UN Women as a National Program Associate in Zanzibar, with a focus on gender equality and women empowerment.
Specifically, among the others, the Gender Unit will have the role of developing necessary data collection for the unit, and the Gender Focal Person allocated in the Government’s ministries, departments and agencies, creating a database for Gender statistics and conduct of capacity building for data producers and users. To assist and oversee gender issues are mainstreamed in national surveys such as Household Budget Survey (HBS), Integrated Labour force survey (ILFS), Economic survey, Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) and Census.

Gender Technical Committee established in Zanzibar

We provide technical assistance through lobbying, advocacy, and networking between different sectors working for Gender, the fruits of the Establishment of Gender Statistics technical Committee emerged. This is the structure which comprise all key sectors of the Zanzibar government working for Gender to strengthen the production of gender statistics to enable the monitoring of national policies and programme such as, Zanzibar Vision 2020 and
MKUZA III and reporting commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2063 for Africa and other agreements such as including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action.

**Fighting against Gender-Based Violence in Zanzibar**

My first task as a UN Volunteer and I am proud to say my great achievement is my contribution to the preparation and signing of the Agreement between the Government’s Ministry of Gender in Zanzibar with UN WOMEN to implement the project on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE). I was the key contact person in the preparation of the contract, all project documents, including work plan.

A lot has been done to promote gender equality and women empowerment since the commencement of the project.

These are among others; 100 staffs in 10 institutions, including Police; Courts, Prison, One-Stop Centers, and Department of Public Prosecutions have been capacitated to collect data on Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) cases. Data collection tools to collect data on VAWC developed and will be used to each sector and will enable the collection of EVAW data on a Quarterly and Annual basis.

The process will be coordinated by the office of Chief Government statistician in Zanzibar. Development of the Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines and tools to monitor the implementation of the Zanzibar Gender Policy 2016.

As a result of our mutual awareness-raising with the Ministry responsible for Gender and other NGO’s partners through media, meeting, and training, it is noted that GBV cases reported to the Police station have been decreased to 1,091 cases in 2018 compared to 2,449 cases reported the year before. Moreover, through our jointly continuous effort with the Government and our non-Government partners, there was a review of the Gender-related laws to bring relief to women and girls.

The laws reviewed include; The Revision of Penal Procedure Act No. 6 of 2018; The Criminal Procedure Act No 7 of 2018 and the Kadhis Court Act No. 9 of 2017 whereby the Penal Act removes bail for Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) cases, The Criminal Procedure Act accept child and electronic evidence.

The Acts have been publicized to be understood well to the people through media and training to law enforcers done and the Simplified version of these legislations developed and disseminated.

**UN Volunteers contribution to the Women Economic Empowerment in Zanzibar**

We supported the formation of the Zanzibar Women Entrepreneurship Network to connect women entrepreneurs to join forces and have one voice and sharing experiences and skills. In June 2019, I was trusted to support the consultant hired to do Gender needs seaweed value chained assessment.

The purpose of the assignment was to strengthen the capacities of women entrepreneurs to engage in the seaweed value chain.

The assessment comes out with the following recommendations which will be soon be addressed; (i) Provide seaweed agronomic training to farmers (ii) Provide modern equipment for deep-sea farming (iii) Provide modern equipment and facilities for processing to attract more youth (iv) Improve working conditions by providing safety gears (v) Provide entrepreneurship skills (vi) Provide soft loan to farmers and processors.
Volunteerism galvanizes all types of people, including those who have not traditionally benefitted from or been given the opportunity to contribute to peace and development. Working as an Associate Resettlement Officer (IUNV), at UNHCR Field Office Kasul, has allowed me to contribute to one of UNHCR’s durable solutions, resettlement. Resettlement involves the selection and transfer of refugees from a State in which they have sought protection to a third State which has agreed to admit them-as refugees-with permanent residence status.

As Associate Resettlement Officer, I am assigned the task of conducting Resettlement interviews, drafting refugees’ claims for subsequent submission to the resettlement countries. The interviews are carried out at Nyarugusu Refugee Camp. The refugees interviewed for resettlement are mainly Congolese and Burundians under P2 and P1 processing categories, respectively. Some of the resettlement countries for submission of cases include; USA, Canada, and Australia.

Resettlement has offered refugees in Nyarugusu Camp, a durable solution, thus bringing their refugee status to an end. It has played a key role in unlocking the impasses in protracted refugee solutions and opening the possibilities of other durable solutions. I wish to quote the words of a Congolese refugee, a 70-year-old father of seven children, in his closing remarks after a resettlement interview, “I thank the UN for offering us this opportunity for resettlement. I am an old man, and I require specialized medical care at my age, which is not available in the Nyarugusu refugee camp. My children have completed grade 12 but have no work currently and their only hope is in a third country where they can find jobs rather than depend on the monthly handouts”. Our work as volunteers has far-reaching outcomes that touch the fabric of the society in which we serve.
Contributing to peace and development through ensuring access to information

Working as an Information Expert with over 6 years of professional experience in the Information industry, whereby processing and storage capacities are rising exponentially, and knowledge is becoming accessible to more people than ever before in human history (4th Industrial Revolution).

