

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings and welcome to our newsletter, a monthly update on what UNV Sri Lanka is doing in promoting volunteerism for peace and development.



Newsletter

August 2021

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The Virtual Commemoration of International Youth Day

International Youth Day 2021

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN
FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION
THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

Live Event  zoom  LIVE
12 Aug 2021 3pm-4.30pm

Register here bit.ly/IYD21-LK



Hanaa Singer-Hamdy
UN Resident
Coordinator in Sri Lanka



Vimlendra Sharan
FAO Representative,
Sri Lanka&Maldives



Sharmalee Jayasinghe
Country Coordinator
UNV Sri Lanka



Siri Hettige
Professor Emeritus of
Sociology, University
of Colombo



Oshara De Silva
Nutritionist, SMKYA
Clinical Dietitian,
Melbourne Health



Medhini Igoor
Co-Founder
Us on Earth



UNITED NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH DAY



2021
TRANSFORMING
FOOD SYSTEMS



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



UN
VOLUNTEERS
Sri Lanka

On the **International Youth Day (IYD)** that fell on 12th August, **UNV Sri Lanka in collaboration with FAO Sri Lanka** co-organized a panel discussion titled '**Community Engagement in Food Systems Transformation through Volunteering.**' The panelists and guest speakers shared their insight, perspectives and experiences around the topic of food systems transformation. They also stressed on the key role youth have in achieving more sustainable food systems.

Watch the recording for more details and see below quotes from the participants.

[Watch the recording](#)

The quotes of the participants

(Click to view full-size images)

INTERNATIONAL YOUTHDAY led by UN Volunteers Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations **UN VOLUNTEERS** in Sri Lanka

"We must continue to ensure the meaningful participation and engagement of young people in transforming food systems. We as the UN want to be your allies to make sure you are engaged, included, understood and guided in this endeavour by the United Nations system-wide Youth Strategy, Youth2030."

Hanaa Singer-Hamdy
UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka

IYD 2021 | Community Engagement in Food Systems Transformation through Volunteering

INTERNATIONAL YOUTHDAY led by UN Volunteers Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations **UN VOLUNTEERS** in Sri Lanka

"The food systems belong to every individual, society and country. All of us, therefore, must be responsible to ensure the system functions well. The world relies on the youth. Without them, there is no future. So young people have to take a responsibility and take the world forward towards the most sustainable global systems all around."

Vinindra Sharan
FAO Representative, Sri Lanka & Maldives

IYD 2021 | Community Engagement in Food Systems Transformation through Volunteering

INTERNATIONAL YOUTHDAY led by UN Volunteers Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations **UN VOLUNTEERS** in Sri Lanka

"Do not limit yourself to opportunities around you. Seek and join knowledge sharing and volunteering opportunities. Participate in the global learning programmes and events such as UN Food Systems Summit, contribute to addressing and solving the problems through innovation. Learn about these and start your action today."

Sharmalee Jayasinghe
Country Coordinator, UNV Sri Lanka

IYD 2021 | Community Engagement in Food Systems Transformation through Volunteering

INTERNATIONAL YOUTHDAY led by UN Volunteers Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations **UN VOLUNTEERS** in Sri Lanka

"We have to break the binary of 'farmers' and 'non-farmers'. You can't be a non-farmer your entire life and only depend on farmers to produce food for you. Even in Europe, we can see young people taking care of urban community gardens and being a part of the food production cycle from a very young age."

Siti Hettige
Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of Colombo

IYD 2021 | Community Engagement in Food Systems Transformation through Volunteering

INTERNATIONAL YOUTHDAY led by UN Volunteers Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations **UN VOLUNTEERS** in Sri Lanka

"Planning our diets ahead of time is crucial to balance the necessary nutrition intake and reduce food waste. Looking into more sustainable, plant-based alternatives is also a long-term good practice everyone should follow."

Oshara De Silva
Nutritionist, SMKYA
Clinical Dietitian, Melbourne Health

IYD 2021 | Community Engagement in Food Systems Transformation through Volunteering

INTERNATIONAL YOUTHDAY led by UN Volunteers Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations **UN VOLUNTEERS** in Sri Lanka

"You need to have a connection between you and where your food is coming from. That curiosity is what will drive you to take action to grow your own organic food, in ways that do not hurt animals, soil or other natural resources around us."

