

EVALUATION REPORT

Final Evaluation, United Nations Volunteers Support to Enhancing
Capacity of United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk
Reduction for Resilience in South and East Asia & Pacific Regional
Project

United Nations Volunteers

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of United Nations Volunteers.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Final Evaluation for United Nations (UN) Volunteers (UN Volunteers) examines four years of implementation of the Support to Enhancing Capacity of United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience in South and East Asia & Pacific Regional Project (UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project). The Project supported the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) efforts of countries affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004 (India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand) from 2014 to 2018 through a contribution of almost US\$ 1.2 million from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Japan.

The Project placed international and national UN Volunteer DRR specialists in the each of the seven countries in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The two programme outcomes for the project were: UN Entities are more effective in delivering their results by integrating high quality and well supported UN Volunteers and volunteerism in their programmes; and Countries more effectively integrate volunteerism within national frameworks enabling better engagement of people in development processes.

Methodology

The final evaluation describes the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance & sustainability of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project and its impact through a focus on four areas of project activities: plans, standards, and DRR in the post-2015 development agenda; volunteerism and DRR; women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people in DRR and volunteerism; and coordination with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP Regional Offices in Bangkok ensuring that country progress and efforts on volunteerism and DRR are captured in regional progress reviews. The Final evaluation was conducted in July and August 2018 before the program closed at the end of September 2018. Most program implementation ended at the end of 2017. The evaluation used document review plus interviews to gather and analyze independent data on program implementation.

Key Conclusions

Efficiency

The Project deployed a set of international and national UN Volunteers to all seven countries. The number, distribution and mix, and effectiveness of UN Volunteers deployments varied in their contribution to UN and national DRR activities. UN Volunteers were supervised by other UN Agencies and contributed to DRR and volunteerism through these projects and engagement with UN country teams at the country level. The Project's UN Volunteer Project Manager did not have the connections, authority, or ability to manage the relationships between the UN Volunteers and their UN agency supervisors or their engagement with government and civil society partners. Workshops were used to educate UN Volunteers on the project and their need to contribute to project goals. Most UN Volunteers in the project felt that the DRR Regional Project had been effective in terms of supporting their professional growth and their career development. The project was efficient in delivering results at the national level, but not efficient at the regional level.

Effectiveness

The project was effective at the national level in the countries where it was implemented because UN Volunteers deployed under the project were able to contribute to processes that: developed plans, standards, and DRR in the context of the post-2015 development agenda; supported Volunteerism and DRR; engaged Women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people in DRR and volunteerism, and coordination with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP Regional Offices capturing volunteerism and DRR in regional progress reviews.

Impact

The project did not develop baselines for the intended outputs of the project. The evaluation did not have the tools or capacity to construct these baselines. The project operated through other UN agency projects and their staff and partners, which makes it difficult to disentangle the impact of the UN Volunteers DRR

Regional project from any impact of other projects and Agencies. These two factors make a rigorous determination of impact of the project on impossible.

Relevance

Project work in all four areas of focus in the evaluation (Plans, standards, and DRR in the post-2015 development agenda; Volunteerism and DRR; Women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people in DRR and volunteerism; and Coordination with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP Regional Offices in Bangkok Ensuring that Country Progress and Efforts on Volunteerism and DRR are Captured in Regional Progress Reviews) was recognized to be relevant to UN Volunteers, other UN Agencies and Country Teams, and host country partners.

Sustainability

The project approached sustainability through having the UN Volunteers work with other UN Agencies/Projects and host country institutions that endure. In practice, the short time period that UN Volunteers were deployed limited the sustainability of project achievements in the four areas above.

Key Recommendations to UN Volunteers

UN Volunteers and UN Volunteers should continue to emphasize and promote volunteerism as the area where UN Volunteers most clearly has a specialization that contributes to UNCTs, partner UN agencies, and national agencies.

If UN Volunteers is going to implement regional thematic programs, UN Volunteers should consider developing clear briefings on regional program goals and modalities and ensure clear communication with UN Volunteers that are part of regional programs on their roles in implementing the regional program to make their work towards program goals and objectives more efficient.

If UN Volunteers is going to implement regional thematic programs, UN Volunteers should develop ways to make reporting straightforward and facilitate management of the program and UN Volunteers in the program by UN Volunteers regional thematic program managers

While UN Volunteers can implement regional programs, UN Volunteers should consider what the benefits to implementing regional thematic projects are for UN Volunteers. The evaluation's findings are that the project has important results towards all four objectives at the national level in the countries in which the program was implemented. The evaluation's field work did not find important benefits to DRR or the promotion of volunteerism that came from implementing the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project regionally.

If UN Volunteers is going to implement regional programs, UN Volunteers should develop ways to have regional programs systematically and clearly add value to the placement of UN Volunteers with host agencies based on sharing and synthesising learning across countries in the region.

UN Volunteers should seek to place UN Volunteers for a substantial period of time in order to develop the trust and confidence of national counterparts and host UN agency staff needed to make substantial contributions to DRR through their work on UN agency projects.

UN Volunteers should continue to emphasize and promote volunteerism and work with women, youth, people with disabilities, and marginalized people. In order to strengthen and expand this important work with marginalized groups, UN Volunteers should develop clear guidance for UN Volunteers to help them more effectively and efficiently focus on these key populations.

UN Volunteers should be more realistic and modest about the roles and expectations of deployed UN Volunteers working in other UN organisations in UN-system coordination. UN Volunteers working in other UN organisations can contribute to UN country team-level work and projects (like UN Development Assistance Frameworks) through senior managers at the country level of the UN organisations with which they work - but cannot do so independently.

ACRONYMS LIST

AADMER	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
BRH	Bangkok Regional Hub
CBO	Community-based organisation
CCA	Common Country Assessments
CO	Country Office
DOA	Description of Assignment
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GETI	Global Education Training Institute
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
IDDR	International Day for Disaster Reduction
MHVM	Multi Hazard Vulnerability Mapping
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NAS	National Awareness Strategy
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ProDoc	Project Document
RRF	Results and Resource Framework
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNISDR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNPAF	UN Partnership Framework
UN Volunteers	United Nations Volunteers
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
WCDRR	World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
WG	Working Group

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

INTRODUCTION

United Nations (UN) Volunteers (UN Volunteers) commissioned a Final Evaluation of the UN Volunteers Support to Enhancing Capacity of United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience in South and East Asia & Pacific Regional Project (UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project). The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project supported the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) efforts of countries affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project was funded by a contribution of almost US\$ 1.2 million from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Japan.

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project's design planned to place one international and one national UN Volunteer DRR specialist in each of the seven countries to support the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience in South and East Asia and Pacific through volunteerism in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The project was designed to operate from October 2014 through September 2017 but was extended as funds remained with the approval of MoFA through September 2018. The project was thus active for a four-year period. Most implementation was in 2016 and 2017, when the largest numbers of UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project were in place in these countries. While the project document called for a mid-term review of the project at the end of year 1, no mid-term review was conducted.

This Evaluation Report consists of this section that provides an introduction, briefly describes the background of UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project, and explains the purposes of the evaluation. This is followed by a section that provides an overview of methodologies and fieldwork for the evaluation. The third section explains the findings and conclusions of the fieldwork as the evaluator used these methods to gather valid and reliable data about project activities and results. Finally, based on these findings and conclusions, the concluding section outlines lessons learned from the experience of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project and makes recommendations to UN Volunteers based on the experience and results of the project. Annexes to the Evaluation Report include the evaluation matrix, followed by a list of sources consulted and a list of interviewees.

BACKGROUND

The context for the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project was shaped by conditions in the region, conditions in the countries of the region, as well as the United Nations and UN Volunteers contexts.

UN Volunteers is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. As UN Volunteers notes, volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people in tackling development challenges, and it can transform the pace and nature of development. Volunteerism benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer by strengthening trust, solidarity and reciprocity among citizens, and by purposefully creating opportunities for participation. UN Volunteers contributes to peace and development by advocating for recognition of volunteers, working with partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing an increasing number and diversity of volunteers, including experienced UN Volunteers, throughout the world. UN Volunteers embraces volunteerism as universal and inclusive, and recognizes volunteerism in its diversity as well as the values that sustain it: free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity.

United Nations agencies and operations support sustainable development around the world. The UN has recognized the rising challenge of disasters to sustainable development and made integrating DRR into all UN country-level operations a priority in response to rising levels of disruption to millions of lives each

year in countries around the world from disasters. The United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience supports the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 to build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. The HFA recognizes the contribution of volunteerism to disaster risk management, particularly in strengthening community capacities to respond to and prevent disasters through community engagement to improve resilience.

DRR is critical to sustainable development worldwide, in the region, and in the countries where the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project works. The December 2004 earthquake and tsunamis that killed people in 14 countries around the Indian Ocean, which displaced some 1.7 million people and killed over 277,000 people, raised the understanding of people around the world about the risks of disasters and the importance of DRR. The global humanitarian response, including the immediate response of UN Volunteers, to this massive tragedy was huge. The Government of Japan and other governments funded an unprecedentedly large UN Volunteers response to support community engagement in recovery and reconstruction through national and international UN Volunteers in these countries. The Government of Japan has continued its engagement in DRR through UN Volunteers through the current program, UN Volunteers Support to Enhancing Capacity of United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience in South and East Asia & Pacific Regional Project. Countries of the region remain vulnerable to a wide range of disasters; DRR has important roles in reducing the risks of disasters and reducing the loss of life and livelihoods from disasters.

The UN Volunteers Support to Enhancing Capacity of United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience in South and East Asia & Pacific Regional Project was developed in 2014 to continue UN Volunteers' work to support the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience in South and East Asia and Pacific through volunteerism. The project was developed to support timely, coordinated and high quality assistance to countries where disasters pose threat to people's health and development as well as disaster risk reduction for resilience as central to post 2015 development agreements and targets. The UN Volunteers Project Document (ProDoc) proposed to place up to one international and one national UN Volunteer DRR specialist in each of seven countries: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. In these seven countries, these UN Volunteers would provide support to mitigate the effects of crisis and address the root causes of disasters through their work with other UN organisations and their government and civil society partners. The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project would also establish a results and resources framework to guide country-specific initiatives in support of national/regional efforts and UN engagement in disaster risk reduction. While the project covers many countries, a regional approach was not articulated in the project Results and Resources Framework.

The ProDoc for the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project outlined two programme outcomes for the project. Each programme outcome had a unique output attached to it.

For Programme Outcome 1: UN Entities are more effective in delivering their results by integrating high quality and well supported UN Volunteers and volunteerism in their programmes, the ProDoc set Output 1 as UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and UN entities capacities are strengthened in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand to provide effective support to country driven efforts to address disaster risk.

For Programme Outcome 2: Countries more effectively integrate volunteerism within national frameworks enabling better engagement of people in development processes, the ProDoc set Output 2: The importance of disaster risk reduction and resilience for sustainable development, as well as the relevance of the role and importance of volunteerism as a strong people-centred approach to achieving this, is demonstrated to and recognized by stakeholders of the post-2015 development agenda and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Building on UN Volunteers' previous collaboration with the Government of Japan, the project planned to support the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience in South and-East Asia and Pacific - particularly in the countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami - by ensuring:

- timely, co-ordinated and high quality assistance to these countries where disasters pose a threat to people's health and development;
- and disaster risk reduction for resilience is central to post-2015 development agreements and targets.

The UN Volunteers project worked on ensuring that the role of volunteerism and volunteers was recognized as an important component of the post-2015 development agenda and the post-2015 global framework for DRR. The design of the project was to field skilled, trained and committed UN Volunteers to work alongside UN entities and national and international counterparts to contribute to demonstrating the role of volunteering in DRR activities and encouraging volunteerism in the countries where the project was implemented.

PURPOSE

The main purpose of the Final Evaluation of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project was to explore and identify any significant changes and impact the role of volunteering has had for the beneficiaries of the project in building new skills and capacities for DRR alongside expanding the reach of DRR efforts in the seven project countries. To explore the impact of the project, the evaluation has focused on:

1. Providing an objective analysis of performance of the regional DRR project and its outcomes;
2. Providing recommendations to inform future UN Volunteers DRR mobilization and programming at regional and country levels; and
3. Generating knowledge about good practices and lessons learned.

The purpose of the Final Evaluation was to describe the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance & sustainability of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project and its impact. The evaluation was intended to assess the success and impact of project activities in the nine areas identified in the ProDoc:

1. Assist national and local institutions, marginalized groups, and international partners to develop common visions, plans and programmes for addressing disaster and climate risk within multi-sectoral and sectoral sustainable development strategies.
2. Promote the integration of disaster risk reduction and the role of volunteerism in this area in Common Country Assessments (CCA), UN Development Assistance Frameworks and partnerships (such as UNDAFs and UNPAFs and agency cooperation strategies with countries), and recovery plans as part of an integrated and comprehensive approach to assessing and addressing factors that undermine communities' and countries' resilience, including climate risk, environmental sustainability and social inequalities and exclusion.
3. Provide guidance on a set of standards and methods for comprehensive disaster risk assessment and information-sharing in the context of the post-2015 development agenda discussions and post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction for countries and partners.
4. Work on ensuring that disaster risk reduction is a key component of the post-2015 development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
5. Promote that the role of volunteerism and volunteers is recognized as an important component of the post-2015 development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
6. Identify interlinkages between women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people voluntary actions on disaster risk reduction and its contribution to build resilience communities.
7. Give visibility to women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people contributions through civil engagement to demonstrate their strategic role and contribution to DRR and response to disasters.

