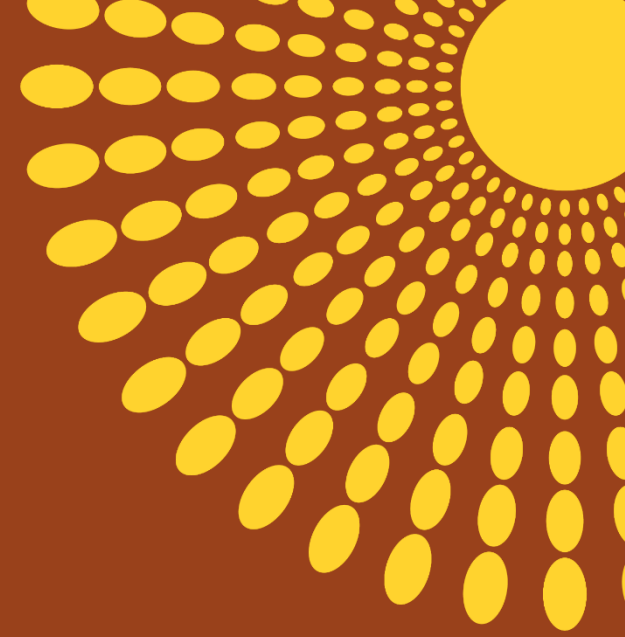


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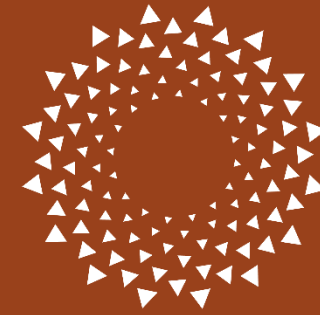


A NEW DAWN FOR VOLUNTEERING IN DEVELOPMENT

16th – 19th October



The role of institutions in creating an enabling environment for volunteering



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Institutions



Dr Meshesha Shewarega

October, 2022

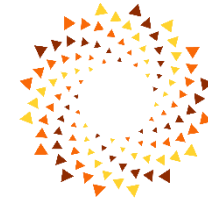
What are institutions?



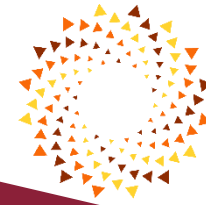
- **Institutions** are rules and norms that shape and constrain individual behavior
- A commonly accepted definition of institutions is that they are **the formal and informal rules that organize social, political and economic relations**
- Laws, rules, social conventions and norms are all examples of institutions
- Institutions vary in their level of formality and informality



What is Institutionalization?



- There are 19 synonyms, antonyms, idiomatic expressions, and related words for institutionalization,
- Commonly **institutionalization** is **incorporate into a system**, standardize, systematize, regulate, order, make official
- Institutionalization is a **process intended to regulate societal behavior or practice within organizations or entire societies.**
- institutionalization is the process of embedding **formal and informal rules that organise social, political and economic relations in** an organization, social system, or society as a whole



Agenda 2063

“Aspiration 6 -An Africa Whose Development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by African People, especially its Women and Youth, and caring for Children”

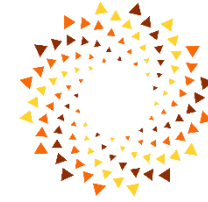
Africa Youth Charter

(Article 11 (h)) the African Union Commission and State Parties to “*Institute policy and programmes of youth voluntarism at local, national, regional and international levels as an important form of youth participation and as a means of peer-to-peer training*”.

African Union Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.274 (XVI)

- This decision was adopted in January 2010, mandates the African Union Commission to “***work with Member States to set up a continental Volunteer Program that recruits trains and deploys youth volunteers***”, to work in all the fifty-five (55) AU Member Countries;
- **African Union frameworks on volunteerism-- a baseline for measuring development contribution of volunteerism, guiding principles, guideline or checklist**
- **The African Union Model National Volunteerism – shared values, minimum threshold or building blocks of national policy**

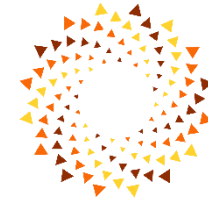
What do we mean by enabling environment? – Components of enabling environment



