



FIG Working Week 2024

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Your World, Our World: Resilient Environment and Sustainable Resource Management for All

Mapping the World a Better Place: The impact of Young Surveyors on Land Administration and Climate through the VCSP

Abstract: With rapid technological advancements, development of industries, changing geopolitical situations, shifting population dynamics and significant shifts arising from climate change, the surveying profession has a significant role to play in creating and sharing knowledge for a sustainable future. Within this, young surveyors are uniquely positioned to be able to take a proactive approach to existing local challenges, with their thirst for knowledge, ability to travel to work and learn, fresh skill sets and education and technological adeptness.

Deploying young surveyors to support land administration efforts, whether in-Country or supporting these works virtually, offers a valuable opportunity for the younger generation to make a real difference in the world. These experiences often help them to find diverse mentors to support their growth and help them link their values to help others and make the world a better place into a fulfilling career pathway. They have the opportunity to address global challenges, utilise their technical skills in areas of need, promote sustainable development, build cross-cultural competencies and soft skills, network, and fulfill a greater sense of purpose.

As a collaborative global outreach program, the VCSP encourages FIG Young Surveyors to volunteer their time and skills to humanitarian and environmental causes to “Map the World a Better Place”. Young Surveyors from across the globe come together, bringing the energy of young blood into the fight for two of the most important issues our generation and world face today - the climate crisis and the lack of equal access to land rights, thereby establishing sustainable development through humanitarian surveying.

The VCSP has produced a suite of impactful contributions to humanitarian surveying which include:

- 42 Volunteer Community Surveyors (VCSs) deployed to 9 countries (Nepal, Philippines, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Namibia and Sierra Leone)
- 4 separate Wisdom Workshops, each preceded by a Massive Open Online Course (MOOCs). In total these have been attended by over 300 participants from over 40 countries globally.
- 3 e-Volunteering mapathons, covering a global reach and participating across two separate countries and one globally. These collectively involved more than 140 e-Volunteering mappers from over 45 countries. Three Opportunity Partners were involved, and in total over 37,000+ features were mapped.
- A Knowledge Portal with a comprehensive and ambitious structure for which technical development is well underway and which is on-track for delivery in 2024.

Join us to hear about the impact that young surveyors are having in humanitarian surveying - how it's changing the course of their professional careers, how they're helping communities in need on-the-ground with climate, land tenure and valuation of unregistered lands, and how we're building a more resilient, sustainable future together by mapping the world a better place.