8. Promote and support women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people volunteering through civic engagement in order to have a multiplier effect, expanding participation and involving larger numbers of people who have traditionally been excluded.
9. Coordinate with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP Regional Offices in Bangkok to ensure that the country's progress and efforts on volunteerism and DRR are captured in regional progress reviews.

UN Volunteers sought recommendations for the scaling up and/or duplication of the project as well as for mechanisms to link up with other regional volunteer schemes.

METHODOLOGY

The methodologies used in this Utilisation-Focused Evaluation were driven by the evaluator's understanding of the intended uses of the evaluation by its primary intended user – UN Volunteers. The evaluation uses the fieldwork done to describe the effectiveness and efficiency of UN Volunteers' implementation of the project and the impact, relevance, and sustainability of the project's work in the countries where it has been implemented in order to make actionable recommendations. The evaluation also provides an analysis on how gender responsiveness and social inclusion were addressed during project implementation. The evaluation synthesizes and draws lessons learned from the project that may be helpful to UN Volunteers, other UN organisations, government and civil society partners of the UN Volunteers in project countries, and other donors and partners interested in DRR and volunteerism. Explicit lessons are made for UN Volunteers.

The Final evaluation was conducted in July and August 2018 before the program closed at the end of September 2018. Most of program implementation ended at the end of 2017; the work of the project in 2018 was focused on completing project reporting, including this evaluation. This timing has facilitated the evaluation of the project since the UN Volunteers program coordinator continued to work on the project, other international and national UN Volunteers from the project have continued to work with the same of similar projects as non-project UN Volunteers, other former UN Volunteers have remained in touch with the project or their colleagues from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project, and many UN organisation staff that supervised UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project while it was are still in place in these countries. This timeliness also enables lessons to be learned right after the main period of implementation and allows for sustainability to be assessed shortly after the conclusion of implementation.

The purposes of the evaluation and the goals and objectives of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project were used to develop draft questions to be answered in the evaluation; questions were finalized and agreed upon through the development and finalisation of the Inception Report. Evaluation questions have been placed in the Evaluation Matrix (attached as Annex 1) which shows how these questions were to be used to generate data to meet UN Volunteers' purposes for the evaluation. The Evaluation Matrix also explained how the data collected through the evaluation's fieldwork was to be analysed. The evaluation has focused not only what worked well - and why these activities and techniques were effective – but also what has worked less well and why. The independent evaluation has gathered independent data as well as analysed existing data from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project to help understand lessons learned from implementation and the results achieved by the project.

The evaluation has been conducted through transparent and participatory processes with UN Volunteers staff, project staff, international and national UN Volunteers, and project partners and stakeholders in accordance with UNEG Norms and Standards and the UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluations in the UN System.

The evaluation used mixed methods (document review and interviews) as well as general best practices of evaluation to gather qualitative and quantitative data that focus on the purposes of the evaluation and

describe the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance & sustainability of the project and its impact. The evaluation had two levels of analysis and validation of information. The first level was a desk review of written documents from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project. The second level was interviews and independent data collected by the evaluator through fieldwork in Bangkok, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Colombo as well as through Skype or telephone calls with UN Volunteers, former UN Volunteers, their supervisors, UNCT members, and counterparts in partner organisations that worked closely with the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project. A list of the documents consulted and used in the evaluation is included as Annex 2. The evaluator used this data from interviews and information from document review to provide findings about the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project, draw conclusions about the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, sustainability and impact of the project, make actionable recommendations to UN Volunteers and its partners, and develop lessons learned from UN Volunteers' experience with the project.

Limited quantitative data was collected and used based on project reporting, which was largely descriptive and qualitative.

Fieldwork focused on gathering qualitative data from UN Volunteers, their managers, and key UN and government institutions and civil society partners that have worked with the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project. Interviews have focused on how UN Volunteers, their managers, and partners, stakeholders and beneficiaries view the project and verifying and triangulating data on project results. A list of informants that the evaluator has interviewed is included as Annex 3. The evaluator implemented a policy of informed consent for all interviews; informed consent was been solicited and obtained from all informants prior to using these methods. Respondents were guaranteed anonymity and non-attribution. The evaluator used and followed up on this interview protocol and semi-structured interview questions to gather qualitative information from staff of UN Volunteers, UN Volunteers, other UN organisation staff members, and partner organisations with whom UN Volunteers have worked in these countries.

Using interview protocol and questions from the approved inception report revealed that UN Volunteers, UN organisation managers, and partner organisations that UN Volunteers worked with did not distinguish clearly between the detailed questions in the interview protocol. Any distinctions that may have been used in the development of the nine categories used in the project document did not appear to be meaningful for interviewees. For example, former project UN Volunteers and others UN organisation staff interviewed in the fieldwork did not make distinctions between “assistance to develop common visions, plans, and programmes for DRR” and “developing a set of standards and methods for DRR.” Interviewees also did not distinguish between “identifying links between,” providing “visibility” to, or seeking to have “a multiplier effect” and “expanding the participation of” women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people in voluntary actions on DRR. Findings and conclusions on effectiveness and efficiency were not seen to vary by interviewees or in project reporting by these specific categories. However former project UN Volunteers and other interviewees did distinguish between more general categories in their work on strategies and plans in DRR, promoting volunteerism in DRR, and focusing on women, youth, people with disabilities, and marginalized populations. The evaluator thus adapted the interview questions to focus on these more general categories of engagement and results.

Correspondingly, the findings and conclusions of the evaluation report thus start with a sections on the efficiency of project performance. Then findings on effectiveness, impact, relevance, and sustainability are discussed under four broad categories rather than the nine more specific categories from the project document as these four (and not the nine) were the meaningful categories for project UN Volunteers, UN counterparts, and national counterparts. The four categories used to discuss impact, relevance, and sustainability are: Plans, standards, and DRR in the post-2015 development agenda; Volunteerism and DRR; Women, people with disabilities, and marginalized people in DRR and volunteerism; and Coordination with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP. These categories are more complex than the two outcomes in the project document which focus on where the project expected to have results. These two outcomes were:

Outcome 1: UN entities are more effective in delivery their results by integrating high quality and well-supported UN Volunteers and volunteerism in their programmes.

Outcome 2: Countries more effectively integrate volunteerism within national frameworks enabling better engagement of people in development processes

The evaluation also incorporates the logic behind this bifurcation into the evaluation and looks at the effectiveness, impact, relevance, and sustainability of the project's activities in the effectiveness, impact, relevance, and sustainability of its work within UN entities and with national partners.

The methodologies and the evaluation design had some limitations; the evaluator developed and used ways to manage these limitations. These limitations are common in evaluations, as are the conventional measures used by the evaluator to manage risks to evaluation processes and the validity and reliability of data collection, analysis, and causal inferences from limited resources for conducting the evaluation, limited data collected as a consequence, limited ability to make causal inferences, recall bias, acquiescence bias, and challenges with attribution. These limitations have not prevented the evaluator from gathering and analysing more than adequate amounts of valid and reliable data to compile findings, draw conclusions, and make recommendations that target the purposes of the evaluation.

An additional limitation not noted in the inception report was the lack of baselines for project outputs. The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project did not apparently try to establish baselines for key outputs in project implementation, which makes it difficult to measure the achievements of the program. It appears that baselines for outputs or outcomes the program would have been difficult to generate, e.g. determining the "Number of partnerships, and national and regional events to promote and enhance DRR and Volunteerism" in the seven countries in the year prior to project implementation. This limitation has impeded the assessment of impact.

The evaluation design focused on the most important aspects of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project for the evaluation and has used triangulation, purposive sampling, and comparison. Focus has ensured that the evaluation emphasised the most important parts of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project and its major achievements. Triangulation adds confidence to the validity and reliability of the data, findings, conclusions, and recommendations. Triangulation has been used both through the use of mixed-methods in data collection as well as in analysis to compare information gathered through document review and interviews. Purposive sampling has been used to select individuals for interviews; the selection process has focused on interviewing the most well-informed people to shed the most light on the activities and achievements of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project. Comparison has focused in addition on comparing what has been achieved over time through the project's assistance (trend analysis). The Evaluation Report is a synthesis of the evaluator's analysis using these methods.

Fieldwork for the evaluation was conducted in Bangkok 26 and 27 July, Nay Pyi Taw 30 July, Yangon 31 July, and Colombo 1 and 2 August. Interviews were conducted in person with international UN Volunteers, former international and national UN Volunteers in the project, supervisors of UN Volunteers from UN agencies and Country Teams, and managers of government and civil society organisations that partnered with the UN Volunteers in the project. Other interviews were conducted by the evaluator through Skype and telephone calls with UN Volunteers managers, former UN Volunteers from the project, and some previous supervisors of project UN Volunteers not located in these four cities. A total of 28 people were interviewed for the evaluation.

The evaluator briefed the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project Coordinator and the UN Volunteers Asia and the Pacific Office in Bangkok 3 August on the preliminary findings of the desk review and fieldwork in the region prior to drafting the Evaluation Report. UN Volunteers and other stakeholders commented on the Draft Evaluation Report. The evaluator has endeavoured to address all comments and concerns in this Final Evaluation Report to UN Volunteers.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Findings - Efficiency

Efficiency considers the relationships between the inputs to the program and the outputs that are results of the program.¹ Efficiency considers the timeliness of inputs and outputs and whether and how cost considerations are assessed in working towards project objectives.

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional project had its own program design in the Project Document, which developed and explained mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting under the project. The ProDoc had little discussion of management (discussed further under effectiveness below). The mode of project implementation for the regional project was decentralized with the day-to-day work of UN Volunteers mobilized under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project done with and through other UN agency projects or UN Country Office teams in the countries where the UN Volunteers were deployed.

In each country, the direct supervision and management of UN Volunteers was provided by host agency staff, with whom the UN Volunteers worked most closely. This mechanism produced supervision of UN Volunteers by qualified UN staff working as managers in the countries where UN Volunteers were deployed for all the UN Volunteers in the program. This supervision came at no financial cost to the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project.

UN Volunteers interviewed noted issues with the efficiency of this supervision; supervisors interviewed noted almost no problems with managing UN Volunteers from the program. One issue was with supervising the International UN Volunteers program manager for the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project based on the initial posting of this UN Volunteers to the UNDP Thailand Country Office. This was problematic as the country office was not engaged at the regional level like the UN Volunteer; the solution was to change the posting and the supervisory relationship to the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific office; this change when made improved the ability of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Program Coordinator to coordinate. However this change took substantial time. Other UN Volunteers noted that it was problematic if their initial supervisor was the UN Resident Coordinator; this level of supervisor was too high to provide the management sought, as well as did not have the technical knowledge to supervise UN Volunteers in DRR. The solution in these cases was to have supervision of the UN Volunteers changed to a different person or different UN agency. Other supervisors were noted to be indifferent to the needs of UN Volunteers and not supportive of their work in at least two cases. In these cases, UN Volunteers sought to have their supervisors changed – or reportedly resigned their positions as UN Volunteers. The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Program Coordinator located in RBAP or in UNDP/Thailand was noted to not be in a good position to influence any needed changes in the supervision of UN Volunteers the other countries where the program was implemented.

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project Coordinator provided connectivity between the UN Volunteers working on the project. This management came at the financial cost of a single international UN Volunteers posting in Bangkok. The project had an initial UN Volunteers to deliver this management with management of this UN Volunteers provided to the UNDP country office in Thailand. When the first

¹ The evaluation employs the definitions for the key criteria from the SOW from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) because these criteria have been used as the basis for evaluation standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group. These terms are clearly expressed at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>.

international UN Volunteers posted for this assignment left, the recruitment process was restarted which again identified and deployed a new well-qualified international UN Volunteers for this role. There was a gap period with no UN Volunteers project coordinator; it was not made clear to the evaluator whether or how project management was done in this period.

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project Coordinator however has no authority to manage the UN Volunteers deployed under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project. The direct reporting lines of the UN Volunteers in the project are only to their supervisors listed in their DOAs. Without management lines of authority over UN Volunteers posted through the project, the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project Coordinator has only their influence and good will to develop relationships with the UN Volunteers deployed under the project. In addition, the Project Coordinator had some project funds that could be used to support regional activities and encourage work towards UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project goals. The amount of funding was not specified, but described as small in interviews. The lack of management tools makes the project difficult to manage – or unmanageable. The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project Coordinator was not able to direct UN Volunteers towards meeting regional project goals. Instead, the coordinator was able to work collaboratively with UN Volunteers deployed under the project to identify and use areas of their work with UNCTs and UN agency projects to also count towards meeting UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project goals and outcomes. This collaboration counts on the good will of all and was not seen as an efficient mechanism to manage for results. Some UN Volunteers posted under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project reported that they used the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project ProDoc as part of planning their activities; others reported that they were not aware of the ProDoc for some time while they worked towards their DOAs. The two regional meetings conducted by Project Coordinators provided this general briefing; however, at the time of the regional meetings, UN Volunteers had already been working in their assignments for some time.