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- Policies (50 countries) , legislation (80 countries) , schemes, bodies or programmes
- Inclusion Mechanism (gender; disability, age-related)
- Other aspects (visibility, recognition, advocacy)
- Leadership --- leaders are key drivers of volunteerism – **critical mass/agents of change** (*Advocates for volunteering, Leads change* by inspiring others to achieve shared vision of 'Volunteering for All', *Builds a culture of collaboration* etc)
- Evidence and Voice- hearing from those with lived experience (gaps, what we 'don't know' as what we do)--- diversity of voices shall be encouraged -**Build Voice capacity (of stakeholders)** and evidence capacity
- Learning – creating a learning culture and learning community;
- Capacity building - improve **the volunteer infrastructure** that enables volunteering; creating strong VIOs - strong VIOs -- good governance, quality processes and standards; Volunteer accreditation schemes
- Resilience - prepare for *future shocks* and *capitalize on opportunities for change*
- Space for 'new frontiers or less-travelled volunteering routes' -- Digital Volunteering - maximize the benefits of **digital infrastructure, with equal access for all** ---using digital tools (e.g. Teams, Zoom, WhatsApp)

How institutions promote enabling environment for volunteerism?

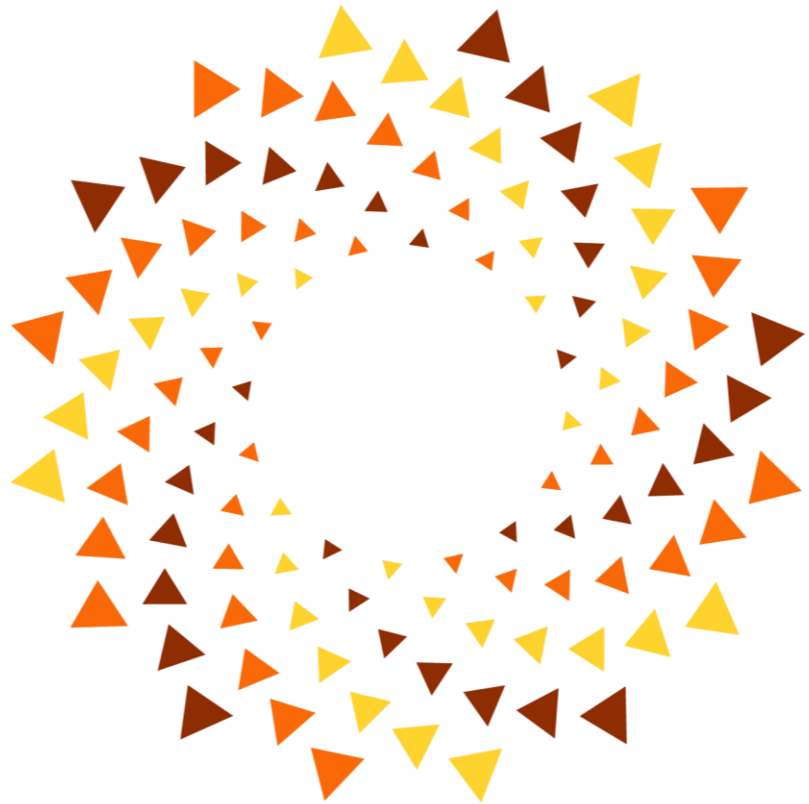


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- **Articulate common standards and principle – set the minimum threshold**
- **They prescribe the way of doing things --- set the modes of engagement**
- **Puts in place rules which must be adhered -- by individuals/organization---**
- **maximize the benefits of volunteering for development outcomes and minimize the risks for volunteers ---- mainstream volunteerism in the national, regional development policies**
- **Sustainability of practices- transferring volunteerism from one generation to another through the medium of institution.**
- **Strengthening of governance ---Board of Directors, directors, committees and others,**
- **Improve financial inflow and management- *ensure a sustainable and reliable funding for volunteerism through the inclusion of a budget-line in the budgets of continental and regional institutions and governments.***
- **Promotes collective activities of the people ---- inclusion marginalized/disadvantaged**
- **Not hinder self- determination ---- allow autonomy/citizens rights, ‘freedom of choice’**

