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Why Online Volunteering?

For organizations working in or focused on developing countries, Online Volunteers present a tremendous and much-needed resource. Our Online Volunteering service connects these organizations with a diverse, abundant pool of people from all over the world with a variety of talents and expertise.

Online Volunteers have skills and expertise non-profit and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may not have, or that these organizations need to supplement the work of onsite volunteers. Online Volunteers help organizations stretch their onsite resources even further and to serve more clients. These Online Volunteers may have sophisticated hardware or software an organization serving a developing country lacks. Online volunteering allows for the participation of people who find onsite volunteering difficult or impossible because of a disability, home obligation, transportation difficulties or work schedule; this in turn allows agencies to benefit from the additional talent and resources of more volunteers. Online Volunteers don't require physical accommodations, and don't generate car exhausts or other pollutants as a result of their service!

Online volunteers are volunteers without frontiers.

For individuals, there are many appeals to Online Volunteering. Online volunteers learn about other countries, and learn about issues faced by the developing world. Online Volunteers can exercise skills they are learning in school or for the work place. Online volunteering allows them to take on roles and responsibilities their professional work may not provide. It may allow an expatriate to reconnect with and provide help to his or her homeland. Online Volunteers can provide service at whatever time of day is convenient, without having to change clothes, drive a car or ride a bus somewhere, look for a parking place or find a place to stay for the evening. Online volunteering offers people a really convenient way to make a difference.

Online Volunteering is not meant as a replacement for face-to-face volunteering, and most individuals and organizations don't choose it over onsite service. Online Volunteering also isn't meant to take away paid positions at an organization. Online Volunteering is meant to help build the capacity of staff at an organization, as well as those that the organization serves. Online Volunteering is just another way for people from various walks of life, all over the world, to connect with each other and be part of the Global Village.

Read about [studies and research on online volunteering](#).

Online Volunteering Update

This twice-monthly email update provides practical tips for both volunteers and organizations on how to make the most of online volunteering. [Join](#) to subscribe if you are not yet an OV Service member.

[Privacy Statement](#)

The United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV) is the volunteer arm of the United Nations. UNV manages this Online Volunteering service.

Learn more about [UN Volunteers](#)