UN Volunteers deployed as part of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project asserted that the duplicate reporting and extra coordination with the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project Coordinator was sometimes confusing for them. This was often seen as additional to their assignments from their DOAs. Not having responsibilities towards meeting UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project goals in their DOAs and the lack of clear reporting lines left some UN Volunteers continually confused about whether and how they were supposed to execute the work plans of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project in their work in the countries where they were deployed. This was not a question of country priorities as the UN Volunteers under the program were deployed with UNCTs or UN agencies that were working on DRR. The potential additions to the work of the UN Volunteers were activities towards meeting some of the specific output targets of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project (such as publishing a research paper on environmental change and disaster preparedness).

UN Volunteers' national offices also support the deployment of the UN Volunteers. The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project does not accrue additional financial costs for this engagement beyond the regular costs of deploying national and international UN Volunteers. From the perspective of the project, this support is highly efficient as there is no financial cost; however this does not promote effective management towards project goals.

UN Volunteers mobilized under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project also reported asking for and receiving significant support from UN Volunteers staff in Bonn for project implementation. UN Volunteers noted this support particularly in encouraging volunteerism, including for DRR, which they found very helpful.

Some UN Volunteers noted that at the time many were mobilized under the DRR Regional Project, they did not understand the modalities of implementation of the DRR Regional Project and their roles within it. UN Volunteers managers and UN Volunteers in the project noted the positive use of the project's two regional conferences as mechanisms to explain the DRR Regional Project to them, their roles in the project, and their responsibilities for reporting to the project. The two regional conferences were also noted by UN Volunteers interviewed for their useful roles in planning, information sharing, and networking across the UND DRR Regional Project.

The project successfully worked with UN Volunteers managers and systems, in collaboration with prospective host UN agency staff, to advertise for DRR UN Volunteers, interview candidates, and select strong candidates in all seven countries. The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project was seen as able to bring UN Volunteers with experience in DRR to support into country teams that may not have had this capacity; other UN Volunteers were seen by DRR specialists as valuable assets for their enthusiasm, skills in mobilization and social media, and ability to apply themselves to DRR.

Unsurprisingly, not all UN Volunteers identified and brought on board continued with the program. In addition some prospective UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers were identified but chose not to take up UN Volunteers' assignments and join the project. This was recognized as a problem for efficiency and effectiveness as it slowed program start up and the implementation of activities in the countries where a full team was not in place.

Project management, UN Volunteers in the project, and other UN agency staff that participated noted that the two regional workshops designed and implemented by the project were effective mechanisms for orientation, project management, networking, and to some extent for developing and sharing knowledge. For the first workshop, the project organized a Joint Strategic Planning/Capacity Building Workshop with UNISDR/ Global Education Training Institute (GETI) and UNDP in November 2015 in Bangkok which brought together all 12 of the international and national UN Volunteers that had been mobilized at that point. In 2017, the project organized a second Regional UN Volunteers Project Planning and capacity building workshop on Volunteerism and DRR in Jakarta from 1-3 March. By this point, four UN Volunteers remained in the project that had attended the 2015 workshop; the other UN Volunteers participants were more recent arrivals. Both workshops were used to orient UN Volunteers to the project and their roles and responsibilities. This was done systematically in 2015 and 2017 by comparing the workplans of the projects with which UN Volunteers worked with the DRR Regional Project's project document in order to design the work plan for the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project for the year. The 2015 planning was apparently also used to develop the 2016 work plan.

Some UN Volunteers that joined the project were briefed by their predecessors, which was seen as helpful. Others had no handover meetings, and some had no handover notes. Even with an orientation – and especially without one – new UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers reported that found it challenging to understand their place in the project relative to their place working with partner UN agencies and projects and how to report to different projects and managers.

UN agencies with whom UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project worked appreciated the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project which they saw as an efficient way to provide additional staff to their efforts to support climate change adaptation, DRR, and country team integration on disaster response and DRR. The costs to host UN agencies to have a DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers were only their staff time to provide the management for these UN Volunteers and some

additional financial costs as needed for these UN Volunteers to do the work (such as travel costs for the work of UN Volunteers within the country). The living allowance for the UN Volunteers was paid by the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project.

With the project winding down in 2018, many of the UN Volunteers that had been in the project in 2017 continued to work as UN Volunteers – but not through the DRR Regional Project. Most UN Volunteers under the project that were working in 2017 under the project continued onward past 15 January 2018 when their UN Volunteers contracts ended under the project working with the same or similar host UN agency programs. This time however the costs of deploying the UN Volunteers were taken up by the UN agencies and projects with which they work. The continued interest of former UN Volunteers from the program in working with the UN was evident for all program UN Volunteers interviewed as was the interest of UN entities in continuing their work for most of these UN Volunteers. The current supervisors of the UN Volunteers interviewed in this position or the managers of the units under which they work noted that continuing to deploy these former project UN Volunteers was an efficient way to staff their work because the costs were reasonable and since UN Volunteers supported the processes of keeping them on board. While the costs of a national UN Volunteers were seen to be comparable to the costs of hiring a national project coordinator, the UN Volunteers route was taken as a way to minimize not having staff by avoiding breaks in the process through any competition for individual contractor or other mode of hiring personnel for UN postings.

A challenge to overall efficiency was substantial turnover of DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers during implementation of the project. UN Volunteers managers and some partner agency staff noted that substantial work was needed to draft an appropriate Description of Assignment (DOA) to start the process of acquiring a UN Volunteers, for interviewing candidates, and for getting the selected candidate on board – who then needed orientation and some time to get acclimated to UN work. Interviews with former UN Volunteers and UN agency staff noted that project UN Volunteers were highly capable individuals, which enabled the program UN Volunteers to find alternatives to being a UN Volunteers. Employment as UN staff, with civil society organisations, or in the private sector provides salaries that exceed the living allowance provided to UN Volunteers and may provide direct prospects for upward mobility in these organisations that UN Volunteers cannot match. UN Volunteers recognized that they cannot be promoted within UN Volunteers and that their living allowances would not increase based on good performance.

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project was also seen to have a low cost management structure by interviewees that understood the project (which was not all interviewees, particularly host country partners). An international UN Volunteers under the program served as project coordinator and managed the project. The first international UN Volunteers project coordinator was placed under the UNDP Thailand country office, which was seen to not work well as the project is a regional project; her supervision was moved to the UNDP regional hub after a year. The second international UN Volunteers project was placed in the UNDP Regional Hub which was seen as more appropriate for a regional project. Some UN Volunteers noted that the first project coordinator engaged in more frequent coordination with UN Volunteers at the period of project start up.

Project UN Volunteers and UN agency counterparts also noted that the ability of the UN Volunteers to operate efficiently was also substantially influenced by the extent to which national counterparts took a direct interest in UN Volunteers' work. In the Maldives, the UN Volunteers reported that the absence of "official" support for his placement in the NDMC left him with only "informal" support which was less support from the Centre than he needed to operate efficiently.

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project was not able to deploy the envisioned team matching an international UN Volunteer and a national UN Volunteer in all countries. International UN Volunteers posted by the Project that worked without the support of or collaboration with a national UN Volunteer from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project or other UN agency local staff reported that the challenges of communication, understanding, liaison, and adaptation of their DRR knowledge and practices from other countries to the national contexts where they were working limited their efficiency. In one country where the international UN Volunteer posted under the program raised this issue with the project coordinator, the Project Coordinator was not able to help address the challenge and no resolution was achieved. The UNCT in this country was particularly small in size.

Countries where the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project deployed both national and international UN Volunteers simultaneously reportedly did not necessarily work closely together as was envisioned in the Project Document and the logic of the program design. UN Volunteers in the project worked on UN agency projects. This assignment comprised most of their work. National and international UN Volunteers from the program in the same countries worked on different projects which thus left them not collaborating closely. This was the case for example in Myanmar in 2017. The intended pairing of national and international experience through placing two UN Volunteers in the same country thus sometimes did not result in close collaboration per the project design.

The challenges of deploying UN Volunteers and retaining them with other opportunities was recognized to have posed timeliness issues. The two national UN Volunteers in Sri Lanka for example were only part of the project for a bit more than a year. UN Volunteers emphasized that in that time, they had to implement three years of project activities. This forced them to be extremely efficient – but this may not be an effective way to support project implementation, particularly for sustainability.

Project UN Volunteers and UN agency partners with whom they worked reported different levels of efficiency in engagement with UN Volunteers and the ability to link up to other national UN Volunteers based on the capacity of UN Volunteers in the country. Large, dynamic UN Volunteers offices in Sri Lanka and Thailand provided more support to UN Volunteers and facilitated opportunities for project UN Volunteers to collaborate extensively with other national UN Volunteers to support DRR. On the other hand, the project UN Volunteer was the only UN Volunteer in the Maldives which not only left him without support but also made him the go to person for UN Volunteers for the country. These other requests added to the workload of this UN Volunteer in ways that were not commensurate to the requests taken on by the other UN Volunteers.

The Project Document envisioned leadership of the national UN Volunteers by the international UN Volunteer posted through DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers. No such management relationship was part of DOAs however. International and national UN Volunteers reported working together collaboratively in some cases. In other countries, the two did not necessarily work closely together. Instead, each UN Volunteer worked on particular UN agency projects or with the UNCT. In other contexts where two national UN Volunteers were posted instead of an international and a national UN Volunteer, the two worked out a division of labour that simulated this seniority relationship based on the experience and skills of the UN Volunteers. As UN Volunteers interviewed noted, someone should manage the annual work planning and implementation of the regional project at the country level to be more efficient.

Limitations to the authority of national counterpart agencies were also seen by project UN Volunteers and UN agency counterparts to limit the effectiveness of the engagement of the UN Volunteers (as well as other UN agency projects). These limits were particularly noted for the Maldives where the national

disaster management agency was reportedly not well prepared to do the work of DRR in the context of the Maldives.

Some UN agency staff interviewed felt that the project's efficiency would have been improved by greater coordination with other UN agencies and more alignment of activities in the project to those of other UN agency projects at the time the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project was developed. Interviewees with this perspective noted that this challenge was common to global and regional programs, not particular to the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project.

The administrative requirements for mobilizing UN Volunteers to work on discrete activities to support UN agency projects were seen to impede what some projects could do with UN Volunteers from the project and more broadly. These responses and greater use of national UN Volunteers was an approach tried in several countries by the UN Volunteers under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project.

Conclusions – Efficiency

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project successfully deployed a set of international and national UN Volunteers to all seven countries as envisioned in the project document. The number, distribution and mix, and effectiveness of UN Volunteers deployments varied in their contribution to UN and national DRR activities as discussed below under effectiveness and impact.

DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers were recruited and deployed at different times to the seven different countries and different UN agencies within them. UN Volunteers under the project were seldom clear on what the DRR Regional Project was and their roles and responsibilities within the project when initially deployed. In many cases, the DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers only learned of these responsibilities later in conjunction with regional workshops or consultations with the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project Program Coordinator.

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project developed some coordination mechanisms that enabled the project to orient UN Volunteers to the work of the project and successfully align their reporting to the diverse work of project UN Volunteers with other UN agency programs and country offices to meet the needs of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project.

As a regional project, project management did not have the connections, authority, or ability to manage the relationships between the UN Volunteers and their UN agency supervisors or their engagement with government partners. The project depended on other UN agency and country office staff to manage the day to day work of UN Volunteers and their relations with government and civil society counterparts. This system of leaving other UN agency and country office staff to manage UN Volunteers DOAs operated efficiently because there were no costs to the project. The management of UN Volunteers from the project and the support for the UN Volunteers to meet the work of their DOAs was delivered by other UN agency program teams or UNCTs. This system worked to support their support to UN agencies and UNCTs (with the exception of the Maldives where the small UN presence appears to not have been able to efficiently manage and support the UN Volunteers' engagement with host country counterparts in the technical area of DRR). This system however is not an efficient way to manage as a regional project as the Project Coordinator had no authority and did not have many methods to manage towards UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project outputs and outcomes.

UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project benefitted from and valued orientation mechanisms and resources, particularly experienced staff, at the national level from UN agencies with

which they worked. In many cases, these resources were developed by individual UN Volunteers after starting their assignment at their own initiative rather than developed by UN Volunteers or the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project to assist new UN Volunteers.

Findings – Effectiveness (Overall)

The Project Document for the UN Volunteers DRR Regional also described the objectives of the project, anticipated outputs, explained why these outputs were relevant, and discussed how the benefits of the project were meant to continue on beyond the life of the project. The project did not have an explicit theory of change underpinning the project.

Effectiveness measures the extent to which a program attains its objectives. Effectiveness provides the opportunity to discuss the main factors that contributed to the achievement or non-achievement of program objectives based on the methodologies employed in the evaluation.

DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers noted how the project and their work with UN agencies had contributed to the professional development of the UN Volunteers. Most UN Volunteers in the project felt that the DRR Regional Project had been effective in terms of supporting their professional growth and their career development. With the project winding down, many of the UN Volunteers in the project continued to work as UN Volunteers – but no longer through the DRR Regional Project – working with the same or similar host UN agency programs. This time the costs of UN Volunteers were taken up by the projects with which they work. The continued interest of former UN Volunteers from the program in working with the UN was evident for all program UN Volunteers interviewed. This is seen by UN Volunteers in Bonn as an unintended positive result.

