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Number 26

September 2010



Avancer contre vents et marrées

Forging ahead despite all else

en français

Plus de sept mois nous séparent maintenant du 12 janvier 2010, date à laquelle le séisme a frappé Haïti, réduisant sa capitale historique Port-au-Prince en ville de gravats et de débris. Aujourd'hui, presque tout l'espace disponible, y compris les coteaux, a été transformé en villages de camps de personnes déplacées. Les blessures se cicatrisent certes, mais les cicatrices sont encore fraîches pendant que la population essaie de construire une nouvelle vie. Cependant, le débat ces jours ne porte plus sur le secours d'urgence, mais bien sur la reconstruction.

Toutes les mains sont à la pâte pour reconstruire Haïti et les Haïtiens ne sont pas seuls dans l'effort pour forger un nouvel avenir, un avenir meilleur. Les partenaires nationaux et internationaux sont à leurs côtés. Pendant que le pays traverse cette période extrêmement difficile de son histoire, l'esprit de volontariat a pris une place centrale. Haïti pourrait ainsi bien être l'un des pays dont l'avenir serait marqué par le volontariat.

Le volontariat local gagné en dynamisme surtout parmi les jeunes qui, dans des villes comme Léogane, Cap-Haïtien et Saint-Marc, s'unissent pour offrir leur temps et leurs talents en vue d'améliorer la vie des autres. Dans cet effort commun pour construire le nouvel édifice appelé Haïti, les Volontaires des Nations Unies, de leur côté, font un excellent travail dans différents domaines. En Juin, une délégation de haut niveau est venue du siège des VNU à Bonn pour visiter Haïti. Conduite par la Directrice exécutive adjointe, la délégation a fait le tour du pays pour rencontrer les volontaires nationaux et internationaux afin de les féliciter pour le service qu'ils rendent à l'humanité.

Cette édition du bulletin revisite le travail de ces volontaires dans des domaines variés tels que les transports, la justice, l'environnement, les affaires civiles, l'ingénierie, les élections et la réduction de la violence communautaire. Bonne lecture.

in english

It is more than eight months since the 12 January 2010 earthquake stroke Haiti, reducing its historical capital Port-au-Prince to a city of rubble and debris. Today, almost every available space including hillsides has been transformed into IDP camp villages. The wounds are healing but the scars are still fresh as the population try to build a new life. However, the talk these days is not still about emergency relief but about reconstruction.

All hands are on deck to rebuild Haiti and Haitians are not alone in the effort to forge a new and better future. Both national and international partners are by their side. As the country goes through this extremely difficult period of its history, the spirit of volunteerism has taken central stage and so Haiti might just be one of countries whose future could be shaped by volunteerism.

Local volunteerism especially amongst the youth has gained vibrancy in areas such as Leogane, Cap Haitien and St Marc as people come together to offer their time and talents to improve on the lives of others. In this common effort to build the new edifice called Haiti, the UNV volunteers on their part, are doing great work in different spheres. In June, a high level delegation from the UNV Headquarters in Bonn visited Haiti. Led by the Deputy Executive Director, the team walked the length and breadth of the country to meet with both national and international volunteers to give them thumbs up for the service to humanity.

This edition of the newsletter revisits the work of these volunteers in varied fields such as transport, justice, environment, civil affairs, engineering, electoral and community violence reduction. Enjoy the reading.



EFFERVESCENCE PRE ELECTIONALE DANS LE NORD-OUEST : la révision des listes électorales partielles

Nous vivons un moment extraordinaire, un moment électoral qui génère en Haïti, les premières élections en Haïti post séisme de janvier 2010, Haïti détruite, Haïti à reconstruire. Le président, les sénateurs et les parlementaires qui sortiront de ces élections doivent conduire le peuple haïtien vers une nouvelle Haïti, une Haïti transformée non seulement sur le plan architectural, mais aussi sur le plan social et économique. Ces élections sont rehaussées par l'envie de la diaspora haïtienne de se faire entendre. Élections présidentielles cristallisées par exemple autour de l'artiste chanteur Jeannel Wyclef JEAN dont la candidature a suscité beaucoup de commentaires et a permis à bon nombre de croire à la chose. Nous vivons avec effervescence la période préélectorale avec l'activité COV.

Le COV, c'est l'abréviation de Centre d'Opérations de Vérification. Il s'agit de centre de vote (CV) transformé pour l'occasion en lieu de vérification des listes électorales partielles (LEP). Lancées officiellement au Cap Haïtien depuis le 13 août 2010 par le Directeur Général du Conseil Electoral Provisoire (CEP), Pierre Louis Opoint, les opérations de vérification des listes électorales partielles ont démarré, dans le département du Nord-Ouest dont j'ai la charge, le mercredi 18 août 2010 avec la formation des formateurs. Mais bien avant la formation, il y a eu des activités préparatoires comme la réception et la livraison du matériel COV.

Le matériel COV a été livré deux fois. La première fois le samedi 14 août par un vol spécial, la deuxième fois le mercredi 18 août par le vol régulier du matin. Il a été constaté que les fiches d'inscription livrées dans le département du Nord-Ouest appartenant toutes normalement au département du Centre. Cette substitution a entraîné un travail supplémentaire de répartition des fiches par commune. Pour se faire, il nous a fallu d'abord compter les fiches, ensuite calculer le nombre d'électeurs par commune pour déterminer approximativement le quota de fiches à envoyer dans chacune des 10 communes que compte le département du Nord-Ouest.

Les COV ont débuté avec la formation en cascade qui est une stratégie de répercussion trilogique ou tétralogique de la formation électorale. Elle a consisté à organiser au niveau



Pierre Kadi Sossou avec les collègues du BED du Nord Ouest

de la direction centrale de la Commission Electorale Provisoire, une session de formation aux grands formateurs électoraux qui ont pour rayon d'action toute l'étendue du territoire national. Les grands formateurs formés au siège du CEP ont pour mission de former les formateurs départementaux et communaux. Cette formation a été assurée dans le département du Nord-Ouest par le Grand Formateur Philemon Edy le 18 août 2010 de 10h à 14h au siège du Bureau Electoral Départemental (BED). Les enseignements reçus ont été répercutés dans les Bureaux Electoraux Communaux (BEC) les 19 et 20 août 2010 par les coordinateurs communaux et les présidents des COV.

Le rôle du coordonnateur électoral départemental dans ce processus de formation est de livrer le manuel de formation en quantité suffisante et de veiller à ce que la formation se déroule dans les conditions optimales.

Au moment où la formation en cascade a débuté au siège du BED, nous organisons avec les UNPol et les Chilbat la distribution du matériel électoral de sorte que tout fût en place pour l'ouverture des COV dès la fin des cascades de formation. À l'exception de la commune Saint Louis du Nord qui a ouvert ses COV le dimanche 22 août 2010, tous les COV du département ont été effectivement mis en place pour l'inscription des électeurs le samedi 21 août 2010 sous la supervision du Vice-président du BED, Ernest Joseph, épaulé par le président du BED, Kerry Hyppolite et toutes les équipes de la MINUSTAH.

L'activité a connu des ratés à ses débuts, surtout à cause du manque de sensibilisation. Mais rapidement, des stratégies locales ont été élaborées pour pallier à cette déficience: annonces dans les églises et sur les ondes locales, placardage d'affiches sur les lieux des COV, distribution de dépliants dans les lieux publics.

Une autre difficulté a relevé, c'est la collecte d'informations au quotidien. Ceci s'explique par le manque de réseau téléphonique dans plusieurs COV très éloignés. Pour surmonter cette difficulté, nous avons préparé des fiches de collecte de données avec lesquelles les patrouilles UNPol/PNH circulaient pour prendre les statistiques et quelques informations pertinentes sur l'évolution des COV.

Les opérations de vérification des listes électorales constituent une étape très importante dans la réussite de ces élections toutes particulières en Haïti. Tout en permettant aux nouveaux majeurs de se faire inscrire dans le registre électoral, le COV est le lieu où l'électeur l'occasion de confirmer ou de changer son centre de vote. Le COV résoud aussi un problème capital causé par le séisme en permettant au électeur de signaler la perte de sacarte d'identité nationale (CIN), seul document autorisé pour voter en Haïti, et d'obtenir les informations utiles en vue d'obtenir une nouvelle CIN.

Pierre Kadi Sossou
Electoral Regional Coordinator, Nord-Ouest



MEDICAL CARE, EMPLOYMENT AND WEALTH FOR STREET CHILDREN

The common scene in most streets in Port au Prince is that of children with rags in hands rushing to clean each vehicle that stands or slows down. These children are mostly homeless and try to eke out a living in any way possible. Apart from dusting or washing vehicles, many throw their hands to passers by of passing cars to beg for money, while others become involved with armed gangs in the hope of protection and a better chance to survive. These children are deprived of affection and protection. They do not have access to education and they are constantly under the threat of all kinds of violence, including sexual abuse and exploitation. Because of their precarious life style, they are also prone to various sicknesses and diseases. They therefore need all the care and attention possible. After the 12 January earth quake, such scenes seem to be on the rise. A number of national and international organizations are trying to help out they way they can.

