



Establishing a National Volunteer Center

The Philippine Experience

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Outline

1. The establishment of a National Volunteer Center in the Philippines
2. Why is it Important to National Development
3. How VSO works with the National Volunteer Center
4. Challenges and Way Forward



Volunteerism in the Philippines



Bayanihan is ingrained in the Filipino culture.





**How can we
harness
volunteering to
contribute to
national
development?**

Response to UN Challenge in Puerto Rico 1960, became a committee in 1968, and office in 1973 and a National Agency in 1980.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER
SERVICE COORDINATING AGENCY

Volunteerism as a Strategy for National and Regional Development



PNVSCA is tasked to:

Advocate and help shape policies on how
Volunteerism

Draft a national framework of priority areas

Promote volunteerism as a development strategy

Collaborate with volunteer-involving organizations on
developing volunteering programmes

Monitor incoming foreign volunteers and outgoing
Filipino volunteers;

Consolidate data on outcomes and impact of
volunteering efforts (Knowledge Management)

Task 1: Why a Law on Volunteerism?

- Clamour to put in place measures for volunteer welfare, protection, proper coordination, etc.;
- Response to UN declaration calling governments to pass legislation on volunteerism; and
- Recognition of government on the role and contributions of volunteerism in development.

RA 9418 – The Volunteer Act of 2007

An Act Institutionalizing a Strategy for Rural Development, Strengthening Volunteerism and for Other Purposes

Task 2-4: Volunteerism is in Phil Devt Plan 2011-2016

Chapter 8, Social Development Section

“The government shall reinforce the practice of volunteerism in the delivery of social services, provision of technical assistance, responding to disaster and undertaking humanitarian efforts, especially in the remote and underserved areas.

The sector shall mobilize the talents, expertise, time and energies of volunteers from the academe, corporate sector, NGOs, government and foreign volunteer organizations.”

Why adopt volunteerism as a Strategy?

Governments may not have all the resources to provide the needed public services.



Non-government organizations may better provide such services in a cost efficient and effective manner.



Engenders greater private sector participation in governance and development.



Inclusive Growth

Accelerated Economic Growth	Improved Governance, Peace and Security	Enhanced Quality of Education & Delivery of Social Services	Environmental Sustainability
Empowered marginal/ disadvantaged communities and strengthened institutions			
<p>Agriculture Agriculture, agri-business, fisheries and livestock</p> <p>Trade and Industry Business development, voc-tech, product development, cooperatives and promotion of fair trade</p>	<p>Peace and Security Peace building, conflict transformation, emotional recovery , human rights and disaster management</p> <p>Governance LGU planning, HRD, resource mobilization and information technology</p>	<p>Education English, Science, Math and IT, special education, pre-school, alternative learning system, teacher training, school management and facility improvement</p> <p>Health Maternal and child health prevention and control of TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria, nutrition and health facilities enhancement</p> <p>Social Services Organizational development, services to the indigenous people, PWDs, elderly, children and youth, support to housing, gender and development</p>	<p>Environment Costal resource management, solid waste management, water and sanitation, renewable energy, community based forest management, environmental research and climate change adaptation</p>

More focused and aligned volunteer assistance

What are its Benefits?

- Important economic contribution to society.
- Essential element of good governance and development.
- Integration into society of people who are excluded or marginalized.
- Facilitate socio-cultural exchange and understanding.
- Promote full employment by enhancing the employability of unemployed people.

How does VSO work with PNVSCA?

1. VSO shares best practices from own volunteering programs
2. Provide technical assistance on creation of policies and laws
3. Strengthen volunteer-involving organizations' (including government units) capacity in managing their volunteers