THANK YOU





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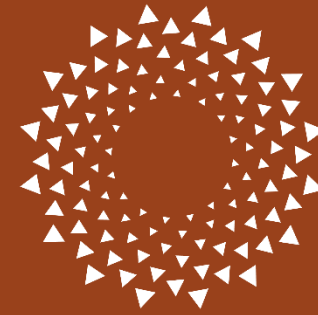
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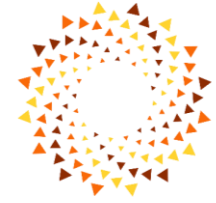
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THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS IN CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR VOLUNTEERING



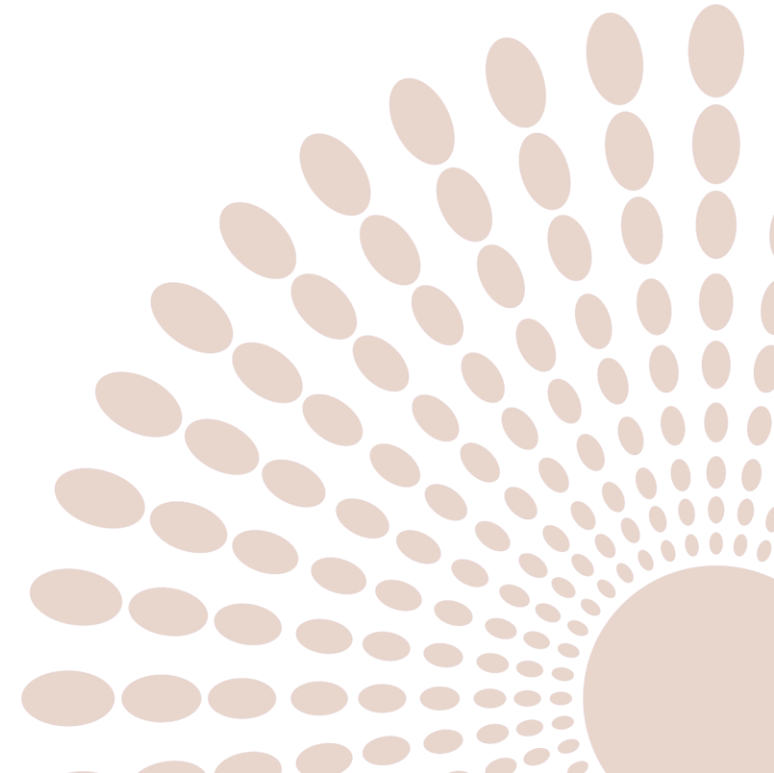
Elizabeth Agatha Musah
Western Region Coordinator
18th October 2022

CONTENT



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- 1. About Sierra Leone**
- 2. VIO-Net Profile**
- 3. Volunteering in Sierra Leone**
- 4. Network Strength and Interventions**
- 5. Key Intervention- Volunteering for Development**
- 6. Foward Look**

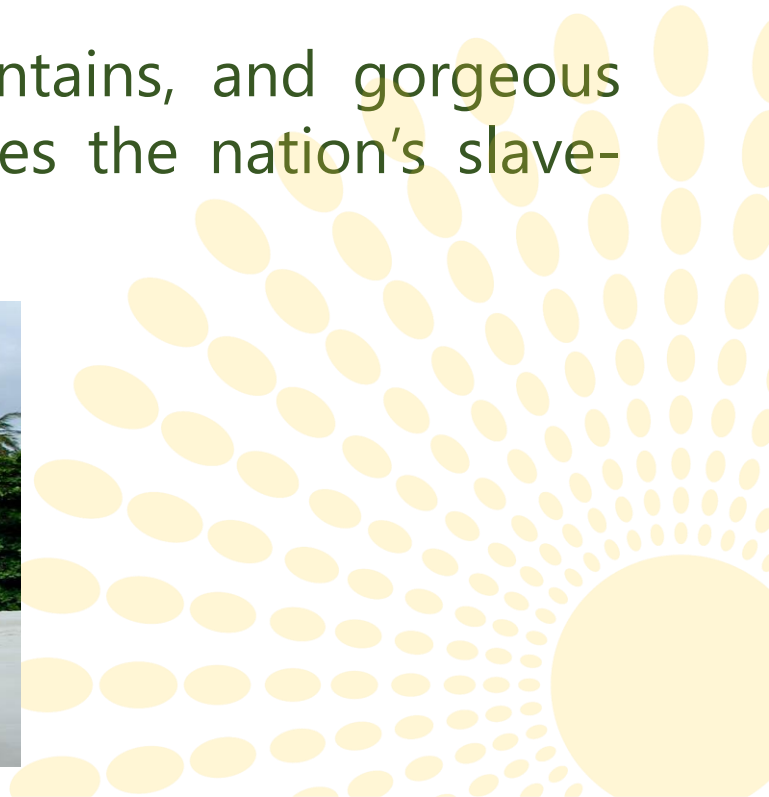


ABOUT SIERRA LEONE



Sierra Leone is a country in West Africa along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. This incredibly diverse country is made up of four administrative regions and sixteen districts. Sierra Leone has 16 different ethnic groups, all with their own language and traditions, with a 7.977 population.

