GLOBAL IVS STATISTICS REPORT 2025





01 Introduction

02 Project Focus Areas

03 Volunteers Profile

04 Changes Since 2013

05 Conclusion

Photo credit: SCI, FSL India, SAVWA

01 Introduction

We are proud to present the global statistics overview for 2025 of 152 organisations in 76 countries (142 network members, 8 partners and 2 not-affiliated organisations) and their contribution to peace, global solidarity, environmental justice and diversity.

As some organisations are members of different networks, the working group set up mechanisms to make sure that data is coherently organised and not duplicated when they reported back to us.

Particularly encouraging is the continued engagement of IVS organisations operating in contexts of war, ethnic cleansing and genocide. Organisations in Ukraine were able to send 415 volunteers (World ranking No. 9 for Outgoing volunteers), while in Palestine, 157 national volunteers (World ranking No. 9 for National volunteers) participated in short-term projects (see Page 20-23 for more details).



The IVS Movement – Who We Are

International Voluntary Service (IVS) was initiated in the 1920s after World War I to pursue peace through grassroots action, reciprocal international cooperation and non-formal education. For over a century, IVS exchanges have carried this commitment forward through non-violent action and cooperation across cultures and communities.

Today, IVS gives people in all their diversity the opportunity to participate in meaningful, productive and socially useful work that promotes social and climate justice, human rights, sustainability, critical thinking, active participation, democracy, global citizenship and intercultural learning. It provides people with the means to understand and act upon the social, cultural, political and economic structures that affect their lives at all levels. Through collective action, IVS strengthens resilience, builds transformational solidarity and contributes to a world based on mutual respect and understanding.

Opportunities for international volunteering are organised into very short (1-6 days, VSTV), short (7 to 29 days, STV), medium (30 to 182 days, MTV) and long-term volunteering (over 182 days, LTV) activities. The projects serve as a basis for dialogue, an opportunity to work according to each person's ability and to practice learning by doing and living together for periods of 1 day up to 1 year.

IVS organisations gather in local, national, regional, continental, intercontinental and global networks. These include **Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations**, **International Building Organisation** (IBO), **International Cultural Youth Exchange** (ICYE), **Network of African Voluntary Organisations** (NAVO), **Network for Voluntary Development in Asia** (NVDA) and **Service Civil International** (SCI). Several of these networks, together with other individual IVS organisations, form the 177 members of the global network, **The Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service** (CCIVS) based in UNESCO HQ France. IVS organisations are present in 79 countries worldwide.

Out of 199 **IVS organisations**

152 shared their data with us



The IVS movement engaged

14,106 **volunteers** in short, medium, long-term volunteering

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Located in

76 **countries**

The volunteers contributed their work and passion in

2,599 **projects**



*As some organisations are members of different networks, the working group set up mechanisms to make sure that data is coherently organised and not duplicated when they reported back to us.

IVS Organisations Contributed Data

Africa (13 countries, 18 organisations)
Botswana (BWA), DR Congo (ADCD), Ghana (ICYE, VOLU, WOS), Kenya (ICYE, KVDA), Malawi (COFO), Morocco (CJM), Mozambique (AJOV, AJUDE), Nigeria (ICYE), South Africa (SAVWA), Tanzania (ICYE, UV), Togo (FAGAD), Uganda (UPA), Zimbabwe (ZWA)

Americas (10 countries, 16 organisations)
Argentina (SES), Bolivia (ICYE), Brazil (ICYE), Colombia (ICYE, WC), Costa Rica (ACI), Ecuador (CHI, VASE), Honduras (ICYE), Mexico (AMV, ICYE, VIVE), Peru (BVBP, VIVOL), USA (UP, VFP)

Asia-Pacific (20 countries, 38 organisations)
Australia (IVP), Bangladesh (SCI), Cambodia (CYA), China/ Hong Kong/ Macau (DWC, SCI, VT, MNCYA), India (FSL, ICDE, RUCHI, SCI), Indonesia (DJ, GREAT, IVP), Japan (ICYE, NICE, SCI), Laos (HJA), Malaysia (MOVE, SCI), Mongolia (MCE), Myanmar (GIVE), Nepal (FFN, ICYE, VIN), New Zealand (ICYE), Palestine (IPYL), Philippines (GIED), South Korea (ICYE, IWO), Sri Lanka (GV4GF, SCI), Taiwan (ICYE, VYA), Thailand (DALAA, VSA), Vietnam (SJV, VPV)

Europe (33 countries, 80 organisations)
Armenia (HUJ), Austria (GREN, HOB, SCI), Azerbaijan (BF), Belgium (BW, CBB, JAVVA, SCI, SVI), Bulgaria (CVS), Czech Republic (INEX-SDA), Denmark (ICYE, MS), Estonia (EST), Finland (ALLI, ICYE, KVT), France (ANEC, CONC, JR, REMP, SCI, SJ), Germany (IBG, IBO, ICJA, IJGD, NIG, OH, PRO, SCI, VJF), Greece (ELIX, SCI), Hungary (EGY, SCI), Iceland (AUS), Ireland (VSI), Italy (IBO, IG, JOINT, LEG, LUN, SCI), Kosovo (GAIA), Latvia (YS), Netherlands (IBO, SIW, VIA), Norway (ID), Poland (FIYE, SCI), Portugal (IPDJ), Romania (SCI), Russia (GS, PZ, SOD), Serbia (VCV, YRS), Slovakia (INEX), Slovenia (SCI), Spain/ Catalunya (DA, SVI, COCAT, SCI), Sweden (IAL), Switzerland (ICYE, SCI), Turkey (GHD, GSM, PYA), UK (CONC, ICYE, IVS, VAP, WCIA), Ukraine (ALT, ST, UF)

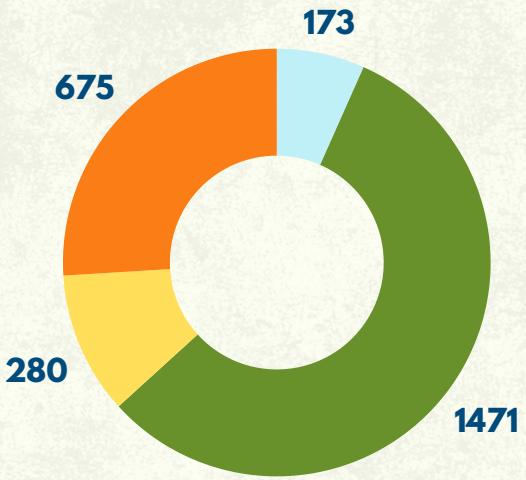
More details are available at this Annex*

02 Project Focus Areas

Projects are focused on key themes such as Environment and Sustainability, Community Development, Poverty Reduction, and Health Promotion, and Culture and Arts, with activities taking place across Africa, the Americas, Asia- Pacific, and Europe. According to the Global Statistics 2025, a total of 2,599 projects were organised.

