



Volunteering 2030: New Paradigms

VOLUNTEERING TOGETHER TO ENABLE CHANGE
AND CREATE A BETTER WORLD CONTEXT PAPER

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Volunteering Together to Enable Change and Create a Better World.

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised how volunteers as agents of change provide the practical action that builds hope and resilience, improves lives and strengthens communities. The pandemic has resulted in the postponement of the October 2020 IAVE World Volunteer Conference hosted by the Emirates Foundation in Abu Dhabi until the autumn of 2021. However, the conference theme chosen for 2020 of 'volunteering together to enable change and create a better world' has never been more relevant or more real.

As part of the preparations for the conference the Emirates Foundation had agreed to support the writing of seven context papers on the conference sub themes. This project has continued in order to provide for greater consideration of the issues, particularly with relevance to volunteering and COVID-19, and to enable wider dissemination of knowledge that will add value to those supporting and developing volunteering around the world.

The context papers seek to bring forward current thinking and any relevant research, highlighting case studies to demonstrate impact. The papers will be published and available between July and December 2020. In addition, an incredibly special series of online Forums is being organized to enable the sharing of knowledge and discussion of the issues. The papers and the Forums provide information and insight on the following key topics:

- ▶ Volunteerism and Community Resilience – Locally Owned Solutions Delivering Impact
- ▶ Future Leadership – the Role of Youth Volunteers
- ▶ Tolerance and Inclusion – Volunteering Enabling Community Cohesion and Embracing Diversity
- ▶ Volunteering and the Digital World – Extending the Power of Volunteering through New Technologies
- ▶ Corporate Volunteering – Delivering Business Objectives through a Values Focused Mission
- ▶ Measurement and Impact – Providing the Evidence that Volunteering is Good for Society and Good for You
- ▶ Volunteering 2030 – New Paradigms

"In Volunteering, the future is today. Ten years before 2030 we do not have the answers, but something almost as important: we have some questions that make sense."

Introduction

This paper will pose and cover some core issues about the development of Volunteering within the next decade, including consideration of:

- ▶ Volunteering as part of a world that will change yet more rapidly, with new tools for global organization of action, new demands, and borderless activism; a time for exploring how volunteers as individuals and volunteering as a social movement can contribute to new ways of citizen participation.
- ▶ How Volunteering is contributing to the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showing key issues that must be improved with examples from Europe and Latin America.
- ▶ A reopening of the discussion on some key themes that generate debate and differing opinions, such as: are diversity and solidarity the hallmarks of Volunteering; what are other core values; is remuneration allowed as a way to facilitate and recognize; how can we best synergize formal and informal Volunteering?
- ▶ The need for improvement, expansion, and articulation of the international Volunteer networks, not only to work together but specifically with governments and other global social movements.

These central points will be developed through setting out six "spaces for work and debate" to order the multiple aspects from which Volunteering can be (and should be) addressed on a global scale. Each space addresses its own precise themes, but all are interrelated.

The first space dares to project what the world will be like in 2030. - **A new, (new?) world 2030: home of Volunteers.**

The second delimits the field of what we call Volunteering and the mark it leaves on people. - **Each Volunteer carries all the values of Volunteering on him/herself.**

The third directly addresses the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and presents two cases of Volunteering that contribute to them. - **Volunteering as a diverse and powerful way to build solidarity and citizen participation.**

The fourth presents a situation and proposes to act concretely on what is a great weakness. - **Great challenges, big contributions, not enough dialogue (yet...).**

The fifth values the voluntary perspective on the world and life. – **We see the world from a different perspective: the Volunteer way of life.**

Finally, the sixth space is a special one: "**the lessons history gives us**" gathers a handful of experiences, speeches, and reflections. However, it will be a "*Mobile Chapter*" inserted within the others, showing in particular how throughout its 50 years of history, IAVE has reflected the issues and contributed to the worldwide debate.