Sierra Leone is covered in rainforests, rivers, lakes, mountains, and gorgeous pristine beaches. The capital city, Freetown, commemorates the nation's slave-trade history with the Cotton Tree landmark.



WHO WE ARE?



Volunteers Involving Organizations Network (VIONet) is a local NGO that connects volunteers who seek to collaborate with the government, unions, think tanks, foundations, INGO, NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, and the private sector to complement and add value to promote Volunteerism for peace and development.

VIONet provides a platform for a collective and coordinated answer to volunteerism, joint initiatives, exchanging information and experience on volunteerism and policy-related initiatives, and ideas; for strengthening membership, supporting local and international campaigns, and improving regional networking and solidarity activities.

MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH



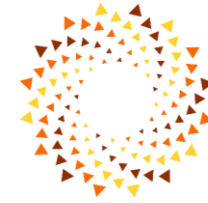
As a network, our membership cuts across diverse local, and international volunteering organizations, and the government.

Over 500 individual Volunteers and 150 Organizations are registered with the network across the country.

Below are a cross-section of our network members:



NETWORK COVERAGE



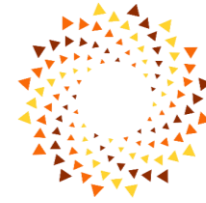
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The network has nationwide coverage with administrative offices at the regional level in the North, West, South, and East.

Each region has an established leadership that leads the development and implementation of volunteering for development activities in their respective region.



VOLUNTEERING JOURNEY IN SIERRA LEONE



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In Sierra Leone, the prevalence of informal volunteering is prominent. Many young people are emerging and taking leadership in supporting vulnerable communities in creating positive change.

The government of Sierra Leone has demonstrated willingness and openness to engage, partner, and collaborate with private and civil society organizations to advance volunteering for national development, especially in achieving the SDGs and policy formulation.



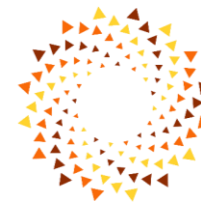
INTERVENTION AREAS



The Network has been working with the Government and the private sector since 2018 in the area of health, education, social protection, and inclusion. Below are the major intervention areas:

- a) Social accountability
- b) Policy development
- c) Emergency response and climate action campaign
- d) Gender and Inclusion (mainstreaming gender across the SDGs)
- e) Volunteer Capacity Development
- f) Youth in peacebuilding
- g) International Celebrations

INTERVENTIONS



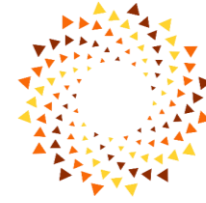
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Engaged the Government in the development of a NVP

Initiated and engaged the Government in the Development of a National Volunteering Policy to ensure an enabling environment for volunteerism



INTERVENTIONS



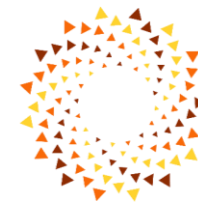
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CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Enhanced Volunteers' knowledge and efficiency to deliver through training, mentorship, and coaching



INTERVENTIONS



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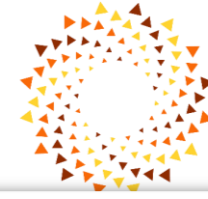
VOLUNTEERS AS SDGs AMBASSADORS

VIONet in collaboration with the SDGs fellowship program and the government ministry of planning and economic development trained 17 volunteers as SDGs Ambassadors with the objectives to:

- Create awareness and localization of the SDGs
- Promote community-led initiatives on their respective goals
- Collect relevant data on community action on the SDGs to inform further engagement with the government
- Raise awareness on domestic revenue generation through the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to finance the SDGs.