Projects Organised in 2025

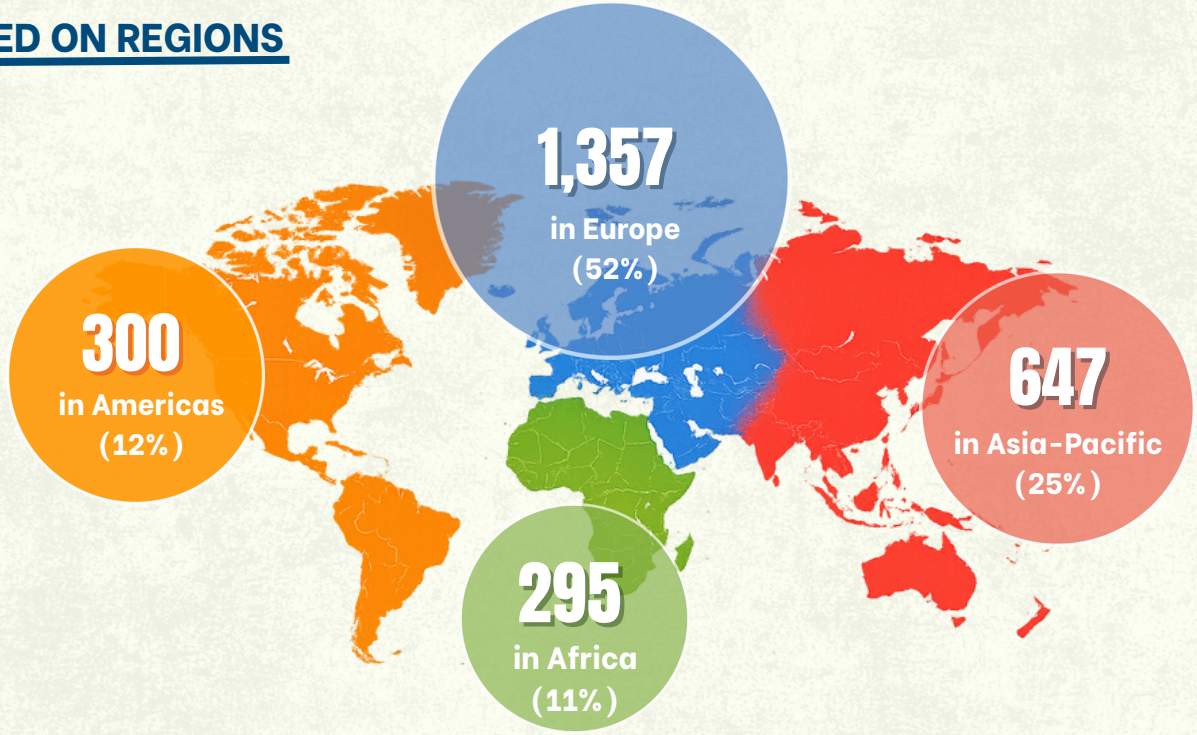
BASED ON DURATION LENGTH



According to Global Statistics 2025,
2,599 projects were organised.

- VSTV (1 - 6 days): 7%
- STV (7 - 29 days): 57%
- MTV (30 - 182 days): 11%
- LTV (over 182 days): 26%

BASED ON REGIONS



BASED ON THEMES

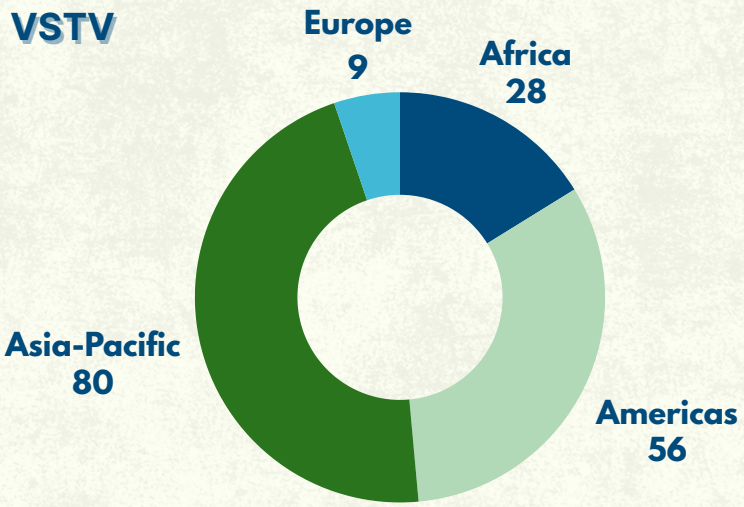
- 563 ENVIRONMENTAL (23%)
- 525 DEVELOPMENTAL (21%)
- 353 CULTURAL (14%)
- 568 EDUCATIONAL (23%)
- 312 HUMAN RIGHTS (13%)
- 142 OTHERS (6%)
- 136 UNKNOWN

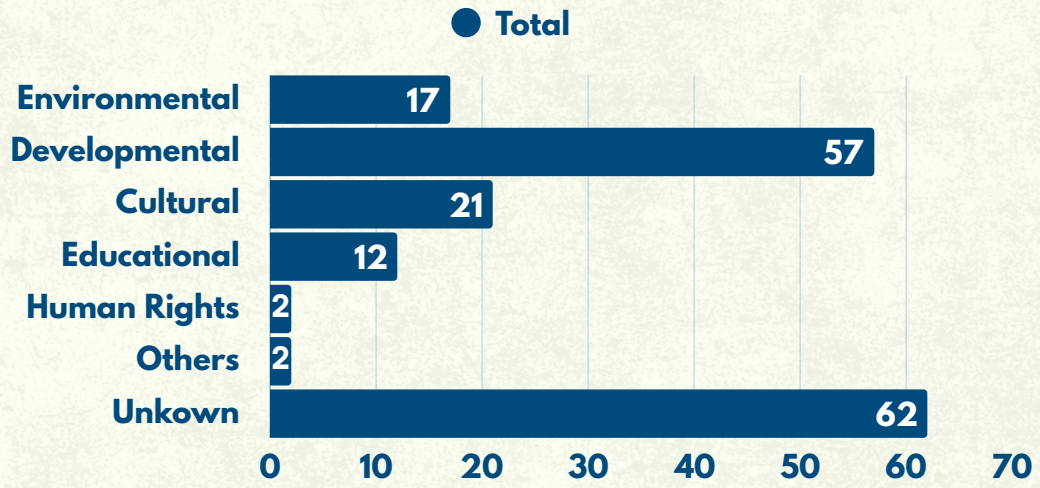
*Unknown projects are removed from the rates

More details are available at this Annex*

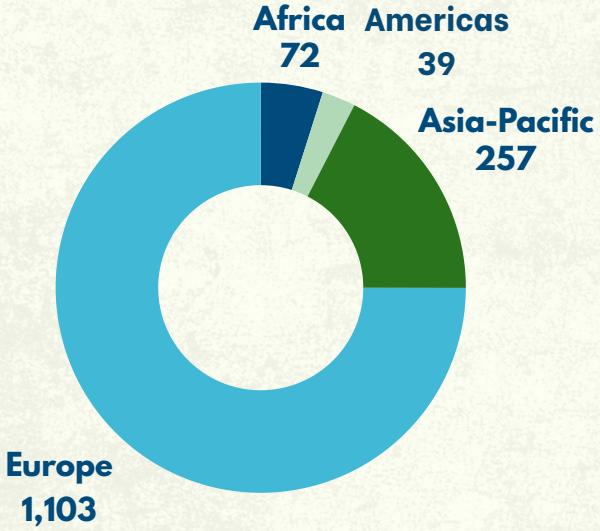
VSTV and STV (Very Short and Short Term Volunteering, 1-29 Days)