New, (New?) World 2030: Home of Volunteers

It is really difficult to know how the world will be 10 years ahead, but it is not impossible to imagine it, based on current reality, ideas, and reflections. Following Jacques Attali¹ – but including our own vision² – we can say that in the future, 2030, the world (and civilizations, communities, minorities, and volunteers included) will:

1. Be **more connected** than ever - may be *hyperconnected* – and with an enormous amount of information circulating worldwide, not all of which will be serious or truthful.
2. Have **more inhabitants, with growing poor, migrant and elderly populations**. The number of Volunteers in the world will grow, along with the population, but...will there be more poor people, migrants and the elderly who become Volunteers?
3. Be **more diverse**, but diversity not only in a lineal cultural path but also in the context of (and in tension with) legal and political framing. Dr. Xavier Etxeberria, from Deusto University, refers to a quote³ from Norwegian sociologist and mathematician Johan Galtung: "The fact of multiculturalism is undeniable. There are around 5,000 differentiated cultural groups in the world, of which 2,000 consider themselves nations, which are in states that do not reach 200..."
4. Have **more identities**, coexisting strong ones with other fluid⁴ ones, in the way that Zygmunt Baumann defines them: identities that can change within the context, within the strategies, within the results.
5. **Experience robotics and interactive artificial intelligence** installed in homes and workspaces.
6. See **increasing elements of our lives being ever more instantaneous**.
7. See, even amid social tensions and war conflicts that have not ceased, **illiteracy decrease globally and access to education increase**.
8. Have **more inequality on different levels: south-north, between races, through economic development, etc.**
9. See **more uncertainty - the COVID-19 pandemic will be - without doubt - a strong reference in the first year of the 2020/30 decade. Uncertainty is one of its biggest challenges** – How long will it last? What will the outcome be? Will it be repeated with global health threats continuing?

10. **Still be addressing the big challenges of today** - such as climate change, women's rights, racial equality.

While we do not know exactly what the future will look like, we do know that these ten trends will **undoubtedly have an effect on Volunteering.**

Each Volunteer Carries All the Values of Volunteering on Him/ Herself

Conceptual definition: solidarity-based volunteering

Volunteering is technically defined by four characteristics that must be fulfilled simultaneously for an activity to be considered as such. These are: that it is done through free will and without any obligation, that it be free (not done as a job or employment) that it expresses a bond of solidarity and provides benefits to others and that it is planned in advance and carried out over time.⁵

Fulfilment of the four characteristics defines an activity as Volunteering from the technical point of view, what might be considered as formal Volunteering. However, it does not tell us everything about Volunteering, because informal Volunteering (not necessarily planned in advance or carried out over time) is not only socially valued but also contributes substantially to engaging individuals in meeting need at a community level. This has been highlighted from the huge informal Volunteering response to the COVID - 19 pandemic. It is not enough to use only a technical definition to understand everything that Volunteering means. The breadth of Volunteering requires consideration of both formal and informal engagement.

While recognizing the complexity and continuum that is Volunteering, throughout this paper Volunteering will be distinguished between two levels - one will be referred to as Local Voluntary Action, and the other Global Volunteering.

When we talk about **Local Voluntary Action**, we refer to the Volunteer service that is practiced locally, and which can include a combination of Volunteer projects and programs provided by organizations and informal Volunteering: those hundreds - sometimes thousands - of people sensitized and mobilized by a desire to help, who do not necessarily recognize themselves as Volunteers, but practice something that can be understood as Volunteering. It is not that this Local Voluntary Action ignores or renounces theory, but in it the action is always about helping rather than theorizing, and actions are thought, deployed, and only later reflected upon.

Instead, **Global Volunteering** is seen as a movement rather than an action. It is a social movement based on action, clearly, but thought about and reflected on in advance. Global Volunteering is the way to imagine Volunteering for all humanity, beyond differences and diversity that will later enrich you locally. It is dreaming of Volunteering universally recognized as one of the ways humanity has chosen to preserve and unfold in peace on this planet.

This Global Volunteering must be thought about dynamically, taking into account the changes of a world in permanent movement and, for this, its principles and ethical foundations must be reviewed and updated. If the basis of Local Voluntary Action is the context of community (geographic) and cultural diversity, the basis of Global Volunteering is a universal Volunteer ethic, the foundations of which should be a handful of great principles and values that define it globally.

We must start looking for those agreed ethical principles now. They should be taken care of and built by Volunteers themselves, their organizations and all Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in general, companies with social responsibility, those Governments that think long-term with political responsibility, social movements that incorporate it as support for their practices, grassroots communities that have historically created it and even the cyber-activists who, loose and free in the big digital ocean, must act with epochal ethical responsibility.

