













REPORT

FRENCH VOLUNTEERING DAY 2021



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WHO ARE WE ?

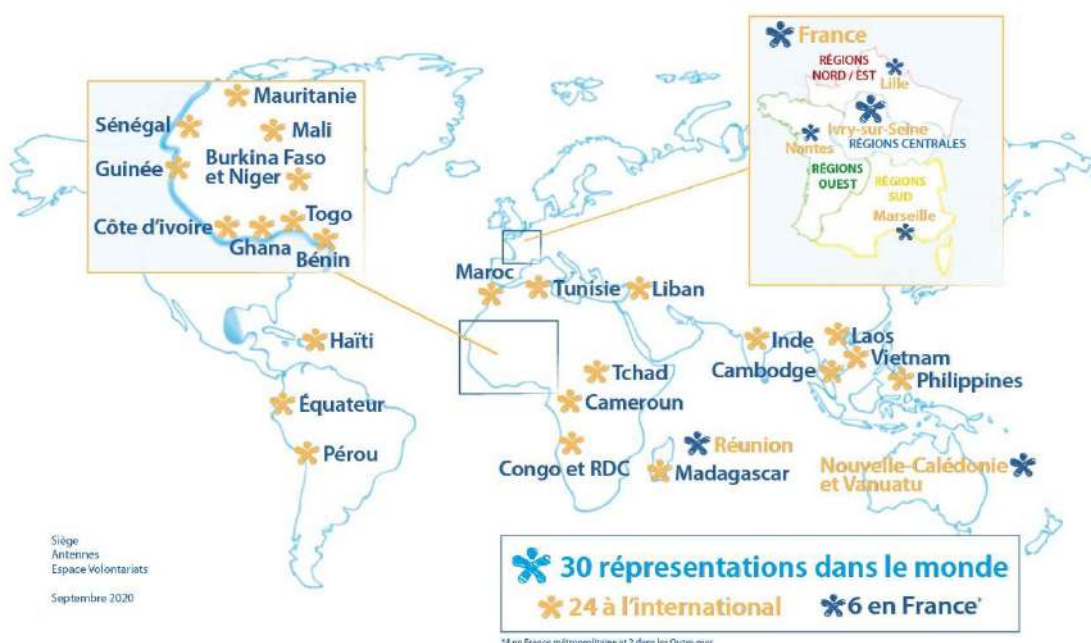
France Volontaires

France Volontaires is the French platform for International Volunteerism of Exchange and Solidarity (VIES). As an implementing agency of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, it brings together the State, local and regional authorities and associations around a mission of general interest: the development and promotion of volunteer and solidary engagements abroad. It is based on a presence in France (mainland and overseas) and on a network of Espace Volontariats in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Espace Volontariats Network

France Volontaires is present throughout the world through a network of Espace Volontariats deployed in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America/Caribbean and Asia. As resource centres, they inform, orient, guide, and link the actors of international volunteerism (potential volunteers, volunteers, sending organisations, public authorities, etc). The Espaces Volontariats teams also organise actions aimed at promoting forms of volunteerism and their contributions, as well as strengthening the capacities of the actors and better understanding the socio-cultural contexts of intervention. France Volontaires also has regional offices in Ivry-sur-Seine, Lille, Nantes, Marseille, Réunion island and New Caledonia.

✿ France Volontaires dans le monde ✿



FRENCH VOLUNTEERING DAY

Every year in October, France Volontaires celebrates the **French Volunteering Day**, a flagship event organised within the network of Espaces Volontariats around the world, which aims to :

- ✧ Highlight and bring together development actors to promote the development of French volunteerism
- ✧ Create a framework for exchange and consultation between the actors of French volunteerism
- ✧ Inform and guide people and organisations interested in voluntary work
- ✧ Promote the work of volunteers and the organisations that host them in the field
- ✧ Putting together supply and demand for French volunteerism



PROGRAMME

In 2020, the French Volunteering Day had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic that hit the world.