One of such organization is Aide Médicale Internationale which is a French humanitarian organization which focuses on health care, child and family education. It has twined with the Community Violence Reduction Unit (CVR) of MINUSTAH to provide medical care and attention to these street children in Port au Prince. A mobile clinic moves to specific areas of the town and these street children can see a medical doctor and receive drugs for common illnesses. When the case is serious, the patient is referred to another health facility with adequate equipment. This roving medical van with a doctor, a nurse and a psycho-social therapist visit these sites



The mobile hospital at Petion ville with street parents and their children

on appointed dates and time and the street children of that locality already know the schedule. Some of the street children come along with their wife and kids.

Jean Claude is one of the parents who has brought his wife and five month baby to see the doctor. The baby and mother have rashes all over the body. They are waiting to see the doctor because this day, there are many people waiting for their turn. Jean Claude is very appreciative of what the doctor and his staff are doing for them. Despite the presence of his wife and kid, Jean Claude is jumping up and down with his street colleagues trying to have a gould or dollar from any good Samaritan.

According to Dr. Marjorie, many of her patients suffer from a range of skin, respiratory diseases and sexually transmitted infections. The staff of the Community Violence Reduction Section has to monitor the team and patients to evaluate the attendance and plausible problems. This is the task which UNV volunteers Richard Feukeu, Aspasia Plakantonaki and their other colleagues in the unit will have to follow up for twelve months.

Another endeavour by the Community Violence Reduction Section is providing skills and entrepreneurship to women from violence prone neighbourhoods in Port au Prince. For twelve months women will be trained in crafts like knitting, sewing, painting, juice making and others. They will be provided with capital to start off. The wares that

they will produce during their training will be sold and the proceeds ploughed back. The aim is to help these women who might have lost all their possession during the earth quake to start life again. Even before the earth quake, it was estimated that about eighty per cent of Haitians live below the poverty level. The 12 January incident came to make things worse for most of them who were barely making ends to meet. It is believed that women are the bread winners in Haiti as they are either single mothers or fend for their families. With the trade learnt and the initial capital given to these women, it is hoped the women will multiply it and bring smiles back to many homes. Many of them who went to the streets as a way of life will now have an honorable way of earning their bread.

A couple of weeks back, youths from violence prone neighborhoods in Port au Prince like Cité Soleil, Simon Pelé, Carrefour Feuilles, Bel Air were trained at the National School of Arts and Craft (ENAM) in Port au Prince graduated after twelve months intensive training as builders, electricians, welders, plumbers and refrigerator repairers. Their training saw the light of day thanks to the specifications between the school and the Community Violence Reduction Section. The training was supervised by Mamadi Conde, one of the UNV volunteers who lost his life during the 12 January earth quake. During their send off, the students joined Gardner William and the other CVR staff to pay homage to the fallen hero. CVR has not abandoned the trainees even after their passing out of school. The section wants to make sure that they integrate the professional world and contribute in rebuilding Haiti. This will not only give these youths a future, but take them off the streets and the violence that was characteristic of their lives. Companies, workshops, worksites and other organizations are identified and these youths are sent there to have enough industrial and work experience. The receiving structure gives them an allowance. These youths are supposed to acquire the experience after twelve months and can then fully integrate the professional world. In order to ensure that the follow up is smooth, the staff from CVR regularly visits the structures where these youths work.

WE SHOULD BE MORE RESPONSIBLE WITH THE VEHICLES WE DRIVE:WE DRIVE OUR IMAGE

PERCY NEWLAND Chief of the Transport section, highlights the role UNV volunteers play in the success of the section

We do have a number of UNV volunteers in the various areas of transport management. We have people in the workshop performing mechanical repairs, we have people in the stores doing spare parts requisitioning and management as well as UNV volunteers in other parts like driving license and so forth. One of the main areas (though I am not minimizing the others) is the maintenance our fleet of vehicles on the road. We currently have about a hundred and seventy vehicles in the regions that have passed their economic life span and they would have been replaced a long time ago. Pre earth quake MINUSTAH was on a downward spiral because there was to be a staff squeeze so there was a rationale for that but now that we are in the post earth quake era which entails relief and reconstruction, we have to maintain those vehicles and equally get new ones. The vehicles frequent the workshop very regularly and without our UNV volunteers we would not be able to keep these vehicles on the road. They make a very huge impact in that area.

The transport section has one of the highest number of UNV volunteers in the Mission about 28 and many of them have almost hit the ceiling of 6 years in the same mission. Very soon they will be leaving the Mission and this may have a negative impact on the efficiency of the section. What are some of the measures your section is taking to minimize the effects? We have started putting in place contingency measures to that effect. You know two UNV volunteers left the section, one to another section and the other checked out. We would like ideally to get their replacements on board. Currently, we have four UNV positions to be filled; we have started the process to have them on board but the paper work has to take its course. For those to leave the mission when they hit the eight or six year mark, until the vacancies are created by the people living we cannot start replacing them. The most we can do now is to identify the skills required to replace them, try to make plans to get the new people coming in as fast as possible. It is true these guys have been around for quite some time



The chief of Transport Percy Newland working late to meet deadline

and if their replacements are not coming from other Missions that have the same skills and expertise that lag will always be felt. It is true it is a whole set of expertise and skills that are going. There is going to be a deep in performance but when these people start to learn, there will be an upward movement in the competence level. The only thing we can do is to make plans to try to fill these vacancies immediately they are available and for this, we rely on the UNV Support Office to expedite the recruitment process.

The Transport section just received a consignment of over two hundred vehicles. Why the surge and how will the vehicles be distributed to the staff?

We received 231 vehicles of many variants- mini buses, some medium 4x4 and some heavy 4x4. One of the areas where we are going to inject these new vehicles is the police. The police vehicles in the regions are really dilapidated and the first thing to do is to replace them. I am committed to replacing 100 of those old police vehicles. I want to point out that for the newly acquired vehicles the Nissan Patrols which are the backbone of mobility in the Mission are only 175 and we will give the police 100 in the regions and we will put aside 39 for the government of Haiti support. You know the Security Council resolu-

tion underscored the fact that we have to assist the government of Haiti with 39 light passenger vehicles and we will put aside 39 vehicles for that function. Most of the remaining 36 will be going to electoral support as elections are at the corner. They will be used for identifying pooling stations and other on-going electoral activities and one or two will filter to the other areas of the administration- substantive and Mission support. Last week, we were tasked in finding additional cars for the police as there is heavy focus on the internally displaced persons (IDP). This is because there have been reports of cases of female violation in some camps.

I was told that part of the solution of putting this violation under control depends on transport, I was really taken aback but was clarified that that the SRSg wants the police to patrol these camps to control this phenomenon. The police showed their readiness but the problem seemed to be that of mobility and they requested 108 cars. We were to find this number of cars by the 17th of August. We were able to beat the deadline. It was no mean feat mobilizing 108 cars as the workshop went on full alert and everybody chipped in and it was a great success. The UNV volunteers were very instrumental in the success of this exercise and I promised to buy them lunch unfortunately I trav-



elled to Santo Domingo for a weekend retreat now that I am back I will have to honour the promise. I also encouraged them to continue with that high sense of professionalism.

One of the problems in MINUSTAH is accessibility to vehicles. What is the criterion of vehicles allotted to the staff?

It is a very topical issue which is sometimes contentious. People are always asking questions because they want to see some form of transparency and to be assured that vehicles are not allocated arbitrarily but that there is a system in place. Yes there is such a system but the Chief of Transport has some discretionary powers to give vehicles out to some staff. But before vehicles are allocated, we first need to have the staffing strength of the Mission not only the overall number but the number based on sections.

We have a scale of issue from LSD in New York. For staff in ISS section and substantive, the vehicles are procured on one vehicle per two and a half persons. For the administrative pillar of the Mission, it is 4.5 persons per vehicle and for the military personnel who are desk bound like UNV volunteers, Finance, Budget, Procurement, Personnel; these people spend a lot of time at their desk; that is why there is this scale of 4.5 persons per vehicle. For the people who are required to move around regularly in the performance of their jobs the scale of issue is more liberal; two persons per vehicle. The VIPs; D1 and above, it is one vehicle per person. Next are security officers who are involved in the protective arm of the security section; they have the scale of two persons

for one vehicle. Outside this, it is either 2.5 or 4.5. This is just a guide but not concrete cast because we know we can not follow this scale of issue all the time.

