

Making a Difference Through Volunteering: the Experience of Deploying Young Surveyor Volunteers.

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SUMMARY

The act of volunteerism is a sole interest to willingly contribute time and effort to something without rewards. The Volunteer Community Surveyor Program (VCSP), an initiative of the Young Surveyors Network (YSN) of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) is a program structured to give Young Surveyors the opportunity to invest their time, skills, and knowledge in humanitarian surveying. The VCSP is made up of different paths that work together to achieve the goals and vision of the program. The VCSP through the in-Country path organizes in-Country deployment of Young Surveyors called Volunteer Community Surveyors (VCS) through collaboration with VCSP partners which have been the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) of the UN-Habitat and Cadasta to solve issues related to land tenure security, registration and documentation.

During the period of deployment, the VCS spend weeks working with the different partners to with the following objectives;

To Recognize the VCSP goals, core values, and how to improve them.

Invest their time, knowledge, and skills in humanitarian surveying.

Apply their skills, knowledge, and experiences to solve land-based community problems.

Use open technologies and humanitarian skill sets to solve challenges in land registration and documentation.

Build professional surveying network and teamwork to serve the community in solving land tenure

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security challenges.

The VCSP initiative is the vital link between young surveyors and the VCSP partners to enhance opportunities for humanitarian surveying to become common-place. This paper highlights the work the in-Country deployment team has been doing in past years and summarizes the experience of VCSP deployments through testimonials of people who are directly engaged in the deployment program; the VCSP team members, the partners, and the volunteers (VCS). This article will help to understand how VCSP has made an impact upon the lives of young surveyors professionally and personally and how they have benefited the communities they have served in. This will shed some light on how communities and surveying professions are closely related and how volunteering deployment like this can help surveyors and communities tackle land tenure security, development, poverty, and climate change challenges worldwide. Overall, the objective is to emphasize why such a program should be continued, promoted and invested in for solving land-related issues with a collaborative effort.

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