This year, however, thanks to an improvement in the health situation, it could be organized again in some of the countries where France Volontaires is present, and it was Ghana that kicked off the event on October 1st.

The French Volunteering Day was held at the Alliance Française of Accra, from 9am to 1pm, under the theme **"Volunteerism in the face of the health crisis: resilience and action"**.

It took place in 4 phases:

- ✳ Welcome address and official speeches
- ✳ Testimonials of volunteers
- ✳ Exchange with organisations
- ✳ France Volontaires and its missions

3 cultural performances and a convivial cocktail were also on the programme.



PROGRAMME
FRENCH VOLUNTEERING DAY
1st October, 2021

 Alliance Française of Accra  9 AM to 1 PM

9.00 Arrival of guests
Interlude - cultural dance

9.30 Introduction & speeches
Welcome address and presentation of the programme by the Espace Volontariats of Ghana team
Official speeches

10.00 Testimonies
Experiences of former volunteers (Ghanaian and French)

10.45 Address by the organisations
Discussions and engagements of participants on the theme **"How can volunteerism be an effective response to the COVID-19 crisis?"**
Interlude - cultural dance
Experiences of local organisations

12.00 More on France Volontaires and the mission of Espace Volontariats of Ghana
Presentation of Espace Volontariats of Ghana as a resource centre
Announcements and vote of thanks
Interlude - cultural dance

12.30 Cocktail - networking

PARTICIPANTS

In order to comply with health regulations, this year's French Volunteering Day could not be open to the public and the number of participants had to be limited, as entry was by invitation only.

The 2021 edition registered the participation of:

- ✱ 4 officials
- ✱ 20 representatives of organisations
- ✱ 5 former volunteers
- ✱ 1 current volunteer
- ✱ 2 future volunteers



OPENING REMARKS

After the welcome address and presentation of the programme by Belinda Banoenumah, the Officer in charge of Volunteering Development, it was the turn of the officials to speak.

Emmanuel Labrande, Director of Alliance Française of Accra, highlighted the longevity of the link between France Volontaires and the Alliance Française of Accra, which is used to hosting French volunteers. He illustrated the importance of volunteering missions by citing the example of a former French volunteer in Service Civique, now back at the Alliance Française on a local contract. He informed the audience of his intention to call upon a retired volunteer in the near future within his structure.



Moussa Bah, the National Representative of France Volontaires Ghana, started his speech by stating that France Volontaires will change its status at the end of the year to become a Public Interest Group. He went on to recall the missions of the organization and to look back at the missions of French volunteers in different institutions across the country since the beginning of the organization's activity in 2005, underlining the impact and the benefit that have resulted from them. He then spoke about the International Volunteerism of Reciprocity scheme which allows young Ghanaians to be deployed in France, announcing that 3 Ghanaian volunteers - including 2 at the end of the year - are going to carry out missions in France and specifying, with regard to former volunteers, that "out of the 10 who have already returned, 5 have had the opportunity to go back to France in order to pursue university studies". After recalling the objectives of the French Volunteering Day, Mr Bah thanked the Ghanaian authorities, the French Embassy and more particularly the French Ambassador to Ghana and the Head of Cooperation and Cultural Affairs, the structures hosting volunteers, the Director of the Alliance Française of Accra and the whole audience for having responded to this invitation to the French Volunteering Day.

OPENING REMARKS

Lily Bright-Tetteh, the President of COVOG, Coalition of Volunteering Organisations Ghana, used the theme of this year's French Volunteering Day to emphasize the importance of volunteerism in all its forms, especially in this time of global pandemic, for development. Through an inspirational and motivational speech, she urged the audience to embrace the spirit of volunteerism and carry out actions of general interest, without expecting anything in return.