We can give people more if we have the vehicles because these vehicles are from a pool. If some people are going to have more than what they are entitled to, it is going to have a negative impact on others. So we have a task in Transport to try to balance that up. For example, we are supposed to have 4.5 UNV volunteers to one vehicle but some of them carry out core functions especially on the field like Civil Affairs, Public Information, Human Rights etc and some of them take a lead in the some of these offices. We cannot tell a UNV volunteer working in Forte Liberte to go find 3.5 UNV volunteers to share a vehicle.

We are supposed to issue a vehicle and it becomes one to one in a scenario like that. There are many similar situations where we have to deviate from the norm. So we look more on the function than the status of the person. Again if you have four people in an office who go on different directions, you cannot look at the book and say you are entitled to one vehicle and you give them just one; you give them four vehicles for them to be able to carry out their functions well. Some people think that they are penalized but this is not often the case.

Dealing with all the staff in the Mission may not be very easy, what are some of the challenges that you face on a day to day basis?

My challenge is the preservation of vehicles. This is one of the issues I touched

on during the Mission Support retreat we had in Santo Domingo. My core function is to provide adequate and reliable vehicles to the Mission. It is a simple statement of purpose but it is very difficult. We need people who are more responsible taking care of the vehicles that we already have on board, for them to treat them with care as if they are their personal vehicles. We should not look at the vehicle as something to take us from point A to point B.

We should be more responsible to try to preserve these assets. They are core assets that provide mobility to personnel and I need people to treat them well. I have talked to other section chiefs to sensitize their staff to take care of these vehicles. It did not fall on deaf ears because last week I received an email with pictures from one of the section chiefs of a car parked against a concrete wall at log base. He sent a mail to me and I contacted the person who parked the vehicle and he removed the vehicle. One of my challenges is for the vehicles to last as long as possible, when staff sees potholes he should not jump into.

We may have poor roads with potholes and bumps but we can drive carefully and responsibly by not jumping headlong. People need to be responsible enough, they need to drive with some level of professionalism and pride for it is a tool as it helps us to do our job and if we do not have them we won't perform well. Vehicles that are five years old, look like they are fifteen and those that have done only two thousand kilometers look like those that have done twelve thousand kilometers. Although the terrain is not the best, I have seen people drive very recklessly and that is what is causing the serious wear and tear of our vehicles. So my challenge is sensitizing people to more responsible.

IN THE COMPANY OF THE DUTY MECHANIC

The transport section is the live wire of MINUSTAH because it has to assure that the fleet of vehicles which help the staff to perform their functions is in a good state. To assure that all the vehicles which are broken down are rapidly attended to, some staff members are put on standby especially at night to rapidly rush out to cases which occur. The newsletter trailed one of such roving mechanic; he is UNV volunteer Mukama Stephen.

How long have you been working here in Haiti as a UNV volunteer?

I have been working here for five years ten months. When I arrived in the Mission, I was deployed in Port au Prince as the assistant workshop manager, I was later sent to Miragoane to set up a transport office and workshop. After accomplishing the task assigned to me, I was then posted to Port du Paix. I was there for some time and then, I was called back to Port au Prince.

You should be very versed in the break down and repair of MINUSTAH vehicles. How does a day of a duty mechanic look like?

The day of a duty mechanic is very busy though it varies day by day because cases differ and days do not look the same. There are days when break downs are far off especially when the staff is moving from one region to another and there are cases where the location may be near but there are many vehicles.

How does the roster of a duty mechanic look like?

Normally transport services are rendered to MINUSTAH staff 24 hours on 24 and 7 days on 7. We work in shifts. Some transport staff work during the day and others work at night. Each staff who works during the night works for one week and changes per duty roster that is put up. The night shift is often very demanding especially during the



Muhammad Shakeel doing maintenance

rainy season. At times vehicles get stuck in the mud you have to go and get it out while others are calling waiting; so it is not often very easy.

Is it anybody who works in the transport section who goes out as a duty mechanic?

Yes, everybody who works in transport is part of the duty mechanic team. That is because although everybody who works in the transport section is not a mechanic but they have a mechanical background and so they can do some basics. The administration looks into it and makes sure that one person in the team is a pure mechanic while the other partner can assist in some minor tasks so that as a team they can work efficiently.

How do you know that there is a break down?

We normally have a duty phone and this phone is operational 24 hours but when you are travelling from the region, security requires that you inform them. If there is break down on the way you then contact security and then, they get in touch with the duty mechanic. But before they contact the duty mechanic, security verifies the location of the caller and the security situation of the area. In case of doubt, Sierra base then provides an escort.

How do you manage when you have numerous break downs and calls are coming in from left and right?

We handle them call by call. We try to serve our clients on first call first serve basis but we try to serve them as fast as possible until we get to the last person.

Do you repair the vehicle on the spot or you take it to the workshop?

It also depends on the intensity of the fault and the location of the vehicle.

Some cases are minor like the vehicle not starting or a blown up fuse. Those cases that we can handle on the spot are discharged off on the spot. There are cases like where there is a problem with the clutch especially during the rainy season; we have to take the vehicle to the workshop.

What are the challenges that a duty mechanic faces?

One of the most challenging tasks of the duty mechanic is when he receives misleading information. Some staff members for reasons best known to them do not always want to tell what exactly is happening to the vehicle. For example somebody may have a vehicle where the tyre comes off and the staff member is in a place where he/she feels it is not safe, instead of explaining the exact problem, he/she will say that the vehicle has a mechanical problem, but when you reach the site, you discover the tyre is off and you cannot do anything but to the vehicle. This requires you to go back to the workshop, take the recovery truck and go back to the broken down vehicle. If the staff member had explained that the tyre is off and the car cannot be driven, the duty mechanic will determine what is needed on the spot and will go there with the proper equipment and the work will be done there in a very short time.

Have you picked up quarrels with some staff members who were difficult to deal with?

No, it depends on the interpersonal skills. When you have such skills you easily avoid them



Stephane Mukama attending to a broken down vehicle



Gabriel Nmah carrying out inspection



IN THE CAR LOG UNIT



John Nyaga trying to solve a car log jig saw

John Nyaga is a car log assistant and is one of those responsible for the installation of the gadgets in all MINUSTAH vehicles. The Newsletter caught up with him to find out more about his job as he is busy with the consignment of 231 new vehicles received by his section.

What does the car log unit do?

The unit deals with the installation of two gadgets in vehicles to monitor them; a car log which is installed inside the vehicle and fuel log which is placed in fuel dispensing unit. We install these gadgets in all MINUSTAH vehicles. These systems are to monitor the speed, location and fuel consumption of all the vehicles of the Mission. These are electrical installations. This car log is a micro computer unit- a small box which we normally fit inside the vehicle to monitor the vehicle usage. The standard time to install the car log is three hours but with time and experience the time span reduces depending on the person. To install the gadget, the car is almost virtually dismantled.

Since it concerns mostly the electrical part, we have to touch all the cables. After the installation, we check all the the cables and all the terminals to see that all are functioning normally. We then test the electrical parts, when all are functioning well, then we fit back the other dismantled parts.

Can any mechanic install the car log?

Not every mechanic can install it. To be able to do this effectively and efficiently, the person should have mastery of car electrical installations. One must have done a lot of electricals and

secondly, the person must be use to the car log system. This is because the job entails demobilizing many wires which go to many parts of the vehicle- sensors, circuits' etc. Not even any electrical mechanic can install a car log.

What is the importance of installing car log in a vehicle?

It monitors vehicle usage- the speed, the location and the identity of the driver. It also reads the situation of the car five minutes before the accident in case of one. The car log has many functions but the main ones are to monitor the speed, monitor the engine to find out whether it has been violated and also to identity of the driver of the car at each given time. You know we have speed limits that have to be respected by all who are driving MINUSTAH vehicles. Many companies are now installing car logs in their vehicles.

Well, in the absence of installation, what else do you do?

We have what we call trouble shooting; when the installations are misused the



John Nyaga fitting the dismantled parts after installing the car log gadget

system may be damaged. So we spend most of our time checking the trouble. Each region is equipped with a system to receive data from our car log. These stations have to be installed and repaired or updated. We have receiving stations and these vehicles have to be able to download all the sensors to a central unit which is the receiving unit before it goes to our savers. We then process the data and then get the detailed report on an hourly, daily, weekly and monthly basis. We then check all MINUSTAH vehicles one by one to find out about the recordings of each. We then make reports to various sections as requested.

Before working here in Haiti, were you involved in this type of installation before?

Yes of course. I come from Africa specifically from Kenya. I have been a specialist in car and fuel log for the past eight years and I have been working with International companies in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

What are some of the challenges and difficulties that you have been facing in your job?

