

Committee: Young Delegates Forum

Issue: Volunteerism as a powerful means of engaging people in development issues

Student Officer: Diamantenia Panagiotopoulou

Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates ,

My name is Diamantenia Panagiotopoulou and I have the explicit honor to serve as one of the Deputy Presidents of the Young Delegates Forum in the 5th ATSMUN. I'm 17 years old and I attend the Arsakeia Schools of Patras. I have participated in 7 MUN Conferences as a delegate and this will be my first time chairing.

MUN has been an important part of my life for the past five years. For me participating in MUN conferences is an amazing experience through which delegates are able to cooperate , communicate, socialize, learn new things , improve their listening and debating skills and most importantly boost their confidence. With that being said, I hope that during the conference I will pass on to you my passion and love for MUN.

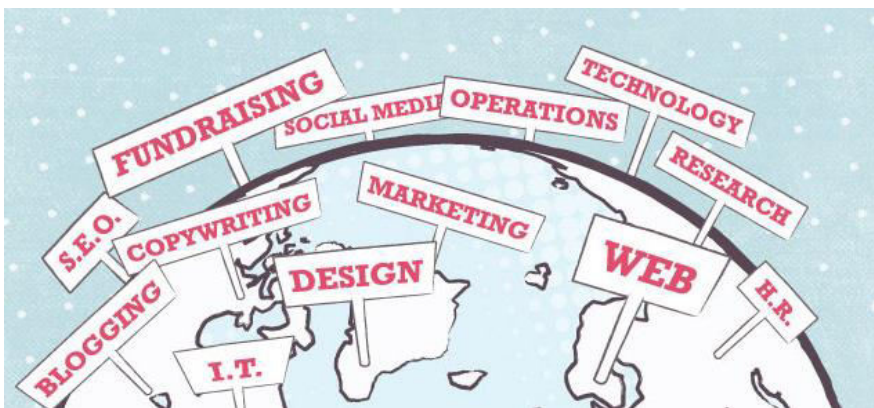
This study guide will hopefully provide you with the necessary information in order to begin understanding the topic. I strongly urge all of you to do further research due to the fact that this study guide provides very general information about the topic and do not present the policy of each country separately. It is necessary that you have a good understanding of the topic , as well as your country's position so as to participate actively in the debate.

If you still have any questions concerning the topic, the rules of procedure or your preparation do not hesitate to contact me through my email: panagiotopouloudiam@gmail.com or my Facebook account: Diamantenia Panagiotopoulou

INTRODUCTION OF THE TOPIC

This is a critical time for our world. Millions of people are homeless or live under terrible living conditions because they can't afford the necessary things for their survival such as water, nutrition and access to medical centers and other public services like the police. In our days every individual's and every country's greatest ambition is the possession of power and money. In order for them to achieve their goals they make wars which do not only result in the destruction of peoples' homes and the society but they are also extremely harmful for the environment and global economy. The world is also facing another exceptionally important issue which is climate change and global warming. These environmental problems can be devastating for peoples' and animals' lives in the near future. Lastly , one the most crucial global issue that must be tackled as soon as possible is the violation of human rights, injustice, inequality and discrimination against certain people or groups of people who are different such as women, people who are members of the LGBT community , people with physical or mental disabilities and people who are judged because of their skin's color or their race and nationality. These global issues are rapidly improving and spreading all over the world affecting peoples' well-being , the evolution of society and global economy and the environment. The eradication of this issues must be a major concern not only for governments and organization but also for each individual since they affect their living conditions. The most known means through which people can offer their help for the eradication of these issues

is volunteerism.



<http://www.volunteerweekly.org/types-of-volunteering-activities/>

Volunteerism is a major act of solidarity and its existence is necessary due to the fact that it improves a person's character and personality but is also contributes to the social development of a country.

Concerning the benefits of

volunteerism in a personal level, being a volunteer enables people to be responsible and caring ,to develop their skills of cooperation and to become more active in political, social and economic issues of the world. When volunteers turn helping other people into a

personal life goal the society can benefit from their actions. With that being said, it is clear that volunteerism contributes to the well-being of all people and to the development of their communities.

Important note from the chairs' team

In order for the chairs to fully understand the dynamics of the committee, discovering any misunderstanding prior to the debate and for the better preparation of the delegates you are asked to proceed as indicated below;

1) Conduct your chairs via email and informing them about your mun experience so that they can know what exactly to expect of you.

2) Prepare and send your chairs by 11:59 of the 6th of November one position papers

For each of the topics you are going to discuss during the conference. You can conduct the expert chair, of each topic for further information concerning your country's policy if needed, and for general guidance when it comes to your position papers (word limit structure etc). You are going to receive general comments during the lobbying for your position papers as well as personal feedback and grades for your papers. The points you will receive will add up to your general score which is one of the factors that determine the best delegate award. If you for any reason fail to send your papers before the final deadline you will not be eligible for any award.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Volunteer¹

A person who does something, especially helping other people, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it.

Volunteerism²

The practice of doing work for good causes, without being paid for it.

Sustainable Development Goals

There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) concerning the global challenges that if not all of them most of the countries face. Some of the challenges included in the SDG are connected to poverty, environmental issues, education, human rights, peace and justice. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which includes the aforementioned goals was adopted by all UN member states in 2015 and every country's intention is to achieve each Goal by 2030. The objective of this agenda is to provide peace, stability and better living conditions to every person all over the world.

Social Development

Social Development is the improvement of the welfare of all the citizens of a country so as for them to overpass their capabilities and show their full abilities.

Corporate Volunteering³

Corporate Volunteering refers to the scenario in which a group of employees take part in volunteering activities.

¹ Volunteer meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/volunteer>

² Volunteerism meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/volunteerism>

³ Definition of corporate volunteering from <https://wiki.optimy.com/corporate-volunteering/>

ACRONYMS

- **UNV:** United Nations Volunteers
- **UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme
- **SDG :** Sustainable Development Goals
- **NGO:** Non Governmental Organization
- **YMCA:** Young Men's Christian Association
- **YWCA:** World Young Women's Christian Association
- **BLS:** Bureau of Labor Statistics
- **WFP:** World Food Program
- **GA :** General Assembly
- **CBA :** Community-based Adaption Programme

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Types of volunteerism

There are different types of volunteerism concerning :

Investment

Volunteering activities can be funded by governments , by private donors , by Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or by volunteers themselves.