“My best friend told me about the UNV programme, I looked it up and saw that my skills could be useful, and I decided to join. I took up the information Associate position because it was exciting and ambitious.

I now working at the United Nations Sub Office, in Zanzibar, as Information associate. The Information Center is serving more than 9 UN agencies and Zanzibar community such as researchers, students, and academia. I am thrilled at the level of competency and professionalism, serving as a UN Volunteer with UNDP. Reading positive stories done by the United Nations in my community was always exciting, but being part of this work now is just a priceless feeling.

I believe that Information Center as a heart of an organization, made the presence of an Information Center inevitable in all the UN agencies and non-UN organizations and when it comes to a Resource Center plays a vital role as an indispensable tool of learning process; knowledge sharing to higher education-colleges till the research and scholar phase and beyond.

From promoting literacy to offering free access to information, information centers are safe, welcoming spaces, at the heart of communities. They advance digital inclusion through access to ICT, internet connection, and skills. They promote innovation, creativity, and access to the world’s knowledge for future generations.

During my assignment, I look forward to establishing the digital library that will be accessible to UN agencies and non-UN members through digital devices. The platform will help the government, civil society, researchers, scholars, students to fill a significant gap: by creating an online platform for publications with accessible content related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Access to Information**

Target 16.10: “Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements” Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Information Center contribution to SDGs is vital as it will help people to acquire; Skills and resources to help the population achieve universal literacy, access to research, data, and information, and public access to ICT supports digital inclusion.
It has now been exactly one and a half years since I left the freezing cold and snow of winter in the United Kingdom to become a UN Volunteer in Tanzania. Since stepping out of the airport in Dar es Salaam, I have been on a steeper learning curve than ever before in my professional life.

Experienced highs and lows, solved problems, wrestled with ATLAS, and seen more of Tanzania than I ever thought I would be able to. After 18 months with UN Women, it seems a good time to share a highlight and a lowlight as well as what they taught me about the UN, about Tanzania, about my work and myself. Choosing a highlight is quite challenging. Working for UN Women has enabled me to see the work of the UN at first hand. Whether it is participating in meetings at the National Assembly or discussing violence against women coordination and monitoring mechanisms with teachers, health workers, and police in the field.

However, in August 2018, UN Women was lucky enough to have a visit from its Executive Director, and UN Undersecretary-General, Dr. Phumzile Mlambo Ncuka. During her visit, I worked on making sure that the ED could meet with Tanzanian youth groups, leading to a town hall meeting as part of her visit.

For just the sheer enthusiasm of the young people involved, including volunteers from all around the country, this was my highlight in Tanzania. The meeting brought us technical insights for programming, yes, but it was a highlight because I could see young people’s voices being heard by someone at the very top of the United Nations who was excited to listen to them and was clearly enjoying the energy in the room. The sign of a good discussion is that the discussion is hard to stop at the end, and it was certainly a challenge to retrieve the microphone from the participants when the meeting finally had to end! The low point of my time as a UNV: it was illness in Kasulu. It’s never good to be sick, but perhaps the worst time to finish up in a clinic on an IV drip overnight is on a field mission, far from home, with a two-day car journey ahead of you. While it may have been challenging to decide between highlights, the low point was certainly this.

So, what did I learn from this? From the highlight of my time as a UNV, the take-away was certainly the enthusiasm of young volunteers, all around Tanzania, and their ideas and desire for change. Tanzania’s young population is one of its great assets. And that evening, a room full of people demonstrated how many ideas they had and exactly how UN Women and the wider UN can work to benefit their lives.

Surprisingly, there is also a lesson from the low point of my time in Tanzania. That lesson was how good a team my agency is. I was lucky enough to be with a colleague who looked out for me the whole time, and I was the beneficiary of the Representative and operations team pulling together to make sure I could get home to Dar es Salaam as quickly as possible. We all have bad moments occasionally, but they’re made easier by good teammates.

**Eighteen months and counting in the job now, and they’ve flown by!**
UN Volunteers Support Resettlement of Refugees

Approximately eighty thousand (80,000) refugees from Congo, live in the Nyarugusu refugee camp in Tanzania. Most of these refugees came to Tanzania between 1996 to 2005. They are in a protracted camp with limited assistance from the UN and other agencies.

The Nyarugusu camp, which occupies an area of 26 square kilometers, was established by the Government of Tanzania (GoT) in 1996 for Congolese refugees who fled the civil and political unrest in the eastern part of DRC. UNHCR Offices in North-West Tanzania, particularly Protection and Health, refer individual cases for resettlement consideration, including those with specific protection concerns or medical needs.

A regional multi-year plan of action was initiated in 2012 to enhance the resettlement of Congolese refugees from Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda through the submission of at least fifty thousand (50,000) refugees starting from 2012 to 2017.

This initiative covers refugees from Eastern DRC who arrived in the country of asylum between 1994 and 2005. In June 2015, Tanzania embarked on a five-year Group Resettlement Programme aimed at resettling approximately thirty-three thousand
I have been inspired through volunteerism, and this being my first international assignment, I am enjoying my work and proud. Through contributing to the operation, refugees are getting a new life where their rights are ensured and can live a normal life like other citizens.

