

Session 3: The role of Volunteering Standards in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Georges Armand DEGUENONVO Formateur en citoyenneté et volontariat Inspecteur de la jeunesse 17 Octobre 2022 Q1- How were your standards developed/designed and for what purpose?





The standards were proposed by the legislator (law, decree) but the practice of volunteering has ended up selecting others

A - STANDARDS DEVELOPED BY THE LAWMAKER

Several laws, passed in **1965 and 1968 have set up the framework** to mobilize young people through the national civic service of youth in Senegal

The 1998 law improved the standards governing volunteering work by facilitating the recruitment, training, assignment, implementation of the mission (monthly reportpayment of regular allowance) until the end of mobilization.



More recently, the **orientation law of July 2021** has further **opened up the standards of volunteering by taking into account the associative volunteering and the hosting structures**. These standards have focused on :

- The clarification of the institutional anchorage of the structure in charge of the voluntary service.
- The diversity of justifications for volunteering: tool for employability of young people, lever of civic engagement and contribution to the achievement of the SDGs,
- The 15 fields of development cooperation volunteering
- The conditions of the host structures
- The conditions of the volunteer assignment: age 15 at least for a period of 2 years, renewable, allowances, full time dedication to the mission, civic and technical or professional training.

The standards have allowed a good training of volunteers for missions in various fields where the volunteer could be of service to the community.



B- standards elaborated and developed through the practice of volunteering

Because of their regularity and the interest that the actors of volunteering bring to the methods and projects, there are standards attached to the associative volunteering and the cooperation volunteering, in particular that of the French cooperation.



The "associative" standards resulting from the practice of volunteering:

- Have an exchange project between two associations in their field of competence
- Submit a call for applications for the project missions with defined profiles
- Provide a short training, deployment in the place of execution of the mission
- Carry out the mission (support and accompaniment-follow-up of the activities regular payment of the stipend)
- Demobilize reintegration after volunteering
- Selecting the approved hosting structures for the volunteers



The standards of **cooperation** resulting from the practice of volunteering:

Volunteer cooperation is based on local authorities in twinning or partnership or cooperation organizations.

These exchanges by their regularity have ended up giving observable standards:

- The signing of a convention or a cooperation relationship
- The sharing of ideas for a common project based on voluntary work
- The search for additional resources for the cooperation project
- Call for applications and selection of volunteers
- Training mission follow-up demobilization

Numbers of volunteers of the international volunteer exchange and solidarity programme (cooperation Senegal France)

Year	International exchange and solidarity volunteers (VIES)	International volunteers (reciprocity) mobilized in France	Volunteers' hosting organizations
2021	594	2	104 including 2 in France
2020	490	16	117 including 15 in France
2019	1617	24	159 including 17 in France
2018	1294	13	125 including 10 in France
2017	1275	19	146 including 14 in France
Total	5270 mobilized	72 mobilized	651 listed



These standards, whether they are derived from legislation or from the experience and practices of associations or cooperatives, have helped to make the volunteer system effective.

From the beginning of the project, the actors have a precise idea of the volunteer's contribution.

Also, the volunteer personally **strengthens his skills** through the execution of his mission.

The implementing structures manage to **consolidate organizational practices** and to be eligible for other development projects.



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AU's perspective on the imperatives for standards – Why do we need standards?



Insufficient consideration of the power of traditional forms of volunteerism

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Lack of robust and reliable data and knowledge on volunteerism Lack or insufficient coordination and synergies of voluntary actions

3

Political challenges:
Problem of official 'buy-in'
and lack of awareness
creating barriers to the
promotion of volunteerism

Insufficient consideration of inclusiveness



Lack of resources (especially financial) for volunteering The non-priorisation of volunteering in development policies and strategies



Negative perceptions of volunteering

Legal challenges: Insufficient or lack of laws, policies as only 23,6% of Member States have currently a law or policy on volunteerism.





AU's perspective on the imperatives for standards – Why do we need standards?



