

UNV ALBANIA Newsletter

Year I, Number I

January - March 2004

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For more information:

www.unv.org
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In the next issue:

- Presentation of CPS missions: UNV impact on the corporate private sector
- Insight on joint UNV/UNDP initiative "Regional Integration through Volunteers Exchange for Reunion of SEE"
- UNV and IOM in Albania (a fruitful cooperation)
- Information for Albanians who want to be IUNV (links, ideas, suggestions)
- And much more.....

UNV around the Globe

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that supports human development globally by promoting volunteerism and by mobilizing volunteers. It is administered by UNDP and operates amidst growing recognition that volunteerism makes important contributions, economically and socially, to more cohesive societies by building trust and reciprocity among citizens.

What is UNV's mission?

Volunteering brings benefits to both society at large and the individual volunteer. It makes important contributions, economically as well as socially. It serves the causes of peace and development through enhancing opportunities for participation by all peoples. It is universal, inclusive and embraces volunteer action in all its diversity. It values free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity, which are the foundations of volunteerism.

Who are the UN Volunteers?

Some 5,000 qualified and experienced women and men of nearly 150 nationalities serve each year in developing countries as UN Volunteers. Since 1971, some 30,000 UN Volunteers have worked in about 140 countries. Currently, nearly 70% are citizens of developing countries while the remaining 30% come from the industrialized world.

What do volunteers do?

They work in technical cooperation with governments, with community-based initiatives, in humanitarian relief and rehabilitation and in support of human rights, electoral and peace-building processes. They are professionals who work on a peer basis. They listen and discuss; teach and train; encourage and facilitate. Volunteers also share and exchange ideas, skills and experience.

In which sectors do they work?

The UNV programme involves a wide spread of sectors: it maintains a roster covering 115 professional categories. Agriculture, health and education feature prominently, as do human rights promotion, information and communication technology, community development, vocational training, industry and population.

Where are they working?

They have served in about 140 countries. Today 40 % are at work in Africa, 26 % in Asia and the Pacific, and 15 % in Central/Eastern Europe; the remaining are to be found in the Arab States, the Caribbean, and Central/South America.



*Volunteerism is ...
to enrich yourself and
empower others...*

*IUNV Natasha Mistry
LGP Regional Coordinator
Fier*

The true adventure is not exploring new lands, but gaining new views...

UNV Albania, an historical overview

UN Volunteers firmly established itself in Albania in September 2001 in an effort to build on the Albanian Government's growing openness towards democratic governance and civic engagement and tap into the growing potential for - together with UNDP - working with civil society and the Government in promoting volunteering for development in Albania.

A UNV Programme Officer was recruited to further develop the UNV programme and promote volunteerism. At present there are 24 UN Volunteers supporting UNDP

development activities aiming at promoting democratic governance as well as supporting UNHCR and IOM social reintegration activities. After the establishment of a national scheme for UN volunteers, 13 Albanian UN Volunteers are currently serving in the country and 4 serving as international UN Volunteers around the world.

UNV is supporting Albania with a total of USD487,500 from its Special Voluntary Fund (SVF) and since 2001 around USD360,000 in the form of Fully Funded UN Volunteers from donors such as Italy, Spain and Japan.

UNV Albania activities

Contribution to UNDP practice areas

In April 2002, a total amount of USD458, 696 was approved from the UNV SVF to complement the ongoing UNDP Local Governance Programme in supporting the ongoing process of decentralization and democratic systems of **local governance** in Albania. At present, a team of national and international UN Volunteers is serving as regional coordinators, municipal and commune development officers and promotion of volunteerism specialists in three pilot regions of Albania. In mixed teams they are carrying out series of extensive orientations and consultations with community members, local government and village leaders to introduce the concept of social mobilization. More than **50 CBO's** have been formed and actively engaged by UN volunteers in the process of planning local development projects in their communities.

Corporate/Private Sector (CPS)

Albania has been an important recipient of Corporate Private Sector (CPS) advisory missions. Over the last three years some **60 missions** have been deployed, especially in the **agro industry** and **tourism** sectors, for developing business plans, and feasibility studies. A desk review carried out by our Italian Focal point in June 2002 confirmed that advisory missions have been highly appreciated by clients. UNV HQ mission in January 2003 discussed and developed a strategy for more effectively aligning CPS advisory services with the overall UNDP and UNV programmes in Albania.