Yes there have been some challenges. At times when you are repairing or installing the system you may realize that there is another electrical problem with the car. In such situations, the electrical problem has to be solved before embarking on the installation of the car log. At times you get a new vehicle which has a problem right from the manufacturer and it becomes difficult at times to proof that you are not the cause of it. The common problem is that since many parts of the car are plastics, they are easily broken or damaged during the installation exercise

A CAMP FOR MINUSTAH PERSONNEL

SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF LODGING

After the 12 January earth quake, the buildings in which many people were living in were destroyed or were not fit for habitation due to cracks. Others left their buildings for fear of another quake. Many MINUSTAH staff like their Haitian counterparts found shelter under tents. With time, the stopgap measure by MINUSTAH was to lodge the staff in a ship which anchored in the nearby shores. Seven months have passed by and a 250 man apartment staff quarters for MINUSTAH has just been completed. One of the foremen in the construction of the new staff quarters is Navin TULADHAR who is working in the Engineering Section. Before coming to Haiti as UNV volunteer, Navin worked for several consulting firms and later started a consulting firm in Nepal. He holds a bachelors Degree in Architecture from the Tribhuvan Institute of Engineering.

His role in building the new camp

My primary duty is site supervisor; I am supervising the construction work on a day by day basis, monitoring the progress and reporting to the supervisor. In this regards I deal with the collection of the materials, manpower and material management as well as all the technical aspects of the site. I then seek the advice of my supervisor if I have some difficulties.

His Sign Posts in Haiti

Upon arrival in the Mission on 09 October 2007 I was deployed to Gonaives and at that time the project was to move the Pakistani FPU to a new location, I initiated the project and in due course of the project I was called back to Port au Prince. I also initiated the Uruguay battalion camp in Fort Liberte and was there for one year and when the project was on-going, I was again recalled back to Port au Prince.



Navin Tuladhar overseeing the construction of the staff camp

I was later sent to Hinche as the OIC for RDC. The next project in the pipe line that was assigned to me was the Jordanian battalion camp which has been transformed into the present staff accommodation project.

The residential quarters

The project was started on the last week of May and it has to be completed by the end of August. It is called a 250 man camp that can accommodate approximately 250 staff members. It is a single occupancy where one person occupies a bed room, a sitting room, an equipped kitchenette and toilet.

Meeting the deadline

Well, I am trying my best and with the support of all my co-workers and my supervisor, the deadline will be met.

Helping in the reconstruction process



Navin Tuladhar guiding the carpenters

in Haiti

I would like to put my efforts on low cost housing with energy efficient buildings along with restoration/conservation of buildings with historic importance that were damaged by the recent devastating earth quake.

Challenges on a daily basis

The challenge which seems minimal is that of time to coordinate with the other units especially the material and to organize manpower. I know I have to devote much time to these aspects. So it is simply a question of time management. Another obstacle is at the level of language, I am not very fluent in French and Creole but I speak abit but at first, it used to be a barrier as I could not communicate easily with the other local staff.

Relationship with the with builders

We are part of the team and each individual is doing his part so that as a team we meet our target, it is difficult but as a team we easily overcome some obstacles. Although each one of us is doing an individual task, it is part of the whole. These are all colleagues and team members. Mamadou Alioune DRAME, Magistrat de profession et guinéen d'origine, est volontaire des Nations Unies en service en Haïti depuis Octobre 2007 dans le projet État de Droit dans son volet Chaîne pénale du



LE DROIT A LA PORTÉE DE TOUS

Mamadou Alioune DRAME, Magistrat de profession et guinéen d'origine, est volontaire des Nations Unies en service en Haïti depuis Octobre 2007 dans le projet État de Droit dans son volet Chaîne pénale du Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD) se présente à vous.

Je suis de la 14ème Promotion de l'Université « Gamal Abdel Nasser » de Conakry, Promotion « Béhanzin ». Après l'Université, j'ai occupé plusieurs postes de responsabilités au sein de l'appareil judiciaire guinéen : Magistrat stagiaire, Juge de paix par intérim, Juge d'Instruction, Juge, Procureur de la République, Président de Chambre, Inspecteur Général Adjoint des Services judiciaires de la République de Guinée, etc. Je me suis blanchi sous le harnais.

Grace à une bourse de l'USAID, à la suite d'un concours organisé par le Ministère de la Justice, je me suis classé major pour aller avec trois autres de mes collègues à l'École Nationale d'Administration et de Magistrature (ENAM) de Dakar au Sénégal pour 3 ans, puis un stage à la Section Internationale de l'École de la Magistrature de Paris et en Province (La Rochelle) avant d'être opérationnel sur le terrain.

En sus de mes activités judiciaires, j'ai dispensé des cours de Droit dans de nombreuses Universités de la capitale et les centres des formations. Je suis titulaire du Diplôme de 3ème cycle de l'Université de Nantes & Paris X (France) sur les droits fondamentaux.

Je suis marié et père de cinq enfants (quatre garçons et une fille).

Pour mes activités en Haïti, le Projet État de Droit dans son volet Chaîne pénale vise principalement la réduction du taux de la détention préventive prolongée dans trois juridictions pilotes Port-de-Paix, (où j'évolue actuellement), Fort-Liberté et Jacmel ainsi que la formation du personnel judiciaire et l'équipement des Tribunaux de première Instance et des Tribunaux de Paix.

Pourquoi suis je devenu Volontaire des Nations Unies

Être volontaire est un choix, une volonté d'être utile aux autres, de se donner corps et âme pour permettre un développement harmonieux dans un pays. Dans le jargon guinéen, l'on dit souvent que « chacun peut un peu ». A cet égard, en ce qui me concerne, il y a lieu de mettre mon expérience et mon expertise au service de la Magistrature haïtienne à travers le Projet État de Droit.



Mamadou Alioune DRAME avec le Commissaire du Gouvernement et Me Wilson Hippolyte

Le volontaire est une personne au service de l'humanité tout entière.

La nature de mon travail

Pour mes activités en Haïti, le Projet État de Droit dans son volet Chaîne pénale vise principalement la réduction du taux de la détention préventive prolongée dans trois juridictions pilotes (Port-de-Paix, où j'évolue actuellement, Fort-Liberté et Jacmel) ainsi que la formation du personnel judiciaire et l'équipement des Tribunaux de Première Instance et des Tribunaux de Paix.

Nous avons aujourd'hui un motif de satisfaction avec la baisse du taux de la détention préventive prolongée car les Magistrats ont compris davantage le sens de leur responsabilité ainsi que les Greffiers, Huissiers de Justice et Avocats. Les audiences se tiennent régulièrement, qu'elles soient correctionnelles ou criminelles. Aussi, le Barreau de Port-de-Paix et le Bureau d'Assistance Légale (BAL) apportent une contribution inestimable dans la défense des prévenus ou des accusés. C'est rassurant et réconfortant.

Nous travaillons étroitement avec la Section Justice de la Minustah de Port-de-Paix car le Coordonnateur de ladite Section est une personne engagée, disponible qui apporte sa pierre angulaire à l'édification d'un véritable État de Droit en Haïti. Avec lui nous procédons quotidiennement à des visites de terrain au sein des Tribunaux de Paix, au niveau de la Prison civile de Port-de-Paix pour voir comment sont traités les détenus, comment les mineurs et les femmes sont traités, le travail du Greffe de la Prison civile, pourquoi tel ou tel prévenu n'est pas encore jugé, etc. Ce travail de fond accompli par nous ne signifie pas que nous nous substituons aux Magistrats haïtiens ou que nous allons nous substituer à eux, loin s'en faut. Nous apportons notre expertise, nous confrontons les idées, or c'est de la discussion que jaillit souvent la vérité, la réussite.

Dans le but de parvenir à la réussite, le PNUD, à travers le Projet État de Droit

a mis en place un Comité de Suivi et d'Accompagnement (CSA) comprenant le Doyen du Tribunal, le Commissaire du Gouvernement, un Juge d'Instruction, un représentant de la Société civile, le Directeur de la PNH, etc. Le CSA est ainsi un cadre de concertation afin d'aplanir toutes les difficultés fonctionnelles entre les acteurs judiciaires pour combattre la détention préventive prolongée. Ce CSA bénéficie d'une subvention trimestrielle de 240.000 gourdes pour ses activités.

Ce qui me plaît dans mon travail

La volonté d'être utile en donnant volontairement mon savoir, l'amour de se donner sans retenue, l'échange de connaissances et d'expériences. Voici des valeurs qui guident mon action en tant que volontaire des Nations Unies. Ces valeurs, je les respecte. J'aime mon travail avec toute la force de mon âme et de mon corps.

Les défis rencontrés chaque jour

Les défis sont nombreux : Conditions de travail des Magistrats du Tribunal de première Instance et ceux des Tribunaux de Paix, les conditions carcérales des détenus, etc. Mais, avec le PNUD, l'apport inestimable, financier et matériel, soulage considérablement le personnel judiciaire. Il reste encore beaucoup à faire car lorsque vous voyez certains Tribunaux de Paix, les conditions de travail sont difficiles, il leur manque tout : Pas de bancs d'audience, pas d'imprimés, pas de registres, pas d'ordinateurs, etc.

