

Service activity

RESOURCE

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SERVICE ACTIVITY

Taking practical action that makes an immediate difference on an issue. When many people get involved, more may be achieved. This may include recycling, planting trees, stocking food banks, working on a service project (local or overseas), volunteering time to help a person or organisation. Can be combined with informing, raising awareness, or fundraising. *Examples: Sustainable Coastlines Beach Clean-Up; Community service day; Cooking for families in need; Helping at a school breakfast club; Working bee to clean up community facilities (childcare centre, kindergarten, playground); Preparing Christmas dinner at the City Mission.*

Planting mangroves, Philippines

Climate change is having a devastating impact on the tropical country of the Philippines. Abnormally strong cyclones have destroyed communities and heat waves have devastated crops and livelihoods. A group of student leaders in one small town witnessed the effects first-hand when their own rice paddies dried up, destroying their food source.

The students decided to tackle the effects of climate change by planting mangrove seedlings along a coastline in their community. The fully-grown trees will protect the shore from storm surges and damage. World Vision Philippines provided the seedlings as part of the community's disaster risk reduction programme. The mangrove seedlings will also help to rehabilitate the marine ecosystem damaged by the strong cyclones and over-fishing.

Photo: Jimenez Mong / World Vision



TIPS FOR TAKING ACTION

Decide on the main person/people you want to help and find out the types of service activity that would be most useful to them. Also consider your own skills and resources, then choose an appropriate service activity or action.

Things to consider:

- number of people involved (individual, group, class, etc.)
- the type of service
- check whether this service activity is needed and helpful
- could there be unintended negative impacts (taking away work or paid roles)
- the amount of time involved and frequency (one-off, weekly, monthly)
- level of skills required
- any gear or training required
- application or request process
- other requirements of the volunteer/service organisation
- expenses that need to be paid

Skills focus: practical action, participating, organising, teamwork.

Main features

May vary for different actions.

- ✓ Collaborate
- ✓ Behind the scenes
- ✓ High personal involvement
- ✓ Action

*Social action continuums
(Student sheet 1)*