Volunteerism for Development

During the years 2002 and 2003 the UNV office has initiated and supported **three researches on volunteerism**. In order to increase the impact of volunteer activities on development, the researches show the necessity to increase the "volume" of the volunteering work at the community level, the importance to explain and clarify the concept of volunteerism among families with low and very low level of education, and the need to support the government in designing a national strategy and action plan for the medium term future of volunteerism.

Within the overall objective of strengthening **regional integration of the Balkans**, together with the UNV team in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), UNV Albania is also implementing a regional initiative which aims to increase confidence and interaction between individuals, as well as to enhance regional co-operation between civil society organizations from Albania, BiH, Croatia, Macedonia and Montenegro and Serbia, including Kosovo.

UNV Albania staff during the 2003 retreat in Kotor, Montenegro.



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Excerpts from the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's statement at the opening ceremony for the International Year of Volunteers 2001

At the heart of volunteerism are the ideals of service and solidarity and the belief that together we can make the world better. In that sense, we can say that volunteerism is the ultimate expression of what the United Nations is all about. *So I am delighted to celebrate with you the millions of volunteers who serve tirelessly around the world - to meet people's needs, to protect their rights, and to help give them a voice.*

All over the world, volunteers are working with governments, NGOs and the private sector to deliver effective professional assistance. **Their motivation can be summed up in one word: sharing. They share their time. They share their skills and talents. Above all, they share a human experience.** They know that the true measure of success in life is not what we gain but what we give back to our fellow men and women. And they have the courage to believe that what they do will make a real difference.

Sharing is also how they approach their work. They do not seek to impose their values, their ideas or their agendas. Rather they find out what people need and want, and they work with them to make it happen.

They teach children to read. They act as mentors for young people. They help women start businesses. They help feed the old and sick who

have no family to care for them. They help build wells for communities, so that everyone can have access to clean water. They help maintain peace and build democracy, lend a hand to the survivors of conflict and war, assist with the implementation of long-term development projects, and help preserve the environment. They also serve on school boards, visit prisons and work in hospitals. *Whatever they do, they do in the interests of peace and harmony within and between communities; and so they help keep our societies strong and healthy.*

A tiny sample of this worldwide voluntary workforce is with us here today. As these dedicated individuals will tell you, volunteerism is not a matter of wealthy and generous people dispensing largesse to the poor. It is people from all walks of life and strata of society, who have made the choice to serve their fellow men and women whether at home or abroad. Of the 4,500 UNVs serving around the world every year, more than two-thirds of them are from developing countries, working in neighboring states or overseas in a true expression of South-South cooperation.

In intervening not only with their hands and minds, but also with their heart, volunteers do more than provide services. They bring hope to

those they help, and so help them find the strength to overcome their weakness. Their reward may be new lifelong friendships, a new understanding of other people's, of other cultures' and other countries', problems and perspectives, or simply the knowledge that they have made a difference. Invariably, volunteers will tell you they have received at least as much as they have given.

It is such giving and receiving that binds a society together.

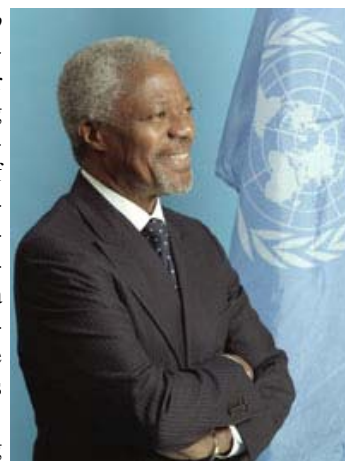
By promoting inclusion and trust, it helps build the foundations of social justice and stability. Evidence is growing that societies with high levels of civic engagement have a lower level of communal strife.

Today we need that engagement more than ever. In most countries, the benefits of globalization will not reach the poor unless an active effort is made to bring its opportunities within their reach. But on the ground, much of this effort will have to be provided by volunteers.

And that in turn means that societies need to recognize and promote volunteerism as a valuable activity. They must facilitate the work of volunteers, and encourage volunteer action at home and abroad. And they must develop networks among volunteers in different countries, so that they can learn from each other's experience. By calling upon volunteers and building partnerships with civil society, governments can help increase the efficiency of public services, and ensure that they reach more people.

