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**Volunteer work between national experience and international practices: A reading of the National Association for Volunteer Work in Algeria as a model**

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	RESEARCH ARTICLE
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Volunteer work between national experience and international practices: A reading of the National Association for Volunteer Work in Algeria as a model</h2>
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<b>Keywords</b>	Voluntary work, national experience, international practices, National Association for Voluntary Work.
<b>Abstract</b> <p>Volunteer work in Algeria, as a model combining national and international practices, is characterized by its voluntary nature as a means of serving and developing society. Its organization and structure vary depending on the entity. On the one hand, there are local experiences, such as charitable associations that promote volunteer work through their programs. On the other hand, young people contribute to diverse initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and develop personal and social skills. The United Nations, for example, promotes multilateralism and sustainability through its volunteers, using tangible, practical action. Algeria's national experience in volunteer work began with the emergence of the National Association for Voluntary Work, a prominent local model that has gained recognition both nationally and internationally at the regional level. Based on the foregoing, we can summarize our discussion of volunteer work in Algeria, examining both the national experience and international practices, through an analysis of the National Association for Voluntary Work in Algeria. This association serves as a successful local model, both nationally and internationally, in volunteerism as an organized social activity aimed at serving the community, strengthening solidarity, and promoting the values of citizenship and sustainable development. Therefore, we begin our research by exploring volunteer work in Algeria, comparing national and international experiences, and then presenting an analytical reading of the National Association for Voluntary Work in Algeria as a pioneering example in activating volunteer initiatives within society.</p>	
<b>Citation</b> <p>Fatiha B.; Boudjema N.; Louafi R. (2026). Volunteer work between national experience and international practices: A reading of the National Association for Volunteer Work in Algeria as a model. <i>Science, Education and Innovations in the Context of Modern Problems</i>, 9(1), 1352-1366. <a href="https://doi.org/10.56334/sci/9.1.119">https://doi.org/10.56334/sci/9.1.119</a></p>	
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## Introduction

Voluntary work is one of the positive social phenomena that has gained an advanced position in contemporary societies, due to its central role in supporting social cohesion, activating social roles, building collective identity, and strengthening the values of citizenship, especially in developing societies that face increasing structural, economic, and cultural challenges. Volunteering is no longer merely an individual charitable activity; rather, it has come to be viewed as a strategic tool for promoting the values of solidarity and citizenship, and for reshaping social relations on balanced civic and community-based foundations, which contribute to integrating different social groups within a more cohesive social fabric. Voluntary work acquires particular importance among the youth category, as it provides them with opportunities to enhance belonging, assume responsibility, and engage effectively in community issues, which contributes to building a balanced personality and a firmly rooted national identity. In the Algerian context, voluntary work emerges as an urgent social necessity in light of the economic, social, and cultural transformations the country is witnessing, and the resulting erosion of certain traditional ties, along with the increase of marginalization, unemployment, and social withdrawal, especially among young people. From this perspective, the importance of this research becomes evident through its attempt to study the various dimensions of voluntary work, by analyzing its contribution to supporting social cohesion, strengthening social bonds, and activating social roles, in addition to its vital role in building social institutions and identity among youth, and in consolidating national values within the current local context. This paper aims to present a comprehensive conceptual entry to voluntary work between the national experience and international practices, through an in-depth reading of the experience of the National Association for Voluntary Work in Algeria, as a leading model in voluntary activity. This includes identifying the characteristics of voluntary work in the Algerian experience, reviewing the most important pioneering international experiences, then conducting an analytical comparison between national practices and international standards, leading to an analytical reading of the model of the National Association for Voluntary Work as a distinguished local experience, and providing a scientific evaluation of the experience of the National Association as a successful local model that can be benefited from in strengthening voluntary work and entrenching the values of citizenship and community development. Voluntary work in Algeria is considered one of the most prominent components of community development, as it contributes to reinforcing the values of solidarity and citizenship, activating the role of the citizen in public life, and achieving social cohesion. Despite the long-standing solidarity practices in Algeria, the development of modern civil associations has opened the way for organizing voluntary efforts and adapting them to international experiences. In this context, the experience of the National Association for Voluntary Work stands out as a model worthy of study, given the expansion of its activities and its increasing presence in the civil sphere.

