



IYV 2001 IN MOZAMBIQUE

2001 Final report from UNV for the NC

Introduction:

Like in many other countries around the world, Volunteerism in Mozambique is part of traditional ways of sharing and reaching the ones who most need solidarity in particular amongst rural communities. Volunteer activities are and were performed by people since the beginning of times without the recognition or even the conscience that these activities have an importance for the development of a country. In Mozambique, the communities undertook several volunteer activities spontaneously during the fight for the independence and the civil war, the latest floods (years 2000 and 2001) and also during situations such as harvest, house construction, childcare, funerals etc.

To promote the activities for the International Year of Volunteers 2001, the Mozambican Government designated the Minister of Youth and Sports as the Focal Point of the International Year of Volunteers. This Minister set up a National Committee composed of 6 representatives from Governmental Institutions and 5 representatives from Civil Society (NGO's, Associations and Organizations).

The National Committee adopted the theme "Solidarity on Poverty Eradication". The mission of the NC in order to promote IYV would be the responsibility to take part in the main goal of the Country Policy, and this decision would be leading the NC in all the activities IYV 2001 related. The general Secretary of Mozambican Red Cross was designated President of the N. Committee.

1. Activities undertaken by the National Committee:

- Ø **The Launch of IYV 2001:** A day was selected to launch officially the year. The Minister of Youth and Sports and the NC's President attended it as well as all UNV's and UNDP's Res Rep. They explained in their respective speeches the aims and objectives of the IYV 2001 to the public and volunteers gathered for the occasion. More than 300 volunteers from several different organizations and associations in Maputo, then undertook rehabilitation work on the Rua dos Voluntários/"Volunteers Street". The activity consisted mainly in cleaning and repairing the street, painting the houses along the street. Construction materials donated by various enterprises were a useful support for the success of this activity. A cultural event took place at the end of the day.
- Ø **Several meetings** were organized to elaborate a Plan of Action in which all Governmental Institutions would be carrying on the approved activities in each sector/area.
- Ø **Several lectures** were given by members of the NC in different forums about the significance and objectives IYV.

- ∅ Several organizations and associations from the NC and individual volunteers participated in a **March for Women Health in Mozambique** as well as to fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, one of the top priorities of the country during the celebration of the International Day of HIV/AIDS. The day finished with the theatrical performance related to HIV/AIDS by the National Dance and Song Company.
- ∅ **A workshop** was organized in which 48 volunteers from organizations coming from various parts of the country and the Ministry of Youth and Sports participated. The workshop was to analyse the motivations, the strengths and the weaknesses of volunteering in Mozambique. The conclusions were:
 - ◆ Much more attention should be given to volunteer's activities and also to volunteers itself;
 - ◆ The motivation and interest in becoming volunteer exist at all levels of society;
 - ◆ Many difficulties/constraints were also identified:
 - Lack of coordination,
 - Lack of a divulgation of the activities,
 - Lack of materials and money to implement the activities,
 - Lack of moral support and other sorts of incentives in particular amongst the Youth,
 - Lack of good policies to defend and support Volunteers,
 - Existence of opportunists that destroy the image of volunteering.
 - ◆ Suggestions to undertake an intense work in order to guarantee a well organized and well coordinated work between the organizations;
 - ◆ Find a way to work better within the communities, to create moral incentives such as awards and diplomas to volunteers and give better working conditions to them;
 - ◆ Fight against HIV/AIDS should be the main priority of the NC' s activities; In particular training actions should be taken amongst the Youth.
- ∅ Several members of the NC **fundraised and collected** schoolbooks, clothes, and toys within Maputo's international schools students. During the celebration of Children day, 400 individual kits were prepared and distributed among children from 2 schools in very poor communities. The NC brought along musicians, theatre groups, dancing groups to join the festivities.
- ∅ During July and August NC members were involved in the preparation and implementation of activities of **reconstruction in areas affected by the floods**. The activities occurred In Tete- North Mozambique, promoted by SASVO (Southern Africa Students Volunteers Organization).
- ∅ In Manhiça District – Kalanga- South Mozambique, NC members (Scouts, University Students, Red Cross Volunteers) were involved in a **camp to reconstruct a school**

and a first aid centre. BCP (Portuguese Commercial Bank) donated the funds for buying materials for this activity. Food, transport, tents, mosquito nets, condoms, brochures (on HIV/AIDS campaign awareness within beneficiary communities) and soccer balls to practice some sport activities during the camp, were donated by Mozambican Red Cross, UN Volunteers, UNAIDS, UNDP, SASVO and the Minister of Youth and Sports. The achievement was the richness of the volunteering spirit, the sharing and the solidarity with the community.