The time needed for volunteers to achieve their goals

Although some volunteering activities can be accomplished in a few days , others may require months or even years in order for volunteers to combat a national or global issue.

What a volunteer can provide⁴

⁴ This list of types of volunteerism is based on a video from: <https://www.shrm.org/hr-today/news/all-things-work/pages/5-types-of-volunteerism.aspx>

- Direct person-to-person volunteering ensures the emotional support of people through interaction of the volunteers with the people supported.
- Non-skills-based community volunteering is the local volunteer work such as but



not limited to the cleaning of public parks and building shelter for the homeless.

• In Skills-based community volunteering people use their professional skills and talents in order to strengthen communities ,

for example lawyers who work in pro-bono cases. This type of volunteerism ensures peoples' safety and combats injustice and the violation of human rights.

- Public advocacy based volunteering is the type of volunteerism in which volunteers encourage people to protest about local or global issues of public concern.
- Volunteers who participate in Non-profit/charity board member volunteering

support the work of humanitarian organizations and help them achieve their goal.



Sustainable Development Goals

Volunteerism is strongly connected to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The SDGs can't be achieved only by the work of the governments but the cooperation of volunteers, citizens ,NGOs and the society is also needed in order to ensure our planet's future and peoples' well-being. As I previously mentioned in the Definition of

Key Terms, the objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to provide safety , justice and better living conditions to every individual worldwide.

Sustainable Development Goals give people the opportunity to actively take part in and combat global issues.

Volunteers can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by means such as but not limited to :

- Raising awareness about the 2030 Agenda through informational campaigns
- Providing technical expertise
- Building trust between people who are not used to interact with others
- Sharing knowledge and skills
- Making basic services more effective
- Presenting good results of volunteerism in order to inspire others to contribute to development
- Strengthening local governance through volunteers' participation
- Monitoring SDG progress through data collection

The Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda

Related to the SDGs is the Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda. The UN Resolution "Integrating volunteering into peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond" was adopted by the UN General Assembly (GA) in November 2015 and recognizes volunteering as a powerful means of implementation of the SDGs. The resolution also acknowledges The Plan of Action which aims at integrating volunteerism in the 2030 Agenda. The GA recognized UN Volunteers (UNV) as the UN body to uphold the implementation of the program.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides 17 goals which aim at a better future without hunger , inequality , poverty, wars, violation of human rights and destruction of the environment. The combination of the 2030 Agenda and the Plan of Action which integrates volunteerism into the Agenda will give people the opportunity to contribute to sustainable development.

From March to May 2018, UNV engaged with the Regional Fora for Sustainable Development of the UN Regional Commissions. Through this engagement, UNV achieved the

promotion of volunteerism and engagement of UN Volunteers to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Poverty and well-being humanitarian



The SDGs aim to a future with zero poverty , zero hunger , gender equality , good health and well-being , clean water and sanitation and no discrimination and inequalities. The UN is fighting hunger and strives to provide access to food to every individual all over the world. The World Food Pogramme (WFP) is also working towards the SDG of Zero Hunger by providing food to the poorest people.

The UN is also trying to offer people access to health by vaccinating children and providing access to HIV prevention and treatment services.

Humanitarian volunteerism plays an extremely important role in the improvement of peoples' lives and the achievement of the SDGs concerning the well-being and the living conditions of people in need.

Volunteers can help people in need by :

1. Donating money ,
2. Organizing fundraises in order to raise money and then donate them to an organization or humanitarian shelter ,
3. Working in humanitarian organization or medical shelters ,
4. Travelling to least developed countries (LDCs) and helping people in need by working in medical or humanitarian programs ,
5. Donating clothes , food and medicine
6. Participating in teaching volunteering programs in order to give poor children the opportunity to be educated ,
7. Participating in protest for human rights and gender equality.



Protection of the environment

Today, environmental issues are multiplying and the already existing ones are increasing rapidly day by day. This is the reason why the 2030 Agenda takes action on climate change , on life below water and life on land. The SDGs concerning the environment aim to the protection of the oceans and the land and the eradication of climate change.

The results of the climate change are apparent as the world is experiencing sea-level rise due to melting glaciers , extreme weather conditions all over the globe , global warming and many other impacts. The UN helps less developed and developing countries to achieve the SDGs concerning the environment and to solve environmental problems.

The work of volunteers towards the protection of the environment and the achievement of the SDGs is crucial. As environmental problems are becoming extremely dangerous for people and animals their reduction is critical. Volunteers can contribute to the protection of the environment by :

1. Raising awareness about the effects of climate change in our planet , our lives and animals' welfare ,
2. Encouraging people to use bikes and public transportation in order to reduce air pollution ,
3. Cleaning beaches in order to prevent litter from ending up in the ocean ,
4. Planting trees ,



5. Protesting against deforestation ,
6. Cleaning public parks ,
7. Working on animal welfare shelters ,
8. Working on environmental organizations .



Peace and Security

Today, when there is a conflict between two countries it is possible that the disagreement

may lead to a war or other acts of violence due to the fact that politicians can't solve political , economic and social issues with diplomacy and discussion. The 2030 Agenda aims to provide peace , justice and security to all people all over the world. The UN is trying to maintain peace and security in conflicted regions by sending peacekeeping missions. The UN is also monitoring nuclear resources and cleaning landmines in order to ensure the security of innocent people. The UN supports global disarmament and limitation of arms and is trying to reduce nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Lastly , the UN is combating terrorism and sexual violence and abuse. All the actions supported by the UN are helping countries to achieve safety , peace and development.