## 1- Conceptual Entry to Voluntary Work

### 1-1- The Concept of Voluntary Work:

It is a non-profit work, not offered in return for a known wage, and it is a non-functional / non-professional activity, carried out by individuals for the purpose of helping and improving the living standards of others, whether neighbors or human communities in an absolute sense. There are many forms and practices that fall under voluntary work, ranging from traditional forms of participation to helping others in times of hardship and during the occurrence of natural and social disasters, without being requested to do so, but rather practiced as a natural reaction without expecting a material return for that work. Instead, the return lies in happiness and satisfaction when alleviating the suffering of the afflicted, reuniting the displaced, and warding off hunger and disease from the poor and the needy (Abu al-Qambaz, 2006/2007, p. 7).

The term voluntary work is considered a modern concept and refers to offering good to others without waiting for a material return or personal interest. Voluntary work encompasses all aspects of life and is not confined to a specific field, as a person

can choose the type of work he wishes to volunteer in, and the field he prefers to serve in. However, there are immediate and current voluntary actions that compel a person to engage in them without prior thinking, planning, or arrangement, such as relief efforts and disaster response (Na'im Hadhood, 2013, p. 370).

The importance of voluntary work lies in the fact that it contributes to the participation of citizens in the issues of their society, and it also links governmental efforts with civil and community initiatives working toward societal progress. Through such work, it is possible to exert a positive influence on youth and teach them a way of life based on assuming social responsibility. Voluntary work also leads to reducing the risks of social problems and deviant behavior within society, through the immersion of individuals in voluntary activities that make them feel their importance and role. This participation further contributes to enhancing the ability of society to help itself through the self-efforts provided by volunteers (Abu al-Qambaz, 2007, p. 41).

There are various characteristics that define voluntary work, in addition to its advantages and disadvantages. One of the main characteristics of voluntary work is that it is voluntary, meaning that individuals choose to participate in it by their free will. This desire to help others without coercion or compensation is what distinguishes voluntary work from other forms of labor or service. Voluntary work is also usually carried out outside the scope of regular employment or academic obligations, which reflects a genuine willingness to contribute to society (Yusuf Abd al-Karim, 31-07-2024, <https://www.ahewar.org/debat/show.art.asp?aid>).

Voluntary work also takes multiple forms that keep pace with the needs of society, starting from individual volunteering based on personal initiatives, and group volunteering that mobilizes the efforts of a group of individuals, to institutional volunteering organized by associations according to clear structures. It also includes professional volunteering that employs specialized expertise, electronic volunteering conducted through digital platforms, as well as relief volunteering concerned with rapid intervention in crises. This diversity reveals the vital role of voluntary work in supporting development and strengthening the spirit of citizenship (Al-Sa'id, 2020, p. 45).

### **1-2- The Concept of the National Experience in Voluntary Work:**

The national experience in voluntary work refers to the voluntary practices and efforts carried out by members of society or its institutions in serving the homeland and achieving its developmental and social goals without material compensation. This experience usually includes wide participation in initiatives such as health awareness campaigns, cleaning campaigns, and supporting those in need, with the aim of strengthening the values of citizenship, social responsibility, and belonging.

The national experience in voluntary work also points to the totality of initiatives and practices that have developed within society in response to its specific needs, relying on its cultural composition and its solidarity-based values. This experience represents the outcome of a historical interaction between formal frameworks such as associations and public institutions, and popular initiatives that embody the spirit of cooperation and belonging. The national experience is usually based on local social networks that contribute to mobilizing volunteers, organizing efforts, and directing them toward priority areas such as social support, relief, and local development. This makes the national experience a mirror of the society's identity and its ability to transform solidarity from a moral value into an effective social practice (Mansouri, 2019, p. 33).

