



Kabul, Afghanistan, 5 December 2007

VOLUNTEERS VITAL WORK ACROSS AFGHANISTAN

To mark International Volunteer Day, the United Nations Volunteer programme is holding many events to help build a better future for all people across the country.

From ensuring that young people in Balkh are aware of HIV/AIDS; to health and hygiene programmes in Nangahar; to family planning in Bamyan; to tree planting in Faizabad; to painting with pre-school children - volunteers in Afghanistan are making a real difference to the lives of the people they are working with.

Volunteering brings benefits to society at large and the individual volunteer. It makes important contributions, economically as well as socially and *ashar* is central to Afghan culture.

Monica Villarindo, head of the United Nations Volunteer programme in Afghanistan said:

“International Volunteer Day is a time to celebrate and promote all the volunteers across Afghanistan who are working to achieve peace and development for their communities. These dedicated individuals are helping to improve people’s lives. This day is not just about United Nations Volunteers, but is about all those who volunteer across the world. Communities can empower themselves to resolve their own problems with the support of voluntary activities.”

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- There are over 80 United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) currently working across Afghanistan.
- In 1985, the United Nations General Assembly designated 5 December as an annual celebration of voluntary action by people, communities and governments of the world. International Volunteer Day (IVD) is for volunteers from all walks of life working in communities around the globe.
- For more details, visit the IVD website: <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/intl-volunteer-day.html>
- For further information please contact: Hubert Topinka: hubert.topinka@undp.org or mobile: 0700 089 566.