(33,000) Congolese refugees to the USA. And from the UNHCR Tanzania operation, 500 cases consist of two thousand, one hundred and one (2101) refugees were submitted to the USA, Canada, and Australia, and 2827 refugees departed. “Global resettlement data are available at https://www.unhcr.org/resettlement-data.html”

UN Volunteers are involved in processing resettlement cases. Currently, three International UN Volunteers are working to process resettlement cases with UNHCR. Myself, Moustapha Ousmane, and Peter Ssenteza. Moustapha Ousmane and I work as Resettlement Case Reviewers, while Peter Ssenteza is a caseworker.

I joined the UNHCR field office at Kasulu, Tanzania, in April 2016, as a resettlement caseworker and statistician. I made field trips to the Nyarugusu refugee camp, to provide counseling to refugees, and conduct protection assessment to prepare resettlement cases. In 2018, I started working as a resettlement case reviewer. I reviewed cases papered by other caseworkers.

Besides my regular activities with the casework, I developed several templates to manage resettlement data, statistics, and dashboard.

I also initiated guidelines on database modules and standard operating procedures (SOPs) and provide training to the resettlement staff on case processing, case review, statistics, and database.
From being a UN Online Volunteer to Onsite UN Volunteer

I served as a community volunteer for many years, little did I know about the United Nations Online Volunteering. In 2017, as I sat at home in Mwanza, Tanzania, going through articles of the work that is done by thousands of UN Volunteers.

I was so excited and motivated. As I scroll through my phone, I came across the United Nations Online Volunteering website. I quickly jumped into it to get further information.

In September 2017, I finally registered and applied for online volunteering. I began my online assignment with the Social Protection Ambassadors programme, as an Ambassador.

As an ambassador, my role was mainly to advocate and promote the social protection organization, by researching and gathering information on opportunities across different platforms and providing content to be published on the social protection organization website. It was a great opportunity to network, collaborate, and interact with colleagues from across the globe, sharing the same focus. To contribute towards supporting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 1)- No Poverty. Through the assignment, I also understood the role of the UNV Online Volunteering platform. In the end, I was awarded a certificate for accomplishment.

In 2018, I applied for another assignment with one of UK’s leading charities in its field, providing young people from around the world with the opportunity to develop 21st-century skills through our school business model, The teach a man to fish organization. I volunteered to judge the Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education.

Through this assignment, I was able to contribute to SDG 4: Quality Education. I was also awarded a certificate for accomplishment at the end of my assignment.

Due to the technical ability, I had contributed to this assignment, later I was selected to provide support as help judge the Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education and the assignment to judge best a proposal.

I will always remember my contribution to supporting Quality Education and Poverty reduction through UN Online Volunteering.

I currently serve as a National UN Volunteer, Field Facilitator with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Tanzania. I am excited to contribute to peace and development.
“Before starting my volunteerism journey, I visualized myself working with people from diverse poverty-stricken communities and working directly with projects that bring positive changes to the communities specifically to women and youth. This is my passion, the passion of helping the helpless!! Volunteering at UNCDF has been a journey that has unveiled a “dream came true”. I now see myself spending most of my days in the fields, supporting different people from the communities”

I am particularly in charge of identifying and telling success stories related to the intervention objectives of United Nations Capital Development Fund.

Through my work, I have been able to replicate the best practices on how, my agency unlocks funds to public and private sectors including women SMEs and youth groups in the communities; supporting them on having an access to capital which leverages their daily income and make them meet day to day needs of their families like paying school fees for their kids as part of implementing SDG No. 1 which is no poverty.

Support local communities to have access to affordable and clean energy SDG No. 7 which is currently the major global agenda i.e. energy access to health centers, schools and in other production activities, but also ensuring women are equally participating in various economic activities by providing support to the project that are gender responsive.

By committing myself as a volunteer, I have actively and largely participated in awareness creation and dissemination of Sustainable Development Agenda as contained in document Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
At the University of Dar Es Salaam, students are busy presenting their innovations to an interested delegation from UNICEF. The group I am with are showing me a new mobile learning platform - Stadi Box - which will provide teachers with interactive content to build key life skills in their students. The excitement at the University is palpable, from both the students and UNICEF staff. This demonstration marks the end of Phase I of a design challenge posed by UNICEF to students at the Youth for Children (Y4C) Innovation Hub. As a UN Youth Volunteer in Education, this is just one of the innovative education strategies that I am supporting.

By 2030, Sustainable Development Goal 4 aims to ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. Additionally, Tanzania’s Vision 2025 seeks to use education as an instrument to achieve its development goals. To support this vision, UNICEF’s program in Tanzania supports equitable quality education.
access to quality basic education with the aim to improve both academic and social and emotional life skills.

**What are life skills and why are they important?**

In the past, life skills were traditionally thought of as health skills or vocational skills only. With recent advances in technology and Tanzania’s changing economy, it is now essential that children develop a wider range of skills, sometimes called soft skills, transferrable skills or 21st century skills.

I began my assignment as a Youth Volunteer in Education with UNICEF Tanzania, in 2017, to promote life skills education in Tanzania. In 2019, I successfully supported the Government of Tanzania to develop a National Strategy for Life Skills Education.