### **1-3- The Concept of International Practices:**

International practices are the activities and responsibilities carried out by bodies and institutions on a scale that goes beyond national borders, whether they are governmental or non-governmental organizations, or multinational companies, within the framework of the international community. These practices include a set of behaviors and standards aimed at influencing international relations and dealing with issues such as trade, social responsibility, and sustainable development. They are often regulated through international bodies to ensure consistency and accountability. International practices in voluntary work also refer to global experiences that implement organized programs to enhance community participation, with a focus on sustainable development and the principles of social responsibility, which allows for the exchange of expertise between countries and the adoption of best models in this field (Smith, 2020, p. 112).

## **1-4- The Concept of the National Association for Voluntary Work:**

The National Association for Voluntary Work is a national body that aims to spread the culture of voluntary work and promote it within society. It consists of individuals, companies, and community institutions, and seeks to provide a communication platform to introduce the various national voluntary efforts, such as voluntary teams, initiatives, and programs. Its tasks also include supporting volunteers, providing a suitable environment for their work, and strengthening their role in community development. The National Association for Voluntary Work in Algeria represents a national non-profit organization that aims to promote the culture of volunteering and encourage youth and civil society to participate in social and charitable activities, through diverse programs and initiatives that contribute to community development and support vulnerable groups and meet their needs. This includes humanitarian and charitable activities to assist needy groups, conducting awareness and educational campaigns, work related to environment and education, developing youth skills, encouraging the spirit of social responsibility and citizenship, and cooperation with state institutions to exchange expertise in the field of voluntary work (Bouزيد, 2019, p. 37).

## **2- Voluntary Work between the National Experience and International Practices:**

### **2-1- The Algerian Experience in Voluntary Work:**

The Algerian experience in voluntary work is considered one of the fundamental pillars for enhancing community participation and developing the spirit of solidarity among citizens since independence. Algeria has sought to develop voluntary work through official institutions and civil society associations, with the aim of confronting social and economic issues and supporting vulnerable groups. This experience reflects the concern of both the state and society with nurturing a culture of volunteering, and strengthening the values of social responsibility and cooperation among individuals and institutions, in a way that contributes to achieving sustainable development and building a cohesive society.

#### **2-1-1- The Historical Roots of Solidarity in Algeria:**

Algeria has been among the Arab countries that possessed a favorable context in paying attention to charitable voluntary work. Algerians have known voluntary work since ancient times in villages and rural settlements, as it was the only means used by the older generation to announce voluntary activities under the name “Tawiza.” This term was used by Algerians to describe cooperation, mutual aid, and collective work that does not aim at material compensation. Dr. Abdelmadjid Omrani considered Tawiza within society as a form of voluntary work that contributes to comprehensive community development. The development of voluntary work in Algeria continued despite the condition of colonization that the country lived under before the 1960s. The Algerian Red Crescent was established on 11 December 1956 during the Algerian War of Liberation, headed by Mr. Chanquriha, known as Abdelkader, in the city of Tetouan in Morocco. Hassan Omar Boughelli was the first to preside over it and remained in this position until 1959. This charitable institution carried out benevolent activities inside and outside the homeland. Accordingly, it can be said that voluntary work in Algeria existed since long ago and began to develop despite the dire conditions that Algeria experienced during French colonialism, which constitutes evidence of Algerians’ love for charitable action. Voluntary work also witnessed the emergence of pioneering youth initiatives, most notably the group “Nas al-Khayr,” which adopted awareness campaigns targeting various segments of society, relying largely on social media, especially Facebook, which represents its main platform for organization and communication. The group’s activities focus on caring for orphaned children and patients by offering gifts and involving them in celebrations, in addition to addressing environmental issues such as cleaning beaches, gardens, and public spaces (Bouras, 2012, p. 134).