Alexandre Foulon, the Head of Cooperation and Cultural Affairs at the French Embassy in Ghana, shared his satisfaction that volunteerism has withstood the global pandemic and that the youth of Ghana and France continue to show interest in this subject. He then spoke about the Cooperation Agreement signed between the French and Ghanaian governments in 2019 during the visit of the President of the Republic of Ghana to France, which places France Volontaires as one of the operators in charge of implementing the provisions of the Agreement, and which aims to facilitate the exchange of volunteers and language assistants between the two countries. He expressed his wish to see the number of volunteers increase between Ghana and France.

TESTIMONIALS

Former volunteers from France and Ghana took the microphone to share their volunteering experiences. They spoke about the activities they carried out during their missions, but also about the impact of the pandemic on them and how they managed to adapt to the health crisis, all of them being on mission during this period.

Pauline Niclass, former volunteer on Service Civique at Alliance Française of Accra

Fanny Gouillier, Volunteer of International Solidarity at France Volontaires Ghana

Raphael Adjei Delali Mensah, former International Volunteer of Reciprocity on Service Civique mission at lycée Kerplouz LaSalle in France

Afua Serwaa Boateng, former International Volunteer of Reciprocity on Service Civique mission at La Condition Publique in France, for the Africa2020 Season

Maud Naa Tagoe, former International Volunteer of Reciprocity on Service Civique mission at Collège Jeanne d'Arc in France



EXCHANGES WITH ORGANISATIONS

The floor was then given to representatives of local organisations, who presented to the audience how they have adapted their activities during the health crisis, the challenges encountered and the response actions carried out, in particular by relying on volunteers, and who reflected on the question “**How can volunteerism be an effective response to the COVID-19 crisis?**”.

Distribution of health kits and food, community awareness-raising, dissemination of verified information, educational activities with children during school closures... the organisations have shown responsiveness, resilience and determination in order to have a positive impact on the communities most affected by the pandemic.



FRANCE VOLONTAIRES AND ITS MISSIONS

The Officer in charge of Volunteering Development concluded the day by recalling the missions of the Espace Volontariats of Ghana as a resource centre, the different French volunteering schemes under the VIES and the different ways of hosting and accompanying French volunteers, then presented the future activities of the organisation, before thanking all the participants and saying the last word.



INTERLUDES & COCKTAIL

The day was punctuated by dance performances by a cultural group and ended with a convivial cocktail. It was an opportunity to strengthen the links between the different actors of volunteerism!



COMMUNICATION

Before the event :

Intervention in the "Campus Exclusive" programme of the University of Ghana's radio station, **Radio Univers**, during which the French Volunteering Day, its purpose and the format of this 2021 edition were discussed.



Kits distributed to guests containing: a tote bag, a flocked notebook and pen, and a flyer with the programme



Poster displayed on the door of the room where the event took place



Banner placed inside the room

MEDIA COVERAGE

Before the event:

Cover design for
the Facebook page
of France
Volontaires Ghana



Facebook
post on
France
Volontaires
Ghana page



Preparation of a press
release in French and
English and
distribution on the
Facebook account of
France Volontaires
Ghana, to the French
Embassy and to
journalists



After the event:

Facebook
post on
France
Volontaires
page



Facebook
posts on
France
Volontaires
Ghana
page



Facebook,
Instagram
and Twitter
posts on
the French
Embassy in
Ghana's
accounts



Facebook,
Instagram
and Twitter
posts on
the Alliance
Française of
Accra's
accounts



1 article on
modernghana.com



1 article on
newsghana.com



APPRECIATION

Our most sincere and heartfelt thanks to the French Embassy in Ghana and the Alliance Française of Accra who positively contributed to the organisation of this French Volunteering Day 2021.

Many thanks to the volunteers, both French and Ghanaian, for their involvement and mobilisation during this event, and to the local organisations for their participation and commitment.

Thank you also to the service providers who participated to make this event a success.

See you again next year!



CONTACT US

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