- Set indicative approaches to reaching a common understanding of volunteerism and a shared appreciation of its values --- facilitate a Continental approach to volunteering and volunteerism
- To support establishing and nurturing an enabling environment
- To **standardize terminologies** around volunteerism
- To spell out the guiding principles and minimum standards for the promotion, recognition, and facilitation of volunteerism.
- To enhance the quality and impact of volunteerism in its contribution towards the AU Agenda 2063, the Global Agenda 2030, and national development goals
- Guide the establishment of national and regional volunteer programmes and management of volunteer organizations and volunteer
- Serve as a reference for decision-makers and practitioners in the area of volunteerism

Role of standards of volunteerism for Sustainable Development



- Articulate shared values, such as free will, commitment, equity, engagement, solidarity, compassion, empathy, and respect for others.
- Create enabling environment for volunteers to contribute to the realization of the Agenda
 2063 and UN SDGs
- Ensure that volunteer rights are protected, that their role is clear, and that they work in a safe and healthy environment
- Setting a framework of reference for mainstreaming the Agenda 2063 and the UN SDGs in the national development programs
- As a guideline or checklist to assist where the volunteer-involving organization is placed for realizing Continental and International development initiatives
- As a framework of reference to assist in planning and establishing a new volunteer service
- As a baseline for measuring development contribution of volunteerism

Role of standards of volunteerism for Sustainable Development



Total of sixteen (16)standards divided in four categories

One standard related to the institutional framework (Key actors concerned: decision/policy makers at continental, regional and national levels)

Four standard related to the establishment and nurturing of an enabling environment (Key actors concerned: VIO: Public, private sectors and CSO's volunteer programmes)

Six standards related to programming and operations

Five standard related to Volunteer management (Key actors concerned: Public, private sectors and CSO's volunteer programmes)





This project was funded with UK aid from the UK Governmen and with aid from the Government of Canada

The Role of Volunteering Standards in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

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Coordinator of the Forum Standards Working Group



One Billion Volunteers

Around the world, one billion people volunteer their time each year to support communities and make a difference. (State of the World's Volunteerism Report 2018, United Nations Volunteers)

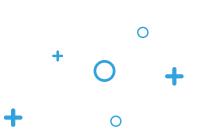
Volunteers are a unique and powerful force in development. However, volunteers are most effective when they are well prepared, supported, and enabled to contribute to projects that are defined, designed, and delivered alongside the communities they serve.



The Global Volunteering Standard

The Global Volunteering Standard sets out to provide volunteer based organisations with an ultimate resource, that can help them gain a better understanding of good practice in volunteering for development.

The Standard acts as a starting point for these organisations to assess their own practice and make changes that will help them be more responsible and impactful in their practice.



Design Principles of the Global Volunteering Standard



Our aim was to design a standard that:

- Is relevant to all types of volunteer involving organisations, volunteer modalities and contexts
- Promotes learning, knowledge sharing and a culture of continuous improvement
- Brings together and builds on existing good practice from a cross the sector into one framework
- It compliments other frameworks and standards that exist at local, national and regional level
- Can act as an aid in creating an enabling environment for volunteering and support the advancement of national volunteering policies

Four Key Themes

DESIGNING AND DELIVERING PROJECTS

Communities, organisations and volunteers can expect to be involved in collaboratively designed and effectively delivered Volunteering for Development projects which respond to community needs and deliver impact and sustainable outcomes...

MANAGING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers can expect to receive preparation, training and support that ensure effective, impactful and ongoing engagement in supporting development efforts locally and internationally...