The National Life Skills Strategy groups life skills into four competency areas – life skills for learning, life skills for personal empowerment, life skills for employability and life skills for active citizenship. Through developing these skills, children and young people will be equipped to deal with modern challenges and be active agents in Tanzania’s development. The new strategy will guide the development of these skills throughout the life cycle both in and out of school.

**Involving youth to respond to challenges**

One of the challenges to teaching life skills is that they are hard to teach in a traditional classroom. As a Youth Volunteer, I realised that the best way to find solutions for young people, is to engage young people themselves. At the University of Dar es Salaam, I presented a challenge to the students at the Y4C Innovation Hub - “how can teachers teach life skills in a way that is fun and interesting for children?” The students quickly set to work, and the Stadi Box prototype was born. As a primary school teacher, I see this innovation as more than just a game, rather it is a tool that has the potential to transform the teaching and learning of life skills in Tanzania. One of the most rewarding parts of being a UN Youth Volunteer, has been the opportunity to work with other young people and improve their knowledge and skills on addressing key education challenges. One such young person is Hasna Kingu, a student at UDSM and a key member of the Stadi Box team. “Developing Stadi Box has been the most exciting ICT experience I have had so far,” says Hasna. “Getting to know that a big percentage of the population out there are not aware that they need life skills and of its crucial importance (which included me of course!) was, and still is, an epic journey for me.”

Another important part of the Y4C partnership is, of course, to build the skills of the young people themselves, something that Hasna views as invaluable - “I got to learn more on teamwork as I worked together with not only my team, but also other stakeholders. I am looking forward to finish developing [Stadi Box] and test it as it has always been my passion to work with young children”

As I enter the final six months of my UNV assignment, I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to make an impact on the education system, but also to build the skills of young students in Tanzania. I am grateful for the support of my colleagues at UNICEF and the Government Ministries that allowed me the opportunity to support their work. The future looks bright for innovative education in Tanzania and I will follow the progress of Stadi Box eagerly.
As a National Volunteer, I am glad to be part of the Tanzania UN Volunteers team, to support and deliver this 2030 Agenda for SDG through my assignment as ICT Associate with UN agency, UN Women.

I support and respond to all IT request so that no one is left behind to achieve the objectives assigned. I have succeeded to implement a Network topology that users can work and meet their targets, Internet connection, and shared printers. We recently installed Internet Security to make sure that user’s information and accounts are safe from unauthorized systems handlers from outside the organization. Working hard and learning new IT/Security tips will enable me to support UN Women, Tanzania and to make systems, i.e., software and hardware, more compliance to Regional Office and HQ IT policy. I would like to continue Volunteering with the UN and play my roles to facilitate 2030 Agenda and SDG in Tanzania. Not only in IT but through other programs and conducted within UN Women and other UN Agencies in Tanzania.

Through my daily duties, I got the opportunity to learn how generators work, be responsible for Power electricity. I also got the opportunity to be part of the team that attended the CIPS/UN Women training in Istanbul, Turkey, for 5 days. As I conclude, I would like to thank UN WOMEN and the UNV Office for their day to day support.
Volunteering for the Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda in TANZANIA

joined the UN Women in May 2018, bringing to the UN Women over 15 years of rich experience in programmes and project management in education and empowerment programmes for vulnerable groups such as youth, women, and children.

Technically, the voluntary services I have provided have considerably contributed to advancing gender equality and women’s economic empowerment in Tanzania. Through various interactions with the government ministries, UN Agencies, CSOs, and women and youth as beneficiaries, I have promoted women’s economic empowerment and gender equality in Kigoma and Arusha Regions, respectively. Through the work with the government, I have supported the Ministry of Industry and Trade to review the 2003 SME Policy, which is very vital in promoting women, youth and people with disabilities to participate fully in economic growth through Small and Medium Enterprise work.

While working with CSOs, I have supported Pastoralist Women Council to enable 100 out of school pastoralist adolescent girls to access second chance education and acquire sexual reproductive health rights skills and skills to engage in green livelihood businesses in Arusha Region.

These skills have been important for out of school adolescent girls and young women in making decisions in the number of children they should have with their partners, but most importantly for young women to also get more time to engage in economic activities. Adolescent girls and young...
women have also to conserve the environment by constructing biogas plants using cow dung, which has provided clean and renewable energy to pastoralists’ households. The skills have also helped women pastoralists save time from collecting firewood.

More than 2000 women entrepreneurs in Kigoma Region have also benefited from entrepreneurship, value addition, gender, and financial management skills.

As a result, more women are engaging in value addition work for their produces to manage post-harvest losses and increase their revenue.

Lastly, I have technically supported three implementing partners, the Energy 4 Impact, Pastoralists Women Council and Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce with programme management skills for women economic empowerment, this includes designing, monitoring, reporting and tracking results for the women economic empowerment programme and have supported the UN Women to build relationships with the private sectors and promote the women empowerment principles.

Generally, this unique assignment has enhanced my volunteerism skills, helped in increasing understanding and awareness of women’s economic empowerment issues.

Still, most importantly, it has provided me with the opportunity to give back to the development work and support the advancement of sustainable development goals.
A United Nations Volunteer, one gets a chance to interact with different groups of people especially the most vulnerable and marginalized in the community aiming to support attaining the 2030 global goals. Serving as a UNV is in itself a great opportunity. Integration in the UN system is important for volunteers.