Muthini Ignor
Co-Founder, Us on Earth

IYD 2021 | Community Engagement in Food Systems Transformation through Volunteering

INTERNATIONAL YOUTHDAY led by UN Volunteers Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations **UN VOLUNTEERS** in Sri Lanka

"Everyone can help the environment by becoming a beekeeper. Bees are natural pollinators that provide a great service to the whole ecosystem for free. Imagine that you are giving a home to a nature's worker!"

Sujun Jayawardana
Beekeeper
NYSC
Founder of SR Products

IYD 2021 | Community Engagement in Food Systems Transformation through Volunteering

INTERNATIONAL YOUTHDAY led by UN Volunteers Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations **UN VOLUNTEERS** in Sri Lanka

"Our farmers work tirelessly to produce our food but their efforts and natural resources like water, land and soil go wasted when we throw away food. Our school is taking action to reduce food waste. Simple actions like creating awareness among students, serving different portion sizes at the canteen, encouraging students to serve only what they can eat, composting and installing bio gas units for recycling have helped to create a zero waste environment in our school."

Dovni Adilaram
Student, Devi Balika Vidyalaya

IYD 2021 | Community Engagement in Food Systems Transformation through Volunteering

The Story of UN Volunteers Ensuring Resilience Building



Global development efforts will not be successful without the meaningful participation of young people. To mark the **International Youth Day 2021** based on the theme "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and

Planetary Health", UNV published a story about the contributions and difference **six talented UN Volunteers** are making through their assignments with WFP in Sri Lanka.

"My thanks to UN Volunteers for a great partnership over the years and for their enthusiasm and commitment. UN Volunteers at WFP engaged with beneficiaries on the field with great passion and have become part of the WFP family."
- Andrea Berardo, Deputy Country Director, WFP Sri Lanka

Find out more about how these UN Volunteers tackle food insecurity, ensure resilience building, and support livelihoods.

[Read the full story](#)

Recognition of Volunteerism - 'Together At Home Challenge'

NATIONAL YOUTH
VOLUNTEERING WEEK
Together at Home!

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

THEME 1
Sustainable Consumption and Production

Foundation of Goodness

13 CLIMATE ACTION

THEME 2
Combat Climate Change

Ethugalpura Pioneers' District Rover Crew

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

THEME 3
Education for all

Jemima Uthayakumar

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

THEME 4
Health and Wellbeing

Homagama District Scout Branch

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

THEME 5
Peace and Harmony

Foundation of Goodness

We appreciate your volunteering initiatives created at home and for inspiring the community to become changemakers!



UNV Sri Lanka announced **five volunteer initiatives** that were recognized under the **'Together At Home Challenge'** conducted in May 2021 under five themes.

Find out the details of these initiatives on our social media channels.

- [Foundation of Goodness - THEME 1 Sustainable Consumption and Production](#)
 - [The Ethugalpura Pioneers' District Rover Crew - THEME 2 Combat Climate Change](#)
 - [Jemima Uthayakumar - THEME 3 Education for All](#)
 - [Homagama District Scout Branch - THEME 4 Health and Wellbeing](#)
 - [Foundation of Goodness - THEME 5 Peace and Harmony](#)
-

Welcome to the UNV Family



"I am thrilled to be joining the UNV in the capacity of Volunteer Management Coordinator. I look forward to making a positive impact on the organization's wider goals both at home and abroad while learning from the other members of the team. I am excited to see what the future holds!"

Piyusha Sumanapala

Volunteer Management Coordinator – UNV

Farewell & Thank You

"First of all, I consider myself highly privileged to have this wonderful opportunity to contribute towards sustainable development goals, particularly zero hunger. It has broadened my knowledge, skills,



and network by allowing me to participate in a variety of tasks. Any UN Volunteers can use this as an entry point where we serve our best and learn from our experience. We commit to making an impact and it is always for a good cause. It allows us to change people's lives, including our own. I can strongly recommend this UNV program to anyone who wants to create a solid career because it provides numerous opportunities and a platform for career advancement."

Sathsara Deyalage
Nutrition Assistant – WFP

COVID-19 Updates

Stay updated on the COVID status in Sri Lanka by visiting the official website which can be accessed by clicking the link shared below.

[Click here for the COVID-19 updates](#)

Join the campaign promoting life-saving information



Verified is a United Nations initiative to encourage us all to check the advice we share. Sign up to receive content you can trust: life-saving information, fact-based advice, and stories from the best of humanity.

[Go to Verified](#)

Keep updated with our latest news!



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