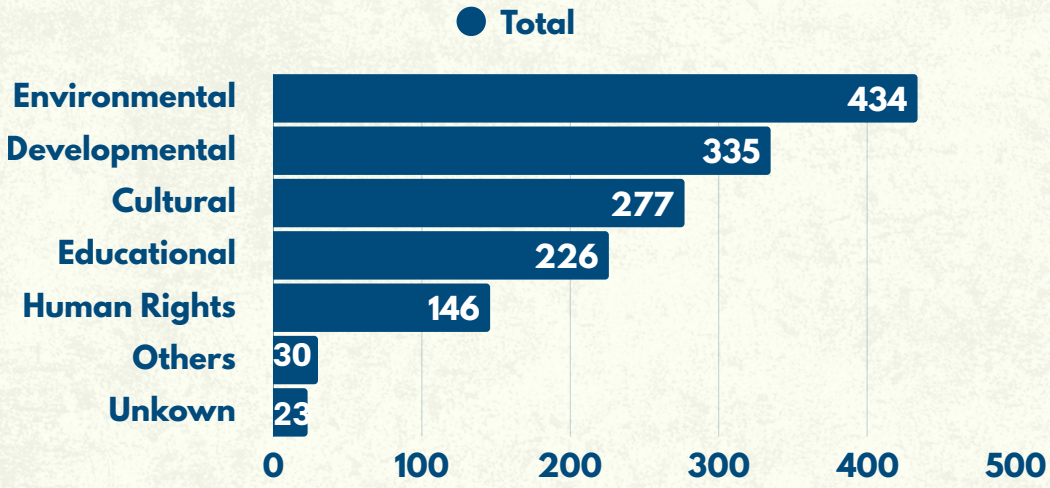
VSTV



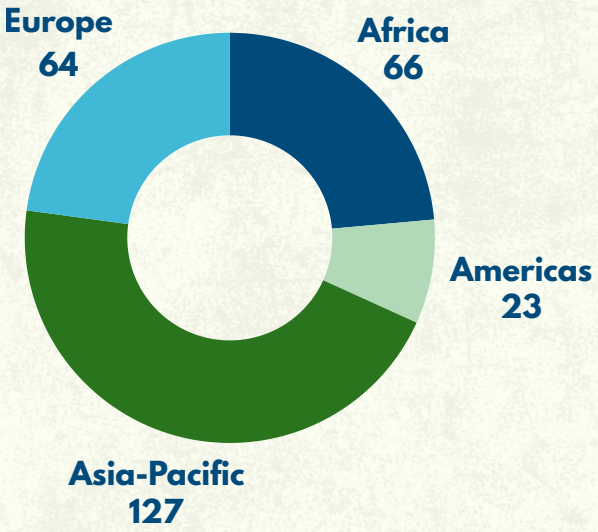


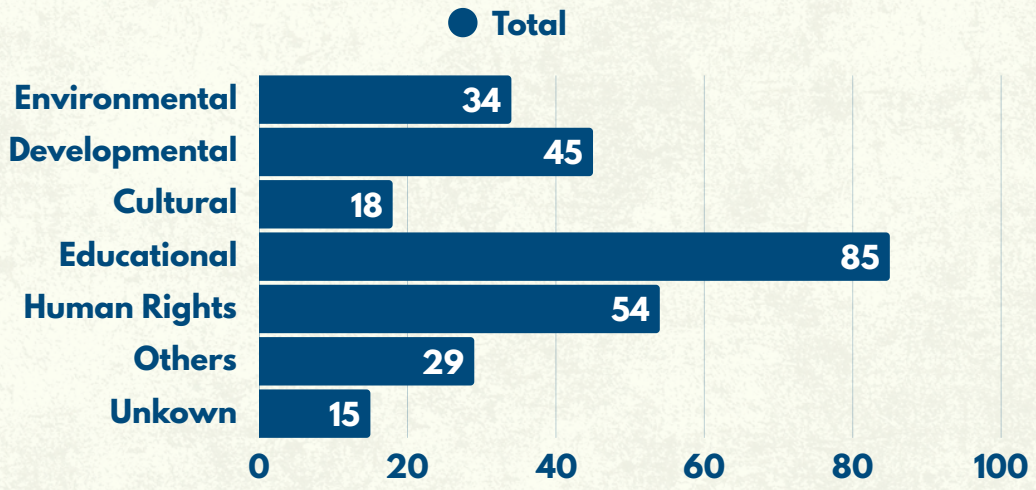
STV



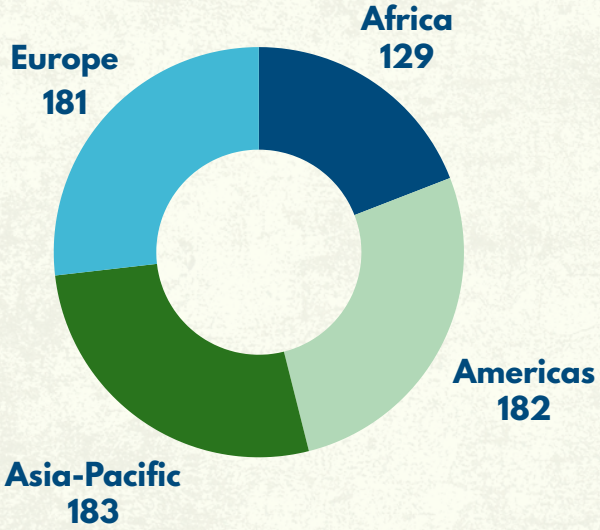


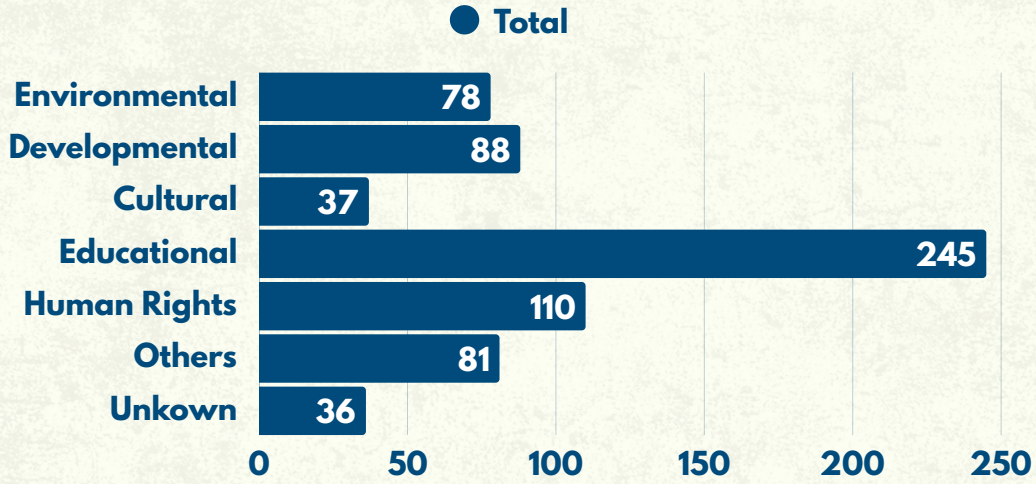
MTV (Medium-Term Volunteering, 30-182 Days)