In the Maldives, at the end of 2016, the government surprised the UNCT, UN Volunteers, and UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project management by not recommending an extension of the contract of the international UN Volunteers DRR specialist. This precipitous end to the UN Volunteers posting was professionally difficult for the UN Volunteers as detrimental to his ability to continue work in DRR. Curtailing the posting also impeded the outputs and outcomes that the UN Volunteer was able to achieve and their sustainability.

Some UN Volunteers in the project found the need to contribute to policy papers and research under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project to not be a part of their other work with host UN agencies; they thus viewed this research aspect as additive and an extra set of tasks that they had not anticipated based on their DOAs. While some UN Volunteers in the project reported planning to work on joint research through the project, this kind of joint activity did not successfully materialize as some individual UN Volunteers were too busy to carry out this task. Some UN Volunteers under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project were particularly interested in conducting research and particularly sought to produce research papers. This appears to have been substantially a personal preference, which was supported by the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project and the UN agency project teams with which they worked. UN Volunteers under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project however did produce numerous products. The January-June 2018 Project Progress Report (Annex 4) noted three papers meeting the target called for in the project Results and Resource Framework (RRF). However, interviews suggested the three papers listed did not best represent the work of the project in two ways. The contributions of UN Volunteers under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project were modest to the case study on the community based “Kyone Ma Ku Creek Network” done by UN Volunteers for the annual report on volunteerism. And some

of UN Volunteers under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project produced many more research and policy documents so three understates the output of the project significantly.

Plans, standards, and DRR in the post-2015 development agenda

Findings – Effectiveness

While not one of the two explicit outputs of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project, the Project Document envisioned that the project would contribute “Assistance to National and Local Institutions, Marginalized Groups, and International Partners to Develop Common Visions, Plans and Programmes for Addressing Disaster and Climate Risk in Development Strategies.” UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project interviewed noted varied levels of experience with DRR in general and in plans, standards, and strategies in particular. UN Volunteers DRR Regional project UN Volunteers tended to initially support non-technical or less technical roles with UNCTs or UN agency project teams. Their initial steps of work in this area were often in coordination, connecting project, partners, and agency counterparts in areas of climate change or DRR. Even international UN Volunteers with more substantial DRR experience reported that they needed to adapt this experience from other countries to the new contexts in which they were working as UN Volunteers. UN Volunteers under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project asserted that their knowledge was not sometimes readily welcomed. Instead, they had to adapt their knowledge to fit the country where they were posted to get receptivity for their ideas and work. Interviews with some UN agency staff that worked with international UN Volunteers under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project also asserted that the knowledge the international UN Volunteers brought from other countries was sometimes not relevant as the context was different.

As national and other international UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project gained more experience through managing coordination, they built more experience in the technical areas of DRR and built confidence among UN entity staff that they worked with that the UN Volunteers had technical capacity in the area of DRR and were thus qualified to contribute to more technical work such as planning or standard setting for DRR.

Particular highlights of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project’s work in planning, standard setting, and integrating DRR into the post-2015 development agenda for the seven countries are noted below. These highlights were noted in the document review and/or interviews for the evaluation; there are likely other outputs and outcomes in this area that are not captured through these methods and not included below.

India

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional project team in 2015 provided technical assistance and capacity building to at-risk states on planning, coordinating and implementing humanitarian and early recovery action, and/or has provided support to risk informed development planning using the Multi Hazard Vulnerability Mapping (MHVM) System. The UN Volunteers project team facilitated two trainings on child-centred risk assessment to integrate Multi-Hazard Vulnerability Mapping (MHVM) with the government management information system and carried out Hazard mapping of disaster impacted districts across states in India through MHVM.

Reporting for 2017 noted that UN Volunteers under the project supported the preparation of the Terms of Reference for the terminal evaluation of Global Environment Fund projects, which ensured attention to volunteerism. The team supported UN Volunteers field unit projects by providing a session on Youth and Disaster Risk Reduction for new government officials in West Bengal.

In 2017, UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project supported the implementation of DRR activities and documenting best practices in UN Volunteers field projects supporting Strengthening National Service Scheme and Nehru Yuha Kendra Sangathan, the largest youth volunteering networks in India.

They also supported a UNDP consultant who developed a “National Action Plan on Social Entrepreneurship” with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs by proofreading the document and supported in development of the UN Sustainable Development Framework 2018 – 2022 results group priority areas Energy, Environment and Resilience.

UN Volunteers DRR Regional project in 2017 supported UNOCHA-led review process and development of new contingency plans for India UN Country office through engagement with Focal Points and Operation Heads of key UN Agencies in the Disaster Management Team (UNICEF, UNDP, UNDSS, FAO, UNFPA, WFP, WHO and UNIDO).

UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project facilitated and supported a WHO and UNICEF-led effort through the UNCT Results Group with to hold a roundtable discussion on Air Pollution in New Delhi with UN, government, and civil society partners.

UN Volunteers collaborated with UNDP to support a side event at the Third World Conference on DRR in Hyderabad. UN Volunteers from the project worked with UN Volunteers India and developed and tested a comprehensive training manual for DRR practitioners and volunteer first responders in 2017 and held consultation meetings with key stakeholders in states of the Northeast Region for a Green Climate Fund (GCF) Proposal and participated in the validation meeting of the proposal.

UN Volunteers DRR Regional project UN Volunteers in 2017 represented UNDP for consultation and validation of a Participatory Land Use Planning policy developed through a UNDP project in areas of Nagaland State.

A UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project in 2017 drafted a research paper “Resilience Smart Cities: Kakinada - Andhra Pradesh; Amravati – Telangana: Analysis of technical and policy options for adaptation and DRR towards addressing consequences of Climate Change in India.”

Indonesia

In 2015, the International UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project contributed to “Disasters by Drought: Livelihood resilience under the conditions of climate uncertainty” academic seminar and workshop organized by United Nations University’s Environment a Human Security (UNU-EHS) Institute, California Polytechnic University and Munich Re.

That year she also supported the development an analytical and alignment matrix for SDGs, SFDRR, climate change agreements, Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Vision 2025 and AADMER Workplan and made recommendations on AADMER Work plan based on the analysis. In 2016, UN Volunteers with the project mapped and analysed UN support to DRR activities, the UNPDF and CCA, and developed a Guidance Note on DRR mainstreaming “Indonesia: An Overview Of the Need For Risk-Informed Planning To Achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) And Agenda 2030.”

In 2017, UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project partnered with UNISDR to conduct a webinar for the UNCT on SFDRR and coherence with Agenda 2030. The team also developed a guidance note on DRR mainstreaming “Indonesia: An Overview Of the Need For Risk-Informed Planning to Achieve SDGs and Agenda 2030.”

In 2017, UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project drafted a Guidance note for SFDRR member-states and DRR stakeholders on inclusion of volunteerism in the SFDRR process based on Indonesia’s experience. They contributed to the draft of Indonesia’s Roadmap for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development

(2015-2030) and organized meetings with Indonesia's Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) on the draft.

Malaysia

The UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project in 2017 formed WhatsApp groups in flood affected states of Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang to support reporting and updating.

That year UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project also developed the HCT Floods Contingency Plan Snapshot.

Maldives

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project deployed an experienced international UN Volunteers to support the country office and national disaster management agency at the beginning of 2016. The UN Volunteers was placed with the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) to coordinate disaster response and DRR interventions of the Centre with projects on climate change with connections to DRR from UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCAP on climate change and DRR. However the international UN Volunteers lacked support and collaboration with a national UN Volunteers or other UN agency local staff which hampered effective communication, understanding, liaison, and adaptation of DRR knowledge and practices from other countries to the context of the Maldives. The UN Volunteers was able to support the NDMC to Community incident response teams for search and rescue at the island level across the archipelago.

Myanmar

In 2016, UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project reviewed the achievements of the Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) for the Policy Technical Task Force of the DRR WG and supported the elaboration of the National Awareness Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (NAS DRR).

UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project in 2017 led the Policy Technical Task Force of the DRR WG in supporting the department of Relief and Resettlement (Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement) to develop a Disaster Risk Management Guidebook/Checklist. UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project in 2016 led post flood DRR WG's Policy Technical Task force and carried out a Desk Review on Early Warning through synthesizing all information and lessons learned from the 2015 floods.

In 2017, UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project supported UNDP in assisting the Relief and Resettlement Department to develop a Disaster Risk Management Guidebook and support in developing standard operating principles SOPs for an earthquake simulation exercise.

UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project in 2017 supported UNDP's assistance to the Disaster Management Training Center (DMTC), particularly the review of their Capacity Development Strategy and the Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) training curriculum and facilitator guide.

In 2017, these UN Volunteers supported development of 2018 trainings for Strengthening School Preparedness for Tsunamis in Asia and the Pacific and organized and conducted tsunami evacuation drills in two schools.

UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project also supported the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction Youth Volunteer Project (UN Volunteers – UNDP – UNICEF project) with the Translator Gator Pilot 2 web-based crowdsourcing game in 2017.

Sri Lanka

In 2015, UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project worked with government and supported the District Volunteer Coordinator to design a Volunteer Mobilization Strategy for two districts in Sri Lanka to develop Village Development Plans.

UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project in 2015 supported the First National Consultation on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the First National Consultation on Building community capacity to save lives through injury management and safe transportation.

In 2017, UN Volunteers from the project produced a document on good practices and lesson learnt from CCAP- One success story was published on Arunodaya, a tabloid of the Dinamina newspaper. The story was about achieving SDGs through CCAP.

Thailand

In 2015, UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project were active in the United Nations Resident Coordinator/OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Emergency Response Preparedness planning workshop to guide and facilitate discussion on aligning the UNCT's preparedness planning with the new IASC Emergency Response Preparedness Guidance, as well as with the government's Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan. They also reviewed the draft CCA and provided written inputs on DRR and contributed to the identification of UNPAF outputs ensuring DRR integration into UNPAF.

In 2016, the two national UN Volunteers and the Country Program Coordinator UN Volunteers supported UNCT in mainstreaming DRR into the CCA and then the UNPAF 2017-2021. The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project team also worked to enhance Inter-Agency Contingency Planning/Emergency Response Preparedness in close collaboration with OCHA.

In 2015, supported the MADRID Project and Social Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction in developing partnership of public-private-people organizations.

In 2015, the project National UN Volunteer hosted by UNISDR supported the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Thailand to develop the National Baseline Status on Disaster Risk Management for Sendai Framework (SF).

2017 produced a report on Disaster Risk Management Public Expenditure & Institutional Review (DRM-PEIR) in Thailand Fiscal Budget Year 2012-2015.

2017 drafted questionnaire for a survey on the implementation of the Revised UN Plan for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development for UNISDR to measure and manage the level of awareness and implementation of UNRCs on the plan.

The Project Document suggested that UN Volunteers were supposed to help draft high-level UN system wide assessments and documents, in particular Common Country Assessments (CCA) or UN Development Assistance Frameworks and partnerships (such as UNDAFs and UNPAFs). UN host agency staff and many former project UN Volunteers interviewed felt that this level of contribution was too high for UN Volunteers; these products are shaped and finalized by heads of agencies at the country level. UN Volunteers recognized that they could contribute to agency inputs, but through the UN agencies they worked with and through UN Volunteers country offices (in particular on volunteerism). In Myanmar, the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project UN Volunteers did report incorporating volunteerism and DRR into the UNDAF and CPD, as well as government documents like the Myanmar Action Plan for DRR; however this reference was reportedly removed in the last draft of the UNDAF.

Conclusions - Effectiveness

UN Volunteers deployed under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project were able to contribute to processes that developed plans, standards, and DRR in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. UN Volunteers as part of project and UNCT teams were able to build relations with UN entity staff and host country partners to help manage processes and finalize documents, including getting government approval for drafts or final reports that set plans, frameworks, or standards on DRR. In some cases, UN Volunteers' contributions were removed from the draft when key UN frameworks were finalized. This was recognized as unfortunate by UN Volunteers, but seen to be above their level of responsibility.

UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project were seen to be strong researchers and writers in some countries where they were deployed. Their ability to write and background knowledge of DRR increased their contributions – and made them "huge assets" for some UN agencies in the development of written plans.

The language skills of national UN Volunteers were recognized as useful which made them good data collectors as well as good at working with local communities (as noted further below).

In some cases, modest resources were available from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project to support the development and dissemination of products that set standards for activities in DRR. The inclusion of resources was seen by UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project as a valuable contribution to their work in youth volunteerism in DRR,

UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project noted the contributions of UN Volunteers managers to encourage the effective use of project UN Volunteers and their help in capturing and publicizing successes and best practices of UN Volunteers, particularly through social media. This was seen as a way to increase effectiveness and amplify impact in DRR (as well as in volunteerism and expanding the roles of women, youth, and the disabled in DRR).

A number of UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project felt, especially at the start of their engagement in the program, that UN Volunteers were not sufficiently recognized for their capacity to contribute to these UN and host country plans and standards on DRR. These UN Volunteers noted that perceptions of UN Volunteers as junior hampered what they were able to contribute to; over time, these UN Volunteers felt this issue less acutely as they were able to have influence on plans and standards through other UN agency processes and representatives.

Perceptions that UN Volunteers were junior and treatment of UN Volunteers as junior by other UN agency staff was also seen to influence how some partner country institutions related with the UN Volunteers deployed under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project. UN Volunteers reporting working to overcome this perception; effects of this perception were overcome in some countries through close engagement with national counterparts and sustained, good work. Interviews with managers of national disaster management agencies noted appreciation for UN Volunteers work on planning and standards in particular countries.