Volunteers are a very important part of peacekeeping operations due to the fact that most of the people participating in those missions are trained volunteers who are combating violence and injustice. Except for peacekeeping operations volunteers can improve the security and justice of a region by:



1. Helping the victims of wars or violent attacks,
2. Offering immigrants shelter and the opportunity to work or be educated ,
3. Donating money for people in need,
4. Work in organizations whose objective is to restore damages caused by wars or bombings,
5. Work in organizations which build shelters ,
6. Offering mental support to victims of wars or sexual abuse,
7. Participating in teaching projects,
8. Participating in medical projects in order to offer people in need medical assistance.

Economic development

The 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals supports that development is not only the economic growth of a country or a region but it also demands functioning institutions and a responsible and effective government. In addition, some new thematic

areas that were recently added to the SDGs also recognize the need for a change of attitude at the individual level.

Economic development consists of a variety of projects and programs such as developing marketing plans for NGOs , working on accounting procedures or working in business so as to develop enterprising skills. Volunteers who are involved in economic development most of the times work at NGOs which include humanitarian, educational or financial projects. Volunteers have the capacity of choosing a specific type of economic



development. An example of a certain type of economic development project is information technology (IT) where volunteers offer technical training and knowledge.

Individuals who volunteer in the economic development sector can also work in business development in which volunteers have the capability to choose working in embassies , tourism centers or in the local

market sector.

Voluntourism or volunteer travel

Voluntourism is a word for volunteerism + tourism which means that this type of volunteerism gives people the opportunity to combine their vacation with their will to help others. There are many NGOs such as the Doctors Without Borders and Greenpeace that inform volunteers about the places that are in need of people who are willing to help and about the volunteering activities they will have to do.



Online Volunteerism

One major advantage of online volunteerism is that it gives people with disabilities , children and elderly people the opportunity to help other people , protect the environment and be socially and politically active without having to participate in volunteering activities. Online volunteerism is also a way for volunteers to promote their work and provide information to

future volunteers. This way of volunteering is very important due to the fact that nowadays people spend most of their free time surfing on the internet and by online volunteering they can offer their help wherever they are and whenever they want. There are plenty of ways to volunteer online such as but not limited to translation, teaching and training and community organizing.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Countries

Most of the world's countries support volunteerism so as to achieve the SDGs and have economic and social development. These are some of the countries that volunteer the most : United States of America ,The Netherlands ,United Arab Emirates, Ireland ,Canada, Australia ,Finland, Denmark , Sweden, France, Portugal, Norway, Austria, United Kingdom, Kenya, New Zealand, Indonesia and Myanmar. I will further elaborate on the countries which have the biggest number of volunteers and the best results concerning their development.

United States Of America

The Unites States of America offer a variety of environmental programs mostly in Florida and New Mexico. There is a need for healthcare volunteers in the USA because there are many people getting by without healthcare every day.

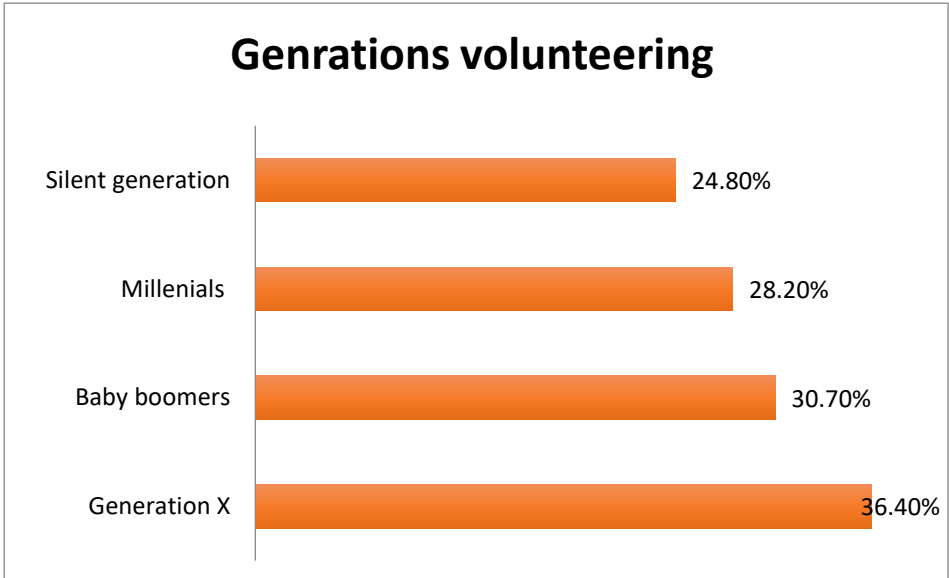
The best locations for volunteering in the USA are New York , Denver and San Diego.

According to a study by the University of Pennsylvania most of USA's volunteers work at the religious sector. Second best comes the education sector and lastly the humanitarian-community service.

According to a research by the US Census Bureau ⁵ on behalf of the Bureau of Labor Statistics ⁶ in 2018 30.3% of Americans volunteer at least once a year. However, this percentage is likely to decrease as USA's President Donald Trump's budget proposal eliminates funding for The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) which

⁵ Unites States Census Bureau(USCB) is an agency of the U.S Federal Statistical System Definition by https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau

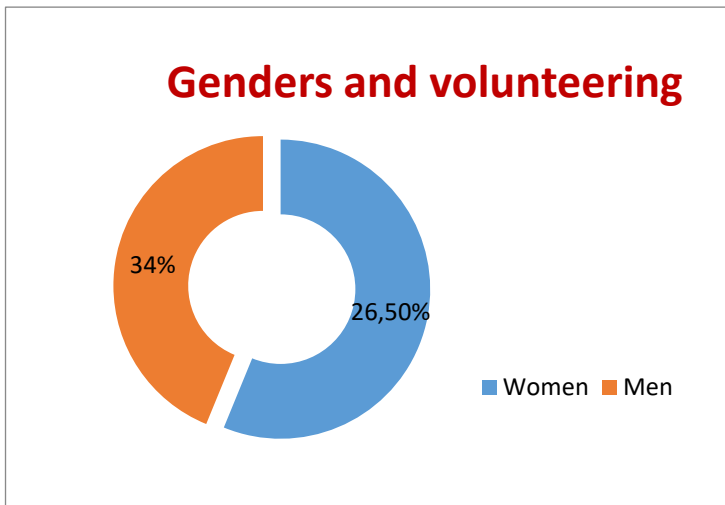
⁶ Bureau of Labor Statistics(BLS) is a part of the United States Department of Labor and it's cause is to collect, process, analyze and announce statistical data to the public and the government. Definition by https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bureau_of_Labor_Statistics



funds major voluntary programs such as AmeriCorps. Despite Trump's attempts to eliminate the funding for CNCS, the organ is supported by the Congress. Eliminating the funding and power of humanitarian agencies will be devastating not

only for the people in need who benefit from their action but it will also have negative results to the society due to the fact that these programs help people promote volunteering and raise awareness about its benefits.