This has been contributed to continuous capacity building initiatives to equip people in working in the system. One of these initiatives being the workshop held in Nairobi from 18 to 21 November 2019. It included about 20 youth volunteers from across the world.

This was an exciting experience for the two young ladies that represented the UNV Tanzania team. Mariam and Agnes got the opportunity to contribute to evidence-based practice and current awareness. They were also able to benefit from other’s experiences. Mr. Njoya Tikum, the Regional Manager, UNV Regional Office for East and Southern Africa gave a welcome and closing address.

He also highlighted some key issues that can help a volunteer’s career in the UN system:

**ATTITUDE:** Urged volunteers to always have a positive attitude no matter what the circumstance. We should always take challenges as opportunities with positivity.

**NETWORKING:** Your network is your net worth. Once in the UN system, everyone is smart an expert in something. Hence it is important to have people that can speak positively about you even when not around. You need to create positive impactful relationships even with people from different agencies.
EFFICIENCY: To strive in the UN, be an expert in a thematic area. Even when the office environment does not allow, read about it.

KNOW THE RIGHT CHANNELS TO DIRECT YOUR FRUSTRATIONS: Do not air out your frustrations to irrelevant people.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: Do not let anyone take advantage of you. If harassed, use the right channels to report it. He also emphasized on not being the perpetrators of sexual harassment.

In addition, the workshop gave UN Volunteers Intensive exposure to many topics relating to the role of UNV and career development in general. Through the impressive discussions and actionable exercises led by expert facilitators, they have learned how to apply the different concepts within UNV role and beyond.

“I was thoroughly inspired by this workshop, it is genuinely one of the best workshops I have attended. It was better than I imagined, this is not something I find myself saying about workshops very often! It was such a relevant workshop to all of the participants, at least I can tell this from the energy I witnessed in the room” said Mariam.

“Being a volunteer, I am at the heart of sustainable development. Such an experience improve one’s efficiency in contributing to a people-centered development through the nature of volunteering. This workshop has also enhanced my capacity to communicate the work done by the UN to the rest of the world” said Agnes. We recommend this training to all serving UN Volunteers in their first quarter of the assignment. It was an interactive workshop and the lessons were relevant to the UN Volunteers. It was a great way of promoting positive life skills learning.

These skills allow the youth volunteers to cope with their surrounding environment by making decisions responsibly, better understanding their values and being able to better communicate with others.
International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2019

International Volunteer Day (IVD) is celebrated annually on 5th December as an opportunity to promote volunteerism, support volunteer efforts, and recognize volunteer contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year’s IVD theme, “Volunteer for an inclusive future,” highlighted Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)10 and the pursuit of equality and inclusion through volunteerism.

To mark International Volunteer Day (IVD), the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Programme in Tanzania partnered with Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) to mobilize more than 20 NGOs. The event was also supported by UN Agencies hosting UN Volunteers. Speaking during the celebrations Ms. Christine Musisi, UNDP Resident Representative in Tanzania, stated that: “The International Volunteer Day recognizes the power and potential of volunteerism. To achieve sustainable development, we need to include everyone from all spheres of life.

Having served as a UN Volunteer at the beginning of my career with the UN, I bear first-hand witness to the enormous benefits of volunteerism and its impact on achieving sustainable human development globally.

Mr. Christian Mwamanga, the UNV Country Coordinator in Tanzania, also stated that: “On International Volunteer Day, we recognize the relentless efforts of volunteers who answer calls in times of need for the common dignity of all. UNV commends volunteers responding selflessly to people’s needs in a wide range of development needs worldwide. UNV is inspired by Tanzania’s deep-rooted values on volunteering and its cultural philosophy of Ujamaa na Kujitegemea “Socialism and Self - Reliance.”
The Volunteer marketplace was a concept designed in celebrating International Volunteer Day (IVD) in Tanzania. The Volunteer marketplace involved a series of parallel activities that aimed at showcasing and promoting the idea of greater utilization of Volunteers for building an Inclusive Future.

The Volunteer Market Place ensured participatory engagement of different volunteer groups which included Youth, Women, CSOs, people with disabilities, government officials and UN Volunteers who have been championing volunteerism at different levels in the country. The Market place encouraged learning and networking among the volunteers. Volunteers were divided into groups to offer community services at different locations in Arusha, which included:

- Community volunteer stakeholders dialogue to articulate the agenda of volunteer contribution in development,
- Deliver Thematic Volunteer information Clinics around SDGs (SDGs UN booth),
- Youth edutainment activities aimed at instilling the spirit of volunteerism among young people,
- Voluntary outreach activities comprising of tree planting for environmental conservation at a water source catchment area;
- Cleaning at the hospital premises;
- Volunteerism promotion sessions at a Special Needs Teachers Training Institute and Engaging experts and government officials in sharing volunteer contribution in implementation of policies.

The event aimed to inspire young people to take up volunteering.

The IVD event attracted over 350 volunteers. This composition included Community Volunteers, Local Government Authorities representatives, volunteers from Higher Learning Institutions, Youth Volunteer Peer Educators, UN Volunteers including UN Staff Team, Women, and People with Disabilities.
It's been about five months since I started working for UNHCR as an International UN Volunteer Associate Programme Officer. Little did I know I would be exposed to a myriad of learning and wonderful opportunities in a matter of mere months.