[...] Finally, let me say a big thank you to all the volunteers around the world who collectively are making a magnificent contribution to ensuring a better and safer world for all of us.

We, at the United Nations, are very proud of our UN Volunteers, who help us carry out our mission in sometimes difficult and dangerous conditions. Like the countless other volunteers we will be honoring this year, UNVs are a shining example in action of the values of solidarity and shared responsibility that the Millennium Summit proclaimed as essential to international relations in the 21st century. They are true citizens of the world. Thank you very much.



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Message from UNDP Albania Resident Representative

The launch of the MDGs, adopted at the Millennium Summit of the UN in September 2000, is undoubtedly the most ambitious challenge undertaken by the international community for reshaping development architecture in a way to build in the forthcoming years a more inclusive and equitable globalisation.

The MDGs, as a set of human development benchmarks endorsed by all Member States and the international community, have provided an unprecedented basis for partnership between developed and developing countries. Success in achieving them requires both the political will of governments who committed themselves to reach this set of objectives by the year 2015 and the involvement of ordinary people at each level of action: global, national, regional, district and community.

In this framework volunteerism represents an essential tool to utilize and channel the diverse skills and experiences of different people to demonstrate global solidarity and give a significant contribution to improving the lives of millions of people worldwide. As both a goal and a tool for development, the MDGs give the opportunity to channel the energy and the commitment of million of ordinary people towards a common and measurable goal shared by governments, international organizations and citizens worldwide. The United Nations Volunteers, being both a member of the UN family and a part of the global volunteer community, support sustainable human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism and the mobilization of volunteers.

The contribution of volunteers is twofold: it helps to attain the MDGs by implementing development projects specifi-

cally designed to reach those targets (to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development) and also by supporting initiatives in the so-called transversal areas as democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, ICT for development and partnership with the private sector, which also indirectly contribute to achieving the MDGs.

In Albania a large number of volunteers are involved in initiatives related to MDGs. Their action has delivered impressive social benefits especially in the areas of promoting gender equality and empowering women, poverty alleviation and capacity building, combating HIV/AIDS, weapons collection and many other relevant areas.

The recent experience with the United Nations Volunteers in Albania has demonstrated that, by building trust and reciprocity among citizens, volunteering makes precious contributions, economically as well as socially. The values of free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity, channelled through volunteerism, are a silent tool, but indeed indispensable, for the attainment of the MDGs.



*Anna Stjarnerklint
Resident Representative
UNDP Albania*



UNV Albania International UN Volunteers during the 2003 retreat in Kotor, Montenegro

Communication. Previous experiences in Peru'-Bolivia-Ecuador (regional initiative on building up a network between maternal/prenatal health centers in the Andean region), Senegal (project on social insertion of disabled people), New York (UNDP/HDRO), Paris (OECD/LEED) and Milan (Italian pay TV television).

UNV Albania: Presentation of UN Volunteers

INTERNATIONAL UN VOLUNTEERS

Bhuvan Silwal, UNDP/LGP Regional Coordinator in Kukes. Master Degree in Social Anthropology, University degree in Natural Resource Management. Previous experiences with UNV Nepal (IYV 2001 & Volunteerism Promotion), UNDP Nepal (integrated development project based on Social Mobilization), and an INGO (participatory training development, marketing, implementation).

Chiara Pace, UNV Albania Programme Officer. Master's Degree in Cooperation and Development, University Degree in Sciences of

Dmitry Yakhnov, Head of UNDP CO IT Unit. Bachelor, Computer Science, International University of Kyrgyzstan. Previous experiences as LAN Manager/UNDP Kyrgyzstan, Programmer/ERIDAN Corporation, Kyrgyzstan, number of part-time computer consultant experience.

Leilani Maghanay, UNDP/LGP Training Specialist. Masters Degree in Social Work. Previous experiences in the Philippines (Department of Social Welfare and Development, Career Planning and Development Division) as Social Welfare Analyst, Women Welfare Worker.

Maria Roura, IOM Albania HIV/AIDS Specialist. PhD in Sociology of Health, Degree in Economy. Previous experience in Nicaragua (HIV/AIDS research), Russia (research on health impact of the transition process) and Barcelona (PHARE and TACIS EC financed projects, research on macro economy and health, HIV/AIDS).