It is clear that the generation that volunteers the most is Generation X who are people born

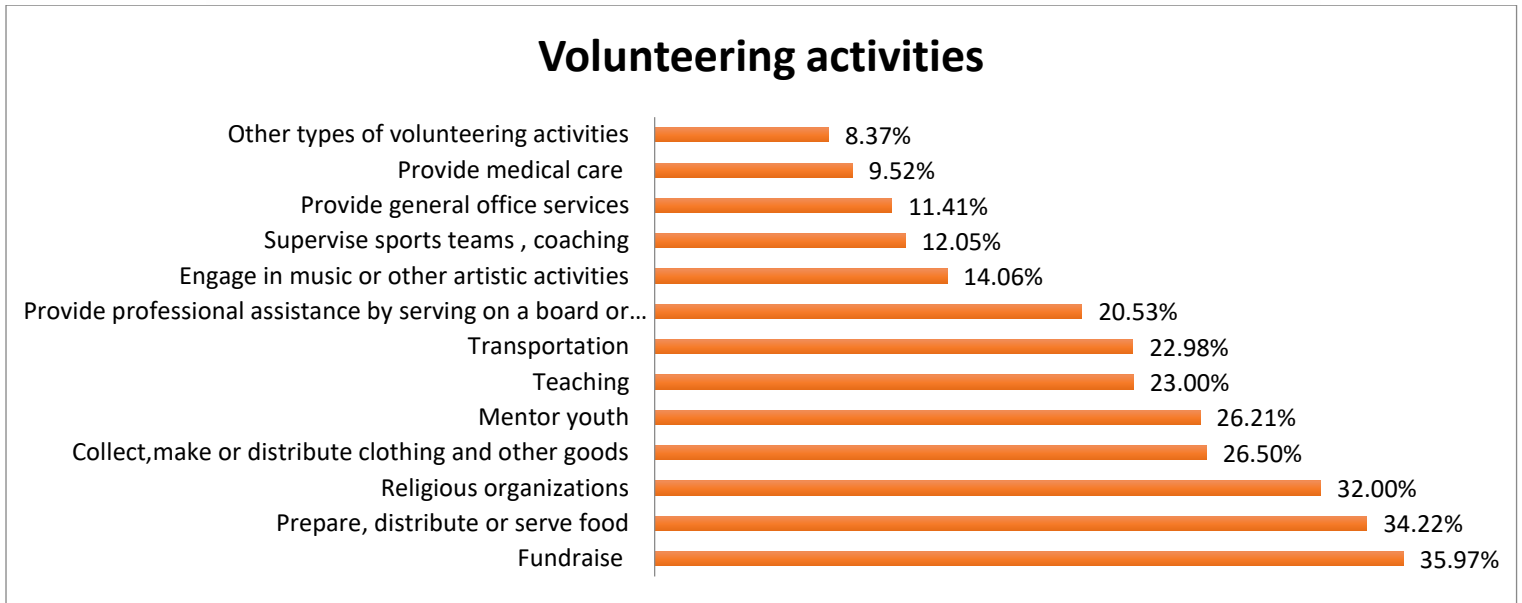


between the years 1966 and 1980 (36,4%). The next generation is the one called Baby boomers which consists of people born in 1946-1965 (30,7%). The Millennials are called the people who were born between the 80s and the 90s (1980-1990) and according to surveys their volunteering activity has increased by 6% since 2016

(28,2%). Lastly, the generation that volunteers the least is a group of people born between the 20s and the 40s (1920-1940) which is called the Silent Generation.

Women in America volunteer more than men not only on a higher percentage but also in a bigger number.

When it comes to which State has the highest percentage, Utah appears to surpass every other state with 51% of its residents volunteering. The second highest percentage of volunteers belongs to the state of Minnesota (45,1%) and Oregon , Iowa and Alaska complete the top 5 list of the states with the highest percentages of volunteering. The state with the lowest percentage of volunteering is Florida , 22.8%).



Generally this graph shows that the highest percentage of volunteer activity is the fundraising which also includes selling things in order to raise money (35,97%). Other activities with a high percentage are distributing or serving food to people in need , working in religious organizations and educational activities. The voluntary activities with the lowest percentages are the ones concerning medical assistance activities which include sports or any kind of art.

New Zealand

New Zealand is now the third most generous country in the world, with 58% of volunteerism, since it was improved since 2017 when it was in the fourth place. More than 65% of New Zealand's citizens say that they helped other people and donated money in the past month.

⁷ Graph made according to a similar one that I found here:
<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/06/04/us/volunteering-statistics-united-states-america-cfc/index.html>

New Zealand offers environmental , social, cultural and educational programs to volunteers such as GoEco , Pacific Discovery and IVHQ. Volunteers have a great impact on the social and economic development , in education and in the environment of the country or the region they are working in.