Le défi le plus important est celui de la lutte contre la détention préventive prolongée que ce soit au niveau des Officiers de Police Judiciaire, des Juges de Paix que du Parquet ou des Juges d'Instruction.

La liberté individuelle est sacrée ! Il faut respecter les règles de procédure à tous les niveaux. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous apportons notre appui aux collègues Magistrats, que les Avocats interviennent pour faire cesser tel ou tel abus. La Justice est au cœur de la vie sur terre. Sans Justice, c'est le désordre, le chaos. Le sentiment d'injustice entraîne la frustration, l'humiliation et la conséquence ne peut être que la révolte entraînant avec elle la violence.

THE JUDICIAL AFFAIRS OFFICE IN PORT DE PAIX LOOKS BACK ONE YEAR AFTER SETTING UP OFFICE

Emmanuel KEDJA is from Cameroon and is a Judicial Affairs Officer, working in the Justice Section where he is heading the regional office at Port-de-Paix the capital of the North West region. A graduate from the University of Yaounde and some American Colleges, Emmanuel joined the UNV Program in February 2009 in Haiti. Before then, he was an attorney-at-Law, in a Law Firm in Paris France.

After serving for seven months in the head office in Port-au-Prince the capital, he was deployed in September 2009 to open and coordinate a Justice office in Port de Paix. The North West Region has one Court of First Instance and twelve "Tribunaux de Paix". His duties evolve around the general Rule of Law and security coordination. This entails providing high quality technical advice and assistance on Judicial and Human Rights issues. Emmanuel visits the prisons to find out about the conditions of incarceration, the health of the inmates, their daily worries and evolution of the files of those who are awaiting trial. After such visits, he then meets the authorities concerned to discuss the issues raised and arrive at possible solutions. One of the issues at hand was the release on bail of an eight month pregnant woman. Emmanuel had to meet the judge to follow up on the situation but there was feet dragging because of the fear that the lady may escape. Another issue was a 21 year old inmate who was sick and needed to be transferred to a hospital.

His duties also hinge on the support for effective Rule of Law through capacity building and legal advice. He has been reinforcing the capacities of those involved in the domain of justice through trainings, refresher courses and seminars. Emmanuel notes that there was a general slow down in the justice machinery especially with investigative judge but things have relatively evolved as there are at least two cases on a daily basis. He equally tries to improve on court operations through technical advice and permanent assistance to the various arms of the judiciary.

He has to reinforcement access to justice through legal clinic, aid and assistance especially those who cannot afford the price of a lawyer. In order to succeed in this domain, Emmanuel



Emmanuel Kedja with the Haitian National police during one of his visits

Kedja works in close collaboration with his UNV volunteer colleague Mamadou Alioune Drame, working in the UNDP pilot tribunal in Port de Paix.

His daily tour of police cells, the prison, the courts, the offices of magistrates and judges yield positive results. Emmanuel indicates that the synergy from his collaborators has led to a reduction of the hither to high and long pre-trial rate. The pre-trial rate decreased from 298 to 20 within a three month period (May-June July 2010) because of the organization of a weekly criminal session. The inmates and prison guards testify that there has been considerable improvement in the conditions of detention in prisons and police cells. This success is achieved with support from some local NGOs which have provided mattresses, insecticides, disinfectants, cloths, bathing soap, free medical care and medicine. Through his shuttle diplomacy the North West Christian Mission has offered sewing machines to the female prisoners.

The trainings and seminars have helped to reorganize duties in the Registrar's Office by creating three working teams in order to specialize each team. The management of files was also a hideous problem in Port de Paix but there has been a special data base created in criminal investigation.

Emmanuel indicates that there has

been a smooth collaboration between his office and the Ministry of Justice as two new courts (Tribunal de Paix) have been created within his jurisdiction in order to bring the populations closer to the Justice. Another court was built in Chansolme through the "Quick Impact Project" by MINUSTAH.

The respect of Human Rights is also a core concern of the Justice section and the North West office has not relented in their efforts in addressing it. There were trainings and sensitization campaigns to make people to be aware of the rights and obligations. Special focus has been on the Police and other Judiciary functionaries. Proof of this is that during our visit there was a police officer who came to complain about the abuse of his rights by the judiciary. There were three training sessions on the concept of arrest and detention for Police Officers, Prosecutors and "Juges de Paix" and a refresher courses for "Juges de Paix".

If one were to judge the work of Emmanuel Kedja from the cordiality, friendship and civility that is manifested by his collaborators; the Police, Prison warders, the Judiciary staff and even the inmates, then it can be said that his footprints have been printed on the sands of the Justice family Port de Paix.



PIERRE PINAT, THE ROVING TRAINING OFFICER



Pierre Pinat sharing IT knowledge

The Integrated Mission Training Centre of MINUSTAH has been offering a wide range of training opportunities to all categories of mission personnel. Every month, a training calendar is published in the intranet in order to sensitize and inform potential participants of the different courses offered. The majority of the trainings advertised take place in Port-au-Prince. One of the strategic priorities of IMTC is to ensure access to learning to everyone in the Mission. In order to improve the quality of their training; IMTC carries out regular satisfaction surveys and needs assessment. This also helps to identify and single out the training and learning requirements.

Pierre Pinat is a UNV volunteer working as a training officer with IMTC since April 2009 and before coming over to Haiti, he worked in a similar position and capacity in Liberia. When Pierre started off in Haiti, he saw the need to let the staff in the regions to be intellectually empowered like their counterparts in Port au Prince. This entails organizing and facilitating the training of personnel in the regions. He proposed the idea to his hierarchy and it was adopted. The same courses that Pierre Pinat teaches in Port au Prince are taught to the military, civilians and police working in the 17 offices of MINUSTAH. The training package comprises of computer application component with Microsoft Word, training on Excel, PowerPoint training and a career management component. Pierre Pinat has also incorporated the writing of PHP, resume and cover letter. He shares his extensive knowledge with the staff and says he loves sharing what

he knows and always puts himself in the shoes of his participants. His wish is for people to feel comfortable. His philosophy is that everybody has a potential and it only needs to activate the latent talent. As time goes on the training has been beefed with the introduction of the new electronic training management system and information session on inspira.

Despite the sunny side of the training Pierre says that because of the varied level of the participants it sometime becomes tedious planning and orga-

nizing the classes. The training sessions are a replica of the United Nations and so people speaking various languages find themselves in the same class. Fortunately for both the students and the roving training officer, he speaks French, English and Creole.

Pierre Pinat's regret is that despite the fact that the planning of the training is published ahead of time, some of the chiefs do not release their staff to benefit from the training. Some of the participants are sometimes irregular in class and cannot finish the training. For some of the participants who are regular, they arrive late during the training sessions. Despite of all these draw backs Pierre says he has to remains very flexible on time management. His wish is to see many trainers go to the regions to update the skills of the personnel. Most of all who have benefitted from Pierre's expertise are always thankful and appreciative of his patience and pedagogic skills.

Pierre Pinat says he always prides himself of being a UNV volunteer because he has learnt a lot and likes to share his knowledge and experiences which is the underpinning of volunteerism. One characteristic of Pierre is that he always carries his smile with him even when the chips are down.



Pierre Pinat and trainees at the end of the training

YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION TO MANY

The 12 January 2010 quake left Logane almost completely destroyed. It is estimated that about eighty five per cent of the town and hinterland were devastated as the town was the epicenter of the incident. The magnitude of the disaster has therefore attracted many humanitarian and aids agencies to the four communes of the area. The picture of the ruins and the tent villages that now make up Leogane tell a vivid story of the earth quake that will take many years to blur from the hearts and minds of many. The area has become not only an abode for the humanitarian organizations but a destination to pilgrims and visitors of good will who visit Haiti.

One of such guests was the deputy executive coordinator of the UNV programme in Bonn ;Naheed Haque who took time off from her busy schedule to see for herself the claws that the earth quake left behind in Leogane and how the people are coping with life.

The first entry point into the debris strewn city was the MINUSTAH integrated Centre which is the site for all UN agencies operating in the region. Naheed Haque was welcomed at the entrance by UNV volunteers posted to Leogane to help in the daunting task. With them, was the Officer in charge (OIC) Veronika, a former UNV volunteer who is now a UN staff. The deputy executive coordinator was briefed on the functions of the MINUSTAH compound and the role the UNV volunteers play in the relief efforts. According to Veronika, the new regional office is at the centre of coordinating the humanitarian response and reconstruction in the four municipalities that are around the epicentre of the earth quake-these are Leogane, Greasie, Grand Goave and Petit Groave. She also pointed out that it is not only MINUSTAH and UN agencies that have moved to Leogane but



Naheed Haque advising members of les volontaire du monde

that the government of Haiti has also designated the Ministry of the Environment as the lead Ministry in the area to work with the different partners and aid agencies. Veronika noted that the influx of aid organizations is another new challenge to the authorities as it is difficult not only to cope with the numbers but to even understanding their area of intervention. In order to ease things out, OCHA has the main task and role of coordinating the work of the agencies.