High self-esteem

Volunteering – whatever its modality, scope, and perspective – must first promote growth in the most basic nucleus: **Volunteering must generate self-esteem; that is the challenge attached to growing up.** It is this self-esteem – understood not as the blind and egotistical love of oneself, but precisely as the meaningful elaboration of our own individuality, as the consolidation of a dynamic of "well-being" – that builds and recreates a permanent trilogy, of meaning, each with equal weight: **me, my life and others.**

Box 1 Lessons history gives us #1: Health benefits of volunteering



In 2012, Kenn Allen shows in his book "The Big Tent"⁶ – published by Ariel and Fundación Telefónica, in collaboration with Editorial Planeta and IAVE – how *Volunteering is also good for Volunteers*: "I still have vivid memories of giving a speech 20+ years ago in which I talked about the then emerging research that had begun to conclude that volunteering is good for one's mental and physical health. It was met with raised eyebrows, a few chuckles and overall skepticism. But research over the past two decades has built an impressive body of evidence that, in fact, the original claim is quite true."

So... that is to say that when volunteers report that they "get more than they give," at least in the area of health benefits that clearly is the case.⁷

Generating self-esteem in others should be the "number zero" objective of any Volunteer project, prior to any enumeration of other operational objectives. Taking care of the self-esteem of volunteers is the basic output of a Volunteer movement that respects diversity and values everyone's access to Volunteering and, aims to have global reach.

Volunteering as a Diverse and Powerful Way to Build Solidarity and Citizen Participation

Saying "Volunteering" in any language is always being on the edge of a crossroads of paths that are born together but rarely reach the same place.

Box 2 Lessons history gives us #2: Diversity of engagement



In 2001, between January 14 and 18, at the 16th IAVE World Volunteer Conference in Amsterdam and before 1,600 participants from 97 countries of the world, the official "International Year of Volunteers" declared by the United Nations had its official kick-off.

South African Kumi Naidoo, then General Secretary of CIVICUS, said in the closing speech: *"A slow but suggestive rapprochement is brewing between activities named with different words - volunteerism, activism, community participation, social responsibility - of different manifestation according to countries and cultures, but whose conceptual root is very similar, and it is increasingly necessary to decrease the distance between these words to build a world where all of them are synonymous with justice."*

These Naidoo words - heartfelt, no doubt sincere, full of illusion - continue to be an objective to achieve. The increasingly profound and vertically divergent characterizations of these activities have made highly improbable a synthesis that would unite them transversally in a binding and, as such, unique concept.

Will such a synthesis be achieved in 2030? We do not know. It is however clear that now is the time to continue building bridges from Volunteering to other valuable community practices: activism (including serious cyber-activism), civil resistance, participatory citizenship, social movements... **to build this comprehensive diversity** that allows us to act with more force, the robust engagement and participation that these complex times already demand.

Does it mean there will no longer be a place for the joyous, recreational, or artistic Volunteering that many people - especially children and young people - enjoy practicing so much? The answer is yes, there definitely will be. **The entrance door to engaging in Volunteer service must remain wide and welcoming, so that everyone can enter.**

Solidarity in action

Voluntary action always manifests a new dimension of coexistence between people. It is a channel of cultural expression and can attend to both emergency situations and complex development challenges. The most important thing is that **Volunteering is solidarity in action and a school of citizenship.** It allows us to face the relationship with "the other" from a plane that combines responsibility with abundance and gratefulness.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the Volunteer perspective

In 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development. Volunteering is recognized as a key means of meeting these goals. However, demand remains high for empirical evidence on the value of and challenges associated with Volunteering.

As Agenda 2030 took shape and the intended role of Volunteering became clear, three organizational partners began collaborating to create a global research agenda (GRA): The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) program, the International Forum on Volunteering for Development, and the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis focused on a schema for research to clarify Volunteering's possible roles in advancing peace and fostering development.⁸

A true methodological and statistical problem

Accepting then that the SDGs cannot be achieved without the contribution of Volunteers, efforts to systematize that contribution have taken on new importance.