As a programme team based in Dar es Salaam, our work usually revolves around the implementation of protection and solutions strategies for Tanzania country operations. As a part of the programme team, I have so far been engrossed in Donor Relations-reporting and fundraising, in addition to other programmatic roles for UNHCR.

In apropos to fundraising, country operations fundraise for themselves. To fund its programmes, the UNHCR depends almost entirely on voluntary contributions.

Only 1-2 percent is provided to UNHCR by the UN regular budget, which is made of Member States’ assessed contributions.

One can imagine the level of attention to details one needs to devote to each particular donor throughout the year as part of the timely response in reporting while at the same time developing relationships with new donors to grow the donor base.

UNHCR country operations all over the world face trying times as a record 70 million people are now displaced from their homes.

Fundraising has become very important for UNHCR now more than ever as with such record increase in displaced people means an exponential rise in the needs of these people.

I have found that there are quite a number of things that one needs to comprehend before delving into fundraising.

As this is my first experience in UNHCR, it did take me a while to soak it all in. UNHCR in Tanzania is a relatively large operation, which means learning opportunities are plentiful. In supplementing fundraising function, it is always helpful to understand the ever-dynamic operational contexts, global/regional/country priorities, operational management cycle, resource mobilization process, budget structure, and various other organizational processes.

In terms of fundraising environment, it becomes imperative to understand the donors and their priorities, how and if these priorities juxtapose with the operation. For this, we can seek the support of DRRM (Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization Service) and PSP (Private Sector Partnerships) at Head Quarter level who assist country operations in a manifold of ways by supplementing UNHCR efforts to maximize support from donors.

Understanding different types of donors also help to approach and maintain the donor base. Generally, donor contributions are categorized as Government donors, Inter-government donors, UN Pooled Funds, and Private sector donors in UNHCR.

As different donors have different priorities, one can always do donor assessment and contribution trend of donors to figure out how to proceed with fundraising efforts.

Fundraising requires patience and attention to detail, much of which can only be achieved by consolidated efforts of the team, and I have been fortunate enough to be a part of a wonderful programme team.
Adriano Tilda is a UN Volunteer working for UNCDF as Program Manager - Financial Inclusion on the project of access to finance for refugees as well as the host community in western Tanzania.

Since joining UNCDF in 2017, I have made sure the projects go well and smoothly, especially in motivating the refugees and hosting community members to join saving groups as an informal way of access to finance for the unbankable population. Also, providing financial education training to refugees through mobile and tablet-based applications.

As Program Manager with UNCDF, I support the establishment of more than 600 saving groups with the equivalent of 15,000 saving group members.

The main challenge in the savings group operations in the refugee context in Tanzania was that there were no Guidelines for saving group operations in this context.

So partner organizations were using different Guidelines, which is not related to the refugee’s context, as a result, they faced a lot of challenges on operations and reaching targeted objectives.

Due to this challenge, I made great efforts in collaboration with partners organization to develop the saving groups guideline, which will be used in the refugee context in Tanzania.
World Environment Day 2019
June 5th, 2019 was my busiest day due to World Environment Day which is celebrated every year. “Air Pollution”, the theme for World Environment Day 2019, was a call for the world to come together to combat one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. The theme invited us all to consider how we can make changes in our everyday lives to reduce the heavy burden of air pollution in our cities, our environment and on our own health.

Air pollution Tanzania
Here in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Air pollution has been a severe issue. In Tanzania, over 3,845 and 22,729 premature deaths were attributable to outdoor and indoor PM air pollution, respectively, in 2013. Global estimates suggest the impact of air pollution caused by PM is high in Tanzania. Over 3,845 and 22,729 premature deaths were attributable to outdoor and indoor PM air pollution, respectively in 2013. These mortality figures are higher than those of neighboring countries. In economic terms, this costed the country around $11 billion in 2013.

Cycling against Air pollution
Air pollution occurs from a variety of sources and driving a car is just one of them. Each time a
person chooses their bicycle over their vehicle, it cuts down on the air pollution in your community and town. There are several ways in which biking instead of driving can reduce pollution and once you know the reasons. When it comes a question “how does bicycle commuting contribute to a clean environment?” it has three answers 1) Bicycling uses no fuel 2) Bicycles take a lot less energy to make than a car 3) Bikes don’t require toxic batteries or motor oil. Bicycling significantly reduces transportation emissions while also reducing traffic congestion and the need for petroleum.

**SDGs 13 Climate Action and Volunteerism**

UN environment and our partners decided to make an event “Cycling against plastic and air pollution” by cycling with people we emphasized how important our nature and all the things what we are dealing with naturally. The cycling event attracted more than 200 cyclers and representatives from UN agencies, the development partners group on environment, civil society, city council officials, philanthropists, youth and private sector entities. Yuna(The Youth of United Nations Association of Tanzania) supported World environment day to show their passion about Volunteerism.