Some supervisors who had once been UN Volunteers themselves noted that they have a special appreciation for UN Volunteers. These managers may not only not have this type of negative bias but also self-consciously work to build the capability of UN Volunteers and increase recognition of their capabilities among UN staff and national counterparts to the benefit of their engagement in UN agency and host country work.

Findings – Impact

Impact is defined as the positive or negative changes produced by a project or activity. This involves considering what happened as a result of the project and why. One way to consider impact is through partners and beneficiaries by attempting to assess what difference the project has made for them. This can also include considering how many people have been affected.

Project reporting note outputs in this area (see above under effectiveness) but do not identify the impact of the work of the UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project. Interviews with UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project and their supervisors from UN Agencies also focused on outputs and how these contributed to outcomes that they were working towards through the UN Agency projects with which they worked, through the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project, and through working with UN Agencies on processes for developing plans, standards, and DRR in the post-2015 development agenda. Staff from host country institutions that UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project worked with also noted how the UN Volunteers from the project contributed to standards setting and planning exercises for their institutions and framed this contribution within the overall contributions of UN agencies and programs to their achievements.

Conclusions – Impact

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional project did not develop baselines for the intended outputs of the project. The evaluation did not have the tools or capacity to construct these baselines. The UN Volunteers working in the DRR Regional project contributed to the development of plans, standards, and DRR in the post-2015 development agenda through the work of other UN Agencies and processes, to which the staff of these other UN agencies also contributed. There is not a way to disentangle the contributions of the UN Volunteers in the project from the projects that they work with and the Agencies that made the contributions to plans, standards, and DRR in the post-2015 development agenda. These two factors makes a rigorous determination of impact of the project on plans, standards, and DRR in the post-2015 development agenda impossible. Both factors make it impossible to attribute any impact in these areas to the UN Volunteers Regional project.

Findings –Relevance

Relevance examines the extent to which the activity is suited to the priorities and policies of the target group, recipient and donor. Relevance can also be part of considering whether the objectives of the project were valid and are still valid. Relevance considers also whether the activities and outputs of the program are consistent with the objectives and overall goal of the project and the intended impact.

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional project focused on DRR as a key area for countries of the region. The range, extent and magnitude of disasters and the risks faced by people in the countries of the region, particularly marginalized populations, make DRR a priority for countries the Asia and Pacific region. Planning documents and interviews with former project UN Volunteers, other UN staff, and host nation institutional counterparts all noted the relevance and importance of DRR for the countries of the region. The region is prone to a wide range of disasters that has had detrimental effects on development and led to hundreds of thousands of deaths in the last few decades (particularly with the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami and Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar). Because UNCTs and UN agencies work to plan with and support national capacity building for DRR, including standards for DRR, the UN Volunteers DRR

Regional Project work to support the UN's work on planning and setting standards, in DRR in these countries was seen as relevant.

National UN agency staff and partners from some host country counterpart agencies were less than receptive to the efforts of some international UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project with more experience in DRR from their home countries to apply this experience to their new context. Some interviews with UN agency staff and host government counterparts felt that the particular international experience that these UN Volunteers brought did not fit the countries to which they were posted. Particular experience from Africa was claimed not be relevant to Sri Lankan conditions. In part due to this reception, these individual international UN Volunteers did not stay with the project long and moved on to other opportunities. The perceived relevance of their experience was seen as a problem whether UN Volunteers came from continents away or the country that was closest to the one in which they worked.

Conclusions – Relevance

Change in government counterparts led to hesitancy to act and turnover in key host country partner staff in Sri Lanka. Political turnover was seen to affect the relevance of assistance from UN Volunteers for a period of project implementation. This variation in relevance of project assistance is not possible to plan for or manage, as elections can be held at any time in parliamentary systems and political trends are difficult to forecast accurately.

Findings –Sustainability

Sustainability is concerned with measuring whether the benefits of an activity are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn. Sustainability can sometimes be assessed by examining whether benefits continue after funding support ceases. Sustainability however is often more of an estimate of contributions to a continuing process as in this evaluation, as other UN entities continue to operate (including through work with the same UN Volunteers that were part of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project at the conclusion of implementation in many of the partner countries.

Because some UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project did not stay with the project long and moved on to other opportunities, the contributions they were able to make were often seen as less sustainable by interviewees, including the UN Volunteers themselves.

Implementation over a shorter time period than the two to three years envisioned for implementation in the project document was recognized to be a hindrance to sustainability. University students in Sri Lanka for example were reached to train interested students on how to volunteer and contribute to DRR and disaster management - but the UN Volunteers under the project noted how a longer period of engagement than the one year that UN Volunteers had would have better supported sustainability and national ownership. Similarly, the engagement of the UN Volunteer to the Maldives was seen as too short to have had sustainable effects – one of several reasons for limited sustainability there.

Conclusions – Sustainability

The contributions of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project to Plans, standards, and DRR in the post-2015 development agenda appear to have had a limited focus on sustainability.

Volunteerism and DRR

Findings – Effectiveness

UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project worked in “Promoting the Integration of DRR and Volunteerism in Assessments, Frameworks, Partnerships, Strategies, and Recovery Plans.”

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional project developed and managed in conjunction with UN Volunteers key events to promote volunteerism in DRR. UN Volunteers successfully organized a series of high-level events to engage partners to highlight the value of volunteerism in DRR and the crucial role of volunteers in the post-2015 era during the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. This event was useful for Japan as well, as was clear from the participation of the Director of the Global Issues Cooperation Division from the MoFA, Japan, who reportedly reported to UN Volunteers interviewed that he appreciated the visibility for MoFA.

Particular highlights of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project’s work promoting volunteerism in DRR in the seven countries are noted below. These highlights were noted in the document review and/or interviews for the evaluation; there are likely other outputs and outcomes in this area that are not captured through these methods that are not included below.

India

UN Volunteers from the project in India developed and managed a pre-conference event on volunteerism and DRR at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in November 2016 highlighting the role of volunteerism. The event drew high-level representation and shined the light on the importance and roles of volunteerism to DRR across the region. Project UN Volunteers also held a two-day capacity building event to observe the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) in 2016 which trained over 350 people. The team in 2017 conducted two 5-day training programmes titled “DRR Capacity Building of Adolescent and Youth Volunteers.

Indonesia

In 2015, UN Volunteers supported the integration of the SFDRR into the UNCT annual work plan for the new UNPAF and supported the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in mainstreaming DRR in Humanitarian Action. The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project Team in Indonesia also provided technical, coordination and report writing support to Indonesian Government in development of National Baseline Status Report on Disaster Risk Management for Sendai Framework (2015-2030) and worked closely with National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) and selected line ministries in liaison with civil society actors and UN agencies, particularly on volunteerism. This included providing recommendations for Joint UN/ASEAN activities that included volunteerism for the ASEAN Vision 2025 document. The UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project also were the Focal point for El Niño Focus Group in Indonesia.

In 2017 and 2016, the UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project supported the development of Indonesia’s Disaster Risk Management Baseline Status Report on Volunteerism 2015: Towards identifying national and local priorities for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030), one of the first reports to measure the baseline status of volunteerism in DRR, with the government.

A UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project presented on Volunteerism and DRR during the July 2016 Pre-conference event in preparation for the global Habitat 3 meeting in Ecuador.

Malaysia

In 2015, the UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project supported the HCT by reviewing and finalizing the HCT Strategy and Action Plan. The UN Volunteers reported working with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRC), the NGO Lead Coordinator in dealing with government agencies during disaster, on developing a model for coordinating NGO partners in 2016.

Maldives

In 2016, the UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project was the focal point supporting the development of a volunteer disaster response search and rescue team system at the level of the individual islands through work with the NDMC.

Myanmar

From 2015 through 2017, the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers supported the Steering Committee and the Myanmar DRR WG – both co-chaired by the Government and UNDP. The international UN Volunteers supported both with meeting preparation, organization, minutes, and research, ensuring that volunteerism and roles of volunteers are included in the work. Project UN Volunteers also reported supporting the Policy Technical Task Force (TTF) reviewing the institutional and regulatory framework for DR.

In 2015, UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project supported the UN Volunteers-UNICEF-UNDP Programme on Disaster Risk Youth Volunteers (DRYV) which trained over 10,000 volunteers from more than 800 villages.

UN Volunteers in 2017 mainstreamed volunteerism in strengthening community resilience into the new Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction.

2017 supported the formulation of a case study on the community-based volunteer network, the “Kyone Ma Ku Creek Network, for the State of World Volunteerism Report 2018.

Sri Lanka

In 2015, the UN Volunteers Project Team drafted a guide to volunteer management on volunteerism in DRR.

In 2015, the UN Volunteers DRR project team supported the Disaster Management Center to organize the first National Consultation on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in which the UN Volunteers DRR project team showcased the relevance and contribution of volunteerism.

In 2015, the project team assisted and participated in the launch of the first National Consultation on Building community capacity to save lives through injury management and safe transportation, together with the Ministry of Disaster Management and the Ministry of Health, emphasizing volunteerism.

The two national UN Volunteers under the program extensively involved volunteers in programming in 2017. Activities included:

increasing the involvement of youth and inclusion of tech-based volunteerism for sustainable development through HackaDev 3.0;

regional-level collaboration to promote tech-based volunteerism through Translator Gator 2.

training V force members on DRR (25 participants).

mobilizing 6 University volunteers, 44 students of Wayamba University mobilized for IVD tree planting.

V-force for Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP) engagement which led to 40 volunteers being mobilized.

Conducting a Disaster and environmental data usage survey in Kandy, Ratnapura, Matara, Colombo, and Kurunegala districts that had 860 volunteers completed the survey

Conducted Training for V-force members for volunteerism and DRR through two workshops.

Camp Management trainings on how to manage safety camps during a disaster for 33 participants.

CCAP agriculture activities that mobilized 105 community volunteers

Using Translator Gator 2 to mobilize 25 V-Force volunteers, including 3 online volunteers. Organized Training to volunteers from CBOs and local NGOs to rehabilitate tank cascade systems 500 community volunteers educated.

UN Volunteers from the project also organized Experience Sharing Workshop CCAP Completed with technical knowledge shared by 5 government technical officers.

The UN Volunteers DRR project team organized 41 sessions for farmers of home gardens and on micro irrigation systems, 5 sessions on market-based agriculture opportunities, and 11 sessions for government officers of the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

The Know Your Hazard advocacy campaign was successfully implemented in 4 universities, 2 schools, and 1 drought-prone community.

Sustainable Agriculture workshops successfully conducted for the undergraduate students of agriculture in 3 universities (323 participants in total).

UN Volunteers DRR project team trained GN level volunteers to revise the Village Development Plans (VDP) which reached 78 participants in total (74% Women).

Training volunteers from CBOs and local NGOs by the UN Volunteers DRR project team to rehabilitate tank cascade systems educated 500 community volunteers.

Conducted awareness Program at Karapincha Agriculture School where 162 Participants (12% women) joined the awareness program.

Thailand

In 2016, the UN Volunteers began a study on Volunteerism in Disaster Management by reviewing legislation, policies, institutional framework and current activities of organizations mobilizing volunteers.

In 2016, UN Volunteers provided valuable inputs and baseline data from research to integrate volunteerism into the Draft National Action Plan to implement the Sendai Framework. UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers also supported UNISDR to draft a paper on the Application of Science and Technology for Community Water-Related Disaster Risk Reduction- Thailand Good Practices, which was supported Ministry of Science and Technology and other partners.

UN Volunteers in 2017 conducted research on the Status of Voluntarism in Disaster Risk Management in Thailand with policy recommendations and contributed an article to the book on His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's philosophy on DRR which provided background information on the regional project's DRR activities and the roles of volunteers in Thailand in-line with the King's philosophy on DRR.

Conclusions - Effectiveness

UN Volunteers deployed under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project were able to contribute to volunteerism in DRR not only through their own volunteerism but also by raising awareness and experience with volunteerism in disaster management and DRR in their countries of assignment. This awareness and capacity increases came through their ability to support existing UN agency projects in climate change and DRR. Contributions were seen as especially important towards volunteerism,

especially youth volunteerism. These were particularly seen by UN Volunteers and UN agency staff interviewed as areas where UN Volunteers under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project were especially experienced and capable of contributing to the goals of the other projects with which they worked as well as the goals of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project.

UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project were able to make volunteerism more effective by adding new cohorts of volunteers to these efforts, such as through the exercises with universities in Sri Lanka to engage students in DRR.

Findings – Impact

Interviews for the evaluation noted that some countries of the region had extensive, well-developed national volunteer frameworks and networks which had also been applied to DRR with the help of UN Volunteers from the project. This was noted as a significant contribution to DRR in these countries. UN Volunteers in the DRR Regional project were able to have an impact; national UN Volunteers in the project were recognized as effective in encouraging more volunteerism in some countries where volunteerism was noted by UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers Regional Project as already having an extensive role in society (such as Sri Lanka). Support from project UN Volunteers was asserted to be important in contributing to project impacts in Sri Lanka of UNDP projects by UNDP managers.

Conclusions – Impact

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional project did not develop baselines for the intended outputs of the project. The evaluation did not have the tools or capacity to construct these baselines. The project also operated through other UN agency projects and their staff and partners, which makes it difficult to disentangle the impact of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project from any impact of other projects. These two factors make a rigorous determination of impact of the project on volunteerism and DRR impossible.