However, there are basic methodological and statistical problems. If a third of humanity Volunteers and another third are beneficiaries (and it is possible, of course, to interchange and overlap these roles) and Volunteering is a diverse, popular and daily activity, then, how do we measure what humanity itself does daily to self-preserve, grow and live with greater dignity? **How do we systematize, record, measure and graph this daily pulse of the human experience?**

We have to change our view and focus not so much on trying to measure and compare the actions of millions of Volunteers in the world (and even less translate them into monetary value!). Rather, we must determine how they can achieve an ever-increasing level of influence over decision-makers. Volunteers, knowing deeply the activities in which they perform, are qualified citizens to talk about them. They are citizens who do not know this reality from news reports, social media or what others have told them, but from their own experience. Generating channels so that Volunteers can speak with the powerful actors who make decisions, is one of the challenges of a new “Borderless Volunteering”, that we discuss below.

To continue contributing to the SDGs, Volunteering must continue to be recognized as a dual movement: deepening the local and further intertwining the global.

Among the trends that will continue and even increase in the future is access to ever higher levels of education for broad layers of the world population. Volunteering should take advantage of this and prepare its values and formats to be taught in schools and through non-formal education. **Volunteering and solidarity can be taught and learned from an early age.** Deepened theoretical and practical development of Service Learning must be a starting point and not an arrival point.

The 2030 SDGs will neither be fully reached nor fully not reached and that will be the challenge: to use the degree to which they are being fulfilled as a platform to reset new objectives for another decade. The COVID- 19 pandemic has strongly focused actions on goal number 3 of the SDGs - good health and well-being - but with consequences for almost all other goals. As of this pandemic, for example, my own care habits already far exceed my mere self-care, putting others in my hands and me in theirs. With both, in the long run, in the hands of the State, the potential greatest caregiver.

Therefore, in this novel "virus humanity" that we have become on a planetary level, the chain of care is a new expression of an old conception of “solidarity” now revitalized: the one that says that with the “other” - either neighbor or stranger - we cannot be indifferent.

Two cases, two ways to contribute to the SDGs

Here are two quite different ways of how volunteering can contribute to the SDGs. The first is by carrying out massive, timely, concrete, and multi-thematic activities where many spontaneous organizations and Volunteers participate to explore difficult and complex issues such as migration and social exclusion, in partnership with specialized and well-trained Volunteers. Both experiences are sustained over time by adapting their strategies but without changing their essence.

An example, from Peru is CENAVOL´s "*Festival of Good Will. Let's build a solidarity society together.*"⁹ The Festival is a great event developed since 2001, with the active participation of the local community, which brings together a significant number of Volunteers, government institutions and private companies to provide free health services and rights education, Volunteering, citizen security, disaster risk management and recreational activities for people of all ages who are in vulnerable situations. During all these years it has been developed in 12 districts of Metropolitan Lima, and in two provinces, showing that it is possible to create multi-sector alliances for social inclusion and development. The Festival, in these 18 years, has given attention to more than 280,000 people of all ages during two days of service, with the contribution of 40 plus Volunteer organizations and 500 Volunteers per event, and the contribution and commitment of the municipal governments involved, as well as the Ministries of

Development and Social Inclusion, Education, Women and Vulnerable Populations and Health. Likewise, over this period more than 50 companies and 12 universities have been involved.

The second is a small Spanish organization but strong in its convictions: Accem.¹⁰ Its mission is to defend fundamental rights, care and support for people who are in a situation of or at risk of social exclusion. It seeks to contribute to a diverse and cohesive society from an intercultural approach, through comprehensive action, effective equal rights, participation, and the empowerment of people. They work to support immigrants, care for the excluded and provide shelter to vulnerable people.

The important thing about this organization is the treatment it gives to its Volunteers. It involves Volunteers from all ages, interests, and backgrounds, but their training is demanding, as is the way the association cares for them. They have developed a Volunteer manual for their interventions with refugees and immigrants in which they express their strong organizational convictions about what migration is (they speak, for example of the "duel of migration") with basic training and techniques for their Volunteers.

Of course, many other organizations have manuals and solid convictions, but that is what it is about, making these types of specialized volunteering organizations and their volunteers into qualified voices to challenge local, national, and global public policies. This is Volunteering that, from its specificity, displays a way of acting that can be the motor and inspiration for other more sporadic, flexible, and even ephemeral Volunteers.

Great Challenges, Big Contributions. Not Enough Dialogue (Yet...)

It is essential to characterize Volunteering with an adjective so that its concept does not turn into a vacuum. One cannot speak of Volunteering in the abstract. Volunteering turning in the void is a dancing and happy but irrelevant spinning top. That is why I refer to the difference between a light Volunteering and a transforming Volunteering; that is, Volunteering that seeks to transform reality.