INTERVENTIONS



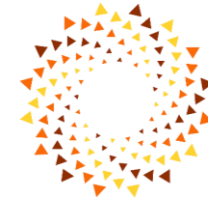
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SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Championing Citizen Led Monitoring on service delivery in health, education, and social protection



INTERVENTIONS



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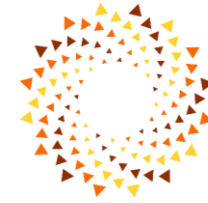
National Youth Policy Review

Supported the National Youth Policy Review process to ensure the inclusion of the most vulnerable youth in remote and rural communities.

Over 25,000 young people from the farthest communities were reached and their voices were reflected in the reviewed documents



INTERVENTIONS



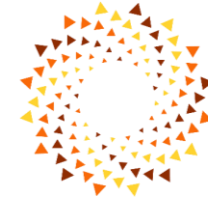
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CLIMATE ACTION AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT

Championed the “**Save Ur Environment**” campaign together with Environmental Protection Agency to take action against environmental Disasters



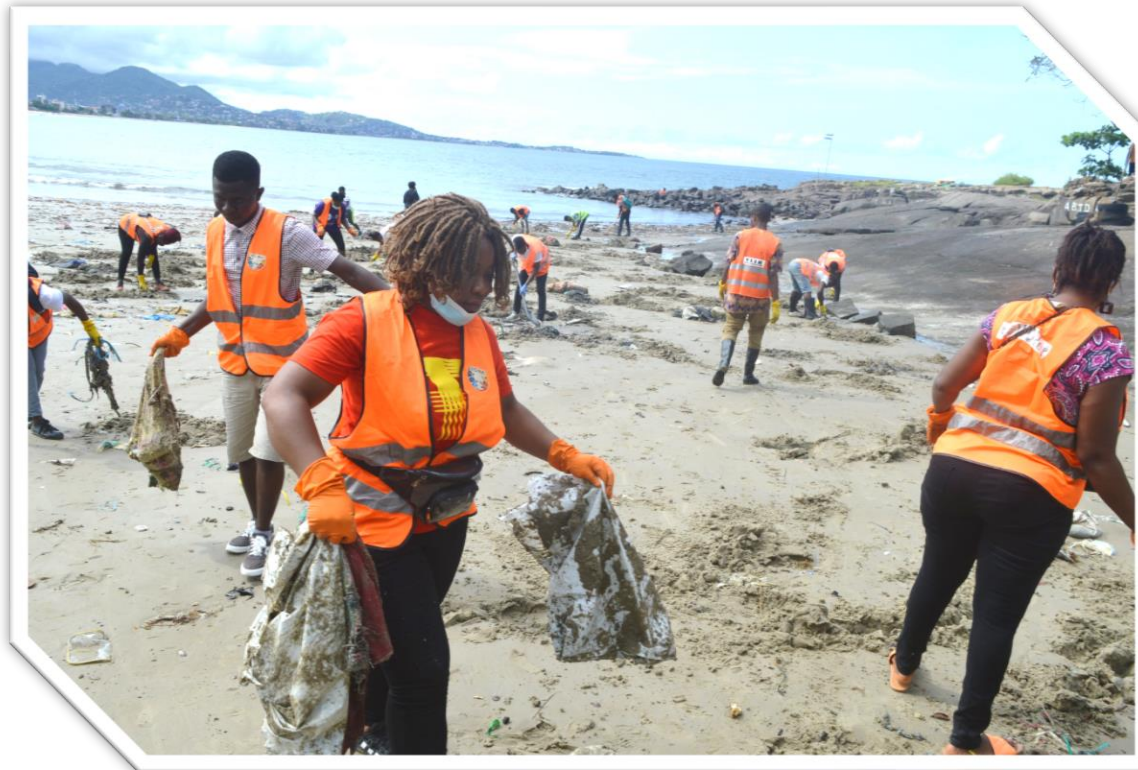
INTERVENTIONS



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Cleaning of Strategic Public places

Taking action to address environmental disaster to save lives



INTERVENTIONS

Responding to Emergencies

- Fire & Flooding in slum communities in the Western Area

Provided psychosocial support and safeguarding awareness including Cash Transfers to affected victims to help cushion vulnerability in slum communities



INTERVENTIONS



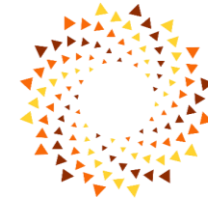
Youth Transitioning from COVID-19

Through the Integrated Community Action for Recovery and Empowerment (I-CARE) Project, Provided life-skill support to 200 young people in the slums communities to position them for meaning engagement to promote peace and development in their communities



INTERVENTIONS

GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT



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Championed GBV campaigns to end rape culture and supported girls with learning and hygiene materials to keep them safe in school.