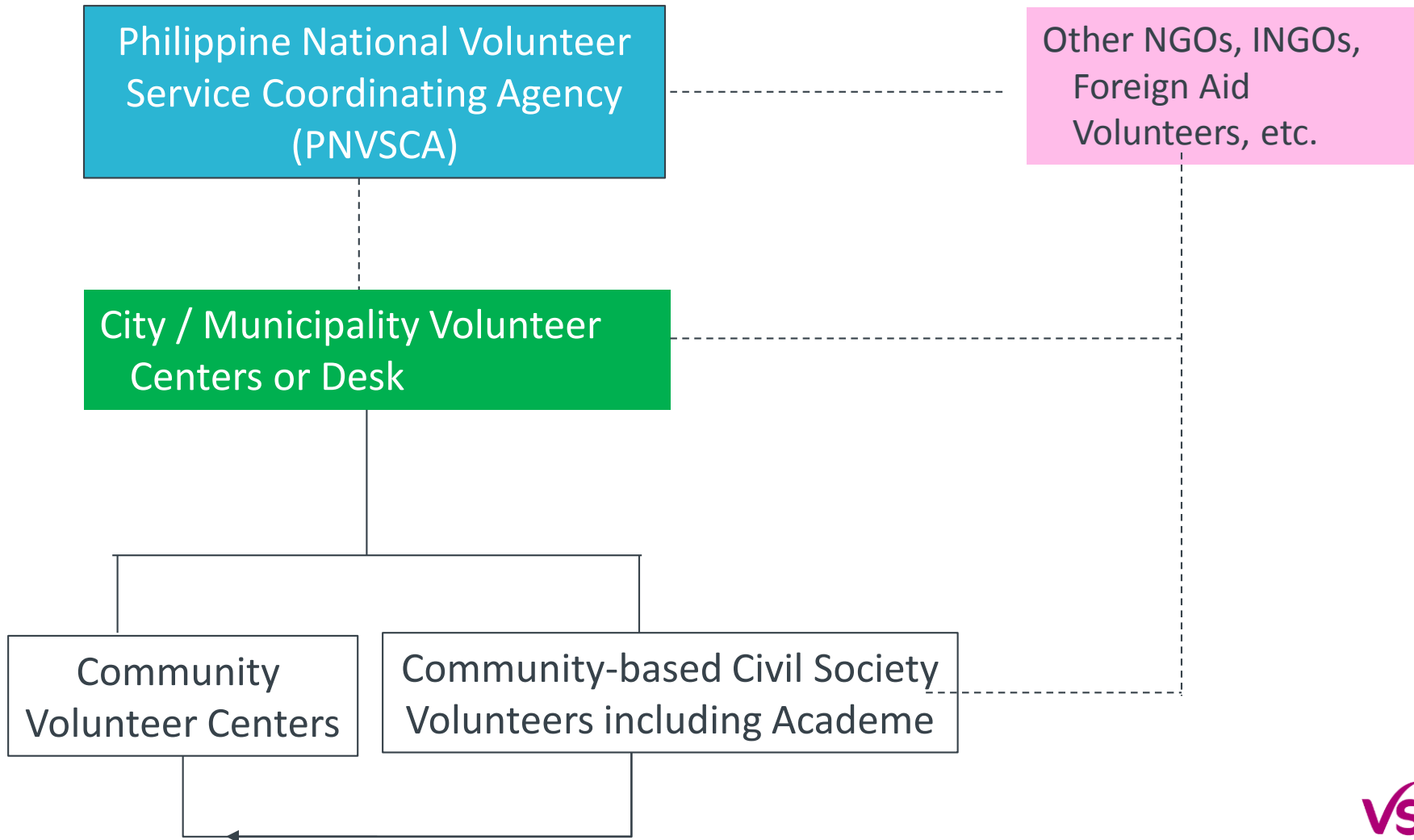


City Volunteer Centers

- Volunteering and Citizenship Program mandating all cities and municipalities to put up a volunteering center/desk to promote volunteering as a development strategy and coordinate efforts within a given locality



How it All Connects (Ideally)



Ideally, every Philippine city / municipality should have:



15-16 Experts on VMS and ICS



Core Group of Volunteer Managers



Solid Action Plan on VMS



A Mobilization and Coordination Plan



Policies on Volunteer Centers



A Roster of Volunteers



A Volunteer Center

Challenges and Directions

- **Supporting PDP 2011-2016, MDGs and Rio+20**
Synergizing the diverse local initiatives with national and global agenda
- **Localization of sectoral efforts**
Sectoral interface and coordination for complementation of information and resources, facilitation of delivery of services and achievement of mutual goals.
- **Promoting inclusive volunteerism**
Providing opportunity for all segments of society to volunteer, especially the youths, senior citizens, persons with special abilities, indigenous peoples, etc.

What is needed to promote volunteerism?

Advocacy

- ✓ Information dissemination
- ✓ Conference/forum on volunteerism
- ✓ Recognition of volunteers and best practices in volunteerism

Integrating volunteerism as a development agenda

- ✓ National, regional and local development plans

Harmonizing volunteering efforts with government policy initiatives, such as

- ✓ RA 10121 – Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010
- ✓ Memorandum Circular 20013-27 Volunteering and Citizenship Program