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UNV Albania: presentation of UN Volunteers...continued

Melanie Reimer, UNDP Survivor Assistance Coordinator for the Albanian Mine Action Executive. BA in Psychology. Previous experience in Kosovo (working in a group home with de-institutionalized children- UNICEF) and Sri Lanka (coordinating assistance for landmine/UXO survivors-UNDP).

Natasha Mistry, UNDP/LGP Regional Coordinator in Fier. Bachelor of Arts and Science, from University of Toronto, specializing in International Relations and Political Science. Work experience: most of her life has been with volunteering. Either as a volunteer or as a volunteer promoter. Her previous experience involves Team IYV for promotion of International Year of volunteers 2001, UNV Headquarters, Bonn, Germany.

Stefania Di Paola, UNV Intern. University degree in Political Science, Master degree in European Union Policy Making, 3rd year of Phd in International Public Law. Previous experience in Brussels (EuropeAid, European Commission) and Rome (Istitute of International Affairs).

Tyler Hague, UNDP MDG Linkages Programme Officer. Honours Bachelor of Arts, International Development Masters of Public Administration. Previous experience in Canada (working in Canadian federal politics working for a member of parliament and cabinet minister), summer placement at CIDA's Central and Eastern Europe branch, and in South Korea (TESL instructor).

NATIONAL UN VOLUNTEERS

Arben Moci, Community Development Specialist for UNDP/LGP in Fier. Academic Background: Mechanical Engineer. Work experience: 3-4 years of working in community development with AiBi (Friends of Children).

Bujar Taho, Promotion of Volunteerism Specialist for UNDP/LGP in Fier. Academic Background: Bachelor of Law. Work experience : he was a student involved in volunteer action at the Albanian Human Rights Group. He was investigating human rights violation cases and conducting basic human rights training for youth belonging to Roma minority. After graduation in law, he was selected for an internship at the Social cohesion department at the council of Europe in Strasbourg, where he dealt with migration as well as minority issues.

Bukurosh Onuzi, Community Development Officer for UNDP/LGP in Kukes. University degree in Agriculture and University degree in Law in Tirana. Master Trainer Title from Swedish Public Institute for decentralization law, strategic planning, and financial management. Previous experience: Head of produce department in cooperative in Morin Kukes, Head of agronomist and chief of laboratory of hayseed at Regional level, Chief of department of Public services at Kukes Prefecture.

Erjon Shehu, Commune Development Specialist UNDP/LGP in Fier. Academic Background: Bachelor of Economics. Work Experience: working for private company as Economic Administrator, and then worked as civil servant as Expert in taxes at the Finance office in Ballsh Municipality

Enik Pogaçe, Expert in Volunteerism with UNV Albania in Tirana. Undergraduate studies in law at Marmara University, Faculty of Law in Istanbul Turkey.

Gazmend Dulla, Promotion of Volunteerism Specialist for UNDP/LGP in Kukes. University degree in economic. Previous experience: Economist at Kukes prefecture, Active member of Local Non Government Organization, Volunteering on NGO- s sector organization management and project management circle of projects Trained on several topics regarding NGO- sector.

Gerhard Sina, Commune Development Specialist for UNDP/LGP in Gjirokastr. University degree in Economics from Faculty of Economics, University of Tirana. Previous experiences with Start 2000, Tepelena City Hall, private businesses.

Ledia Hila, Protection Assistant for UNHCR Albania, B.A. in Law from University of Bucharest, Romania. From 1999 and currently working with UNHCR, in 1998 working for Teuta Television in Durres, Albania.

Lindita Luzo, Municipality Development Officer for UNDP/LGP in Gjirokastr. B.A degree in English, second BA at the Faculty of Economics, Public Administration. Work experience with Regional Development Office (SMEDA), UNDP-ARRO Project, Teacher of English Language, Gjirokastra Prefecture, "ECOS OUVERTURE-INTERISK" project.

Spiro Diamanti, Municipality Development Officer for UNDP/LGP in Gjirokastr. Graduated in 1990 in the Faculty of Engineering Construction, as a Hydrotechnic Engineer, one-year assistant professor in the faculty, worked as a designer in Greece. From 1993-1995 he worked in a Greek institute, as a technician for the rehabilitation of South-Albanian schools.

Ylber Cejku, Commune Development Officer for UNDP/LGP in Kukes. University degree in Mathematics. Previous experience in Kukes Region (civil society initiatives), projects according to local governance. Transparency project, different projects against AIDS, Drugs and Alcohols. Project: "Humanitarian help for orphan children". Building the forums between candidates of local governance elections (Municipality) at international level.