We amplify the voices of girls



INTERVENTIONS



GENDER AND INCLUSION

- Women's empowerment to participate, lead and be financially independent
- Community engagement to engender the barriers and cultural stereotypes to promote inclusion
- Improved Women's mental health and well-being

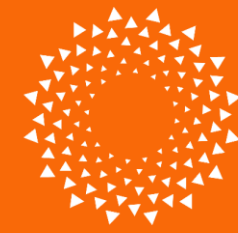


INTERVENTIONS

Celebrating International Volunteers Day: Recognizing the contributions of Volunteers



FORWARD LOOK



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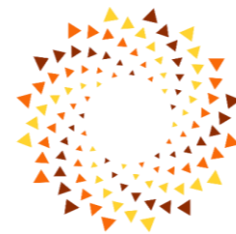
Work with the Ministry of Labour for the development and popularization of the National Volunteer Policy

Enlarging/strengthening Partnerships with Private and Public sectors

Intensifying community Engagements for the domestication and localization of the SDGs – roll-out SDG initiative to other districts

Capacity Development of Volunteers for improved delivery of services for national development

Empowerment of young people to realise their potentials



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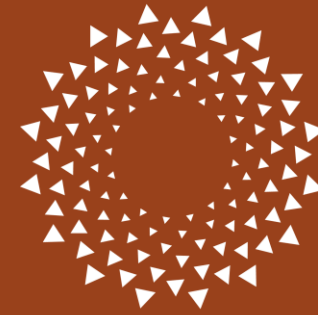


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The Role of Institutions in Creating an Enabling Environment



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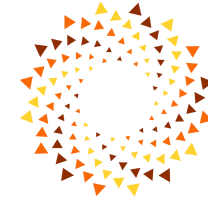


Moyosoluwa Oladayo

18th October

WHAT?

An enabling environment for volunteering is a functional system that aims to maximize the benefits of volunteering for development outcomes and minimize the risk for volunteers.