Findings – Relevance

UN Volunteers is recognized by UN Agency partner staff interviewed as expert in volunteerism. UN staff and UN volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project interviewed did not expect that the UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project would necessarily be promoting volunteerism. Their jobs were set through their DOAs. However, the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project itself had goals to promote volunteerism in DRR, which was recognized as relevant to the countries in the project by UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project and the UN Agency partner staff that they worked with.

Interviews emphasized the better known roles of volunteers in disaster response relative to DRR. UN Volunteers under the program, other UN staff, and host country partner institutions noted substantial interest in volunteerism in disaster management in the countries where the project was implemented. With education and engagement, including through UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project, this interest in DM especially among youth in some countries was channelled into DRR as well. UN Volunteers in the project noted ways that they had not only contributed to this evolution of interest but also worked to train potential volunteers in DRR and disaster management so that their interest in volunteering would be helpful rather than impede efforts to do disaster management and DRR properly and not endanger the lives of volunteers and others.

Conclusions – Relevance

The UN DRR Regional project was seen as relevant to volunteerism and DRR as UN Volunteers champions volunteerism in the UN system and the project was from UN Volunteers. In addition, the project was seen as relevant in this area because the countries of the region exhibited interest in expanding volunteerism in DM and DRR, which the project was able to help with in a variety of ways.

Findings – Sustainability

UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project noted that approaches to supporting volunteerism in DRR that worked through frameworks and government partners were expected to be more sustainable because of the continued validity of frameworks and on-going work of government institutions in DRR. UN agency staff interviewed echoed this perspective. The support from UN Volunteers to stimulate and build volunteerism in DRR was recognized to focus on sustainability through working through national volunteer systems, national DRR systems, other national institutions (such as universities), and UN agencies. The engagement of UN Volunteers was grounded in institutions and supported frameworks and trainings to have more enduring effects after the particular contributions supported by project UN Volunteers to volunteerism were done.

Conclusions – Sustainability

The contributions to the sustainable integration of volunteerism into DRR in the countries of the region and the UN system cannot be rigorously assessed based on the absence of baseline, the short period of implementation, and the contributions of other UN agencies and host countries to the achievements noted above under effectiveness.

Women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people in DRR and volunteerism

Findings – Effectiveness

Particular highlights of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project's work in working with women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people in DRR and volunteerism in the seven countries are noted below. The activities on volunteerism focused on above already under Volunteerism and DRR are not discussed in detail again, although there is substantial overlap as many volunteers were women and youth or influenced women and youth. These highlights were noted in the document review and/or interviews for the evaluation; there are likely other outputs and outcomes in this area that are not captured through these methods and not included below. Many of the volunteer efforts above also focused on youth and women; these efforts are not duplicated from the text below.

India

In 2015, UNDP mobilized over 400 volunteers with the support of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project Team for sensitization on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October). A project UN Volunteers was a panel participant on youth engagement in DRR for International Volunteer Day (5 December).

Indonesia

A UN Volunteers from the project in 2017 provided inputs for inclusion of disaster risk management in UNCT Indonesia's Gender Working Group.

Malaysia

The project's UN Volunteers worked and mobilized the Youth Volunteers Foundation students for gender balanced flood simulation exercises in 2017.

Myanmar

Project UN Volunteers supported the 2017 school evacuation drills. These drills continued in 2018 (although the UN Volunteers support was now outside of the framework of the project), with more than 650 participants supported (approximately half women and girls).

Sri Lanka

In late 2016 and 2017, the UN Volunteers in the DRR Regional project developed and led workshops to bring volunteerism in DRR to key universities in the country. UN Volunteers reported that students valued this experience and learning about DRR and volunteerism.

The UN Volunteers in the DRR Regional project developed regular methods to use national Sri Lankan volunteers through UN Volunteers' Sri Lankan V-Force program in their own work in DRR. This expanded the use of volunteers and set an example of high utilization of volunteers. The two national UN Volunteers reported utilizing more than a hundred short-term national volunteers to support a variety of activities in DRR, which by definition thus integrated volunteerism into DRR. Activities included data entry for research, coordination and management for events on DRR, video editing on climate change and DRR, and role plays to support outreach to students and communities. Volunteers were also used for the Translator Gator exercises, which translated key DRR terms to local languages. This was seen as especially important as it improved DRR and volunteerism among minority Tamil populations though using Tamil language.

Thailand

UN Volunteers under the project provided technical support to Thailand Safe School Network (TSSN), participation in the TSSN meeting for UNISDR, and facilitated UN Volunteers Thailand joining the network in 2018. A UN Volunteers under the project supported UNDP regional Project on Strengthening School Preparedness for Tsunami in the Asia-Pacific Region to mitigate the impact of tsunamis by enhancing school preparedness through support for evacuation drills in schools; drills were held in 2017. In 2018, the former UN Volunteers now working as an IC for UNDP organised school evacuation drills in five schools, with more than 1,700 participants (of whom approximately were half women and girls, with some PWD).

Gender appears to have been mainstreamed into these activities rather than considered as a separate challenge or opportunity to DRR and volunteerism in the countries of the region under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project and the other UN agency programs that UN Volunteers worked with. Disability too appears to have been addressed when the population reached happened to include people living with disabilities rather than explicitly targeted as goals of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project or other UN agency programs that UN Volunteers worked with. The same is the case with marginalized populations. Project activities (that were from other UN agencies as well as included in the planning and reporting of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project) appear to have effectively addressed some of the gender issues, challenges of the disabled, and linguistic challenges of working with marginalized migrant labour populations on an as needed basis (for example in school evacuations).

Conclusions - Effectiveness

UN Volunteers deployed under the DRR Regional project were able to contribute to the mobilization of women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people in DRR and volunteerism in a number of ways that were valued by UN agency partners, national counterparts, and reportedly by beneficiaries.

Findings – Impact

Interviews with UN Volunteers from the program noted the ways that their work mobilized women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people in DRR and volunteerism through their work with UN projects. The UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project, through their contributions to other UN agencies' programs, particularly noted that they were able to reach and engage large numbers of young people in DRR exercises, for example in schools.

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional project does not appear to have targeted or had non-mainstreamed approaches to reach women and girls, the disabled, or marginalized populations. However when these populations were included among the population that UN Volunteers worked with (as in schools for evacuation drills), the UN Volunteers were able to point to ways that they had piloted approaches to incorporate the particular needs of these groups into the exercises (such as evacuations for the disabled in schools).

Project reporting from July 2018 (see Annex 4) reports life of “project partners capacitated” were around 2389, of which a minimum of half were female.

Conclusions – Impact

Since the UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project were part of larger project teams of different UN Agencies - as well as due to the absence of baselines - the evaluation cannot rigorously assess the impact of their contributions to incorporating women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people in DRR and volunteerism.

Findings – Relevance

Women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people make up the majority of the population in all countries; this makes them relevant to engage in DRR and volunteerism. Interviews with UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project noted that the UN projects they worked with often had a youth focus; while no UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project interviewed reported working on projects that viewed DRR through a gender lens, nevertheless UN Volunteers considered and reported out on the gender distribution of beneficiaries in the activities.

Conclusions – Relevance

The work of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project to reach women, youth, the disabled, and marginalized populations was relevant because of the evident importance of DRR to people from these groups in the countries where the project was implemented.

Findings – Sustainability

UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project noted that their work with women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people in DRR and volunteerism had institutional partners, both

national and UN Agencies. The approach taken to sustainability was an expectation that supporting institutional practices of national agencies could become sustainable. The short period of project implementation did not test this assumption.

Conclusions – Sustainability

The work of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project to reach women, youth, the disabled, and marginalized populations worked towards sustainability through the methods that the project worked with these beneficiaries. The methodologies used supported frameworks for the comprehensive inclusion of these populations in DRR. In other cases, the project worked through other UN agencies and national counterpart institutions on DRR; this mode of operation supports the sustainability of work to further engage reach women, youth, the disabled, and marginalized populations in DRR. Whether these interventions have been sustainable cannot be assessed after such a short time and with the inability to assess impact noted above.

Coordination with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP Regional Offices in Bangkok Ensuring that Country Progress and Efforts on Volunteerism and DRR are Captured in Regional Progress Reviews

Findings – Effectiveness

Interviews and project documentation demonstrated that UN Volunteers under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project were able to coordinate with other UN agencies (particularly UNISDR, OCHA, and the UNDP regional office in Bangkok) as well as contribute to UNCT and UN agency project reporting. These contributions come in addition the planning support/standards development and work of UN Volunteers DRR Regional project UN Volunteers through UNCTs and UN agency projects on DRR as discussed above.

UN Volunteers from DRR Regional Project worked with directly with UNDP, OCHA, UNICEF, and UNISDR projects and were supervised by UNDP, OCHA, UNICEF, and UNISDR staff in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Interviews with UN Volunteers and other UN agency managers noted how this strengthened relationships between their organisations and UN Volunteers.

UN Volunteers in the DRR Regional Project and project reporting explicitly noted making the following contributions. These highlights were noted in the document review and/or interviews for the evaluation; there are likely other outputs and outcomes in this area that are not captured through these methods which are not included below.

Coordination was not one of the areas interviewees sought to focus on. Project UN Volunteers and others interviewed preferred to focus on the work that they had done to support DRR directly rather than work on coordination. It also proved challenging to try to separate support for coordination and ensuring that country progress and efforts on volunteerism and DRR are captured in regional progress reviews from support for country progress itself through the work of these UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project on UN agency projects and volunteerism.

Staff from other UN entities interviewed noted that they appreciated the contributions of DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers to UN and their own agency reporting as parts of their agencies' teams.

The following specific accomplishments were noted in project reporting:

India

The DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers in 2017 supported and coordinated UNDP-led monthly UNCT Results Group meetings on Energy, Environment and Resilience (formerly known as UN Disaster Management Team)

Indonesia

In 2015, DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers supported the UNCT in mainstreaming SFDRR in UNPDF implementation, to support ASEAN and United Nations Joint Strategy for Disaster Risk Management and to Support Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in mainstreaming DRR in Humanitarian Action, including in project and country reporting.

Malaysia

DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers in 2015 supported the Humanitarian Country Team and the Disaster Risk Assessments and reporting done by the team.

Maldives

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project international UN Volunteers posted to the UNDP Country Office was able to contribute to the small country team's work as the DRR expert.

Myanmar

2015 supported the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) and its Steering Committee, provided support to the Policy Technical Task Force (TTF) – under the DRRWG, provided technical support to the UNDP's Environment, Climate Change, Energy and DRR Pillar, and supported the implementation of the UN Volunteers project Piloting a DRR Youth Volunteer Network in Myanmar (with UNDP and UNICEF).

Sri Lanka

UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers were able to contribute to project-level reporting on DRR, particularly the expanded use of volunteerism and social media.

Thailand

In 2015, UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project supported the organization of the meeting of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms Wahlstrom.

Conclusions - Effectiveness

UN Volunteers deployed under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project were able to contribute to UNCT reporting, to UN coordination mechanisms and their reporting that linked UN agencies at the country level, and to coordination and reporting of projects and between projects, including of joint projects, of UN agencies where DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers worked. The extent to which the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project UN Volunteers were able to contribute in this area varied by country, as the opportunities for engagement and the size and receptiveness of UNCTs varied as did the work that UN Volunteers did on coordination with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP. Coordination in the UN system that was discussed in interviews was often at the agency level; at this level, UN entities are represented by their agency heads in country or other senior managers. UN Volunteers were able to support the leaders/managers at the country level of these agencies that they worked with on reporting;

UN Volunteers did not have independent roles in these processes or roles representing agencies themselves in large UN presence countries.

Findings – Impact

UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project reported instances where their interventions and engagement influenced changes in UNCT reporting and coordination between UN agencies at the country level. In most cases, UN Volunteers engaged in these processes through other UN agency staff.

Conclusions – Impact

While UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project noted instances when their coordination with other UN agencies led to country progress reports explicitly noting volunteerism and DRR, the lack of baselines and possible other interpretations for these results (mainly the engagement of other UN Agency staff and the prospect that they would note volunteerism and DRR without the project) means that impact cannot be rigorously determined. Since UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project were often part of larger project teams of UN Agencies; their contributions to coordination and reporting thus came through these teams, who may raise Volunteerism and DRR without these UN Volunteers engagement. It is thus difficult to come to a firm conclusion about project impact in this area.

Findings – Relevance

Interviews with UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project noted that coordinating and reporting were core areas of their work and some of their responsibilities under their DOAs. Coordinating and reporting was thus relevant to their work. Capturing results on progress developing and integrating volunteerism into DRR from the project was important to the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project.

Conclusions – Relevance

Coordination across agencies in the UN system on DRR and volunteerism is clearly relevant to the promotion of DRR and volunteerism. Coordination is thus relevant to support.

Findings – Sustainability

Interviews noted the contributions of UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project to the core UN coordination and reporting processes in the countries in which they worked; the UN Volunteers contributed through the UN agency programs in which they worked or through these agencies to the UNCT. UN staff and former UN Volunteers noted that these documents lived on and continue to guide UN engagement in these countries, thus sustaining their engagement.