- Ø A **photograph exhibition** of the NC's activities, a **debate** on the theme "**Slavery, Culture and racism**" and a press conference regarding IYV 2001 activities in Mozambique took place. During this event, diplomas of achievement were awarded to the most active Volunteers in Solidarity actions. The Minister of Youth and Sports, UNDP Resident Representative and the NC President gave the diplomas.

- Ø Several **Volunteers Fairs were organized** –the IYV 2001 NC's posters, bags, new books, old books donated by several institutions, both Public and Private, as well as from individuals, were sold to raise funds for Volunteers scholarships. The fairs focus also on the promotion of the ideals of the NC and IYV 2001 in Mozambique, giving opportunity to local unknown artisans and people living with AIDS to show their handicrafts, products and distribute literature on HIV/AIDS.

At the first fair the NC launched it's first Volunteer **Bulletin**, including some stories from Volunteers, pictures of activities during IYV 2001 and poems about Volunteering. The NC also launched the **First Web Page** dedicated to IYV.

- Ø During the **Race Against Poverty** – Maputo Half Marathon this year was dedicated to IYV 2001. All volunteers joined in a collective paint under Malangatana's leadership and counted on several members of the government, including the Prime Minister. The Painting will be an effective symbol of Solidarity during IYV 2001 in Mozambique; it was shown at the Geneva Symposium.

- Ø **The official closing of NCIYV 2001**, a three days programme. The official meeting during the entire morning of the 5th December with the Chief of State, President Joaquim Chissano. 14 Volunteers from different associations, organizations including a National UNV, went to the meeting. The volunteers brought together the collective painting, as the IYV 2001 mark in Mozambique. The Volunteers spoke about the IYV goals and objectives. Volunteers told the stories that happen throughout the Year. Talked about the NC activities and talked about the future. The President salute and congratulate all volunteers that in many different ways and throughout the country help, support, protect and reach people whenever necessary without expecting rewards, sometimes just to see a smile in a sad face. J.Chissano defend the volunteers' ideals that will lead them towards a stronger, healthier and better Nation. The President also told his stories as a volunteer. As a young boy within his community, as an adult fighting for his country's freedom and liberty. The President strongly recommended the volunteers to continue the pathway they're following: doing volunteer activities in the spirit of solidarity in order to spread the ideal to gain more and more volunteers to such a noble principle, especially in the most affected communities by poverty, hunger, and natural calamities, without

forgetting the urban centres, where volunteerism spirit is far from being in every one's mind nowadays. The President's suggestions and advises were towards the creation of Infrastructures in order to have a volunteer centre to promote and coordinate activities, but without expecting the help of the Government. The President also recommended the creation of a proper fund to give sustainability to the centre. The President also recommends young students to motivate elders and children to participate in volunteer activities for a better involvement of all ages in the development of the country.

