

# Gender and Volunteerism: Survey for Volunteers

## Background research on gender and volunteerism for development and peace

About the background research on gender and volunteerism

Education for Change ([www.efc.co.uk](http://www.efc.co.uk)) has been commissioned by the United Nations Volunteers programme to undertake a Background research on Gender and Volunteerism for Development.

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development, and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers.

This background research aims to map the landscape of gender and volunteerism for development. It will highlight the intersections between gender and volunteerism and issues arising, and collect organisational, programme and project examples of good practice that touch upon aspects of gender and volunteerism. This is the first step, which will be followed by a comprehensive research project to increase global knowledge on gender and volunteerism.

As a core component of this research, we invite you to complete an online survey about your work and experiences on gender and volunteerism for development. This research is for the benefit of UNV, programme countries, organisations and volunteers and all interested stakeholders.

How to complete the survey

This survey is aimed at current and former volunteers of any organisation (UN, international, national or local that involved volunteers). If you have been a volunteer with more than one organisation please complete one survey only and choose which volunteering experience you want to reflect.

The survey is available online in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. Please complete the survey in only one of these language formats.

For reference, an Enquiry Framework that maps some of the issues included in this research project, and the questionnaire, in each of the 4 languages are available at: [click here](#)

The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. You may partly complete the survey and come back later to finish it: responses are saved every time you move to the next page. But you must use the SAME COMPUTER each time you return to the survey. (The computer must allow cookies.) To submit the survey please click the DONE button at the end.

Please complete the survey by Wednesday 13 May 2009.

For any questions or problems, please email Louise Wetheridge at [l.wetheridge@efc.co.uk](mailto:l.wetheridge@efc.co.uk).

### \* 1. You are: (please tick all appropriate)

- An International Volunteer
- A National Volunteer
- A Community Volunteer
- An Online Volunteer
- A corporate private sector volunteer

Other (please specify)

### \* 2. Are you a Gender Specialist Volunteer?

Yes

No

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\* 3. Sex:

Female

Male

\* 4. Age:

18-25

26-35

36-50

50-65

65+

5. Nationality

6. Your highest level of education/education qualification is:

Primary school leaver

Secondary school leaver

Technical/ vocational

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

Informal education

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## Your volunteer assignment

1. You have been recruited as a volunteer by the following organisation:

2. Your host organisation (the organisation you are volunteering with) is:

UN agency

Ministry or national institution

Other public institution (school, hospital, research institute etc)

National NGO /Civil Society Organisation

Local NGO/Community-Based Organisation

Other (please specify)

3. Your volunteer job title is:

4. Your country of assignment is:

5. The sector of your assignment is (please tick up to 2 most appropriate sectors):

Administration and finance

Health

Business

HIV&AIDS

Education and training

Human Rights

Engineering

Livelihoods

Environment

Peace and Security

Gender

Rural development

Governance

Other (please specify)

6. The total length of your assignment (in months) is:

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7. Does your work engage with: (tick all appropriate)

- National volunteer legislative framework development?
- Gender issues in national volunteer practices?
- Gender issues in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) framework?
- National gender machineries (e.g Ministries and institutions)
- Local gender machineries
- National Millennium Development Goal initiatives
- Local Millennium Development Goal initiatives
- Gender issues in local policy processes
- Other

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## Your volunteering experience

1. What was your motivation for volunteering at the start? Please select 3 main motivations and rank them in order of importance.

	Most important	Important	Quite important
Altruistic	jn	jn	jn
Personal development	jn	jn	jn
To live in a different country	jn	jn	jn
Networking and meeting new people	jn	jn	jn
To contribute to development	jn	jn	jn
Professional development	jn	jn	jn
Career advancement	jn	jn	jn
Unable to find permanent employment	jn	jn	jn
Other	jn	jn	jn

Other (please specify)

2. What gender training or other support to deal with gender issues was available to you (please tick all appropriate):

	Before your assignment	During your assignment	N/A
Gender training	€	€	€
Handbook with general advice on gender issues	€	€	€
Peer group support on gender	€	€	€
Organisation gender policies/strategies/action plans	€	€	€
Gender and development theory	€	€	€
Analysis of potential volunteer experiences as a male or female and behavioural impact on communities	€	€	€
Gender strategies in project implementation	€	€	€
Gender strategies in project monitoring and evaluation	€	€	€
Skills to tackle gender inequalities in projects	€	€	€
Gender analysis tools	€	€	€

Other (please specify)

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3. In your volunteer assignment, do you feel that:

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	NA
You were taken seriously as a volunteer by your host organisation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You were taken seriously as a volunteer by beneficiaries?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You were well supported in your work as a volunteer by your volunteer-posting organisation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You were well supported in your work as a volunteer by your host organisation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You undertook positions of formal leadership?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You were sufficiently equipped to tackle cultural/social barriers related to gender?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Were there any issues that arose during your volunteering because of your sex? If so, what were the issues?

Yes

No

I don't know

Comments

5. Do you think your volunteer assignment equips you with transferable skills/assets for the job market?

	Yes a lot	Yes a bit	Somehow	Not a lot	Not at all	I don't know
Management skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communication skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organisational skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpersonal skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Training skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gender skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased networks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased technical expertise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased knowledge of development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased gender sensitivity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

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## Impact of your work and your views on gender and volunteerism

1. Did your volunteer work have a positive impact on:

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Not relevant
Gender roles?	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Gender equality or equity?	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Women's empowerment?	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Community empowerment?	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

2. Please give examples of some results and changes achieved with regard to women's empowerment or gender equality here.

Your views on gender and volunteerism for development and peace.

Please refer to the Enquiry Framework to assist your responses to the questions below: [click here](#)

3. Overall, what do you think are the key issues in Gender and Volunteerism for development and peace? You may use the following headings to present those issues.

Volunteers' recruitment, management and support

Gender mainstreaming from organisational to project level

Measuring the impact of volunteerism on men and women beneficiaries

Measuring the impact of volunteerism on gender equality, equity and human rights

Leadership and partnership for gender and volunteerism

Tensions between volunteering and unpaid work

4. Are you interested in a follow-up phone call in May? If yes, please provide your phone number (including international dialling code) and/ or email address:

5. Any further general comments?

Thank you for your participation!