Practices on coordination and reporting appear quite heterogeneous across countries and agencies that UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional project worked with. This heterogeneity was seen to make enduring effects from coordination or reporting limited and uncertain by UN Volunteers and UN staff interviewed.

Conclusions – Sustainability

The contributions of UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project were able, through work with UN agency counterparts, to contribute to UNCT reporting, to UN coordination mechanisms and their reporting that linked UN agencies at the country level. These contributions may help build frameworks that continue on beyond the period in which the particular UN Volunteers worked, which supports sustainability. These inputs however did not apparently build sustainable methods for UN Volunteers or volunteerism to be systematically incorporated in the next round of UNCT reporting and UN coordination on DRR. Sustainability is thus limited.

4. LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Efficiency – Lessons Learned

The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project was able to deliver capable UN Volunteers to support projects implemented by UN agency partners. The work done by UN Volunteers under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project was valued by the UN agencies and host-nation counterparts that they worked with on DRR.

Workshops are effective mechanisms for program implementation and coordination. The UN Volunteers DRR Regional project held two key workshops in its four years that were the ways that the project shared information and generated the required work plans, which summed up the activities planned of projects that UN Volunteers under the project were working on for other UN agencies.

The ways UN Volunteers were posted and managed under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project does not support managing for regional results. The Project Document did not develop any mechanisms for managing regionally. UN Volunteers deployed one UN Volunteer under the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project as a project manager; however this manager had no authority to manage the UN Volunteers deployed under the project. UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project were identified, hired, and managed under Descriptions of Assignments at the country level. The country focus left little space for regional engagement by UN Volunteers.

UN Volunteers regional project managers lacked tools to manage regional projects. UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project reported to UNCT or UN agency managers in the countries in which they were posted. The UN Volunteers Project Coordinator had only the power to influence and persuade UN Volunteers to participate and support the implementation of the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project, plus some financial resources for regional activities.

Efficiency - Recommendations

If UN Volunteers is going to implement regional thematic programs, UN Volunteers should consider developing clear briefings and ensure clear communication with UN Volunteers that are part of regional programs to facilitate their efficient work towards program goals and objectives. The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project was able to deliver support to meet project objectives and goals largely through the work of UN Volunteers for the projects of other UN agencies, but also sometimes through the extra efforts of individual UN Volunteers.

If UN Volunteers is going to implement regional thematic programs, UN Volunteers should develop ways to make reporting straightforward and facilitate management of the program and UN Volunteers in the program by UN Volunteers regional thematic program managers. UN Volunteers that work under these programs need simple measures and methods to report on activities and progress

towards objectives. UN Volunteers managers need methods to monitor and manage for results that they can use for project management.

Effectiveness – Lessons Learned

While UN Volunteers programs benefit from clear mechanisms for to share information, this sharing seems to have had limited effects on cross-country collaboration in DRR. While examples and lessons from other countries were noted and shared across the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project, these examples and lessons do not seem to have had clear implications for UN Volunteers or shaped their implementation of DRR strategies and standards, the promotion of volunteerism in DRR, the engagement of women, youth, people with disabilities, and marginalized populations in DRR, or coordination in DRR across UN agencies.

Plans, standards, and DRR in the post-2015 development agenda

Technically capable UN Volunteers are able to contribute to DRR planning, standards, and the integration of DRR into the post-2015 development agenda in conjunction with other UN agencies and projects in this highly relevant area to the countries of the region. UN Volunteers in the regional project were able to contribute to this technical area when they came to UN Volunteers with enough experience to be considered specialists in the context in which they were placed.

Volunteerism and DRR

UN Volunteers from the DRR Regional project were seen because of their experience, skills, and/or youth as well as history and current practice of volunteerism as natural contributors in the promotion of volunteerism in the UN system and for national agencies that they worked with. UN Volunteers in the project were better able to contribute in this area with less scepticism about their youth, seniority, or volunteer status.

UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project were able to play larger roles in the use and promotion of volunteerism and DRR in countries where there was a robust set of practices supporting volunteerism at the national level and a strong UN Volunteers office that was also engaged in promoting volunteerism. UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project mobilized many more national volunteers under these circumstances.

Women, youth, people with disabilities, and marginalized people in DRR and volunteerism

Youthful UN Volunteers in the project identified and supported a variety of mechanisms to promote youth volunteerism in DRR, largely through their work for UN agency projects. The area of youth volunteerism in DRR appears to have multiple opportunities that has been and can be further promoted to good effect in the countries of the region.

Coordination with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP

The ability of UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project to support coordination was often indirect. UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project were able to have an influence through the agencies and the agency leads that managed the projects to which the UN Volunteers were attached. Perceptions of UN Volunteers as junior and their status as UN Volunteers rather than staff members of the organisations with which they worked limited the direct ability of UN Volunteers from the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project to work on UN system coordination. While the contributions of UN Volunteers in the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project to UN system coordination were appreciated by members of UNCTs and UN agencies in the countries where the regional project operated, inter-agency coordination (particularly in planning documents like UNDAFs and UNPAFs) operate the level of heads of agencies/entities that are not amenable to direct substantive influence from UN Volunteers that work on projects with these agencies or support UNCTs.

Effectiveness – Recommendations

While UN Volunteers can implement regional programs, UN Volunteers should consider what the benefits to implementing regional thematic projects are for UN Volunteers as an organisation. The evaluation concludes that the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project had many positive impacts and value at the national level in the countries in which it was implemented. The evaluation's field work did not find important benefits to DRR or the promotion of volunteerism that came from implementing the UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project regionally in this case. The UN Volunteers DRR Regional Project produced outputs and contributed to outcomes that furthered the objectives of UN Volunteers and the program in the areas of DRR strategies and standards, the promotion of volunteerism in DRR, the engagement of women, youth, people with disabilities, and marginalized populations in DRR, and in coordination in DRR across UN agencies. These benefits appear at the country level, which contribute to UN Volunteers' global goals; it was not clear what benefits there were at the regional level based on the design and project implementation.

If UN Volunteers is going to implement regional programs, UN Volunteers should develop ways to have regional programs systematically and clearly add value to the placement of UN Volunteers with host agencies based on sharing and synthesising learning across countries in the region. Any future UN Volunteers regional programs should work with partners and stakeholders to develop ways and mechanisms for cross-national learning across the region or ways to implement regionally in ways that augment program influence, effectiveness, impact, and/or sustainability.

Plans, standards, and DRR in the post-2015 development agenda

UN Volunteers should seek to place UN Volunteers for a substantial period of time in order to develop the trust and confidence of national counterparts and host UN agency staff needed to make substantial contributions to DRR through their work on UN agency projects through a regional UN Volunteers project. UN Volunteers needs to consider how to balance the merits of longer postings for greater substantive impact with supporting the professional development and advancement of UN Volunteers.

Volunteerism and DRR

UN Volunteers and UN Volunteers should continue to emphasize and promote volunteerism as the area where UN Volunteers most clearly has a specialization that contributes to UNCTs, partner UN agencies, and national agencies. The DRR Regional Project was able to support and promote volunteerism in the diverse contexts of UNCTs, UN partner agencies, and host countries in the region.

Women, youth, people with disabilities, and marginalized people in DRR and volunteerism

In order to more strongly support women, youth, people with disabilities, and marginalized people, UN Volunteers should develop clear guidance for UN Volunteers to more effectively and efficiently focus on these populations in their work and provide structured support through UN Volunteers managers for these efforts.

Coordination with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP

UN Volunteers should be more realistic and modest about the roles and expectations of deployed UN Volunteers in UN-system coordination in the drafting of any thematic Project Documents as well as in the expectations put in any Description of Assignment. For future regional or thematic programs in UN system coordination, Project Documents should focus on what is realistic – for UN Volunteers to support rather than lead agencies and UNCTs in coordination efforts. DOAs for UN Volunteers should be

correspondingly realistic. The heads of UN Volunteers offices in countries or UN Volunteers regional offices should take the lead in coordination across UN agencies.

ANNEX 1: EVALUATION MATRIX

Evaluation Questions	Sub-questions	Indicators/Performance Measures	Data Sources (primary and secondary)	Data Collection Tools	Data Analysis Plans
Effectiveness					
How has the project's work been effective?	<p>How has the project's work been effective in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assisting national and local institutions, marginalized groups, and international partners to develop common visions, plans and programmes for addressing disaster and climate risk in development strategies? • promoting the integration of DRR and volunteerism in assessments, frameworks, partnerships, strategies, and recovery plans? • providing guidance on a set of standards and methods for comprehensive disaster risk assessment and information-sharing in the context of the post-2015 development agenda discussions and post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction for countries and partners? • working on ensuring that DRR is a key component of the post-2015 	<p>UN Volunteers staff, other UN organisation staff, partner, beneficiary, and stakeholder perceptions effectiveness</p> <p>Evidence for their perceptions, both retrospective and current (stories, examples, perceived changes)</p> <p>Evidence for perception change or behavioural change through explanation (stories, examples, perceived changes)</p>	<p>Secondary documents (Project reporting, other project documentation)</p> <p>Interviews with UN Volunteers and other UN organisation staff, partners, beneficiaries, and stakeholders</p>	<p>Semi-structured interview guide and questions</p>	<p>Content and thematic analysis and comparison</p> <p>Trend analysis of change over time</p>

	<p>development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for DRR?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting that the role of volunteerism and volunteers is recognized as an important component of the post-2015 development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for DRR? • identifying links between women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people to voluntary actions on DRR and its contribution to build resilient communities? • giving visibility to women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people's contributions through civil engagement to demonstrate their strategic role and contribution to DRR and response to disasters? • promoting and supporting women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people volunteering through civic engagement in order to have a multiplier effect, expanding participation and involving larger numbers of people who have traditionally been excluded? • coordinating with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP Regional Offices in Bangkok to ensure that 				
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	country progress and efforts on volunteerism and DRR are captured in regional progress reviews?				
Efficiency					
Has the project's work been efficiently delivered?	<p>Has the project's work been efficiently delivered in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assisting national and local institutions, marginalized groups, and international partners to develop common visions, plans and programmes for addressing disaster and climate risk in development strategies? • promoting the integration of DRR and volunteerism in assessments, frameworks, partnerships, strategies, and recovery plans? • providing guidance on a set of standards and methods for comprehensive disaster risk assessment and information-sharing in the context of the post-2015 development agenda discussions and post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction for countries and partners? • working on ensuring that DRR is a key component of the post-2015 development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for DRR? 	<p>UN Volunteers staff, other UN organisation staff, partner, beneficiary, and stakeholder perceptions of efficiency</p> <p>Evidence for their perceptions, both retrospective and current (stories, examples, perceived changes)</p> <p>Evidence for perception change or behavioural change through explanation (stories, examples, perceived changes)</p>	<p>Secondary documents (Project reporting, other project documentation)</p> <p>Interviews with UN Volunteers and other UN organisation staff, partners, beneficiaries, and stakeholders</p>	<p>Semi-structured interview guide and questions</p>	<p>Content and thematic analysis and comparison</p> <p>Trend analysis of change over time</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting that the role of volunteerism and volunteers is recognized as an important component of the post-2015 development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for DRR? • identifying links between women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people to voluntary actions on DRR and its contribution to build resilient communities? • giving visibility to women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people's contributions through civil engagement to demonstrate their strategic role and contribution to DRR and response to disasters? • promoting and supporting women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people volunteering through civic engagement in order to have a multiplier effect, expanding participation and involving larger numbers of people who have traditionally been excluded? • coordinating with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP Regional Offices in Bangkok to ensure that country progress and efforts on volunteerism and DRR are 				
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	captured in regional progress reviews?				
Relevance					
How relevant is the project's work?	<p>How relevant is the project's work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assisting national and local institutions, marginalized groups, and international partners to develop common visions, plans and programmes for addressing disaster and climate risk in development strategies? • promoting the integration of DRR and volunteerism in assessments, frameworks, partnerships, strategies, and recovery plans? • providing guidance on a set of standards and methods for comprehensive disaster risk assessment and information-sharing in the context of the post-2015 development agenda discussions and post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction for countries and partners? • working on ensuring that DRR is a key component of the post-2015 development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for DRR? • promoting that the role of volunteerism and volunteers is recognized as an important 	<p>UN Volunteers staff, other UN organisation staff, partner, beneficiary, and stakeholder perceptions of relevance</p> <p>Evidence for their perceptions, both retrospective and current (stories, examples, perceived changes)</p> <p>Evidence for perception change or behavioural change through explanation (stories, examples, perceived changes)</p>	<p>Secondary documents (Project reporting, other project documentation)</p> <p>Interviews with UN Volunteers and other UN organisation staff, partners, beneficiaries, and stakeholders</p>	<p>Semi-structured interview guide and questions</p>	<p>Content and thematic analysis and comparison</p> <p>Trend analysis of change over time</p>

	<p>component of the post-2015 development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for DRR?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying links between women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people to voluntary actions on DRR and its contribution to build resilient communities? • giving visibility to women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people's contributions through civil engagement to demonstrate their strategic role and contribution to DRR and response to disasters? • promoting and supporting women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people volunteering through civic engagement in order to have a multiplier effect, expanding participation and involving larger numbers of people who have traditionally been excluded? • coordinating with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP Regional Offices in Bangkok to ensure that country progress and efforts on volunteerism and DRR are captured in regional progress reviews? 				
Impact					