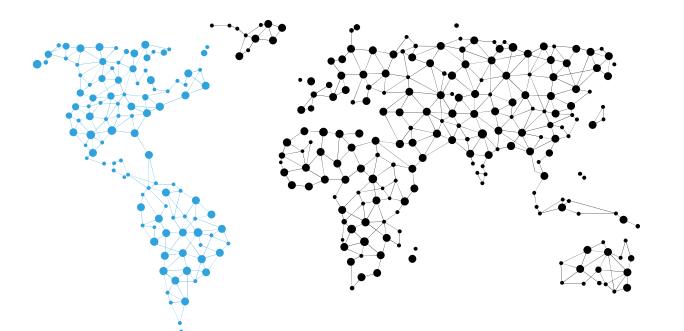
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DUTY OF CARE

The community can expect that organisations, and the people associated with them, will protect and will allow no harm to come to anyone in the community in which they operate, whether volunteers or local community members. Organisations recognise that they have a duty of care not to cause or fail to prevent psychological or physical harm to volunteers, employees and other associates.

MEASURING IMPACT

Communities, funders and other stakeholders can expect that the intended impact of the project is identified by the community before the start and is tracked throughout, using information and insights from the community, volunteers, and other relevant stakeholders. Project success is defined by the community.



2020 - 2021

- Developing the Self-Assessment Tool
- Piloting the Self-Assessment Process
- Reviewing and Revising the Standard





Global Volunteering Standard Platform

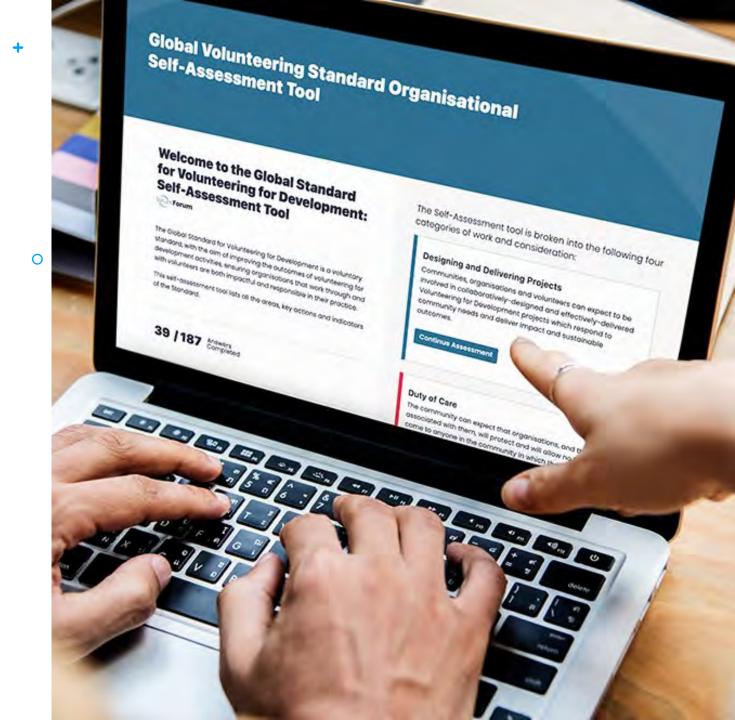
https://forum-ids.org/globalvolunteering-standard-platform/

The first global online one-stop-shop for good practice in volunteering for development. The Platform provides organisations that work with volunteers with the practical information and tools they need to start and continue their journey of learning and improvement.





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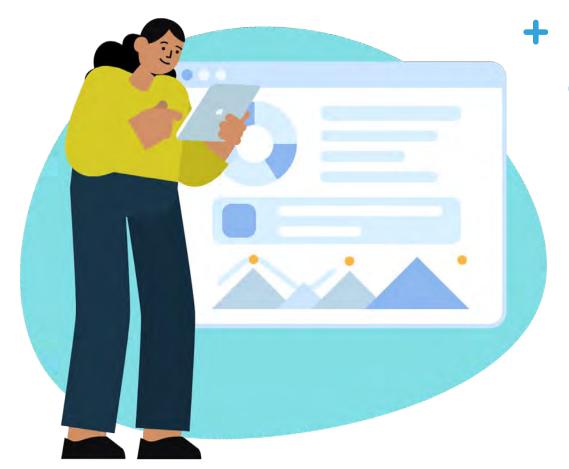


Explore The Standard

Downloading the Global Volunteering Standard is the first step on a journey of learning and improvement for organisations that work with volunteers. We hope you will download and read it, talk about its recommendations with your colleagues and think about how it relates to your organisation.