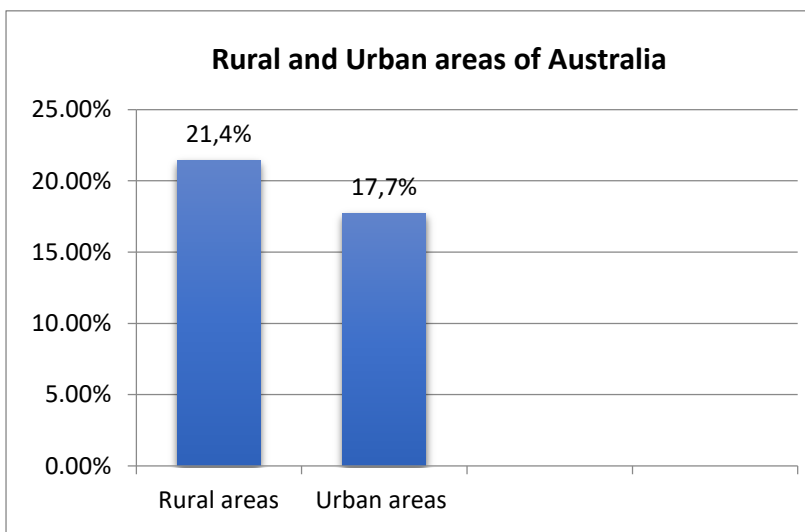
The best locations of New Zealand where volunteers can work are Auckland , Wellington and South Island.

Volunteering New Zealand Incorporated is an association of organizations and volunteering centers which aims to the promotion, support and encouragement of volunteerism.

Australia

Australia is ranked second on the list of the most generous countries in the world with a total percentage of 59% . Almost 65% of Australia's population helped a stranger and 71% of them donated money. A research called The 2016 Census has shown that between the years 2011-2016 the number of Australian volunteers was raised by 530,000 people.

Due to the wildlife and nature of Australia , the country offers a great number of environmental programs organized by associations , such as GoEco and Pacific Discovery,



concerning animal welfare and the protection of the environment . Volunteers also have the opportunity to help others , refugees and homeless people, and contribute in community development .

The best location for voluntary work in Australia are Sydney , Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane and Perth.

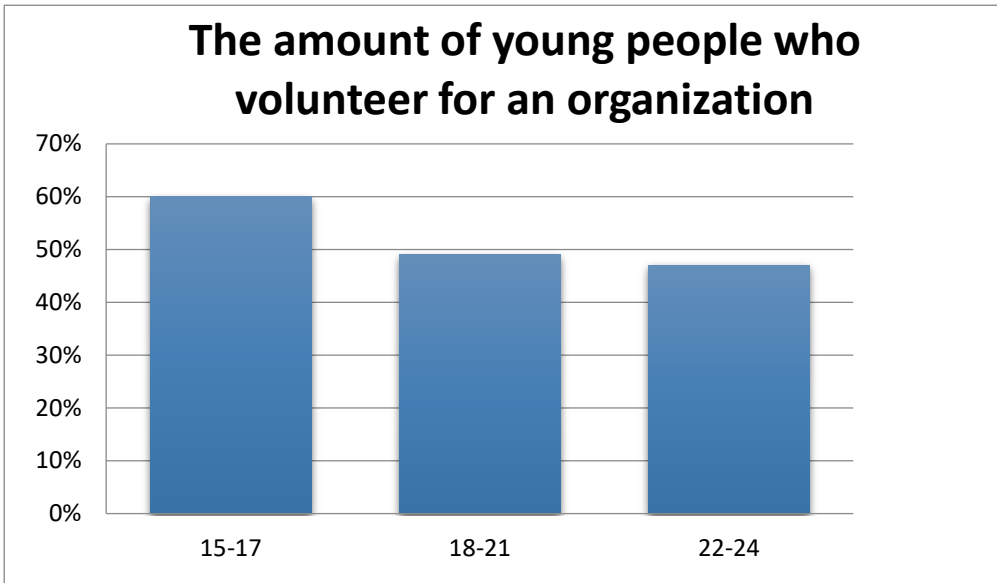
Research shows that people who live in rural regions of Australia are more likely to volunteer than those who live in capitals and big cities.

The age of Australian volunteers varies from teenagers to elderly people. Most volunteers in Australia are females in their 40s , teenagers of both sexes and middle aged people between 60-75 years old who ,most of them, are retired which means they have more free time to spend volunteering.

The Netherlands

The Netherlands are in the seventh place on the list of the most generous countries in the

world. Although the Netherland is a developed country there is still need for volunteers in order to combat environmental and social issues such as poverty. Volunteers in the Netherlands have the opportunity to work



in shelters, schools and organizations concerning animals, history or peoples' welfare such as Greenpeace ,WWF , Doctors Without Borders and Unicef.

The best locations to volunteer in the Netherlands are Amsterdam ,Rotterdam, Utrecht and The Hague.

There is a great number of young people who volunteer in order to help on combating the world's issues. As the graph I made shows, the percentage of teenagers aged between 15 and 17 years old (60%) is bigger than the percentage of people from 18 to 21 years old (49%) and even bigger than the one of young people at the age of 22-24 (47%). In general , 56% of the youth are volunteering , 60% of boys and 51% of girls. This means that the majority of volunteers in the Netherlands are young people because the percentage of adult volunteers is 49%.

Indonesia

Despite its poverty Indonesia is the most generous country in the world. 46% of Indonesian people say they helped other people and 78% say they donated money. The general percentage of Indonesian volunteers is 59% and more specifically 78% of volunteers are donating money and 46% are helping other people.

Due to its vast wildlife voluntary projects in Indonesia focus a lot on the protection and the welfare of animals and they achieve their goals with the help of organizations such as GoEco. There are projects concerning a more theoretical way of volunteering which includes research , educational campaigns and lessons concerning environmental issues and their eradication.

Indonesia is often prawn to natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis due to its location. This means that there is need for volunteers who want to cooperate with humanitarian organizations in order to help people who may be victims of these natural disasters. Humanitarian aid includes healthcare , education, renovation and the general participation of volunteers in the social and economic development of the country.

The best locations for voluntary work in Indonesia are Jakarta, Java , Borneo, Bali and West Papua.