The four UNV volunteers present briefed Naheed Haque on what their daily chores entail and the challenges they face in carrying out their duties especially as the Leogane office is just a new outfit. The Deputy Executive Coordinator praised them for their efforts and called on them to be proud of who they are as volunteers. Naheed Haque encouraged the UNV volunteers to look beyond volunteerism as it is not a career but a period in which one offers time, energy and experience to the cause of fostering human development and peace.

In order to understand the extent of the destruction caused by the earth quake, Naheed Haque took a drive round the rubble city. She stopped here and there to take pictures and to ask questions. On the course of the tour, the Deputy Executive Coordinator ran into a group of young volunteers who were meeting to sharpen strategies to better volunteer their services to the cause of the children whom they say are the most vulnerable of the victims of the 12 January incident. According to the leader of the group Ruddy Jean, after the earth quake, many youths were idling around and with the advice from Andre Marie Montal, a national UNV volunteer



Naheed Haque visiting the MINUSTAH camp in Leogane

servicing with UNICEF, a group of youths were mobilized in order to better canalize their efforts to help out. These were mainly youths from areas most affected by the earth quake. This was the genesis of the association of volunteers called "les volontaires du Monde."

The activities are carried out mainly in Leogane because of the extent of the disaster. According to the coordinator Francois Magnol, these activities target mostly the youths because they are likely the most vulnerable during times like this. In order to better understand the scope and extent of their activities Naheed Haque probed on their areas of intervention, the activities carried out so far and their collaboration with local and foreign partners. It was indicated that the group has organized recreational camps for kids since schools closed down. They are also involved in the health and environment domains as they are the most affected areas. Les volontaires du monde were very elated by the visit as they indicated that it has heightened their spirit to continue offering their efforts to help put back their country on the rails.

The Deputy Executive Coordinator saluted them and gave them her condolences and told them how proud she was of them "I am so impressed that you did not let the earth quake destroy your courage, capacity and will to rebuild a new Leogane. The most wonderful thing for me to see, is the youths; the young men and women of Haiti, future leaders of Haiti taking things in their own hands to rebuild their city and surrounding." Naheed told them that they are an inspiration to her and the leadership of volunteers. She said "you have shown the way to the rest of Haiti. I am sure in a few years Leogane will be a shiny light because of you."

Turning to Andre Marie Montal, Naheed told her, "you are our ambassador in UNICEF and I hope you will develop a national programme together to build a new and vibrant Haiti". She called on the UNV programme in Haiti to liaise with les volontaires du monde to work together in order to build a better and brighter Haiti. The marching song and the V sign for volunteerism rounded off the day.



YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF HAITI

Cap Haitian is one the active destination of many tourists who choose Haiti for their rest and recuperation. The region is host to the famous Labadie islands and the beautiful Citadelle; a historic site built by Henri Christophe which is believed to be the eighth wonder of the world. Cap Haitian is also politically and economically the second nerve centre of Haiti. The region holds the highest number of UNV volunteers in the country apart from the Port au Prince which is the seat of government and the headquarters of MINUSTAH.

It was therefore no coincidence that the lots fell on Cap Haitian as the destination of the first meet the volunteers tour of the deputy executive coordinator of the UNV programme in Bonn and her entourage. UNV volunteers serving in Port au Prince and some regions around, had earlier on communed with the delegation from Bonn in many instances with the pinnacle being a town hall meeting which brought together more than one hundred national and international volunteers. The visit to Cap Haitian was an opportunity to share the town hall experience with those who were not opportune to be present. UNV volunteers serving in Forte Liberté g were invited to join their colleagues in Cap Haiti because of the proximity of the two towns.

The delegation was received at the helipat by Emmanuel Sannoh, UNV volunteer and Community Violence Reduction team leader in Cap Haitian who led it to the MINUSTAH regional head quarters. It was an opportunity for Naheed and her team to see and hear what the UNV volunteers in Cap Haitian were doing. It was also an occasion for the UNV volunteers on their part to talk with senior management about



Family picture with members of JEVOH



OJVC cleaning gutters in Shada 1

the ups and downs of their social and professional experiences. The UNV volunteers met the senior management of UNV Programme in a blue moon as the daily face of the programme has always been limited to the UNV Programme Management in Port au Prince. The UNV Support Office has been promoting and sustaining the volunteerism spirit in cap Haitian through financial and moral assistance. One of such support assistance was in 2009 where \$ 3000 US was provided to l'organisation des jeunes volontaires du Cap Haitien (OJVC), a local volunteering organization that brings together youths who wish to share their time and abilities with their kin and kith. With this financial packet, OJVC as they were known by then were able to set up and run an office. They were also able to buy laptop and other basic office equipment.

Steven Jean one of the leaders of OJVC testifies that the assistance from the UNV Support Office was the live wire that set them afloat otherwise they would have remained a suit case association. Since setting up office, their credibility has soared as many partners like the local council and some ministries are now working with them. To show for their more than one year of existence, OJVC pin points a number of clean-up campaign operations, the opening up of gutters and culverts in Shada 1, organizing sporting, cultural and other leisure activities to encourage the spirit of solidarity among the youths of the area and the numerous seminar-workshops to stir up latent spirit in many.

Because of these gamut of activities and the will to spread their spirit further ashore, these youths have changed their name to reflect national cover-

age. This has led to the transformation of their name to "Jeunes volontaires haitien" JEVOH.

The visit of Naheed Haque to Cap Haitian was therefore an opportunity for her to meet these vibrant Haitian youths who have joined the volunteerism highway in order to contribute in the building of their country. It was also an opportunity for senior manager to cheer them up and encourage them not to relent in their efforts. During the visit, the delegation was drilled on how these youths come together to share ideas and build a common vision. The venue of the meeting was the MINUSTAH multi media centre where they were holding one of their seminar-workshops. They used the occasion to present to the august guests their projects in the pipe line. There were two in number: one on poultry farming, teaching the youths to keep table birds through a pilot project and the other, on running a computer centre.

With the centre, JEVOH intends to initiate youths to the computing world while sensitizing and encouraging them to be part of volunteerism and citizen participation in development activities. JEVOH asked for the support of the UNV programme in providing three quarters of the funds to launch the projects. They promised to raise the remaining one quarter as an indication of their engagement.

The deputy executive coordinator was all praises to these youths who have decided to join forces to contribute to the wellbeing of the Cap Haitian youths. She lauded the entrepreneur spirit and courage that these youths incarnate despite the strait that Haiti has gone through. She told them that the future

of Haiti is bright with such courage and resilience.

The regional delegate for Youth, Sports and Civic Action; Killi Jean Louis who was present testified the collaboration that his Ministry has established with JEVOH. He indicated that the activities of OJVC/JEVOH have helped reduce rural exodus and youth delinquency. Mr. Killi Jean Louis promised that his Ministry will continue to be a catalyst in harnessing the ventering potentials in youths by encouraging and supporting their coming together to share and cooperate in building a better Haiti. JEVOH was proud to take the delegation to their office at Shada 2 and show them around.

Naheed and her entourage spent the afternoon in the company of UNV volunteers serving in Forte Liberte and Cap Haitian. During a shared lunch, the deputy executive director of the UNV programme listened to the litany of issues raised by UNV volunteers. The volunteers talked about personal and collective preoccupations. The issues raised were similar to those raised by all UNV volunteers-their conversion as UN staff, the perception of volunteers by some staff members, the high cost of living in Haiti after the quake, the future of UNV volunteers who have served six years in Haiti among others. Naheed and her team took time to answer all the questions raised while underscoring the fact that volunteerism is not a profession.

UNV volunteers were encouraged to leave and move on in their career after sharing their experiences rather than always looking on UNV as a stepping stone into the United Nations. She praised them for the work they are doing while regretting the loss of life of colleagues during the earth quake. She assured all that senior management in Bonn was with them in all endeavours. Naheed Haque encouraged the UNV volunteers to find time to commune together more often. The UNV volunteers were all praises to the deputy executive coordinator for an ear to all the issues raised, her simplicity and her probing nature.

TERRE DES JEUNES OF GONAIVES TRYING TO STAY AFLOAT



Members of Terre de Jeunes holding their meeting in the garden

It was on 5 December 2008 that the school garden at the Bicentenary Government High School in Gonaives was inaugurated by then Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General Luiz Carlos Da Costa. This was during the commemorative activities to mark the International Volunteer Day.

This was the brain child of the young transnational volunteering organization 'terre des jeunes' and the UNV volunteers in Haiti. Terre des jeunes negotiated with the school authorities to have a piece of land within the confines of the school where a garden could be put for the students to be taught and sensitized on the importance of the environment especially planting trees. They were given a piece of land which measures 100m2 which was tilled and planted with a variety of fruit and other trees.