However since Volunteering is in continuous advancement and challenge for the times to come, it is necessary to go one step further and - without abandoning the transformer - think about the need to build and nurture a new category that I would like to call **Borderless Volunteering**.

Borderless Volunteering

To think about the relevance of Volunteering on a global scale we must do it from a triple perspective:

- ▶ the **Operational** - with effective projects;
- ▶ the **Social** - with new paradigms; and,
- ▶ the **Vital** - with a comprehensive and universal mystique.

Building, living, and communicating **Borderless Volunteering** is today a unique historical opportunity to acquire a dimension of deep brotherhood: integration dreams it; technology allows it; global challenges require it.

Active Volunteer Dialogue

Volunteering must be considered and valued in its proper measure, neither for more nor for less: a **significant, but complementary and not central, cultural expression of community life**. Considering Volunteering as not a central aspect of global civilization does not mean giving up on appreciating it. As in a society dynamically crossed by complexity and the growing atomization of identities, demands, proposals, visions and projects, the articulating and "lowest common denominator" consensus become fundamental. **Volunteering - as a complementary activity - can be a field of consensus. In particular - "Dialogue Volunteering" can be a new language of peace.**

Box 3 Lessons history gives us #3: Promoting active dialogue globally



In the 1st Announcement and Call for Contribution to the 17th IAVE World Volunteer Conference in Seoul, 2002, we can read: *"The present tension, national and global, is definitely requiring the introduction of a new perspective of "Volunteering, Reaching out for Reconciliation and Peace" (..) The September attack on New York and Washington has shown us that conventional politics was not problem-solving but only causing further isolation, distrust and misunderstanding. Our half-century old national separation into the South and the North has recently shown a hint of reconciliation in the historical family reunion last year. The next step, however, requires fueling from the civil and business level to achieve any substantial difference as in the global solution of tension."*¹¹

How much has changed, almost 20 years later in the conditions of uncertainty and misunderstanding in the world? Will 2030 repeat these words from Seoul?

If there is no dialogue, you may have Volunteering, but there will be no peace. Why do we want Volunteering without peace?

We need active dialogue to set new frames of understanding not only with other Volunteers across the ocean, but also with neighboring partners that are participating in and deeply committed to social affairs... even if they do not call themselves Volunteers.

It is essential, then, that the international networks of Volunteers and the great global actors (UNV, IAVE, IFRC and large Volunteer-involving organizations, both NGOs and committed global companies) convene Volunteers and small community organizations in every corner of the world to begin permanent, focused, organized and credible - big or small sized rounds of dialogue about the 17 SDGs and other important key issues. Technology allows it; volunteers themselves can spread the message and action.

Those dialogues must be recorded, synthesized, shared, and turned into commitments of understanding and action. We need to use dialogues as steps towards a new platform for volunteering discussion.

We See the World from a Different Perspective: The Volunteer Way of Life

If Volunteering is so transcendent at a global level, it is not only for the achievements in its daily performance, for the values it communicates, for the enormous influences it operates on the maintenance of democratic practices, for the almost infinite variety of its fields of action, but above all, due to the profound impact – **the imprint** – on those who practice it.

This imprint makes us, Volunteers, able to show and face the world in a special way, and the question comes quickly: in Volunteering is it more important what we do or what we think?

Let us look over the page at one of the lessons history gives us to pose an answer that opens the debate.

Box 4 Lessons history gives us #4: The power of people to make a difference



The welcome statement to the World Youth Volunteer Summit celebrated by IAVE in Tokyo, Japan, on December 2001, states: *"It's very easy to become discouraged these days. The world is a difficult place for so many people. So many live in poverty. So many live in danger. So many must confront HIV-AIDS and other diseases. There are great forces at work that we cannot see, cannot understand, cannot affect. The World Youth Volunteer Summit is not to be discouraged. Rather it is two of the most positive forces in the world - the power of people to make a difference and the power of young people to change the world. (...) When young people give leadership for their own volunteer projects, they are gaining a new kind of power, one that grows from the knowledge that they can make a difference in the lives of other people..."*¹²

Voluntary action or a special look at the world?

The historical perspective applied to these words allows us to return to the question and outline our answer. Almost 20 years after that meeting, the young participants who were then 18 or 25 years old are now adults between 38 and 45 years old, probably many of them professionals from various occupations or members of global companies or their own economic ventures.