**Overview of the participation**

It was the first big event what I organized as hosting agency in UN system. There were many things we should take care of such as logistics, organizing programs, inviting delegates, making a reservation the venue, preparing posters so on. By preparing all the steps I had learned how to organize big event and deeply understood SDGs specially 13 Climate Action. I am happy that I can contribute my talent and effort as UNV. It give me self-confidence and satisfaction, social contact, the ability to use previously established skills or develop new ones, a chance to follow my passion.
“I VOLUNTEER because I enjoy dedicating most of my time and skills to promote peace and sustainable development in my community, as well as empower young people to foster their livelihood activities. My assignment contributes to SDG 16.” Says Eziboni Munahi (PVE Field Facilitator with UNDP)

“I VOLUNTEER because I want to use my skills and knowledge to sustain peace within my community.” My assignment contributes to SDG 16. Says Gamaliel Sunu (Field Facilitator with UNDP)

“I VOLUNTEER because the opportunity does not only give me a chance to learn new skills and become a professional, but it also allows my background and education to make a difference in local communities.” My assignment contributes to SDG 3. Says Chizero Bungubuliho (UN Coordination with UNRCO)

“I VOLUNTEER because I am eager to devote my time, energy and skills to promote community peace and resilience. I am very proud to be a UN Volunteer.” My assignment contributes to SDG 16. Says Herman Magungu (PVE Field Facilitator with UNDP)

“I VOLUNTEER because I want to contribute my experience and skills to enable advancement in innovation and industrial development for mass access to improved goods, services and job creation.” My assignment contributes to SDG 9. Says Mbwaike Mahyenga (Program Officer for Investment and Trade with UNDP)

“I VOLUNTEER because I want to make positive impact in young people’s lives, help strengthen community resilience and support women’s participation in peace building processes.” My assignment contributes to SDG 17. Says Saad Mbingah (Field Facilitator with UNDP)

“I VOLUNTEER because I am eager to keep making a positive impact on the lives of disadvantaged people in our society. I believe that my energy and passion to serve others will play a role in making a world a better place to live.” My assignment contributes to SDG 3. Says John Kinabo (HIV Analyst with UNICEF)
“I VOLUNTEER because I want to use my skills and knowledge to make a difference in for the girls and women in our country.” My assignment contributes to SDG 5. Says Jackline Chami (Programme Analyst with UNWomen)

“I VOLUNTEER because I want to support migrants and vulnerable communities in the context of climate change adaptation and resilience.” My assignment contributes to SDG 13. Says Hyeonggeun Ji (MECC Programme Officer with IOM)

“I VOLUNTEER because I seek to contribute my quota in strengthening the national and global preparedness efforts to prevent, protect against, control and respond to diseases/epidemics and other public health events. I believe that if we are better prepared, we can save more lives.” My assignment contributes to SDG 3. Says Gabriel Ayeni (Country Preparedness Officer with WHO)

“I VOLUNTEER because I want to make a positive impact to the community by offering my time and expertise to the efforts of preventing violent extremism.” My assignment contributes to SDG 16. Says Martino Asheri Mbangile (National specialist with UNDP)

“I VOLUNTEER because I want to contribute my professional skills and knowledge to benefit others and make a difference.” My assignment contributes to SDG 16. Says Clemence Kiobya (Field Facilitator with UNDP)

“I VOLUNTEER because I want to contribute to social and economic change in my country.” My assignment contributes to all the SDGs. Says Josephine Laswai (Coordination Analyst with UNRCO)

“I VOLUNTEER because I have a passion to serve humanity. With the UN, I have an opportunity to promote social progress, better living standards and human rights.” My assignment contributes to SDG 10. Says Rachel Kameti (Associate Resettlement Officer with UNHCR)
“I VOLUNTEER because I want to contribute my time and skills to enhance the national DRR Statistics on informing national and sectoral policies, strategies and plans.” My assignment contributes to SDG 1, 11 and 13. Says Jane Kikunya (Senior Statistician & DRR Specialist with UNDRR)

“I VOLUNTEER because I feel so proud and blessed to use my knowledge to serve the youth in my community by promoting peace and development.” My assignment contributes to SDG 16. Says Grace Mchome (PVE Field Facilitator with UNDP)

“I VOLUNTEER because I want to commit my energy and expertise to those in need and contribute to the betterment of their future.” My assignment contributes to SDG 3. Says Ahmed Hajikedir (Health Specialist with UNHCR).

“I VOLUNTEER because I am passionate about achieving gender equality in both the national and global level.” My assignment contributes to SDG 5. Says Elaine Maro (Monitoring and Reporting Analyst with UN Women)

“I VOLUNTEER because I am passionate and want to share my knowledge and services to promote social welfare, civic engagement and community resilience.” My assignment contributes to SDG 16. Says Khadija Mohammed (Field Facilitator with UNDP)

“I VOLUNTEER because I want to contribute my capabilities to the Civil Engineering industry that will facilitate service provision to the local people in Zanzibar.” My assignment contributes to SDG 9. Says Gillian Malyasi (Architect with UNDP)

“I VOLUNTEER because I want to invest my time, energy and skills to empower children and young people.” My assignment contributes to SDG. Says Peter Alli (Youth Engagement Officer with UNICEF)
"I VOLUNTEER because I believe the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." My assignment contributes to SDG 16. Says Edmund Mbigili (Field Facilitator with UNDP)