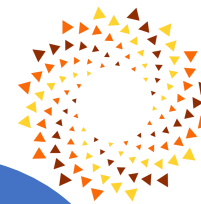
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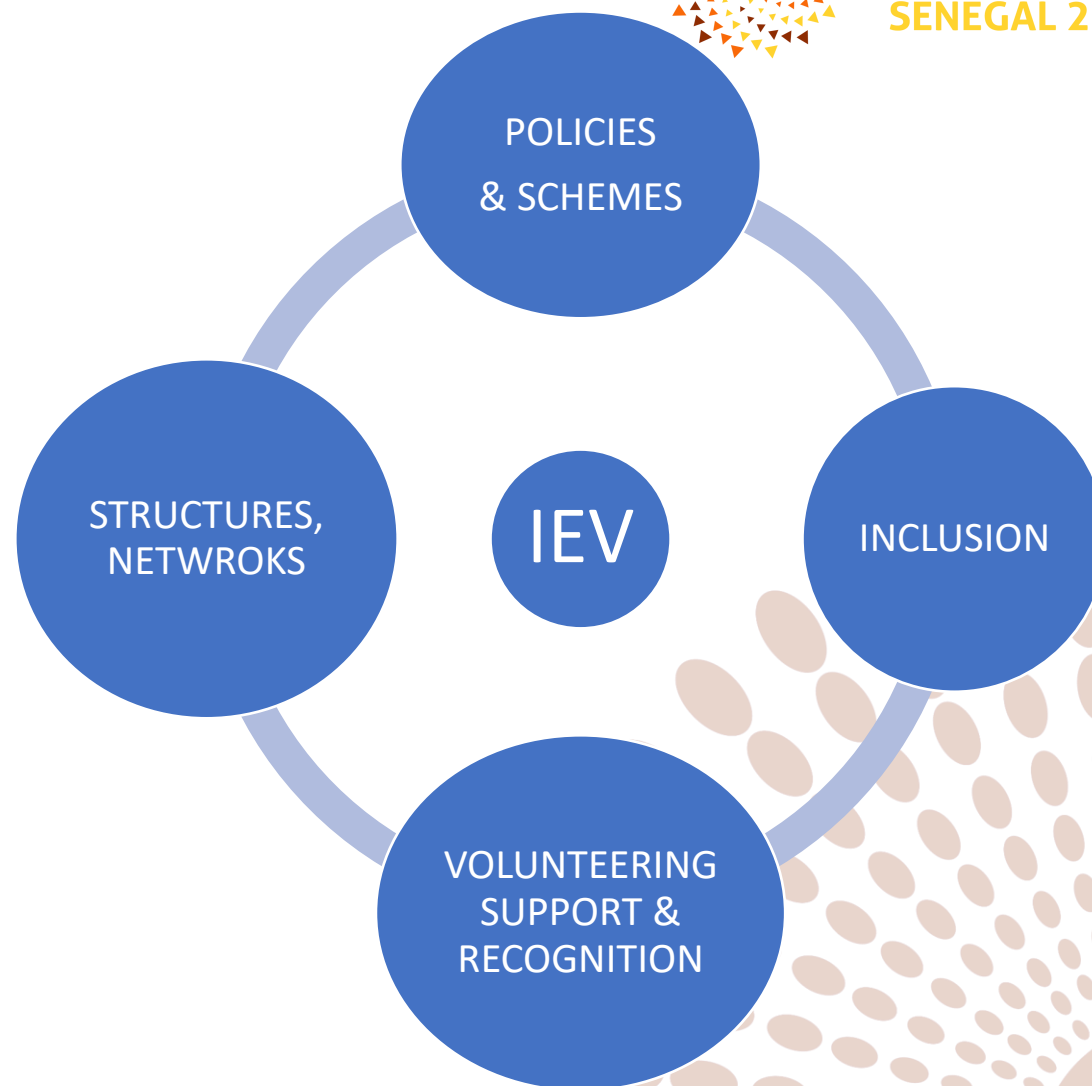
HOW?

An enabling environment is broad and should include tools like policies, frameworks, schemes, and volunteering support.

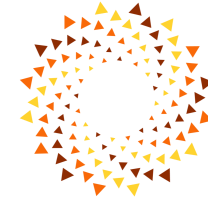
The freedom to volunteer, gender equality in volunteering, the safety and security of all volunteers, and the voice and recognition of volunteer groups.



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VSO PRACTICES



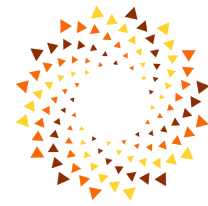
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Build systems (Government and stronger networks to collaborate to come together to form systems)

- National Policy/Frameworks/Strategies
- Support Development of Standards (Global & Regional)
- Strengthen Volunteering Involving Organisations/Technical Working Group



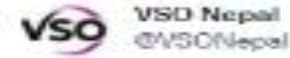
VSO PRACTICES



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Influence Sustainable Volunteer Practices and Values

- Volunteer Lifelong Engagement
- Volunteer Recognition & Awards



International Volunteer Day Celebration with ICS Alumni Volunteers!
#VSO together with Raleigh Intl and Restless Development celebrated the day with ICS Alumni Volunteers.. [facebook.com/VsoNepal/posts...](https://www.facebook.com/VsoNepal/posts...)
#VSONepal #IVD2021 #VolunteerNow #VSOVolunteer #BeTheChange #ICS4Change @VSO_Intl



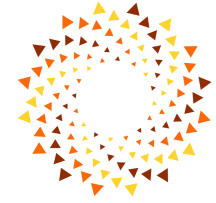
CALL TO ACTION



We urge governments and civil society organisations to promote responsible volunteering and support the promotion and adoption of the Global Volunteering Standard to ensure that an enabling environment is created for volunteering for development



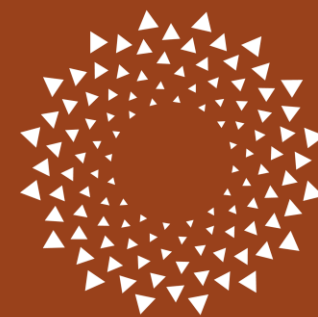
LET US DISCUSS:



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**WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?**

THANK
you



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