REFLECTING CITIZEN CONTRIBUTIONS TO SDGS USING STATISTICS ON VOLUNTEER WORK

What statistics are available or can be made available?

Why and how use volunteer work stats to report on SDGs progress?

Country experiences – challenges and opportunities from South Africa and Sri Lanka (and others!)
**SCALE OF GLOBAL VOLUNTEER WORK**

1. 2 SEPARATE ESTIMATES – AROUND 1 BILLION ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

2. VOLUNTEER WORK ESTIMATED TO CONTRIBUTE ABOUT 2.4% GLOBAL GNP BUT REPLACEMENT VALUE HIGH WAGE RATES CAN BE 4-5% GNP

3. 109 MILLION FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT VOLUNTEERS

4. 70% VOLUNTEERING IS DONE DIRECTLY WITHOUT INVOLVING ORGANIZATIONS

5. 56.5% OF TOTAL VOLUNTEER WORK IS DONE BY WOMEN AND 59% OF INFORMAL/DIRECT VOLUNTEERING

6. VALUE OF LABOUR EXCEEDS CHARITABLE GIVING 68:32 (JOHNS HOPKINS)

**VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS ON SDGS**

How volunteer work statistics can strengthen reports

- VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW PRINCIPLES
  - STATE-LED, BUT WITH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
  - FOCUS ON EVIDENCE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL
  - MOVING BEYOND DESCRIPTION TO ANALYSIS
  - SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH

- POTENTIAL TO INTEGRATE VOLUNTING
  - VOLUNTEER-LED RESEARCH, CONSULTATION AND VALIDATION
  - IMPORTANT PROXY FOR CIVIC ACTION AND LOCAL OWNERSHIP
  - COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION PER SDGS
  - POTENTIAL TO DRAW ON VOLUNTEER WORK STATS (LFS, TUS)
PROGRESS TO DATE

2016: 2 COUNTRIES MENTION VOLUNTEER WORK, NO STATISTICAL VALUES

2017: 17 COUNTRIES MENTION VOLUNTEER WORK, NO STATISTICAL VALUES
AUSTRALIA, SAUDI ARABIA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, TOGO

2018: 29 of 46 MENTION VOLUNTEER WORK WITH STATISTICS FROM

HOW GOVERNMENTS INCLUDE VOLUNTEER WORK

- Scale and scope of inputs
  - Australia estimates economic value of volunteering $290bn via 932 million person hours
  - Saudi Arabia estimates value of 55k volunteers input at 12.5 million
  - Sri Lanka, 8.6 million people volunteer

- Leaving no one behind
  - Specific schemes to support inclusion of new immigrants (Canada) Persons with disabilities (Australia) or promote women’s empowerment (Lao PDR, Singapore)

- Innovation
  - Documenting innovations in environmental protection and disaster risk reduction (Andorra, Guinea, Jamaica, Malta Vietnam)
  - Reflecting on volunteering for employment and education (Lithuania, Saudi Arabia, Togo)

- Participatory processes
  - Demonstrating how 100,000s of thousands of citizens have given time to provide feedback and inputs on SDGs progress, both online and offline

- International cooperation for capacity building
  - Scale and scope of international volunteering e.g. 27,000 in Togo; 13,000 in Australia
WHERE TO NEXT?

2016: 2 COUNTRIES MENTION VOLUNTEER WORK, NO STATISTICS

2017: 17 COUNTRIES MENTION VOLUNTEER WORK, NO STATISTICAL VALUES

2018: 29 of 46 MENTION VOLUNTEER WORK WITH STATISTICS FROM AUSTRALIA, SAUDI ARABIA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, TOGO

TOWARDS AN ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK....

Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals – Demonstrating Whole of Society Approach

No. of FTE volunteers

$ Replacement value of volunteer labour

Highlight Participatory and Volunteer-Led Structures and Mechanisms for SDGs (e.g. World We Want, National Platforms etc)

Leave No One Behind

Comparative volunteering participation rates: women/men; disabilities vs GPO; rural/urban; indigenous groups vs GPO

Statistical analysis of SDGs (e.g. 3-5) against marker for level of citizen engagement on priority groups

Highlight public policies/volunteer schemes and initiatives for marginalized groups

SDG3

Volunteer hours and $ value (LFS, TUS) in health sector

No. of volunteers by sector from Satellite Accounts (formal only)

Specific examples of initiatives and schemes that demonstrate citizen ownership and innovation through volunteering

SDG5

Women’s participation in volunteering vs participation in other forms of work

Specific examples of initiatives and schemes to promote women’s leadership, economic and social participation through volunteering

$ Skills upgrade and alignment through volunteer opportunities and schemes

SDG8

Participation of NEETs in volunteering

Participation of persons with disabilities in volunteering

Innovation
103 countries were identified to have collected data on volunteer work, using a total number of 169 data sources, between 2007 and 2017. The 19th ICLS seems to have raised countries’ interest in measuring volunteer work and to have caused a significant shift in the measurement approach.
CHALLENGES IN APPLYING RECOMMENDED SURVEY TOOLS

The current guidelines and recommendations contained in the ILO Manual have to be updated and upgraded in order to:

- be aligned to the latest international standards
- offer sufficient technical guidelines on elements related but not limited to:
  - refinement of survey tools by testing the criteria used to define volunteer work
  - choice of the reference period for measuring engagement in volunteer work and time worked
  - adjustment of recommended survey tools to national circumstances through testing
  - development of appropriate sampling plans for different data collection options
  - dissemination of data and meta-data
  - use of data on volunteer work with relation to other statistics

WIDER CHALLENGES IN SUPPORTING VNR PROCESSES RAISED BY NSOS

1. **LACK OF WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH**
   Better coordination required with NSOs to ensure solid evidence foundation in VNRs

2. **LACK OF DATA ON MEANS/RESOURCES**
   VNRs are mainly descriptive, so far analysis has not really happened including whether assets and resources are sufficient

3. **LACK OF INVESTMENT IN DATA SYSTEMS**
   Long-term investment is required, including to be able to start showing trends as countries report for the 2nd or 3rd time

4. **INSUFFICIENT PLANNING/TIME TO FILL GAPS**
   What other sources can be used in the absence of official data?
COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

How is volunteer work perceived in your context?

Why was there a decision to include volunteer work in your country’s VNR?

How has your country measured volunteering? Any lessons from the experience?

Was the NSO involved in sharing data on volunteer work for SDGS reporting?

Any other comments or suggestions?

HOW THE UNV/ILo JOINT PROJECT CAN SUPPORT YOUR AGENCY

- Engagement of skilled volunteers to support implementation, analysis and reporting or validation with e.g. volunteer groups
- Tools and guidance on measuring volunteer work
- Advisory support to develop and implement analytical framework to use volunteer work statistics
- Technical advisory on other ad-hoc surveys linking volunteer work to SDG outcomes
- Support to implementation of survey modules in LFS
- Sharing approaches and models at the Regional Preparatory Meetings for HLPF and global technical meeting on volunteering
Q&A