Vangjel Rama, Municipal Development Specialist for UNDP/LGP in Fier. Academic Background: Bachelor in Physical education, and Postgraduate course in Volleyball Work experience: Previously a physical education teacher for 13 years, then moved into rural development work with CESVI (Italian NGO) as a Programme Manager.

Zyber Jata, Municipality Development Specialist for UNDP/LGP in Kukes. University degree in Mathematics, University of Shkodra. Previous experience: Kukes Region in Education, social services and administrating the local governance at primary and secondary level.



UNV Albania National UN Volunteers during one of the workshops in the 2003 retreat in Kotor, Montenegro.

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DIPLOMATIC VOLUNTEERING

The Hungarian Ambassador serves as a Volunteer in Albania

His name is Sandro Szabo; he is 52 years old, a career diplomat and... a volunteer. This is the Ambassador of Hungary in the Republic of Albania. When he is not engaged in his diplomatic affairs, far away from meetings, official receptions and ambassadorial travels, Mr. Szabo escapes and dedicates his time serving as a coach for the goalkeepers of one of the main Albanian capital soccer teams, Dinamo. This is done voluntarily, and obviously without any financial compensation.

Mr. Szabo has been a soccer player for some 25 years in the Hungarian second division league, prior to becoming a career diplomat. But his passion and dedication for the game were preserved in his mind and soul, always being engaged and close to the soccer field.

During his assignment as Ambassador of Hungary in the Republic of Bulgaria, he was playing as a goalkeeper with an amateur team in Sofia.

When we interviewed Mr. Szabo, he was so passionate when telling us about what he had done outside of his ambassadorial garments. Right after his arrival in Albania, some 9 months ago, he had started the efforts to get engaged as a soccer coach, endeavours that finalized when he was accepted from 'Dinamo' soccer club.

"It is more than a hobby to me – he says – it is a fascination that lays deep in my heart, it keeps me fit, it aids me not to forget the game, it is an advantage that I have because I get to know new people, interact with them in circumstances other than diplomatic relations. On the field, I

am not Mr. Ambassador, and I insist that everyone call me Sandro, and treat me as one of them, one of the team. By volunteering, I feel more involved, more committed and more part of the country where I am serving".

Many of his colleagues and friends, as well as many Albanians, were surprised from his venture as a volunteering soccer coach. "It is not something an Ambassador should do – they tell him – it is not serious and diplomatic". Among his colleagues and fellow team members there was a humorous comment going on when referring to Mr. Szabo and his leisure pursuit ... 'among ambassadors he is the best coach, and among coaches he is the best ambassador'. But he is not discouraged from any of this; his commitment and dedication are still alive and kicking.

After the great and fruitful relationship with Dinamo, he is searching for another soccer team to contribute with in Albania, yet another adventure and another volunteering journey.



Hungarian Ambassador in Albania, Mr. Sandro Szabo, on his volunteering duty as a soccer coach in Tirana.

*Photo: KLAN magazine
NO. 342, February 2004*

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Dear readers, We welcome your feedback!! Please share your ideas and comments with us at: unv.albania@undp.org

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The VOA (Volunteerism Organizations in Albania) Network

Given the successful co-operation in the last two years with many other organizations working in Albania on issues of youth (reconciliation, capacity building, youth police, job creation), volunteerism, economic development, local governance and institutional building, regional integration, and gender, in October 2003 UNV Albania established the **VOA Network**, immediately joined by other organizations/institutions such as: Albanian Youth Council, Albanian Red Cross, MJAFT!, Caritas Albania, Caritas Italiana Albania, Independent Youth Activities Association, Open Society Foundation (SOROS), Young Intellectual Hope Association, University of Tirana (Faculty of Social Sciences) and VIS.

The **Volunteerism Organizations in Albania Network** aims to create a vibrant voluntary sector by promoting volunteerism and its values for community development and healthy society and its first activity took place on December 5th 2003, in occasion of the **International Volunteers Day**. In partnership with the Tirana Municipality and Fine Arts Academy, the VOA Network set-up a unique exhibition in a bus, featuring photos of volunteers, classified according to MDG themes. The exhibition went around Tirana for the whole day on 5 December and the bus stopped in schools and squares to promote the exhibit.