LTV (Long-Term Volunteering, 182+ Days)







03 Volunteers Profile

Gender

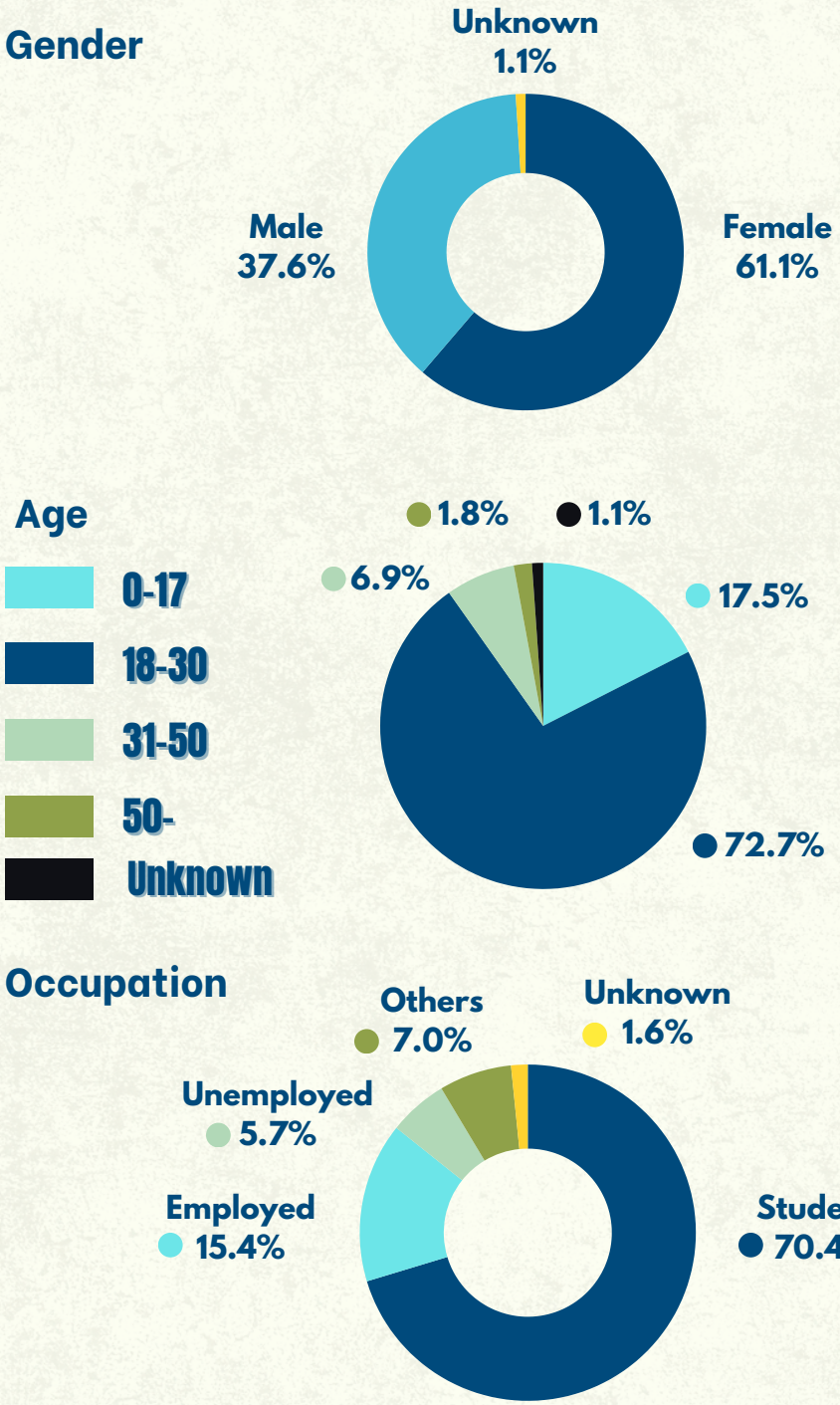
The graph shows the share of different genders on IVS projects in 2025. Almost two thirds were female volunteers. 1.1% of responses had no gender indicated (Unknown), while 26 volunteers identified as Other and are therefore not displayed separately in the graph due to the small number. This category was 13 in 2023 - meaning the number doubled.

Age

The next graph shows the age of volunteers. Almost three quarters of all volunteers within our networks were aged between 18 and 30 years old. The second-biggest share (17,5%) is made up by volunteers up to 17 years old. Volunteers older than 51 years of age represent less than 2 % of all volunteers.

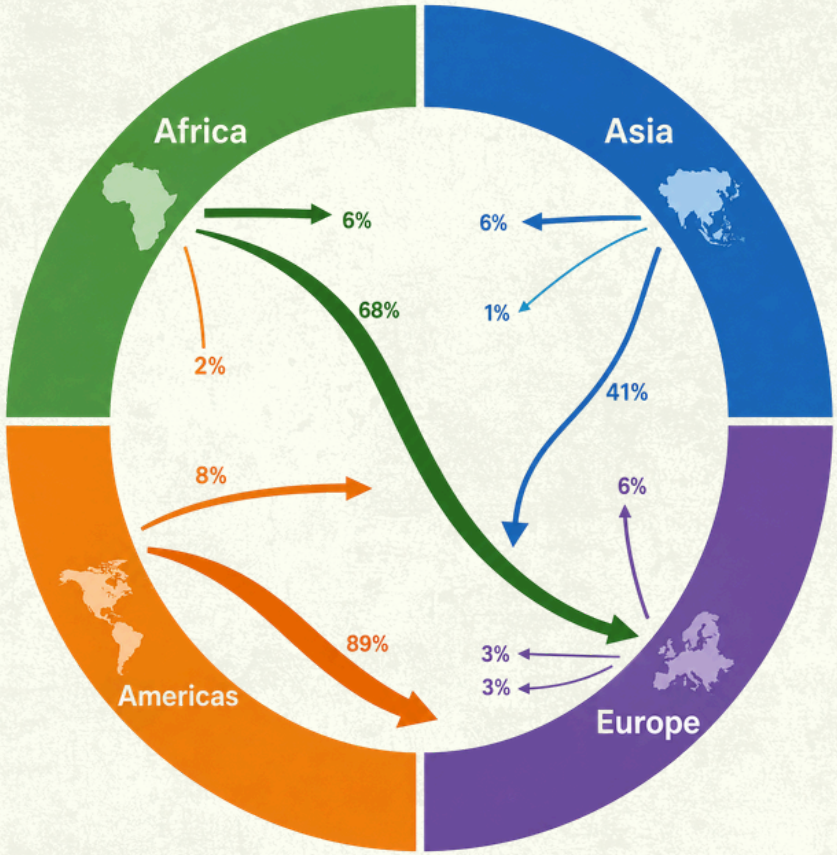
Occupation

On the third graph, you can see the share of volunteers with different occupations. The biggest share - students - slightly decreased from 74 % in 2023 to 70,4% in 2025. The second biggest share were employed volunteers - 15,4%. The share of unemployed volunteers increased to 5,7% of all volunteers.