The choice of Gonaives was because of the extensive deforestation and the arid soil. With the help of the UNV Support Unit, the organization was able to acquire the plants and the necessary tools to cater for the garden. For over two weeks the UNV volunteers worked with terre des jeunes to prepare the place for a garden. Almost two years down the line the garden has been serving the purpose for which it was conceived. According to Lounes Felicien a member of the organization, the orchard is used for practical classes for students and also as demonstration site

for the members of the organization. The youths who form the back bone of terre des jeunes meet in this garden once every week to work and improve on the state of their plants and to learn new ways of being more environment friendly.

Young adherers have also joined the ranks of the organization and have taken the environmental story to their neighborhoods. Zacharie Alicinee testifies that the programme 'Eco quartier' helped her like her friends to learn how to start a nursery. The members were later asked to vulgarize the initiative in their neighborhoods. Through the initiative, the inhabitants were sensitized to plant trees in their surroundings. This is because most of the hilltops in Gonaives have no vegetation.

With the help of trees, the rate of soil erosion will be minimized as the heavy runoffs which cause havoc to the inhabitants would be put under control. The trees will also form a canopy from the scorching sun. Since the initiative of reforestation was started in Haiti, there are testimonies of hope in the horizon. According to the coordinator of terre des jeunes Joel Augustin, rainfall during the wet season this year in Haiti has increased because the number of trees has increased thanks to continuous sensitization. He indicates that unfortunately the increased rainfall had an adverse effect on their tree nursery as the plants started rotting. Joel says



that the problem was swiftly put under control as they increased their vigilance in tending the nursery.

Their attachment to the environment and to the tree in particular has given them some premium in Gonaives. This year MINUSTAH sponsored a nursery of 10.000 tree plants to encourage eco tourism in the area at Dessalines, 45 minutes drive from Gonaives. With the knowledge acquired over time especially from their school garden, the youths were able to start the nursery and follow it up very closely. The trees were later given to the community to plant with the coordination of the commune. The municipal authorities ensured that the trees were planted in identified areas within the council area. Another initiative which this youths are involved in is 'cash for work' instituted by the World Food Programme. Workers have been recruited from the community to build irrigation canals to prevent heavy erosion and over flooding in the area. For 48 days, the women, men and youths of the community were able to improve on the nature of their environment in various ways for food rations. Terre des jeunes received 96.73 tons of food from the World Food Programme (WFP) and they distributed to the various people.

The school garden which is their rallying point has also acted as part of their nursery especially for plants that are supposed to be planted in the garden. They use the nursery as a forum to teach other youths on how to start a similar initiative in their neighborhoods. Despite the spread of the message and the number of adheres which has been in the rise, the association has been facing some obstacles. During the launch of the garden, the UNV Support Unit provided them with the basic tools to till water and cater for the garden but over the years, these tools have undergone wear and tear. The youths complain that they need a wheel barrow, spades, hoes, rake and watering can to better tend the garden. According to these youths they would like to increase the surface area of their garden were they to obtain these tools.

The impact of the environmental evangelization is already visible. The reputation they have built for so short a time has made them to be invited to share their experience within and out of the country on numerous counts. They are basically with a cap in hand in order to buy the needed tools to continue the fight against deforestation and desertification in Gonaives and throughout Haiti.

SAINT MARC REGISTERS ITS OWN TERRE DES JEUNES



Planting trees in the garden at Sanon Primary School.

Saint Marc is the second largest town in the department of Anti Bonite and it is located along the National Road number one that runs across the country from Port au Prince to Cap Haitian. Saint Marc and Gonaives lie next to each other and the many cyclones which have visited this city are still fresh in the minds many. Many environmentalists think that both towns share the same risk factors as they have almost the same geographic characteristics. One of the factors which makes both places prone to natural disasters is their environmental conditions. Although they are sea port towns, the extent of deforestation is very extensive. Most of the hilltops are bare of any vegetation; a couple of minutes after a day's pour, the whole place is immediately over flooded. There are no trees to hold the water oozing from the hillside. These run offs carry with them stones and all sorts of debris from the hills and dumped along because there is nothing to withhold either the soil or the debris. Many of the trees have been cut down and used as fuel wood. The deforestation has therefore increased soil erosion and exposed the population to all the vagaries of the weather.

In order to jump start environmental change in their area, a group youths under the canopy of 'terre des jeunes' came together recently in St Marc to commemorate the feast of the tree. This was done by planting trees at the Sanon Primary School. The association invited the municipal authorities and the pupils of the school to be part of the occasion. Their choice of guests was because of the intention that they become partners in the green revolution initiative in the neighborhood.

In all, more than 60 fruit trees were planted. According to Roderique Laurent the coordinator of the group, the

aim of using the garden of the primary school is to later sensitize and educate the pupils on the importance of trees in their neighborhood. The teachers would use it as practical lessons for the pupils during nature study. In so doing, these youths would grow up with a better understanding of the usefulness of certain tree species in their environment. With the knowledge acquired, they may not cut down trees like their parents. The target of "terre des jeunes" is to plant more than 250 trees within a month. In order to facilitate this move, they decided to start a tree nursery to make the trees affordable and adapted to the local environment.

The day was also an occasion to publicly launch the St Marc antennae of the newly created 'terre des jeunes' association. Terre des jeunes' is a group of young volunteers whose aim is to associate youths in the management of their environment. They carry out activities that are environmentally friendly. The association already exists in about four towns in Haiti. They build their activities around the feast of the tree which comes up between the last Friday of the month of May and the 5 June each year. The launch was an occasion for Veronique Zidi and Anduea Carabegu from the UNV Programme in Bonn, Fatou Diop the Programme Manager of the UNV Support office and Julien Guillemard Programme Officer of the Country Office team to appreciate the spirit of volunteerism among the youths of St. Marc. The parting words of these august guests were that the UNV programme will support the initiative as part of their assistance to local volunteerism endeavours. The wish of the guests was that the efforts of the young association should not only encourage reforestation but should ignite the spirit of solidarity especially among the youths of the area.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE: A MUST FOR ALL MINUSTAH PERSONEL

Environmental compliance is one of the exercises that the unit which bears it name carries out every time when need demands. The essence of the exercise is to protect human health, protect natural resources and protect the environment in which MINUSTAH operates. Since the Mission will have to fold up one day, it should leave behind few environmental hiccups both for Haiti and the image of the United Nations in general. The lifestyle of those who occupy the sites can easily adversely affect it if the necessary stopgap measures are not taken into account. The unit therefore takes it as duty to monitor and ensure environmental compliance, technical advice and environmental sensitization and awareness creation.

It was in this light that I took a number of field trips with Michael ASIMA a UNV volunteer and OIC of the unit to some of his inspection tours. One of them was to Hinche, where one of the regional offices of MINUSTAH is located. A Nepalese military contingent had just pitched camp there and as duty demands, the unit had to visit them to fine tune their environmental awareness.

According to Micael, the inspection tour is mandatory because it brings about environmental sustainability as staff become more aware of the underpinnings of some of their actions which are not environment friendly. He cited the case of fuel-management by MINUSTAH staff (spillage and consumption), indicating they should know how to manage what is given to them in a judicious way to avoid waste and spillage. The problem goes beyond management because the spilled fuel has negative impact on the environment. The unit therefore prepares environmental reports as mandated by the UN and conducts site inspections to determine environmental problem areas and then recommends corrective action. Michael indicated that MINUSTAH generates hazardous waste through fuel spillage, poor disposal of medical waste and other unfriendly environmental behavior. The unit therefore ensures environmental compliance by all MINUSTAH personnel in that site.

Regular inspections are carried out at medical facilities; storage tanks, generators and other equipment that may generate environmental waste. Apart from waste inspection the unit also tracks all EPA identification numbers



Michael Asima carrying out an inspection exercise

to find out how environmental friendly they may be.

ASIMA Michael indicates that in order to respect environmental norms, proper ground protection has to be observed around filling stations because just a continual drop of fuel can cause a lot of long term spillage and harm to the environment as it takes many drops of fuel to fill a bucket. During the inspections, he insists that all used oil and other lubricants must be stored in 200 liter-containers while medical waste should be separated before incineration.

To ensure that the lessons are well learnt and understood, the environmental compliance exercise starts off with a slide- presentation in which the contingent and some civilian staff of the especially those who manipulate most of the pollutants, are drilled. They are told that most of the pictures that make up the slides that they are watching are taken from the various MINUSTAH sites.

After the presentation, it is time to see how environmentally compliant the contingent, regional office or site is. In Hinche, the regional administrator Maria KOMIATI and Captain SUNIL KHADKA, accompanied Michael ASIMA as he carried out a meticulous inspection of all sights that can be environmentally unfriendly.