Within the VOA (Volunteerism Organizations in Albania) Network programme aiming to create a vibrant voluntary sector by promoting volunteerism and its value for community development and healthy society, we are pleased to invite you to take part in the contest:

V for V

Don't let the summer stop YOU!!!
Voluntary action as an instrument to promote
Volunteerism and mobilize communities!!!

Don't let solidarity activities in Tirana and across Albania cease to exist during the summer months of June, July and August. We can exploit such opportunity and lack of events and activities to promote our volunteerism spirit and spread the message around. Plan a voluntary activity of social interest that you and your friends would like to carry out during those months and just let us know. Volunteerism encompasses all activities of social and community interest, undertaken by people in their free will and an unselfish manner, whether spontaneous and individual or organised and permanent, conducted to the benefit of individuals and communities on a non-profit basis.

Who can apply: Organisations, informal groups, and individuals willing to prepare and carry out voluntary action **between 15 June and 31 August 2004**, with the objective to promote volunteerism and mobilise volunteers in local communities.

How to apply: The application should contain the following: main information about the applicant and the number of volunteers involved (who), the description of activities or action you are planning to carry out (what), the social context you will act in (where), the tools you will use for your voluntary action (how), the exact period and length of your activity (when), the added social value your activity will bring as its effectiveness in the promotion of volunteerism (which). The application can also contain documentation about previous activities.

Applications should be sent between 05 April and 05 June 2004 at the following address:

UNV Office – UNDP Country Office

Reference: Volunteerism Contest

Rr. Deshmoret e 4 Shkurtit Villa 35, Tirana (Albania)

Phone: +355 4 23 31 48/9 Fax: +355 4 23 20 75 Website: <http://www.unv.undp.org.al> E-mail: UNV Albania unv.albania@undp.org

The Rewards: Upon the completion of all voluntary actions, the organiser of the contest will select the most successful voluntary action for each category (organisation, informal group, individual). The criteria will encompass the number of volunteers involved, effectiveness in the promotion of volunteerism, added social value, etc. The selected from each category will be rewarded with a price of 25.000 Albanian leke. Participation certificate for all participants who will conclude their voluntary action between 15 June and 31 August 2004. The organisers of the contest will film and document selected activities to produce a video as a tool for promotion of volunteerism.



Keshilli Rinor Shqiptar



Caritas Shqiptar
Albania



INDEPENDENT YOUTH

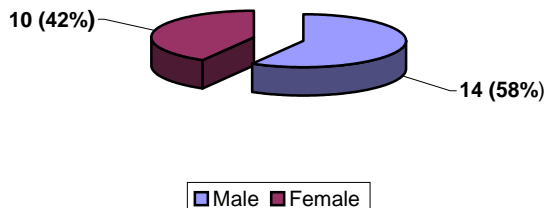


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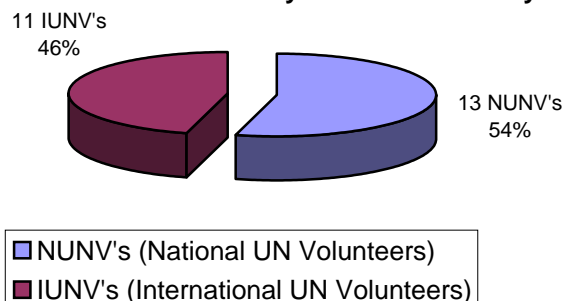
UNV Albania Statistics of Volunteers