What has been the impact of the project?	<p>What has been the impact of the project in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assisting national and local institutions, marginalized groups, and international partners to develop common visions, plans and programmes for addressing disaster and climate risk in development strategies? • promoting the integration of DRR and volunteerism in assessments, frameworks, partnerships, strategies, and recovery plans? • providing guidance on a set of standards and methods for comprehensive disaster risk assessment and information-sharing in the context of the post-2015 development agenda discussions and post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction for countries and partners? • working on ensuring that DRR is a key component of the post-2015 development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for DRR? • promoting that the role of volunteerism and volunteers is recognized as an important component of the post-2015 development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for DRR? 	<p>UN Volunteers staff, other UN organisation staff, partner, beneficiary, and stakeholder perceptions of impact</p> <p>Evidence for their perceptions, both retrospective and current (stories, examples, perceived changes)</p> <p>Evidence for perception change or behavioural change through explanation (stories, examples, perceived changes)</p>	<p>Secondary documents (Project reporting, other project documentation)</p> <p>Interviews with UN Volunteers and other UN organisation staff, partners, beneficiaries, and stakeholders</p>	<p>Semi-structured interview guide and questions</p>	<p>Content and thematic analysis and comparison</p> <p>Trend analysis of change over time</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifying links between women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people to voluntary actions on DRR and its contribution to build resilient communities? giving visibility to women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people's contributions through civil engagement to demonstrate their strategic role and contribution to DRR and response to disasters? promoting and supporting women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people volunteering through civic engagement in order to have a multiplier effect, expanding participation and involving larger numbers of people who have traditionally been excluded? coordinating with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP Regional Offices in Bangkok to ensure that country progress and efforts on volunteerism and DRR are captured in regional progress reviews? 				
Sustainability					

How sustainable is the project's work?	<p>How sustainable is the project's work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assisting national and local institutions, marginalized groups, and international partners to develop common visions, plans and programmes for addressing disaster and climate risk in development strategies? • promoting the integration of DRR and volunteerism in assessments, frameworks, partnerships, strategies, and recovery plans? • providing guidance on a set of standards and methods for comprehensive disaster risk assessment and information-sharing in the context of the post-2015 development agenda discussions and post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction for countries and partners? • working on ensuring that DRR is a key component of the post-2015 development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for DRR? • promoting that the role of volunteerism and volunteers is recognized as an important component of the post-2015 development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for DRR? 	<p>UN Volunteers staff, other UN organisation staff, partner, beneficiary, and stakeholder perceptions of sustainability</p> <p>Evidence for their perceptions, both retrospective and current (stories, examples, perceived changes)</p> <p>Evidence for perception change or behavioural change through explanation (stories, examples, perceived changes)</p>	<p>Secondary documents (Project reporting, other project documentation)</p> <p>Interviews with UN Volunteers and other UN organisation staff, partners, beneficiaries, and stakeholders</p>	<p>Semi-structured interview guide and questions</p>	<p>Content and thematic analysis and comparison</p> <p>Trend analysis of change over time</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying links between women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people to voluntary actions on DRR and its contribution to build resilient communities? • giving visibility to women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people's contributions through civil engagement to demonstrate their strategic role and contribution to DRR and response to disasters? • promoting and supporting women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people volunteering through civic engagement in order to have a multiplier effect, expanding participation and involving larger numbers of people who have traditionally been excluded? • coordinating with UNISDR, OCHA, and UNDP Regional Offices in Bangkok to ensure that country progress and efforts on volunteerism and DRR are captured in regional progress reviews? 				
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ANNEX 3: INTERVIEWS

UN Volunteers Bonn

Mr. Rafael Martinez, Portfolio Manager

Mr. Martin Hart-Hansen, Chief of the Executive Office, Strategic Planning Advisor

Thailand

Ms. Manon Bernier, Regional Portfolio Manager and Deputy, UN Volunteers Asia and the Pacific

Ms. Olga Shashkina, former UN Volunteers Disaster Risk Reduction Programme Coordinator (2015)

Ms. Jwala Panday, UN Volunteers Disaster Risk Reduction Programme Coordinator

Ms. Aticha Chaivichian, former DRR Associate, UN Volunteers

Ms. Prachakporn Sophon, former DRR Associate, UN Volunteers

Ms. Duangnapa Uttamangkpong, Plan and Policy Analyst, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior

Mr. Kosit Srikritsanarat, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior

Mr. Sanny Ramos Jegillos, Senior Technical Regional DRR Advisor, UNDP

Ms. Shairi Mathur, UNDP

Ms. Shalina Miah, Regional Manager, Asia and the Pacific Office, UN Volunteers

Mr. Wisoot Tantinan, Team Leader/ Programme Specialist Democratic Governance and Social Advocacy

India

Mr. Victor Igbokwe, former DRR Specialist, UN Volunteers

Indonesia

Ms. Malashree Bhargava, former DRR Specialist, UN Volunteers

Mr. Adrianus Tanjung, former DRR Associate, UN Volunteers

Mr. Olivier Hall, OCHA

Malaysia

Mr. Ah Jon Cha Pik, former DRR Associate, UN Volunteers

Maldives

Mr. Juderaj Croos, former DRR Specialist

Myanmar

Ms. Serena Arcone, former DRR Specialist, UN Volunteers

Mr. Saw Gaw Khee Lar, former DRR Associate, UN Volunteers

Mr. Biplove Choudhary, UNDP

Mr. Kyaw Thu Lwin, UNICEF

Sri Lanka

Mr Sampath Abeyratna, Technical Coordinator, UNDP

Ms. Florita Gunasekara, former DRR Associate, UN Volunteers

Ms Harini Nishshanka, former DRR Associate, UN Volunteers

Mr Kalana Cooray, Technical Coordinator, PMU, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources and Disaster Management

Ms Sureka Perera, Programme Quality and Design Analyst, UNDP

ANNEX 4: RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

JULY 2018²

Project aimed to achieve

<p>Project Output</p> <p>1. UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and UN entities capacities are strengthened in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, SriLanka and Thailand to provide effective support to country driven efforts to address disaster risk.</p> <p>Output Number:</p> <p>1</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of partnerships and national and regional events to promote and enhance DRR and Volunteerism. - Number of UN Volunteers. - UN Online Volunteers mobilized, and other volunteers mobilized through UNV-UN entities' joint programmes/projects. -Number of capacity-development activities for communities on building resilience against climate change and disaster risks, disaggregated by women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized people <p>Targets:</p> <p>At least 3 official documents integrate disaster risk reduction and volunteerism</p>	<p>Global Programme Outcome: UNV_Outcome 7 DRR_Enhanced global, regional and national capacities for resilience for environmental management and DRR</p> <p>Project Outcome: The importance of disaster risk reduction and resilience for sustainable development, as well as the relevance of the role and importance of volunteerism as a strong people-centered approach to achieving this, is demonstrated to and recognized by stakeholders of the post-2015 development agenda and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Achieved Results (UNV Specific)</p> <p>UNV supported UNDP's regional project on " Strengthening School Preparedness for Tsunamis in Asia and the Pacific by organizing drills in Myanmar and Thailand to build stronger partnership between UNDP and UNV.</p> <p>Organized and facilitated training on tsunami preparedness and school evacuation drills design, involving students and teachers in five schools. In total 658 people participated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Kungyangon Basic Education High School 2.Letkokon Basic Education High School 3.Labutta Basic Education High School 4.3 Mile Basic Education High School Labutta 5.Kyun Nyo Kun Thee Chaung Branch Basic Education High School, Bogale <p>Likewise,</p>	<p>Status:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Achieved</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Partially</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Not Achieved</p> <p>Percentage %</p> <p>100</p> <p>Partners capacitated (Government institution: VIOs, CSOs, etc)</p> <p>(Around 2389, with minimum females (inclu school children in 5 sch teachers, principals and a local involved stakehol like Parents Association, Cross, Fire Brigade, Wom Association etc)</p>
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² Please insert additional outputs where applicable

<p>- At least 3 new partnerships are developed</p> <p>- At least 40 UNV Online Volunteers & 600 other volunteers mobilized</p> <p>- At least 50 UNV Online Volunteers and 800 of other volunteers³ mobilized</p> <p>- At least 3 capacity-development activities implemented</p> <p>-At least 80% of UNRCO satisfied with the UNV assignment</p> <p>-Evaluation report containing qualitative and quantitative data on the contribution to DRR Volunteerism of the UN Volunteers under the project</p> <p>Baseline: <i>To be established</i></p>	<p>UNV organized drills in Thailand where 1,731 teachers and students participated in 5 schools . Please find the numbers regarding school plans;</p> <p>1. Ban Bang Niang School; 15 teachers (M: 2 WM: 13)/ 246 students (119 G, 127 B (include1 Autistic boy and 1 Multi-Handicapped boy)</p> <p>2.Praratchathan Tublamu School; 20 teachers (M: 6 WM: 14)/ 159 students (83 G , 76 Boy include 1 student in wheelchair).</p> <p>3.Ban Nam Kem Shool; 19 teachers (M:6 WM: 13) / 251 students (118 G 133 B)</p> <p>4.Ban Bang Muang School: 30 teachers (M: 5 WM:25)/ 694 students (320: G 374: B)</p> <p>5.Koh Mak Noi School; 18 teachers (M: 4 WM: 14)/ 279 students (154 G , 125 B)</p> <p><i>Drafted policy document “Guidance note on integrating volunteerism in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction roll-out” in Indonesia”.</i></p> <p><i>Drafted Course Design on training manual “Volunteerism and Disaster Risk Reduction” and organizing consultations workshop in India.</i></p> <p><i>UNRCO satisfied and reported on UN Volunteers assignment.</i></p> <p>UN Volunteers;</p>	
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³ ‘Other’ volunteers are those who are not UN Volunteers, but are mobilized by UNV directly or by partners with UNV support.

	<p><i>Contributed to designing a database of tsunami prone areas in the 18 project countries with a list of all schools in tsunami prone areas</i></p> <p><i>1 Designed the data to be collected and developed a data collection manual to support the UNDP Country offices</i></p> <p><i>2 Calculated the number of areas, schools and students in Tsunami prone areas in Myanmar and Pakistan</i></p> <p><i>3 Researched the current status of the use of the Loss and Damage databases in 15 countries in Asia and the Pacific region to propose for the improvement</i></p> <p><i>4 Developed and updated a excel database regarding tsunami evacuation drills</i></p> <p><i>5 Developed a web map to locate the schools that conducted tsunami drill to support data visualization</i></p> <p><i>6 Drafted a survey regarding data collection capacity of UNDP Country offices to flag the challenges on data management capacity and to support project planning on data capacity building.</i></p> <p><i>7. Reviewed and assisted to revise a concept note by making it coherent to fulfil the requirement of Japanese Government</i></p> <p><i>8. Support the translation of the communication materials to outreach Japanese stakeholders and published one article regarding tsunami evacuation drill in Indonesia in UNDP Tokyo website</i></p>	
<p>Project Output</p> <p>The importance of disaster risk reduction and resilience for sustainable development, as well as relevance of the role and importance of volunteerism as a strong people-centered approach to achieve this, is demonstrated to and recognized by stakeholders of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Post 2015 Development Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.</p> <p>Output Number:</p>	<p>Achieved Results (UNV Specific)</p> <p>Three research papers drafted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Study on volunteerism in Disaster Management in Thailand had been undertaken by the UN Volunteer by reviewing legislation, policies, institutional framework and current activities of organizations mobilizing volunteers. The study has come up with conclusion on challenges and recommendations to promote volunteering on disaster management. • UN Volunteer produced the case study on a community based volunteer network, called “Kyone Ma Ku Creek Network”. The case study focuses on one group of volunteers from six small rural villages in Myanmar and examines the process 	<p>Status:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Achieved</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Partially</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Not Achieved</p> <p>Percentage %</p> <p>100</p>

<p>2</p> <p>Indicator: Number of regional and national policy documents that integrate volunteerism into environmental management and DRR programmes and projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence of good practices and lessons learned in support and implementation of regional/national initiatives towards the Hyogo Framework for Action. - Number of new research papers, supported by volunteers through the project, on environmental change and disaster preparedness published - Number of events for preparation for the WCDRR supported. <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 3 research paper on environmental change and disaster preparedness published. -At least 80% of UNRCO satisfied with the UNV Assignment. - Evaluation report containing qualitative and quantitative data on the contribution to DRR & and volunteerism of the UN volunteers <p>Volunteerism of the UN Volunteers</p> <p>Baseline: <i>To be established</i></p>	<p>by which they stopped illegal gold mines that were polluting their waterways and ruining their health and livelihoods. Drawing on this analysis the investigation seeks to draw some conclusions as to how community based volunteers can be better supported to play a larger and more effective role in protecting their environments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Volunteer in India conducted a research on Resilience Smart Cities “Analysis of technical and policy options for adaptation and DRR” towards addressing consequences of Climate Change. The overall objective is to understand how cities are responding to climate change risks and hazards through. <p>Final Project Evaluation Drafted the Terms of References for the project evaluation to identify any significant changes and impact the role of volunteering had for the beneficiaries in building new skills and capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction alongside expanding the reach of DRR efforts in the project countries. The contract has been awarded to the consultant and study is ongoing.</p>	<p>Partners capacitated (Government institution: , VIOs, CSOs, etc)</p> <p><i>(Around 150)</i></p>
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