



Message from United Nations Volunteers

To the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

06 June 2007

The Hyogo Framework for Action notes that volunteers are vital stakeholders in supporting the implementation of disaster risk reduction and it also notes that the full commitment and involvement of volunteers will be required in order to substantially reduce the impact of disasters.

Volunteers help to provide an effective early warning system. They deliver valuable relief and support in the immediate aftermath of disasters, and they are a source of essential skills and labour for reconstruction and development.

The Hyogo Framework therefore encouraged States and other actors to promote the strengthening or establishment of national, regional and international volunteer corps.

United Nations Volunteers wishes to report that this work is underway. UN Volunteers is actively supporting a number of countries, such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Colombia to foster and promote national volunteer schemes that are an essential component of their efforts to reduce the risks of disaster.

For example, immediately after the earthquakes in Pakistan in 2005, UNV helped to mobilize volunteers for humanitarian assistance. In turn, these people helped to train volunteers who are now a valuable part of Pakistan's capacity to handle future disasters. UN Volunteers has since been working with the government of Pakistan to develop and harness volunteerism for disaster preparedness and for the country's broader development.

The Hyogo Framework noted that volunteers are a valuable resource, and this is made apparent in each and every disaster when volunteers are active in providing support and assisting in recovery efforts.

However, volunteers need to be considered and handled strategically, and investment is required in order for voluntary action to be properly harnessed.

The spirit of volunteerism must be nurtured, and volunteers mobilized and directed. The development of volunteer corps would help strengthen this effort. However it is important that civic engagement and the mobilization of volunteers for risk reduction should enable individuals to be directly involved, rather than limiting interaction to institutional involvement.

In keeping with the Hyogo Framework for Action, UNV will continue to assist governments in their efforts to foster volunteerism and it will work with UN and other partners to mobilise volunteers and integrate them into disaster reduction programmes.

United Nations Volunteers

PO Box 250 111 53169 Bonn, Germany Telephone +49 228 8116 2000 Fax +49 228 8116 2001

Email hc@unvolunteers.org <http://www.unvolunteers.org>

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



United Nations Volunteers

P.O. Box 260 111 53153 Bonn Germany Telephone +49 228 815 2000 Fax +49 228 815 2001
Email hq@unvolunteers.org <http://www.unvolunteers.org>

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