Destinations

The last graph represents the movement of volunteers around the world. For the purpose of this report we categorised 4 continents: Europe, Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific. You can see which continents are receiving more volunteers and at the same time which continents send the most volunteers. The wider the arrow, the more volunteers travelled. (The total for each continent will not make 100%, as there are also "Unknown" and volunteers travelling within one continent).



Graphic created with ChatGPT

The graphic does not contain national volunteers and volunteers moving within one continent:

AFRICA	AMERICAS	ASIA PACIFIC	EUROPE
582	654	1,378	7,035

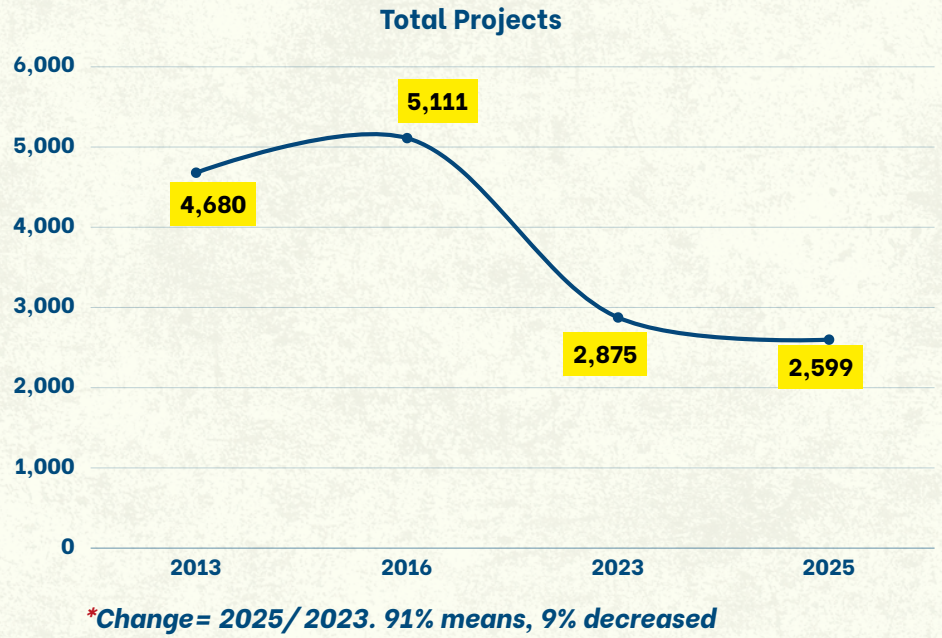


04 Changes Since 2013

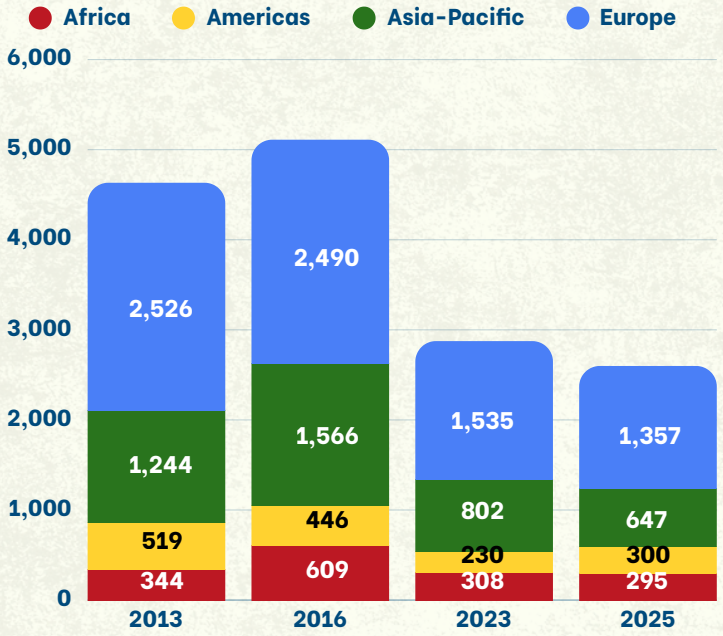
Number of Projects Organised

The total number of projects organised decreased by 10% compared with 2023 and was approximately half (51%) of the number recorded in 2016.

By project type, VSTV and LTV projects increased significantly compared with 2023, by 56% and 74% respectively. In contrast, STV projects decreased by 20%, while MTV projects decreased by 48%. Regional trends also varied. The number of projects organised in the Americas increased by 30% compared with 2023, while the number in Asia decreased by 19%.



*Change= 2025/2023. 91% means, 9% decreased



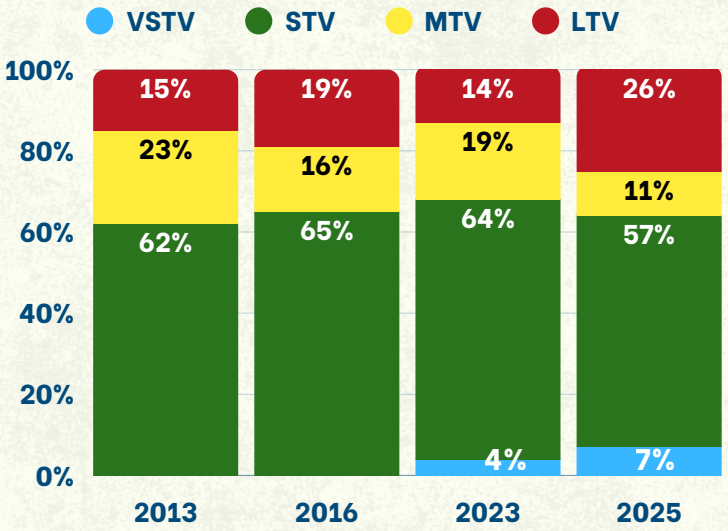
*If we exclude several exceptionally large changes that distort the overall comparison - one organisation in Vietnam decreasing from 307 projects in 2023 to 12 in 2025; one organisation in Belgium decreasing from 253 to 13; two organisations in Iceland decreasing from 266 to 0 due to non-submission; and one organisation in Belgium increasing from 0 due to non-submission in 2023 to 145 projects in 2025 - a different overall trend emerges.

On this adjusted basis, the total number of projects increased by 19%, from 2,049 in 2023 to 2,429 in 2025. In Asia, the number increased slightly, from 495 to 502 (+1%), while in Europe it increased from 1,016 to 1,199 (+18%).