What has been most important in all this time? That they have continued their concrete Volunteer work or that (ideally in addition to that) they have brought with them the footprint and worldview that Volunteering manages to teach, to apply it in their professional, work, family and political decisions? If I were required to take only one option, **I would choose that Volunteering teaches values** and a way of seeing the world that transcends the actual Volunteer activity; its impact can affect how lives are lived.

That is why Volunteering should be recognized as more than voluntary action. **It is possible to consider Volunteering as one of the ways that humanity has chosen to demonstrate solidarity on a global scale, to fight against disintegration and preserve itself as a species on this planet.**

Conclusion and Some of the Questions that Make Sense

In an attempt to stimulate thoughts and ideas this paper has positioned Volunteering as not merely important but a vital component for societal well-being; offered some reflection on current ideas and theories and, projected what might be possible moving forward. **The idea that Volunteering is a global movement, that it should operate as a borderless concept is about recognizing and emphasizing that solidarity is a key to future success.** The solidarity that enables and empowers individuals through Volunteering, whoever and wherever they are, to transform their lives and the lives of others to simply, yet profoundly, make a positive difference.

Can a paper, itself, achieve the great challenges to 'promote, support and celebrate Volunteering'? Is it possible to 'enhance knowledge, share ideas and stimulate debate' in a few words and reflections about Volunteering? As you read this paper you will notice that the words 'Volunteers' and 'Volunteering' start with a capital letter, without consideration of correct spelling or language rules. This has been my small illustrative attempt to continuously bring emphasis and focus to the importance not only of the words but the concepts and actions they represent.

This paper has articulated the need for and importance of dialogue. While **there are no definitive answers, sometimes it is in articulating the right questions that we find the solutions we seek.** Therefore, I leave you with a few key volunteering questions or challenges to think on and consider, in the hope that those who believe in the power of Volunteering will engage in a creative and dynamic dialogue. Together we can set the new Volunteering paradigms that will enable change and create a better world.

1. By 2030 how can we ensure that there will be opportunities and access to all to volunteer?
2. What more can we do to make diversity and solidarity the hallmarks of volunteering?
3. Do we need a global declaration that encompasses everything that volunteering means?
4. Do we/should we have universally accepted core values for volunteering?
5. If volunteering is so fundamental to delivering global well-being (SDGs) should we/how do we systematize, record, measure, and graph "the daily pulse of a humanity that helps itself"?
6. What more can we do individually and collectively to create the **Borderless and Transformative Volunteering** that delivers a fair, inclusive, equitable, peaceful world?

Notes

- ¹ Attali, Jacques (2007) Diccionario del Siglo XXI, Paidós, Barcelona
- ² Garcia, Oscar (2017) Sin Voluntarios hay paraíso, Ediciones Seguir Creciendo, Buenos Aires
- ³ Etxeberria, Xavier (2004) Sociedades multiculturales, Ediciones Mensajero, Bilbao, Pág.11
- ⁴ In the meaning that refers Bauman, Zygmunt (2000) Modernidad Líquida, Fondo de Cultura Económica, Buenos Aires
- ⁵ Garcia, Oscar (2004) La Pasión de Seguir, Voluntariado Transformador. There are other definitions, almost similar. For more definitions: Madrid, Antonio; Alfaro, María Elena; Aranguren Gonzalo, Luis; etc. All of them mentioned in the referenced book.
- ⁶ Allen, Kenn (2012) The Big Tent. Corporate Volunteering in the Global Age, Fundación Telefónica, Page 68
- ⁷ In 2010, UnitedHealthcare and VolunteerMatch (2010) (those are not errors; coincidentally both run two words together to create their corporate names) surveyed more than 4,500 American adults. Of those who volunteered:
- 92% agreed that volunteering enriches their sense of purpose in life.
 - 89% agreed that “volunteering has improved my sense of well-being;”
 - 73% agree that “volunteering lowers my stress levels;”
 - 68% agree that “volunteering has made me feel physically healthier;” and,
 - 29% of volunteers who suffer from a chronic condition agree that “volunteering
- ⁸ The Global Research Agenda on Volunteering for Peace and Development, Benjamin J. Lough, Cliff Allum, Peter Devereux, and Rebecca Tiessen, Center for Social Development, Brown School, December 2018, CSD Research Brief 18-50
- ⁹ CENAVOL: Centro Nacional de Voluntariado del Perú, member of the IAVE Global Network of National Volunteer Centers www.cenavol.org.pe; Facebook: cenavol
- ¹⁰ <https://www.accem.es> Volunteer Manual: https://www.accem.es/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/manual_de_voluntariado.pdf
- ¹¹ The 17th IAVE World Volunteer Conference, "Volunteering, Reaching out for Reconciliation and Peace" Sept. 29- Oct. 3, 2002, Seoul, Korea. 1st Announcement and Call for Contribution, "Greetings from Seoul"
- ¹² World Youth Volunteer Summit, "Challenge for Change", December 1st- 5th, 2001, Final Announcement, Kenn Allen, IAVE World President, page 13.