"I VOLUNTEER because it is an opportunity to help those in need especially the children, youth and women in our local community." My assignment contributes to SDG 1 and 5. Says Tauhida Said (Child Protection and Social Policy Officer with UNICEF)

“NAJITOLEA kwasababu nataka kuungana na juhudi za kuleta mabadiliko cbanya kwenywe jamii.” Kazi yangu inachangia SDG 11. Asema Dorothea Mbosha (Architect na UNDP)

“NAJITOLEA kwasababu napenda kujifunza vitu mbalmbali vinavyobusiana na maendeleo ya jamii kama kupinga umaskini, usawa wa kijinjii na basa ushiriki wa wanawake katika shughuli za kiuchumi” Kazi yangu inachangia SDG 1 na 5. Asema Mariam Simba (Afisa Mawasiliano na UNCDF)

“NAJITOLEA kwa sababu naendelea kujifunza zaidi kubusu watu, ushirikiano na kusaidia wengine ili kuleta mabadiliko cbanya katika jamii” Kazi yangu inachangia SDG 4. Asema Ababuu Livoga (Afisa wa Elimu na UNICEF)

“NAJITOLEA kwa sababu nataka kutumia ujuzi wangu kufanya mabadiliko na kusaidia wengine kufanya vivyo bieyo.” Kazi yangu inachangia SDG 17. Asema Istan Mutashobya (Graphic Design Associate na UNRCO)

“NAJITOLEA kwasababu ni heshima na wajibu wangu kubudumia wengine ubitaji katika jamii.” Kazi yangu inachangia SDG 16. Asema Emanuel Lukwaro (Former UNV with UNCDF)
12 YEARS (2008 - 2019) OF UNV TANZANIA

Volunteering for the Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda in TANZANIA
A DREAM REALIZED: From being a National UN Volunteer to a UN Staff Position, UNV Programme Assistant

coming from a humble background but having been fortunate enough to have travelled and spent a sizable amount of my childhood and youthful days in the western world it has been my dream to serve my country and my people and really be a part of a team that brings significant change and tackles the development agenda.

While my target was always the UN System like many young people I bought into the myth of how difficult and almost impossible it is to build a career in the UN system especially when you don’t bring a significant amount of experience on the table.

I started my journey in the civil society having worked for multiple international organizations and assist in Finance and Human Resources functions which are critical to the overall delivery of programmes this helped me to gain quite of skills and experiences but my dream was still valid.

In 2019 I saw volunteering opportunity advert for the UNV Office in Tanzania, despite being on a full time job I applied for this role the scope of work on the advert confirmed the significant impact I would be able to take part in by supporting the volunteers who take the lead in serving humanity across the entire UN System in Tanzania.

I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity safe to say this was one of the most memorable days of my life. When I joined the team I was received with warm welcome and a truly comprehensive onboarding that brought me up to speed fast, with the excellent leadership of my supervisor who entrusted me with some complex tasks in no time I found myself having gained confidence and a clear understanding of my scope of work.

Six months down the line the position I was holding was re-advertised this time as a staff position with hesitation on applying given the myth I had in mind when it comes to UN jobs I took a chance to apply for the role and to my greatest surprise I turned out to be the successful candidate and what was a dream that seemed to be far reaching became a living reality.

Today I am a UNV Programme Assistant for UNV programme in Tanzania with an oversight of operational functions supporting over 80 UN Volunteers across the UN System in Tanzania.

A DREAM REALIZED:
From being a National UN Volunteer to a UN Staff Position, UNV Programme Assistant
Volunteering for the Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda in TANZANIA

UNV launches TV, Radio programmes in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter

UNITED Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme in Tanzania has launched national TV and Radio Programmes to promote UN Volunteers as a corporate brand in Tanzania for National Development Programmes.


The programmes aimed at reaching the lifestyle-oriented audience with the information on the benefits of volunteering, mobilisation and recruitment of volunteers, as well as creating awareness of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

The launch of the TV and Radio programmes is part of Advocacy & Outreach Initiatives for Volunteer Mobilisation and UNV’s national plan to reach the target of 300,000 new volunteers internationally.

The programmes will focus on the implementation of national volunteer programs across the country to help in the achievement of the Volunteering for the SDGs movement.

The roll-out of SDG-focused initiatives is expected to start in July 2019 to help the implementation of programmes and projects of the UN.

UNV volunteers’ chief backs harmonised policies through regional integration

Volunteering for the SDGs movement”) based in Africa has said it backs harmonised policies through regional integration in order to address the need for volunteers.

UNV’s Chief of the Regional Bureau for Africa, Oscar Agbey is said to have highlighted the need to address the need for volunteers.

Agbey also praised the UN Regional Manager for the East and Southern Africa Regional Bureau for Africa, Wendy Momburu, who led the team.

He said that UNV’s main priority is to ensure that volunteers are able to do their work in a harmonised policy framework.

Agbey said that policy框架framework was very important for UNV’s work to be able to reach the SDGs.

He noted that volunteers were very important for UNV’s work to be able to reach the SDGs.

Agbey added that volunteers were very important for UNV’s work to be able to reach the SDGs.

Agbey concluded by saying that volunteers were very important for UNV’s work to be able to reach the SDGs.
Advocacy & Outreach Initiatives for Volunteer Mobilization
We are
inspiration
in action

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