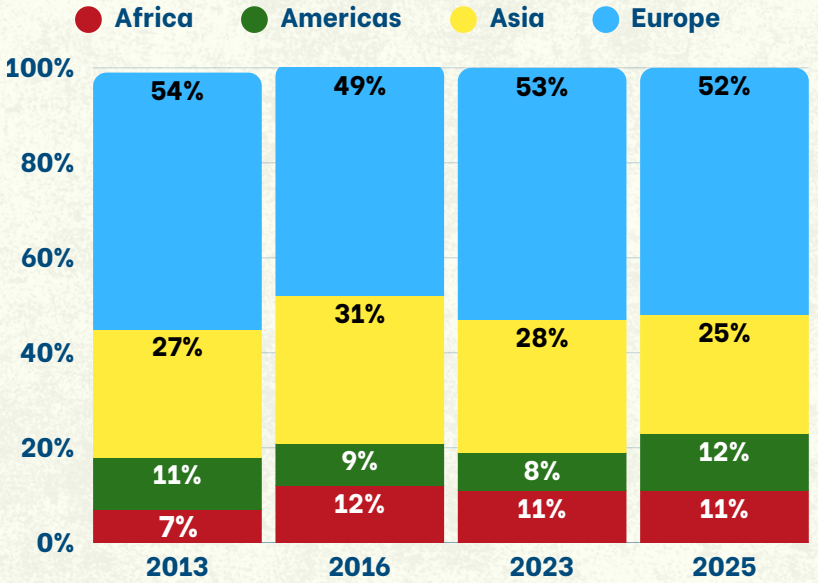
Rate of Length/ Regions/ Themes Organised (Projects)

VSTV (4→7%)/ LTV (14→26%) increased, MTV decreased (19→11%) while STV kept a majority (64→57%). Asia decreased (28→25%) while Americas increased (8→12%) and Africa/ Americas kept almost the same. Environment decreased (29→23%), but kept the top with Education while Human Rights increased (4→13%).

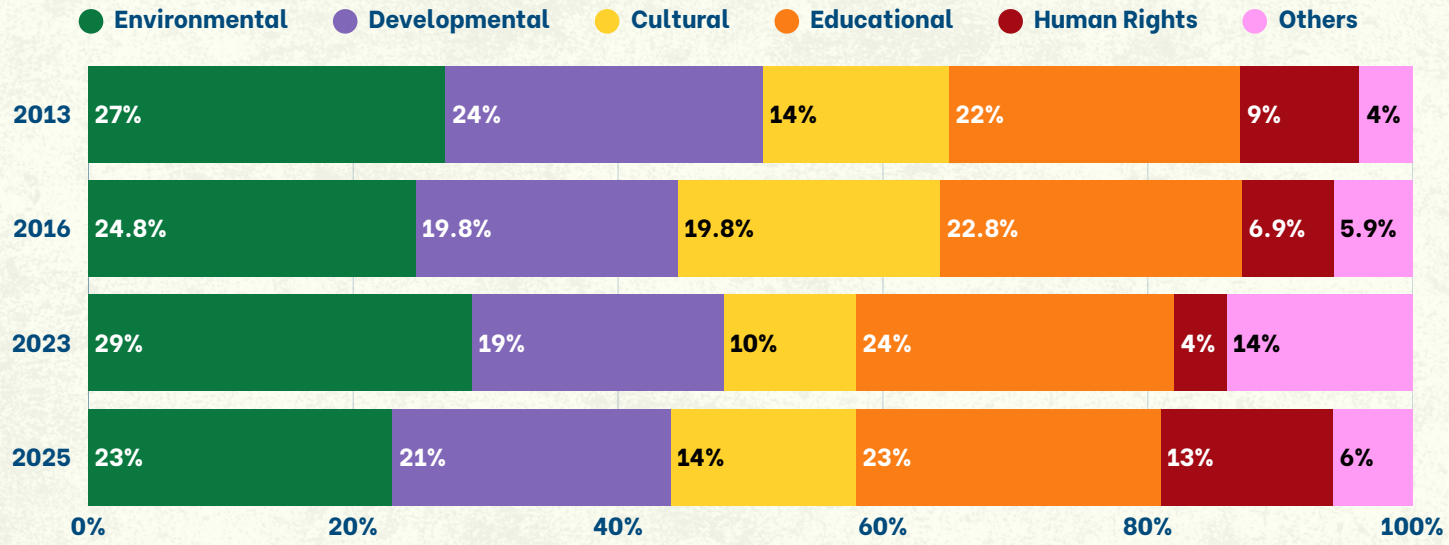
Rate by length



Rate by regions



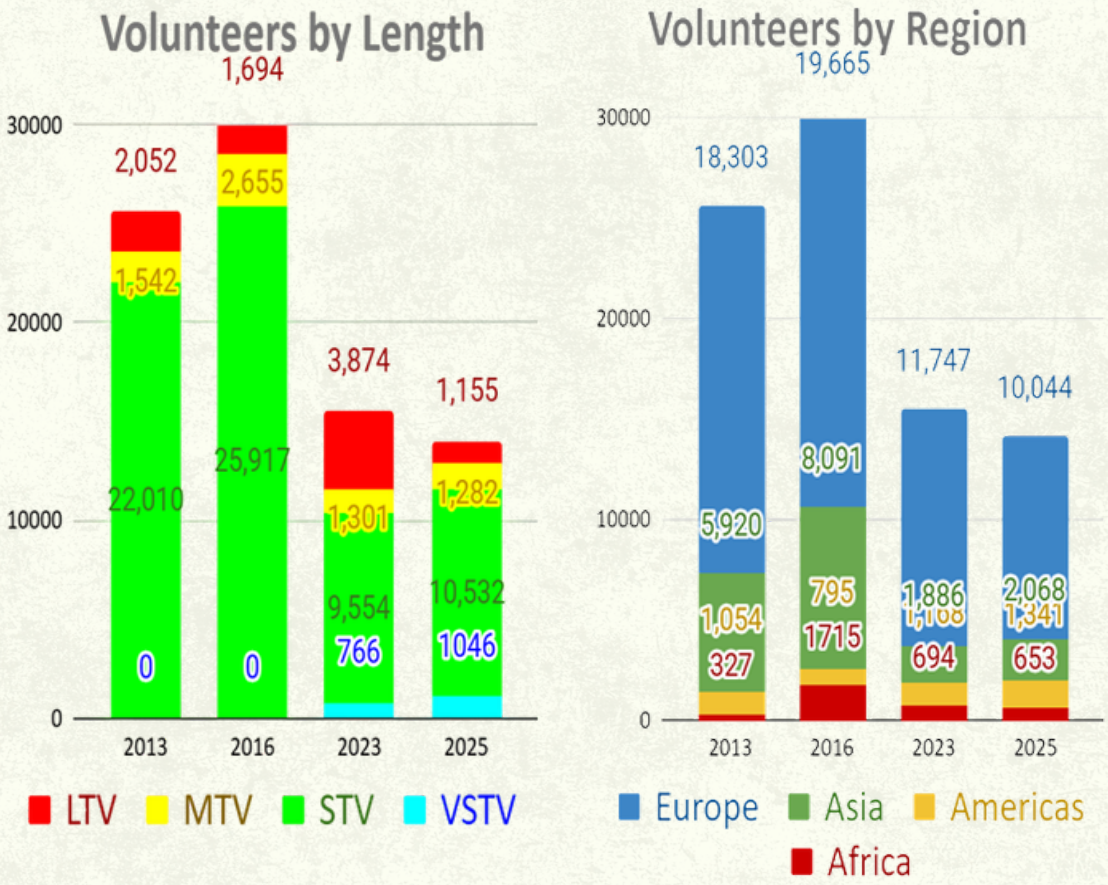
Rate by themes



Volunteers Participating

The total number of volunteers decreased by 9% compared with 2023 and remained substantially below the 2016 level, at 47% of the number recorded that year.

Participation trends varied considerably by project type. The number of volunteers participating in LTV projects fell sharply, by 70%, despite a 74% increase in the number of LTV projects organised. By contrast, the number of MTV volunteers remained almost stable (-1%), even though the number of MTV projects decreased by 48%. VSTV recorded the strongest growth in volunteer participation, increasing by 37%, while participation in STV projects increased by 10%. Overall, these figures suggest a continuing shift towards shorter-term forms of participation.