Myanmar

People in Myanmar are said to be the most generous concerning donations of money (88%). Myanmar provides volunteers with a variety of voluntary activities such as teaching , helping others and keep themselves occupied with farming. More specifically, the most popular work volunteers choose to do in Myanmar is teaching English due to the fact that indigenous people speak only basic English and they have the need to communicate with other countries so as to achieve progress and development. There is a special association for teaching in Indonesia called Child's Dream.

Through education and other social services volunteers contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and the social and economic development of the country.

The best location for volunteering in Myanmar are Began ,Yangon and Mandalay.

United Kingdom (UK)

United Kingdom is now in the sixth place of the list of the most generous countries in the world with a total percentage of volunteering 55%. Since England is an overly developed country voluntary organizations and projects focus on social development ,

education and business. Humanitarian projects in England give volunteers the opportunity to help the people in need who are considered vulnerable such as elderly , homeless or disabled people. Volunteers can work in shelters , humanitarian centers and soup kitchens. There are plenty of humanitarian projects in other countries of the UK too. One specific example is Cardiff ,in Wales, where volunteers can cooperate with children with learning disabilities and help them get a job.

When it comes to education England is the perfect place to develop skills on research and volunteering in its colleges and universities can have a great impact on your

studies and your future.

Lastly, England is one of the best countries to study or practice professions which are connected to business such as but not limited to finance, marketing

and tourism.

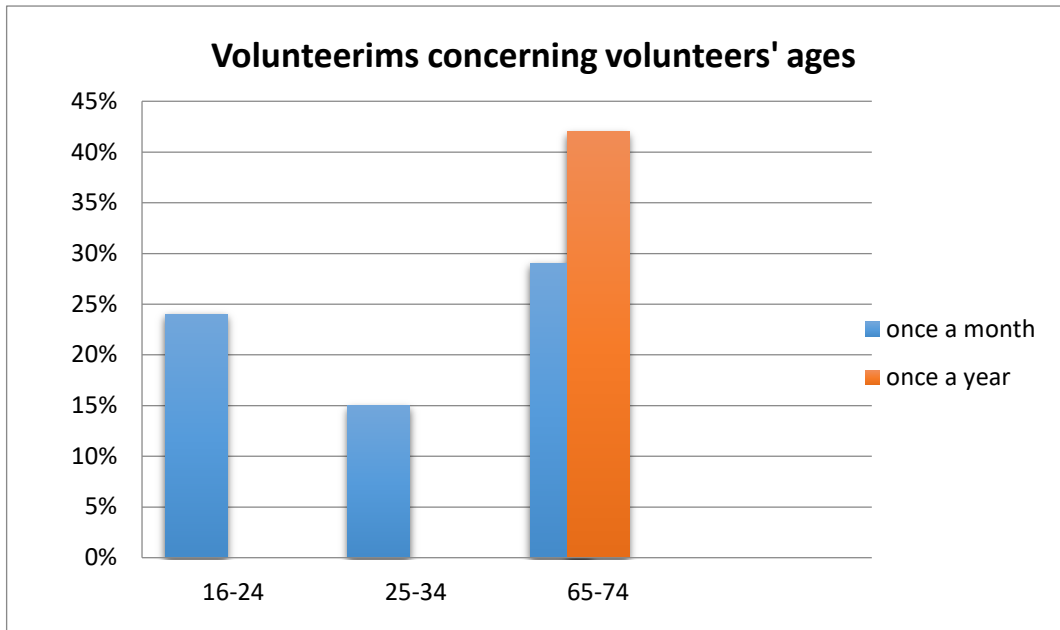
The best locations to volunteer in The United Kingdom are London , Oxford, Bournemouth , Edinburgh , Glasgow and Cardiff.

As it is shown in the graph I made it is obvious that people who live in deprived⁸ areas (15%) tend to be less active in the society than the ones who live in less deprived areas (29%). Similarly people who live in urban areas(21%) are less likely to volunteer than the ones who live in rural areas(29%). This may be caused by the very rapid rhythm of life in big cities which prevents people from spend their time volunteering or because they do not have enough time due to their heavy workload.

⁸ Deprived are the areas where there are no good living conditions and people who live there can't afford the necessary things for a pleasant life such as enough money and food.

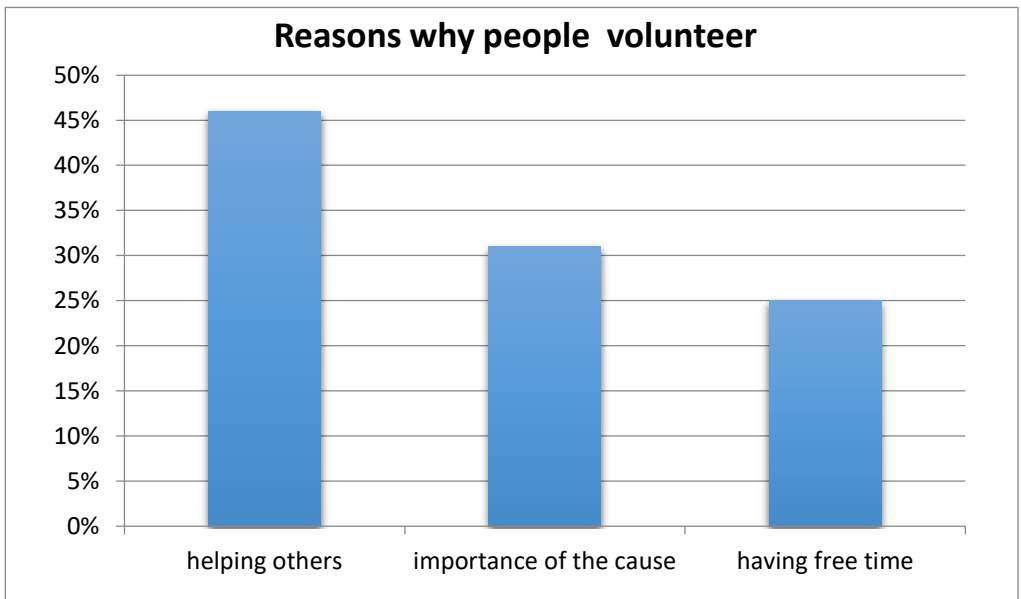
Definition of the word Deprived

by <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/deprived>



The most likely to become volunteers are people aged 65-74 years old with 29% of them volunteering once a month and 42% at least once a year. Young

people aged 25-34 years old are not as likely to volunteer with only 15% of them volunteering once a month.