- Ø **The IYV Closing:** Fairs within the same spirit of raising funds for scholarships, to promote local artisans and to promote a positive spirit towards people living with Aids. The last day, along with an art and cultural exhibition a 3 hours concert with musical groups and artists, traditional dances, theatre plays, musicians, including Felipe Mukenga a renowned musician /composer from Angola who volunteer himself to participate in the ceremony was the way found to close such a rich year, to recognized and arise consciences about Volunteer work, the Mozambican Volunteers, the UNV's in Mozambique as well as the IYV 2001 activities.
- Ø **A final workshop** to think beyond IYV, between NC members and new volunteer organizations/associations. The Minister of Youth and Sports and the NC President, took the opportunity to congratulate all NC members and all volunteers-non-members that so actively participated in all activities. Debates in plenary and working groups took place to discuss what was done, the strengths and weaknesses of the IYV in Mozambique and what to do for the future. The recommendations and future actions will be described at the end of this report. The project document of the law proposal to protect the work as a Volunteer was delivered officially to the Minister of Youth and Sports by the President of the NC. The document of the management of the scholarships was also distributed to all NC members present for careful reading in order to be discussed latter on, to collect suggestions from the volunteers and to be afterwards approved and a selection committee to be elected by all volunteers.
- Ø **A IYV Data Base** containing several members of the NC and many other organizations is ready to be maintained by any volunteer organization that keeps the movement going beyond IYV.

2. Activities and Projects taken together with other Volunteer Associations or Partners / NC participation:

- Ø **A) Project** - From September 2001 until February 2002 a joint project with the NC and the local NGO Terre des Hommes took place in Guijá – South Mozambique, one of the most affected areas from the floods and most affected by HIV/AIDS deaths. The project was denominated “Community Education on HIV/AIDS”, and was funded by the Italian Government. More than 50 Volunteers and activists were trained and sent to rural communities in order to bring knowledge on HIV/AIDS. Also to do awareness campaigns within the district and to develop the Volunteer network to establish continuity to this project. A very successful project in all its extension. Because reached the communities, involved the population strengthened the spirit of

volunteerism and give the grand opportunity for new volunteer nucleus to arouse spontaneously.

- Ø **B) A partnership-** between the Ministry of Health and Volunteers funded by UNDP, wrote a script, trained the actors and set an awareness publicity campaign on HIV-AIDS focusing on adolescents.
- Ø **B) A partnership-** between the Ministry of Women and Social Action and some Volunteers prepared media campaigns, events and documents to promote Women Rights on Reproductive Health.
- Ø **B) A partnership** – between SASVO, UNV's and NC's members in the reconstruction camps in Tete.
- Ø **C) UNV's, NC's Participation:** Mozambican Red Cross promote a week camp in Maputo with the participation of MRC's volunteers from all over the country. One day was dedicated to promote IYV 2001 with films, lectures and debates on several issues such as: policies, awards, networking, significance of the word volunteer and the work as a volunteer, and initiatives in the provinces to expand the network. Mozambican Red Cross launched the brochure containing the national policies for the organization volunteers and the codes of volunteer conduct.
- Ø **C) UNV's, NC's Participation:** VSO-Volunteer Services Overseas, promote a week workshop within the Organization Volunteers and one day was dedicated to IYV 2001. UNV's were invited to speak in behalf of the Year's goals, as well as the work UNV's do all over the world. Films, debates and lectures were all day long presented and discussed.
- Ø **C) UNV's, NC's Participation:** AJUDE, a Mozambican Volunteer Association (meaning Help) promote a week camp within the Organization Volunteers, and dedicated one day to IYV 2001. UNV's were there to promote the Year Objectives, the NC's activities to debate Volunteering in Mozambique and talk about UNV's programme.
- Ø **C) UNV's, NC's Participation:** The NC were represented by the NC's President and General Secretary of Mozambican Red Cross, at the International Symposium in Geneva and presented its experience and activities in Mozambique regarding Volunteerism. At The Symposium all NC produced items concerning IYV 2001 as well as the collective paint were presented at the exhibition room.
- Ø **D) Actions with other Volunteers Organizations:** Mozambican Scouts promote environmental activities with the participation of Volunteers NC's members.
- Ø **D) Actions with other Volunteers Organizations:** Other associations concerned with environmental issues, such as the Mozambican Musicians Associations, invited Volunteers from the NC to be involved in the cleaning and trees plantation for a better and healthier environment.

- Ø E) Maputo and Maxixe Municipal Council named streets after Volunteers. Other Municipal Council is preparing the same resolution for the near future.