Regional trends were mixed. The Americas continued to grow, with volunteer participation increasing by 15% compared with 2023, following substantial growth between 2016 and 2023. Asia also recorded a 10% increase compared with 2023, following the sharp decline recorded between 2016 and 2023. In contrast, volunteer participation decreased by 6% in Africa and by 14% in Europe

There have been challenges comparing some of the data from 2025 with 2023 as one organisation with very high numbers of volunteers in 2023, did not report all their volunteers in 2025 while another did not submit the data in 2023 while they contributed a big number for 2025. If those additional numbers are not considered, there would have been an **increase of 6% in the numbers of volunteers in 2025 instead of a decrease of 9%.**

Participation by project length, region, sex, age and occupation

The overall profile of IVS participation remained relatively stable, with short-term projects (STVs), European participants, women, young people aged 18–30 and students continuing to represent the largest shares within their respective categories.

The shift towards shorter forms of participation was particularly visible: the share of volunteers participating in STVs increased from 62% in 2023 to 75% in 2025.

Regionally, Asia's share of total participation increased from 12% to 15%, while Europe was the only region to record a decline in its share, from 76% to 71%. Nevertheless, Europe continued to account for a substantial majority of participants.

Women's share of participation increased from 58% to 62%, while the share of participants identifying as "other" increased slightly from 0.13% to 0.22%. The distribution by age and occupation remained broadly stable. The proportion of employed participants increased from 14% to 16%, which may be associated with the growing prevalence of shorter-term participation. (In these comparisons we subtract the categories of "Unknown").