Starting from the regional station, the fuel station, the garage, the warehouse and the power plant, the team combed the nooks and crannies. At each stop, Michael had a question for Maria Komati, "why is this here, why are there few trash cans, where do you dump refuse ?". After about an hour of toiling in and out of the buildings and installations at the regional office, the team

then decided that they should move to the next point which is the Nepalese battalion camp. The view of the camp is very inviting especially when the sun is over head as trees are planted all over the compound. The shade from the trees is a serious canopy especially for the busy military officers who stay out of the hot rooms. The soldiers who were not on duty were idling around playing various games but following the team with tail of their eyes. Just like at the regional office, Michael moved from one installation to the other darting from one spot to the next, even to the toilets. He stopped at the water plant where the water of the camp is treated. He asked for all the readings of the distillers that indicate the quality of water. Beats of sweat were running down the face of the captain as he was taking the team round. The inspector was told that all the readings are sent to Mirebalais where the larger contingent is based. Michael asked that a copy of the readings should always be kept behind for reference purposes because it is what indicates the quality of water the contingent drinks.

At the end of it all, ASIMA Michael announced that "there was no major environmental problem in Hinche", a broad smile spread out on the face of captain SUNIL KHADKA and the regional administrator Maria Komati. It was like a school child during the reading of the exams results. When we sought to know why she was so elated, she said that a pat on the back is good and until someone congratulates us, we do not know that we are on the right track. She also indicated that the seriousness with which Michael went about his job was frightening; almost turning everything inside out. When asked to assess the importance of such an exercise she said that it is very useful because we do not only have to live in a clean environment but have to leave behind the same or better environment and in order to do this we have to be constantly reminded of the impact of our actions and activities. Maria Komati also indicated that each MINUSTAH staff should be a good ambassador of the Mission through words and actions.

Reacting to the outcome of the inspection, Michael said that it is soul soothing to end an inspection on a positive note because people are being more aware of the impact of the actions on the environment. He said the aim is not to sanction or apportion blame but to raise awareness and regulate adverse human action.



SENIOR HAITIAN PARLIAMENTARY ADMINISTRATORS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A bicameral delegation of senior administrators of the Haitian parliament was on an official visit to the Dominican Congress from 15 August to 20 August 2010. The objective of the visit was to learn from the Dominican experience in parliamentary reform and modernization. Funded by the UNDP, the visit was facilitated by MINUSTAH's Parliamentary Support and Liaison Unit, where UNV Civil Affairs Officer Walters Samah is deployed. He accompanied the delegation throughout its working visit in the Dominican congress.

The visit to the Dominican Congress came against the backdrop of huge challenges facing the general secretariat of the Haitian parliament, as it tries to come to terms with the heavy losses suffered during the 12 January earthquake. This administration will have to ensure a hitch free take off of the 49 legislature to be elected on 28 November 2010. In order to live up to the times, the general secretariat intends to embark on a modernization and institutional reform plan when the draft legislation on parliamentary public service becomes law. It is because of these initiatives that the Dominican Republic offered a good case study and parliament secretariat wanted to learn from the experiences of other national legislatures.

The Congress of the Dominican Republic is a bicameral legislature consisting of two houses, the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. Unlike in Haiti, both Chambers are equal in status and so the notion of a lower house or upper chamber does not apply. The Senate has 32 senators while the Chamber of Deputies has 183 deputies. According to the new Constitution (adopted in January 2010), both senators and depu-



Members of the delegations sharing experiences

ties are elected for period of 4 years and are to be sworn in on August 16. The bureau of both Chambers is composed of a President, a Vice President and two Secretaries. Since the Dominican Congress adopted a Modernization and Institutional Reform program in 2006, it has registered a lot of progress that has earned it international recognition and acclaim.

During their visit, the delegation met with the Presidents of Dominican Senate and House of Deputies and had working sessions with their Dominican counterparts. The delegation also met with the UNDP the Resident Representative and Coordinator of United Nations Systems in the Dominican Republic.

On the first day of the visit, the delegation observed the inauguration of the new Dominican congress. Highlights of this solemn

ceremony included: confirmation of legislators' certificates of election, taking of oath of office and the election of a new bureau. From what they saw, delegation members expressed the wish to have a simpler swearing in ceremony adopted in Haiti. From the Congress Palace, the delegation went to Cathedral to witness a special mass organized for the occasion, attended by government ministers and the army chief. The day ended with guided visit to historical and touristic sites in the Colonial Zone. The rest of the days spent were spent having working sessions with senior administrators of both the Dominican chamber of deputies and senate.

From all indications the visit was a success as its objectives were met. This success was due in large part to the Dominican hosts. As they accorded a lot of importance to the visit, they mobilized all the services and departments and prepared a comprehensive training package comprising all aspects of parliamentary procedures and administration. Before leaving the Dominican Republic, the Secretaries General of the Haitian Senate and House of Deputies expressed their satisfaction and testified that the delegation had learnt a lot from the Dominican experience. It is hoped that lessons learned and best practices drawn would be useful in designing the modernization programme of the Haitian Parliament and in preparing for the forthcoming 49 legislature.



The Senate building in the Dominican Republic

HELPING TO REDUCE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN HAITI



Picture of a camp in Port-au-Prince

Nine months after January 12, 2010, 1.2 million Haitians affected by earthquake are living in IDP camps. These precarious living situations, often with limited lighting after dark, unsafe latrine and

shower areas, and insufficient security patrols, have increased the vulnerability of women and girls to incidents of gender-based violence.

Marcy Hersh, a UNV from the United States of America is working with UNIFEM, a part of UN Women, to coordinate gender-based violence prevention and response initiatives. This includes leading a working group on communications for humanitarian actors, to create and distribute messages that prevent violence against women and girls. In addition, Marcy developed and facilitated training sessions on gender-based violence prevention and response for the managers of IDP camps, UN Police, and the military, ensuring that these actors have the necessary capacity to support survivors and respond to incidents of gender-based violence in IDP camps. Marcy is also managing UNIFEM's contribution to an inter-agency project, supported by the Millennium Development Goals Fund that will build the capacity of grassroots women organizations in five cities outside of Port-au-Prince to provide multisectoral services for gender-based violence survivors.

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Isa Macedoine with clutches: scars of the 12 January earthquake



Family Picture of volunteering groups helping out in Haiti



UNV volunteers in Port-de-Paix



A working session during with Veronique Zidi (Portfolio Manager), Anduena Carabregu Portolio Associate and Fatou Diop, Programme Manager



United Nations Volunteers

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. 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. UNV 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 UNV volunteers, throughout the world. UNV 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.



welcome to

Jiyeon YOU, Ludivine ESTIENNE
Laura JAFFREY, Mathilde BRUN
Ludovic KOUTINHOIN ZANOU
Hugues De Roussan, Mobinuddin Siddiqui
Andres Arias, Julio Cesar Martinez
Christophe Menou, Komlan Agbedahin
Henri Gabriel Marie Hiribarne
Federica Raimondo, Vahagn Muradyan
Juliana Cassini, Scott Emerson Mc Taggart
Philippe Benjamin Clarholm Anton
Houssam Zaibak, Vincent Jean Simon
Elisa Cappelletti, Samuel Priso
Roger Lloret Blackburn, Chaya Chapiro
Moustapha Tahirou, Alberic Paul Gratien de
Junet D'Aiglepierre, Alioune Ba
Jean Michel Beaucher, Alison Mckelvie
Stephan ZIEGLER, James TONDO

au revoir

Bertrand Ngama
Sergio Castillo
Mukesh Kumar SEKHRI
Antonella Bernardini
Michael Asima
Michael Asima
Anna Giolitto
Marco Dormino
Ana Juarez

Contributors

Samah Walters
Pierre Kadi Sossou
Marcy Hersh

happy birthday to

Pierre Marie TONLE, Noel Santiago, Rodolfo Evangelista, Mohamed MANSARAY
Mamady Camara, Emmanuel Divine, Joergen Moeller, Moliba-Sese Franklin
Breuil Munganga, Alberto Ignacio, Misghina Teferi Ghebremicael, Gideon Adeyemi
Gelay Wangmo, Celestin Bile Nsanina, Amir Hussain Khan, Assumani Roly Maniraho
Antonella Bernardini, Denis Ntore, Valencia Ayala Erick Edouardo, Ismael Fathi
Sekhri Mukesh Kumar, Diarra Ngolo, Patrick Saussez, Min Maung Thet Soe, Fai Collins
Lavinia Roman, Charles Girard, Ibrahim yaya Aldhi, Laura Jaffrey, Chaaaya Chapiro
Alberic Paul Gratien

Contacts

UN Volunteers Newsletter is published every six to eight weeks by the UNV Support Unit

Public Information Officer:
FAI Collins DZERNYUY
fai@un.org

Design:
Gregory Gard
gard@un.org