In 2017-2018, the most popular reason why people become volunteers is helping other people (46%). The next more common reason why people volunteer is because the cause of the voluntary

activity is important to them (31%). The last and less common reason for which people start volunteering is because they have free time (25%).

Organizations

There are many non-governmental organizations such as the Red Cross whose cause is to help people in need or protect the environment which leads to the development of the

society and the living conditions of every individual all over the world. Some of the most important international organizations are listed below :

- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

UNDP helps 170 countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. More specifically UNDP helps countries eliminate poverty and injustice , strengthen their economies and improve peoples' living conditions.

- **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)⁹**

UNV is administered by the UNDP . The mission of UN Volunteers is to promote volunteerism and mobilize volunteers to serve in UN agencies, both in development programs and peacekeeping operations.

- **International Volunteer HQ (IVHQ)**



**INTERNATIONAL
VOLUNTEER HQ**

IVHQ was founded in 2007 and is currently the world's head volunteer travel organization which carries out volunteering programs in over 40 countries worldwide. Through IVHQ's projects volunteers have the opportunity to participate in projects such as Turtle Conservation, construction and teaching in order to help the country they are visiting. The objective of their programs is to raise awareness about volunteerism through the volunteers themselves.

- **Maximo Nivel**



Maximo Nivel was founded in 2003 and is now the premier educational and study abroad organizations in Latin America. It offers volunteer programs , Spanish language lessons, certification and volunteers have the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica , Peru and Guatemala.

- **GoEco**



GoEco is an eco-tourism company which cooperates with many local and international environmental organizations in order to offer volunteers the opportunity to participate in great volunteer projects abroad.

⁹ Objectives of UNV by <https://www.unv.org/about-unv/our-mission-mobilize-volunteers>

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
7 December 1736	The Union Fire Company was founded by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia. It was a volunteer fire department .
The 1800s	Founding of the YMCA, Salvation Army, American Red Cross, and the United Way, which are now well known volunteering organizations.

1844	The first YMCA founded in London , UK.
1851	The first YMCA in the United States was founded ,followed by the first YWCA
June, 1865	The Salvation Army was founded which is a volunteering organization that keeps helping people in need .
1920	After First World War some countries cooperated in order to create a non-governmental voluntary organization in France, Service Civil International (SCI) also known as International Voluntary Service.
11 September , 2001	After the terrorist attack in USA in which two planes were hijacked and flown into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC thousands of people from all over the world volunteered in order to help the victims of the attack . Some weeks after the incident the American Red Cross reported that during this time the number of volunteers in America had been increased by 15,570 people.
September, 2015	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York .

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Since 1968 , there have been 20 General Assembly resolutions on the subject of volunteerism. Here are some of the most important resolutions and treaties concerning volunteerism and development :

- **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)** ¹⁰
- **UN Declaration of human rights 1948**

The U.N General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the 10th of December 1948. The Declaration of Human Rights was used for the

¹⁰ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is further explained in the background information

creation of the UN Charter and its objective is the protection of every individual's rights.

- **World Food Program (WFP)**

The World Food Program was established in 1961. The WFP provides food supplies to people and countries in need. Today, WFP is the largest humanitarian agency in the world and changes people's lives by helping them. The World Food Program is cooperating with national governments and other humanitarian organizations in order to prevent the suffering of individuals and supports the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

- **UNGA Resolution 2659 : Establishment of United Nations Volunteers**

This resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly on the 7th of December 1970 but was actually initiated on the 1st of January 1971. The resolution proposed the foundation of an international group of volunteers which was later named United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

- **UNGA Resolution A/RES/31/166 : UNV Domestic Development Services (DDS)**

This resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly on the 21st of December 1976. The resolution urges the UN Development Program (UNDP) to expand the activities of the UNV in the sector of development services.

- **UNGA Resolution A/RES/40/212 : Adoption of 5 December as International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development (IVD)**

This resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly on the 17th of December 1985 and it establishes 5 December as International Volunteer Day.

- **UNGA Resolution A/RES/56/38 : Recommendations on support for volunteering**

This resolution which was co-submitted by 126 Member States was adopted by the UN General Assembly on the 5th of December 2001. The resolution proposes recommendations on the ways governments and the UN can support volunteerism.

- **UNGA Resolution A/RES/57/106 : Follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers**

This resolution co-submitted by 142 Member States was adopted by the UN General Assembly on the 26th of November 2002. This resolution encourages stakeholders to support volunteerism as a means to improve economic and social development.

- **UNGA Resolution A/RES/67/138 : Integrating volunteering in the next decade**

This resolution co-submitted by Brazil and Japan was adopted on the 20th of December 2012. The resolution acknowledges that volunteerism is an important means of poverty reduction, sustainable development , health, education, climate change, peace and eradication of discrimination.

- **UNGA Resolution 70/129: Integrating volunteering into peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond**

The UN General Assembly adopted this resolution on 13 November 2015. The resolution was co-submitted by Brazil and Japan and there were also 100 member states that co-submitted as well. This resolution acknowledges that volunteerism is a powerful means of implementation for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

- **UNGA Resolution A/RES/73/140 Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The UN General Assembly adopted this resolution on the 17th of December 2018. The resolution encourages the participation of all people in volunteer activities and urges governments in cooperation with the UN to integrate volunteerism into national development strategies.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE¹¹

The Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda¹²

Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted by the Member States of the UN in September 2000. There were eight goals that had to be achieved by 2015. Some of these goals were the elimination of poverty ,the provision of education and the eradication of HIV/AIDS.