Self + Assessment

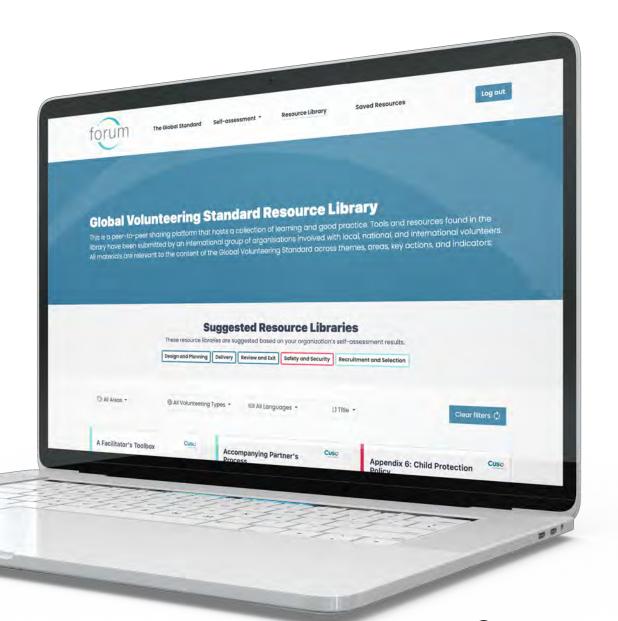
The next step on your organisation's journey with the Global Standard is self-assessment.

Forum has developed an online organisational Self-Assessment Tool that you can complete for your organisation.



Learning & Improvement

The Resources Library is an extensive collection of good practice resources from leading volunteering for development organisations. Your Self-Assessment report will include links to resources that can support you to improve how your organisation works with volunteers.





Visit the

https://forum-ids.org/global-volunteering-standard-platform/

to find out more and sign up for the Online Support Workshops

Online Support Workshops

The online support workshops will provide practical support to volunteer involving organisations wishing to understand and adopt the Standard, Forum is offering support workshops commencing in January 2023.

The workshops will consist of four 1-hour sessions over a 10-week period. They will be delivered online to enable volunteer involving organisations from a cross the world to participate.

As part of these support workshops, volunteer involving organisations will be expected to complete the process of Self-Assessment, a process which will be self-directed with support and guidance from Forum.





THANK YOU



Q&A







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The Links and Interdependence between AU frameworks and Global Standards – both standards



- Contribute to establishing and nurturing an enabling environment for volunteering and volunteerism
- Serve guide the establishment of national and regional volunteer programmes and management of volunteer organizations and volunteer
- Promote minimum standards and common principles
- Harness the great potential of volunteers, particularly the youth
- Emphasize the need for incorporating the values and maximize the benefits of volunteerism in sustainable development
- Develop effective volunteer involvement strategies and practices
- Appreciate the involvement of volunteers in meaningful and useful activities that contribute to the realization of continental and international development initiatives



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Rahim Hassanali of VSO Global Leadership Manager Coordinator of Forum Standards Working Group October 17th, 2022



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The standards of volunteerism are related to each other in a complementary or uniform way, and in another sense the standards are distinct without being mutually exclusive.

The standards in uniformity:

The areas of intervention including twelve (12) areas of the Sustainable Development Goals

In Senegal, the volunteers are in agriculture, local development, citizenship, health, socio-educational animation, fishing.

In France, the reciprocal volunteers are in 15 areas including environmental management, cultural action, health, education and training

Recruitment on the basis of volunteerism

Volunteering as an instrument of employability, civic engagement, and a way to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs



The standards of volunteerism are related to each other in a complementary or uniform way, and in another sense the standards are distinct without being mutually exclusive.