Total UN Volunteers in service as of 31 March 2004: 24

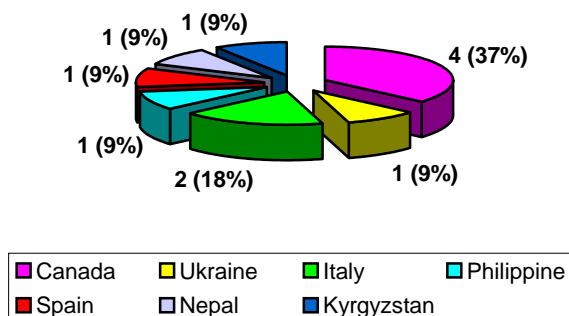
Serving UN Volunteers by gender



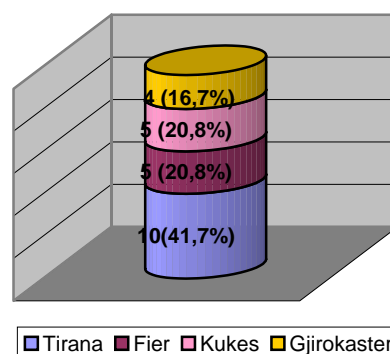
UNV by volunteer modality



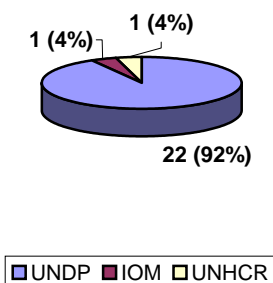
International Volunteers by country



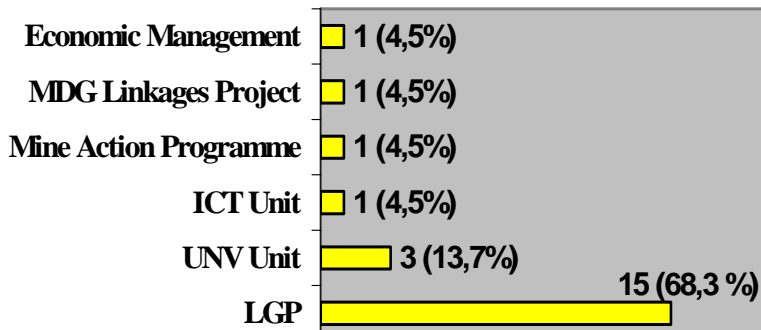
UN Volunteers in Albania by regions



UN Volunteers by UN agency



UNDP Volunteers by programme/project



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The Millennium Development Goals Worldwide...

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) are an ambitious agenda for reducing poverty and improving lives that world leaders agreed on at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. For each goal one or more targets have been set, most for 2015, using 1990 as a benchmark:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target for 2015: Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger.

2. Achieve universal primary education

Target for 2015: Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school.

3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Targets for 2005 and 2015: Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

4. Reduce child mortality

Target for 2015: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five

5. Improve maternal health

Target for 2015: Reduce by three-quarters the ratio of women dying in childbirth.

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- *Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.*

7. Ensure environmental sustainability

- *Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.*

- *By 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.*

- *By 2020 achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.*

8. Develop a global partnership for development

Targets: Develop further an open trading and financial system that includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – nationally and internationally; Address the least developed countries' special needs, and the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States; Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems; Develop decent and productive work for youth; In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries; In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies – especially information and communications technologies.

...and MDG's in Albania

Since publication of the first "Albania Response to the MDGs Report" in July 2002, national stakeholders in Albania have already begun to harness the power of the development engine offered by the MDG framework to drive forward the country's long-term policies for reform and inclusive growth. At the central level, the Government of Albania is now for the first time including the MDGs into national monitoring and evaluation systems. This work is complementing simultaneous efforts to revive the PRSP process already under way in Albania, and also to formulate a long-term vision for the country based on the MDGs and other national priorities. Civil society in Albania has also come aboard by initiating independent debates on Albanian-relevant targets and indicators for the MDGs, while also evaluating current policies now in place to achieve them. Communities at the local level are also recognizing the value of the MDG framework as a tool to prioritize local development needs and establish a system of political accountability. Five pilot areas in Albania have decided to prepare regional MDG reports that will rely on an integrated participatory policy and public investment ap-

proach to local planning and development within the overall MDG framework.

Work towards incorporating the MDGs into the Albanian context has also served as a force around which to rally the complementary development activities of the UN Country Team. Based on analysis conducted for the Common Country Assessment, a UN Development Assistance Framework is being formulated that places the MDGs at the center of the UN System's long-term human development strategy for Albania. Through the common language of the MDGs, UN agencies are working together at national and regional levels to design more effective programs of advocacy, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, and up-stream policy advice across such issues as Gender, Youth, HIV/AIDS, Environment, and ICTD. In support of a Regional MDG Advocacy Tour, six UN Agencies; IOM, WB, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, and UNDP – recently came together to discuss first hand with representatives of local communities some of the challenges and possible solutions necessary to reach the MDGs, as well as other local development priorities. UN Country Team plans are also under way to mobilize some of the additional resources needed to achieve the MDGs through an in-country Trust Fund.

The true adventure is not exploring new lands, but gaining new views...