Sustainable Development Agenda

¹¹ There are many examples of UN's support on voluntary activities in this draft:

<http://www.civicengagement.org/agingsociety/links/volunteerismanddevelopment.pdf>

¹² The Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda is further explained in the background information.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will complete the work begun with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The creation and the objective of the Sustainable Development Agenda are explained in the background information.

Gender equality

The UN has established an entity called UN Women whose aim is to eliminate discrimination against women , support women empowerment and help to achieve equality between the genders .

Disaster Risk Reduction

In a conference in Japan in 2015 , the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted in order to reduce the risks and damages of natural disasters .

Climate Change

Ex-Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon launched a number of initiatives such as but not limited to Sustainable for All , concerning the use of energy. The Climate Summit held in New York in September 2014 assisted in raising awareness of the importance of climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) supported the Paris Agreement in Paris in 2015 that aims to help countries deal with the impacts of climate change and limit the temperature raise below 2 degrees Celsius.

EU funding voluntary programs

- **Europe for Citizens program**

The EU's Europe for Citizens program¹³ offers an extensive range of activities promoting European citizenship. The program also promotes volunteerism as it has been its priority since 2011.

- **Youth in Action program¹⁴**

The European Voluntary Service¹⁵ gives young people aged between 18 and 30 years old the opportunity to do voluntary work abroad. EVS gives people the opportunity to learn languages , discover different cultures and improve their skills.

¹³ Decision No 1904/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006, OJ L 378, 27.12.2006, p. 32–40

¹⁴ Decision No 1719/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006, OJ L 327, 24.11.2006, p. 30–44

¹⁵ European Voluntary Service (EVS) is the European Commission's project that allows young people to become volunteers in another country for a specified period.

Definition by: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Voluntary_Service

- **The Lifelong Learning Program¹⁶**

The Lifelong Learning Program which aims to the cooperation of people and countries in education and training. The program includes a second one named the Grundtvig program which promotes European dimension in lifelong learning across Europe.

Community-based Adaption Programme (CBA)

A Community-based Adaption Programme (CBA) concerning climate change was implemented in 10 countries (Bangladesh , Bolivia , Guatemala , Jamaica , Kazakhstan , Morocco , Namibia , Niger , Samoa and Vietnam) between the years 2008 and 2012. The program was supported by both UN agencies (UNDP and UNV) and the Global Environmental Facility. Each of the aforementioned countries developed a different portfolio of projects. The objective of these projects was to improve the resiliency of communities to climate change impacts and damages. The projects included the building of shelters , tree planting , the creation of seed banks and the provision of knowledge.

In Morocco the program mobilized 1,000 individual volunteers to monitor project activities. In India and Bangladesh during the years 2012-2105 , UN Online Volunteers and community volunteers cooperated in order to carry out a survey called MY World Survey. The survey was mostly addressed to young Bangladeshi people who were asked about their priorities for the post-2015 agenda. Volunteers collected the answers of nearly 4200 participants of the survey which showed that the top priorities for young people are education and better job opportunities.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Volunteerism plays a very important role in the social and economic development of a country, the improvement of peoples' lives and the protection of the environment. Governments must strive for the participation of citizens in development issues as their help is necessary in order to achieve economic and social development. It is clear from all the things you have read in this study guide that a very effective way by which people can be involved in development issues is volunteerism. With that being said , it is crucial that governments support and promote volunteerism in every possible way. Below you will find

¹⁶ Decision No. 1720/2006/EC of the Parliament and of the Council of November 15 2006, OJ L 327 of 24.11.2006, p.45.

some actions that can be done by governments in order to support volunteerism and ways to urge people volunteer so that they become involved in development issues.

Firstly , it is very important that volunteerism is promoted by every school so that children and teenagers are informed about the benefits and the importance of volunteerism. Children are the citizens of the future and if they get involved in volunteerism from a young age it is very likely that they become active volunteers in the future and that they will be engaged in development issues. In order to promote volunteerism schools can organize educational campaigns and simple voluntary activities, such as but not limited to:

1. Visiting a voluntary organization or humanitarian aid shelter so as to observe the way such an organization operates ,
2. Planting trees ,
3. Cleaning a public park or beach if the location provides such opportunities,
4. Raising an amount of money or goods(food, old clothes and toys) and donate them to a local non-profit organization which helps people in need.

Children are not the only age group that should be informed about the benefits of volunteerism in the social and economic development of a country. It is very important that governments and local organizations raise awareness of volunteerism by means such as:

1. Informational campaigns concerning not only the benefits of volunteerism but also local voluntary activities that people can take part in ,
2. Advertisements (printed handouts , advertisements projected by the media),
3. Public presentation of local voluntary activities, for example in the form of banners and handouts.

Governments can support and promote volunteerism as well as encouraging people to be involved in development issues through volunteerism , by :

1. Funding and helping NGOs and local non-profit organizations in order for them to achieve their goals ,
2. Monitoring SDGs progress through data collection,
3. Establishing a clear legal framework and clear rules for volunteering,
4. Eliminating volunteers' tax obstacles ,

5. Encouraging long-term volunteerism due to the fact that organizations are in need of people that are not only able and willing to work for short-term projects but are committed to volunteerism,
6. Informing people about the skills that can be gained or improved through volunteering activities,
7. Organizing a variety of environmental and humanitarian programs and encouraging people to participate in them.

Volunteerism and its contribution to development issues can also be promoted through universities and the workplace. More specifically universities can offer students the opportunity to travel and volunteer abroad by taking part in a voluntary programs organized by the university in cooperation with an international or local organization. As it has already been mentioned in the definition of key terms the type of volunteerism which is supported and provided by the workplace is called corporate volunteering.

As technology is evolving in incredibly high rates and people spend more time using their mobile phones , computers or watching television , a very effective way of informing them about volunteerism and development issues is through the media and mostly through the internet.

When it comes to voluntary organizations and NGOs it is crucial that they announce upcoming voluntary projects so that people can be informed as well as present the results of their previous projects. By presenting the impact their projects had on peoples' lives , the environment or the society organizations show that volunteerism is a very powerful means of achieving development.

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