Photo credit: IWO South Korea



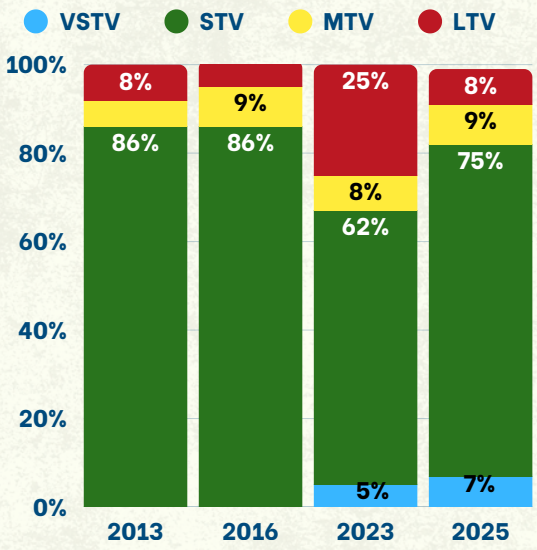
Photo credit: IPYL Palestine



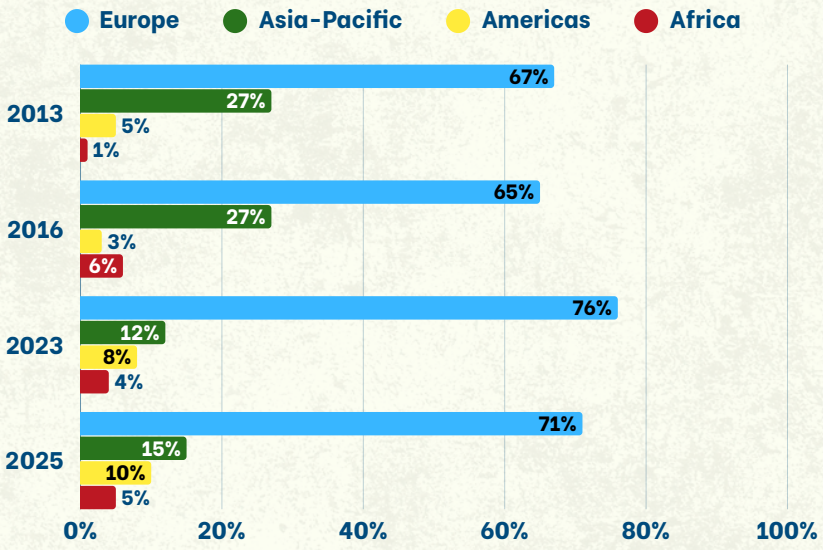
Photo credit: SAVWA South Africa



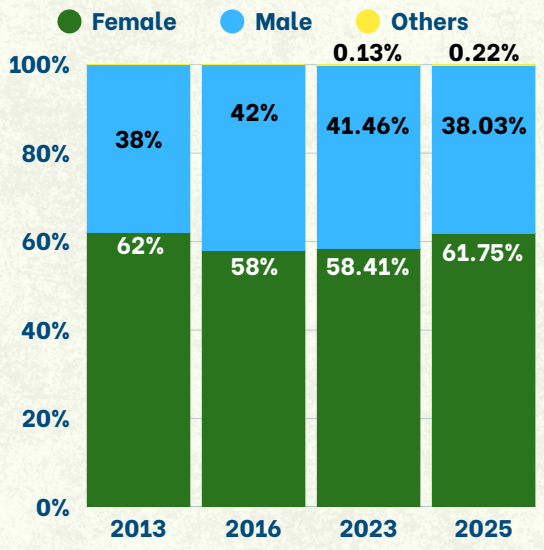
Participation by length



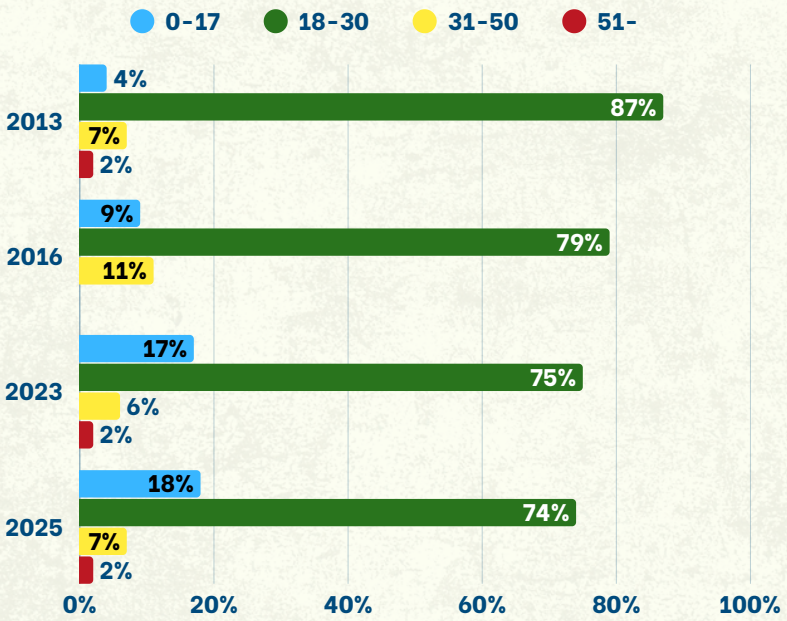
Participation by region



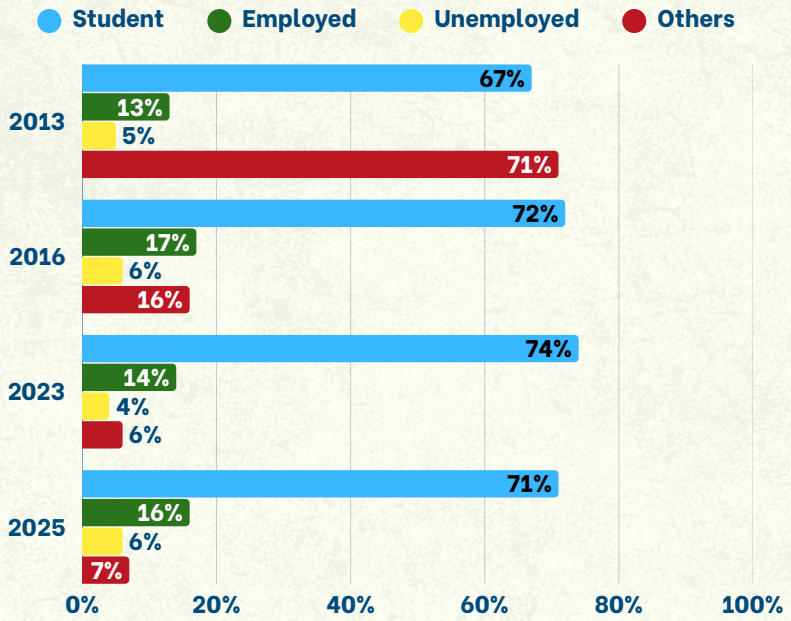
Participation by sex



Participation by age



Participation by occupation



Country Ranking 2025

Projects

Germany got to the first rank of the top 10 countries. Belgium moved from second to third place while Vietnam (first rank in 2023) and Iceland (third rank in 2023) are not among the top 10 countries anymore.

Total volunteers

France had the most volunteers as in 2025 with Belgium, Spain, Italy, Germany, Mexico, Japan and Turkey stayed in the top 8. Ukraine reached the 9th rank on the total volunteers and the outgoing one.

Outgoing volunteers

Belgium got to the first rank while top 8 countries are same here too.

National volunteers

France got to the top while there are many new faces here (No. 2 Mexico, No. 4 Peru, No. 5 Belgium and No. 9 Palestine).

Germany got to the 1st rank in in organising **projects**



France had the most **volunteers**



2025 TOP COUNTRY

Belgium got to the first rank in **outgoing volunteers**



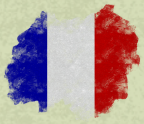
France got to the top in having **national volunteers**





COUNTRY RANKING (PROJECT)

2016



1. France
2. Germany
3. India
4. Japan
5. Iceland
6. Kenya
7. Vietnam
8. Italy
9. Spain
10. Indonesia

2023



1. Vietnam
2. Belgium
3. Iceland
4. Germany
5. France
6. Spain
7. Japan
8. Kenya
9. Italy
10. India

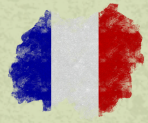
2025



1. Germany
2. France
3. Belgium
4. Japan
5. Italy
6. Turkey
7. Mexico
8. Spain
9. Kenya
10. Philippines

COUNTRY RANKING (TOTAL VOLUNTEERS)

2016



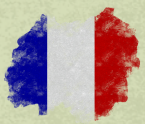
1. France
2. Spain
3. Vietnam
4. Japan
5. Germany
6. Korea
7. Italy
8. China
9. Russia
10. Turkey

2023



1. Germany
2. France
3. Italy
4. Mexico
5. Japan
6. Spain
7. Belgium
8. Turkey
9. Serbia
10. Morocco

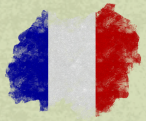
2025



1. France
2. Belgium
3. Spain
4. Italy
5. Germany
6. Mexico
7. Japan
8. Turkey
9. Ukraine
10. Czechia

COUNTRY RANKING (OUTGOING VOLUNTEERS)

2016



1. France
2. Spain
3. Korea
4. Italy
5. Germany
6. Japan
7. Russia
8. Turkey
9. China
10. Denmark

2023



1. Italy
2. Mexico
3. Germany
4. France
5. Japan
6. Belgium
7. Spain
8. Turkey
9. Czechia
10. Serbia

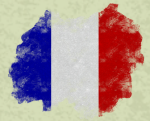
2025



1. Belgium
2. Spain
3. France
4. Italy
5. Germany
6. Japan
7. Turkey
8. Mexico
9. Ukraine
10. Czechia

COUNTRY RANKING (NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS)

2016



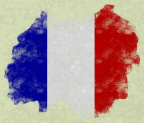
1. France
2. Vietnam
3. Japan
4. Spain
5. Tunisia
6. Germany
7. Kenya
8. Taiwan
9. China
10. Morocco

2023



1. Germany
2. France
3. Morocco
4. Spain
5. Japan
6. Iceland
7. Italy
8. Serbia
9. Mozambique
10. Portugal

2025



1. France
2. Mexico
3. Germany
4. Peru
5. Belgium
6. Morocco
7. Japan
8. Italy
9. Palestine
10. Portugal

05 Conclusion

The 2025 Global IVS Statistics show a movement that remains active and resilient while undergoing important changes in patterns of participation. Across the organisations contributing data, 14,106 volunteers participated in 2,599 projects worldwide, demonstrating the continued reach of International Voluntary Service across different regions, project formats and areas of work.

While the headline figures show a decrease in both projects and volunteers compared with 2023, these results need to be interpreted with caution. A small number of exceptionally large changes in organisational reporting, including non-submissions, have a significant impact on the global totals. When these cases are excluded for comparison, the data show increases in both projects and volunteers. Improving the consistency of data collection and reporting will therefore be important for understanding future trends.

One of the clearest developments in 2025 is the growing importance of shorter forms of participation. Volunteer numbers increased in both VSTV and STV, with STV accounting for 75% of all participants. At the same time, long-term volunteering presents a more complex picture: the number of LTV projects increased considerably, while the number of LTV volunteers fell sharply. Understanding the reasons behind this divergence, and the barriers affecting longer-term participation, should be an important area for further analysis.

The statistics also show some changes in the geographical distribution of IVS. Europe continues to account for the majority of volunteers and projects, but its share of participation has decreased, while Asia-Pacific and the Americas increased their shares of volunteers. The Americas also recorded a substantial increase in the number of projects. Although IVS remains geographically uneven, these developments point towards a broader distribution of participation. The areas addressed through IVS also continue to reflect major social and global challenges. Environmental, educational and community development projects remain prominent, while human rights projects increased substantially as a share of all projects. The continued participation of organisations and volunteers in conflict-affected contexts, including Ukraine and Palestine, further demonstrates the capacity of IVS to sustain participation and solidarity under extremely difficult circumstances.

Young people remain at the heart of the movement: almost three quarters of volunteers are aged 18–30, and students continue to represent the largest occupational group. At the same time, the growing participation of employed people, together with the shift towards shorter formats, suggests that IVS is adapting to changing circumstances and ways in which people are able to volunteer.

Overall, the 2025 statistics show an IVS movement in transition rather than simply one in decline. The challenge ahead is to understand and respond to changing patterns of participation while preserving the depth, accessibility, intercultural exchange and solidarity that define International Voluntary Service.

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