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About Emirates Foundation



Emirates Foundation is an independent national organization set up by the Abu Dhabi Government to facilitate public-private funded initiatives for the empowerment of youth across the UAE, putting them at the forefront of economic, social and human capital development. Emirates Foundation's works to have empowered and engaged youth contributing towards shaping the future of the UAE. The organization works in partnership with the private and public sectors to encourage social responsibility and enhance youth capacities through programs that meet their needs towards achieving sustainable community development.

The Emirates Foundation has 3 key priorities:

- ▶ To develop youth competencies through empowerment and raising awareness
- ▶ To encourage social responsibility within the private and public sectors
- ▶ To provide all administrative services according to standards of quality, effectiveness, transparency and innovation.

To learn more about Emirates Foundation, Please visit their website at www.emiratesfoundation.ae/ef

About IAVE



International
Association for
Volunteer
Effort

The International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) exists to promote, strengthen and celebrate volunteering in all of the myriad ways it happens throughout the world. With members in 70+ countries, IAVE is the connective tissue of a global network of leaders of volunteering, NGOs, businesses, governments and academic institutions that share a belief in the power of volunteers to make a significant strategic contribution to resolving the world's most pressing problems.

IAVE has four core functions:

- ▶ **Convening.** IAVE brings together leaders from across the field through a series of virtual and in-person events, such as the biennial World Volunteer Conference and regional conferences.
- ▶ **Advocacy.** IAVE serves as a global voice for volunteering, working closely with the United Nations, international NGOs and global companies to call attention to the strategic importance of volunteering as a way to solve problems and improve the quality of life for all.
- ▶ **Knowledge development.** IAVE is a recognized knowledge leader for the global volunteer community, conducting research and providing in-depth reports on current trends and challenges.
- ▶ **Network Development.** IAVE brings together key constituencies to share with and learn from one another – the Global Corporate Volunteer Council and the Global Network of Volunteering Leadership.

To learn more about IAVE, Please visit their website at www.iave.org

About the Author



Oscar Garcia

Oscar Garcia, is Argentine, was born in Buenos Aires and graduated in Philosophy and Literature from the National University of Córdoba in 1989. He currently teaches at the National University of San Martín on the degree program, Management of Civil Society Organizations. He has both a personal and an academic interest in volunteering within South America and globally. From 1996 to 2000 he was an International UNESCO Consultant for the National Volunteer Program of Brazil, within the framework of the State Program “Comunidade Solidaria”. He is a “Fellows IX” in the International Fellowship program of Partners of the Americas and the Kellogg Foundation. Since 1986 he has been a member of the International Association of Voluntary Effort (IAVE) where he served in various functions and positions, being Latin American Representative on the World Board of Directors for 8 years, from 1996 to 2002. During this time, he was a member of the drafting committee for the 2001 Universal Declaration of Volunteering.

About the Sub-theme

Volunteering 2030 – New Paradigms

Rapidly changing societal trends, technological innovation, virtual landscapes, and a global commitment to enabling the Sustainable Development Goals for everyone, everywhere creates an emerging dynamic where established boundaries for volunteering are being challenged and changed. Such a 'borderless state' often within countries but sometimes across nation states requires more collaboration, integration and sharing of resources to bring about the change the world needs. Partnership across organizations and sectors, new ways of engaging citizens and volunteering across borders can bring innovation and greater impact to the involvement of volunteers.



International
Association for
Volunteer
Effort

VOLUNTEERING TOGETHER TO ENABLE CHANGE AND CREATE A BETTER WORLD

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