3 – Conclusions and Lessons Learnt

- q The Volunteerism and solidarity spirit despite the fact of its proved existence is something to be constantly improved but most of all cultivated within today's global world. This is particularly true for poor countries such as Mozambique where economic difficulties, hunger, poverty still prevail, as consequences of the civil war.
- q Another of the consequences of the above situations is the development of selfishness, the search for better individual conditions and loss of values such as community solidarity or the sense of a Nation as a whole.
- q The launch and the promotion of this values cannot just be raised or found through campaigns, but also through a constant and persistent work using other means such as children education at the primary schools and the media.
- q It is also essential to bring elders, personalities from the civil society and leaders examples that influence our society to develop the spirit.
- q Youth is very active and very willing to move fast forward in order to build up a new and stronger society. They have the capabilities, the strengths, the enthusiasm and the spirit, but they lack of support from the Governmental Institutions, of proper policies and money to carry on activities. They deserve proper, better attention and support. They represent the future of any Nation.
- q Volunteer Concept can be seen in different ways and be applied in different situations accordingly to the economical, cultural and social reality. There's an urgent need to study the motivations in order to develop programmes based on them.
- q The National Committee existence proved to be very important that any kind of centre, institution or organization should be implemented to promote and coordinate volunteerism activities between organizations. This permanent "centre" is a necessity; it is moreover a priority to keep the movement moving forward with sustainability and should also be responsible to be the link between all volunteer organizations.
- q The development of a network has high importance, not just to create and permit a greater involvement and deeper motivation, but also as a way to optimise resources both human and materials (see example from the reconstruction camp in Kalanga) and strength the institutional capacity of the small organizations.
- q The attribution of scholarships to the most active volunteers is a reward to incentive, motivate and multiple volunteerism spirit within our communities but most of all, is a support to build up capacities, to give instruments to build a Stronger Nation based on an essential value: Education.

4 – The Future

The IYV 2001 was to celebrate Volunteerism work around the globe though an important job must be done to continue the created Year's great opportunity. The seed was launched, now we need to feed it, to give love, support and care to grow healthy.

The importance of the Volunteer work is not only because it remains in the mind, not just in the effort of the hands but also in the heart. Volunteer create, they do their jobs with heart, showing the best of humankind, with dedication and enthusiasm.

The spirit of mission carried by the volunteers, working without expecting payments at the end of the month, or expecting career progression is essential to make things happen, is essential to transform and develop any nation in a sustainable way.

The sense of Humankind, Solidarity, de satisfaction to contribute for better and fair society, more human makes the difference. The feeling of sharing is the best gratification a volunteer can receive.

Examples of the importance and relevance of the Volunteer work came from the strongest Nations on Earth. In the USA the work done by volunteers is equivalent to 9 millions of full time jobs. In Great Britain Volunteer work correspond to 40 million pounds per year. In Canada 24 million people between 15 and 75 years old produce some kind of volunteer work.

Volunteer work can assume many ways: can be spontaneous or organized; can be from time to time or in a consecutive way and within an organization framework. It is needed to promoted and cultivate all different ways, because they are for the community welfare.

It is important to continue in giving more space to young people. Doing volunteer activities, youngest learn how to do, share experiences and acquire knowledge, but mainly they acknowledge a new way of being in the world.

In a world full of delusions, violence, intolerance, rage, hate, human rights violations are still a treat to mankind. We all need the possible ways to turn future generations more tolerant, more peace lovers; more progress lovers based on respect, cultural, political, ethical or any other differences.

4 – Recommendations

- q The creation of a National and permanent centre to promote Volunteerism
- q The creation of a centre where Volunteers could: meet and share experiences, maintain the data base, maintain a library, where volunteers can receive training in different areas
- q The approval of the Law proposal
- q The approval of the Scholarships regulations and the election of the selection committee
- q The inclusion of volunteerism in the PARPA
- q Development of the Web Page and Data Base
- q The inclusion of a NUNV in a UNV programme to coordinate, motivate, and help implement the Volunteer Centre beyond IYV 2001 and its activities.

The report is a retrospective written by the International UN Volunteer working for the National Committee to 2001 International Year of Volunteers in Mozambique after gathering suggestions, points of views, conclusions, lessons learnt and future perspectives from the NC members and mainly its President.