

16 Volunteering and People to People Exchange

WHAT ARE THE MAIN ISSUES

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for a participatory approach to development, focused on collaboration and “leaving no one behind”. Local development actors – including government, civil society, and private sector - are the key partners to achieve this; however they often lack the means to share their unique knowledge and specialized expertise. At the same time, challenges to cross-border collaboration arise due to differences in values and working practices which means that neighboring communities often unilaterally face common and interconnected challenges, running the risk of replicating past mistakes and missing out on the benefits of cooperation. Exciting opportunities also now exist to facilitate international cooperation between new volunteering actors and with the new development initiatives of Middle Income countries. To fully realize these opportunities, approaches to future cooperation need to respond to local needs and avoid reinforcing unequal relationships, while ensuring that new development initiatives take participatory approaches that promote local ownership and mitigate the social and environmental impacts of the “hard”

HOW CAN UNDP HELP

To tackle these issues China and other developing countries can leverage UNDP's support to assist in developing capacity, brokering knowledge, and building partnerships. UNDP has strong and diverse experience in promoting a demand-driven approach that enables countries to share and co-create innovative and mutually beneficial responses to common challenges that are suited to developing country contexts. Across its broad network UNDP possesses the capacity to identify, analyze, and disseminate local knowledge and best practices in an impactful and systematic way that can be used to scale-up and leverage additional resources.

UNDP PAST EXPERIENCE AND SUCCESSFUL CASES

UNDP China is supporting a new three-year UNV project with the Beijing Volunteer Federation which aims to promote a participatory approach to development in China's flagship Belt and Road Initiative through creating opportunities for Chinese youth to volunteer internationally, share international experience to develop the capacities of Chinese volunteering organizations and facilitate cross-country knowledge-sharing and co-creation.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

There are many ways in which volunteering and people to people exchange can support sustainable development. Experts can transfer skills, provide technical support, and develop local capacity through training and guidance, while volunteers are particularly well suited to enhancing monitoring and evaluation. UNDP's experience shows that best practices can be adopted much more quickly when they are shared peer-to-peer or community-to-community, and that volunteers can connect global initiatives with local action while bridging cultural differences to build trust, promote norms of cooperation and reciprocity, and model and advocate for sustainable development behaviors. Three example development solutions that harness the power of volunteering and people to people exchange are:

- Promoting dialogues, study tours, and exchanges between local development actors to transfer knowledge and skills, while encouraging international and intercultural understanding and creating opportunities for the co-creation of development solutions. Similarly, facilitating secondments or reciprocal exchanges for local development practitioners can develop capacity through hands-on learning and skills transfer
- Developing impactful South to South international volunteering programmes to transfer skills, foster norms of cooperation and reciprocity, and create engaged populations of global citizens. Done well, international volunteering aligns perfectly with the ideals of South to South Cooperation, bringing benefits to the recipient community, the individual volunteer, and the sender community

16 志愿服务和人员交流

主要问题

可持续发展目标要求采取参与式的发展方法，强调合作和“关注每一个人的发展”的理念。包括政府、公民社会和私营部门在内的地方发展推动者是实现这一目标的关键合作伙伴。然而，他们通常缺乏分享专业知识和技能的途径。与此同时，由于理念和实践上的不同，跨境合作也面临挑战。缺乏分享意味着相近的地区，尽管往往面临相同或相联系挑战，却选择冒着复制错误的风险，独自解决发展问题，忽略了合作带来的共同利益。如今，促进志愿者之间的国际合作，以及为中等收入国家的提出发展倡议的机会越来越多。为了充分利用这些机会，未来合作的方法需要满足当地需求，避免形成援助者和受助者之间的不平等关系，同时确保新的发展倡议采取参与式发展的方法，加强地方对援助项目的所有权，并减轻贸易发展和基础设施建设对当地社会和环境产生的负面影响。

可行措施

志愿服务和人员交流的诸多方法可以支持可持续发展。专家可以通过培训和指导来转移技能、提供技术支持、建设当地自身发展能力；志愿者可以参与到项目的监测和评估。联合国开发计划署以往的经验表明，优秀的实践经验可以通过人员和社区之间的交流，更快地得到采用和推广。志愿者可以将全球倡议与地方行动联系起来，弥合文化差异，建立信任，促进规范和互利共赢的合作，推广和宣传可持续发展的理念和实践。以下是利用志愿服务和人员交流解决发展问题的三个途径：

- 为地方发展推动者之间的对话、考察和交流提供机会，促进知识和技能的转让；促进不同国家和文化之间的了解，为共同制定发展问题解决方案创造机会；为从事地方发展工作的人员提供借调和交流的机会，鼓励他们通过实践学习技能、培养新的能力
- 实行影响深远的南南国际志愿服务方案，促进技能转让，制定合作准则，推广“全球公民”的理念。国际志愿服务完全符合南南合作的理想，能够使援助社区、受助社区及志愿者个人都受益匪浅
- 促进联合研究，向政府、私营部门和公众展示参与式发展方法（包括志愿服务和人员交流）的价值

UNDP如何帮助

联合国开发计划署可以协助中国及其他发展中国家进行能力建设、提供知识借鉴和拓展伙伴关系。联合国开发计划署在推动需求导向型的发展途径方面有着丰富和多样的经验，能够帮助各国分享和创造适合发展中国家的共赢和创新的对策，应对发展中国家共同的挑战。通过其丰富的关系网络，联合国开发计划署能够系统地分析和分享各地的最佳做法，以扩大知识分享和实践的规模，并释放更多发展潜力。

UNDP的过往经验和成功案例

联合国开发计划署驻华代表处正在与北京志愿者联合会一起支持一个为期三年的联合国志愿人员项目，旨在通过为中国青年志愿者在国际上创造机会、分享国际经验、加强中国志愿服务组织的能力建设、促进跨国知识共享和共同创造，以促进中国“一带一路”倡议中对参与式发展方法的实践。