In adaptability, two standards will be retained:

- -> Civic and technical or professional training
- Senegal: group training of 100 volunteers for 21 days to change behaviors
- For international volunteering reduced to 4 days maximum
- -> Duration of the volunteer mission: two (2) years renewable

For international volunteering from 6 to 12 months



The standards of volunteerism are related to each other in a complementary or uniform way, and in another sense the standards are distinct without being mutually exclusive.

Standards as a complement to each other:

- The content of civic and technical or professional training
- Civic participation in activities of public or social utility
- Volunteer living allowance or stipend
- Insurance for volunteers during the mission
- Medical and social care (Senegal: decree 2001-1067)
- After volunteering or demobilization



Standards as a complement to each other:

- National volunteering applies the standards with an implication on the results notably in the placement of the volunteers, the follow-up at the national level (throughout the country), the reinforcement of capacities during the mission: constant difficulty to implement,
- International volunteering needs a rigorous application of standards to better respond to the various partners who need performance to justify the costs and subsidies of the state,
- The volunteer framework could better develop cooperation, twinning, partnership to increase projects in all transparency.
- Sub-regional volunteering involving international organizations should be encouraged with innovative missions in the economic field such as business or entrepreneurship.



Q&A







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Q3 - How we can better leverage standards to achieve our shared development goals?





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Rahim Hassanali of VSO Global Leadership Manager Coordinator of Forum Standards Working Group October 17th, 2022 The Role of
Volunteering Standards
in Achieving the
Sustainable Development
Goals

Standards can help us be more ethical and responsible in our working practices so we can maximise our impact



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Q3: How we can better leverage standards to achieve our shared development goals?



At the organizational level of a country, volunteering of all kinds is aimed at the same target (young people in search of a mission) but the diversity of national volunteering organizations is competed by international volunteering.

We suggest a coordination of the actors of the voluntary service in the space of a country with exchanges to better exploit the capacity of the national voluntary service.

The international volunteering organizations must be able to support the national volunteering structures in various actions:

Implementation of joint programs in the country

Exchange of processes and execution of international programs

Sharing of implementation methodology (effectiveness of interventions)

How we can better leverage standards to achieve our shared development goals?



In addition, the ministry in charge of volunteering has the ambition to set up a consortium of the actors of volunteering for the Great Green Wall which will receive missions of national as well as international volunteers, to preserve the environment and make the site an exploitable agro-ecological zone.

Finally, volunteering is a specific activity that does not yet have infrastructures adapted to its requirements. Moreover, in Senegal, training is done in hotels and sports sites. If this can be a standard, it is missing,

To fill this gap, we have a project to build a national volunteer center and volunteer learning centers, like the volunteer center in Trinidad and Tobago, and the one in South Korea.

How we can better leverage standards to achieve our shared development goals?



These two projects are an expression of our participation in the spread of volunteerism and our ability to mobilize more than a thousand national volunteers, and a portion will be reserved for the international in this program to make this expression possible:

"The volunteer pays the tax of time in the service of the nation"

Thank you for your attention



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Leveraging Continental and Global Standards: How to Leverage



- Harmonization of standards
- Voluntary application the use of the standards shall be voluntary/no legal obligation to apply them
- Focus on relative comparative advantages of actors
- Localization of decision making in implementing decision on applying standards
- Fostering collaborative partnership
- Joint Country Acceleration Supports



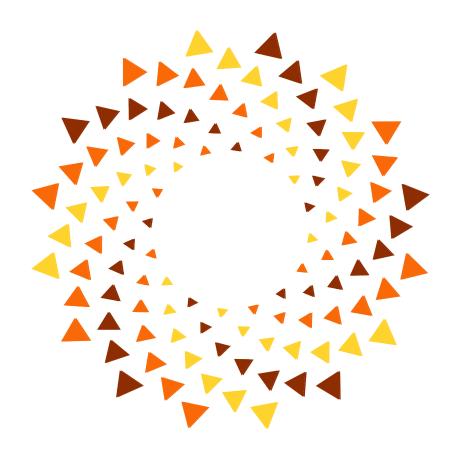
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