#### **2-1-2- Associative Voluntary Work in Algeria:**

It can be observed that voluntary work witnessed a kind of positive progress after Algeria’s independence, as evidenced by the development of its tools and the diversification of its fields with the emergence of charitable associations, which are considered the closest means for contemporary youth. Through individuals’ involvement in associations and local initiatives, the sense of shared responsibility toward public affairs is strengthened, and the values of cooperation, solidarity, belonging, and the reinforcement of citizenship are consolidated. This type of work contributes to creating spaces that allow citizens to

participate in addressing social and developmental issues, which enhances their awareness of their roles and strengthens their relationship with their environment and institutions. Associative work also provides opportunities for skill development and positive interaction among different social groups, which is reflected in building a more cohesive society capable of initiative, participation, and accountability. Thus, associative voluntary work becomes a fundamental lever for strengthening citizenship, not merely as a legal status, but as a daily practice translated through serving society and contributing to its development.

Political openness in Algeria points to the emergence of a wide associative movement encompassing social, cultural, sports, health, and environmental fields, making associations one of the most important components of civil society and the closest to citizens' interests, especially youth. This movement witnessed remarkable expansion, as the number of associations reached approximately 75,000 in 2001, increasing to more than 80,000 in 2005. This reflects society's transition toward reliance on self-initiatives rather than dependence on the state. Given that youth represent the largest demographic block, the necessity emerges for civil society to contribute to their care, capacity building, protection from social risks, and the enhancement of their economic, social, and psychological conditions.

Associations active in the field of voluntary work in Algeria contribute to strengthening social solidarity and promoting civic participation. Associations such as "Nas al-Khayr" have emerged, relying on fieldwork and digital media to organize social initiatives targeting vulnerable groups. The Association of "Guidance and Reform" provides diverse social and educational services within an organized voluntary framework, alongside the "Algerian Red Crescent," which plays a pivotal role in relief, health support, and humanitarian care. The National Association for Voluntary Work also encourages youth to engage in diverse developmental and social initiatives. In addition, youth and environmental associations concerned with health awareness, cleaning, tree planting, and supporting those in need stand out. These associations reflect the vitality of Algerian civil society and its ability to embody the values of active citizenship through continuous voluntary initiatives that contribute to local development and strengthen solidarity among members of society (Ben Youssef, 2020, p. 78), in addition to the Kafil al-Yatim Association, and cooperative initiatives carried out through media and television such as the program "And They Did Good," "You Will Remain the Doers of Good," and others.

## **2-2- Leading International Experiences:**

Leading international experiences in voluntary work highlight the ability of societies to organize individual and collective efforts in order to achieve a sustainable social impact. Many countries have developed advanced patterns of volunteering based on institutional planning, prior training of volunteers, and the use of digital technology, which has made volunteering a key factor in enhancing sustainable development and in consolidating the values of citizenship and social solidarity at both the national and international levels.

### **2-2-1- The European Experience (United Kingdom, Germany, Canada):**

International experiences in voluntary work demonstrate how institutional structures supported by legislation and training programs can create a deeply rooted and sustainable culture of volunteering. In the United Kingdom, the National Citizen Service program represents one of the most important governmental mechanisms directed at preparing youth for community participation through educational and field-based projects that enhance leadership skills and the spirit of initiative. A study by John Smith indicates that this program succeeded in expanding the base of volunteers through a system that relies on social inclusion, practical experience, and service-learning (Smith, 2015, p. 112). In this context, William Lloyd Garrison is considered one of the most prominent reform pioneers in the history of the United States. He became widely known for his firm and persistent stance against slavery and was among the strongest advocates for its abolition. He was subjected to both admiration and criticism due to his moral rigidity and his absolute opposition to slavery. As the editor of *The Liberator* newspaper, an anti-slavery press platform, Garrison played a leading role in the abolitionist movement since the 1830s, and his voice remained high and influential until he considered his struggle to have reached its goal following the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment, which ended slavery after the American Civil War (Menkma Rao, William Lloyd, 2023).



In Germany, the Federal Voluntary Service is regarded as an advanced model of organized volunteering, where volunteers work in social, health, and cultural institutions within a formal training framework that includes vocational training, psychological guidance, and performance evaluation. Hans Müller explains that the German experience is based on a vision that makes volunteering a component of social integration and a sense of civic responsibility and citizenship (Müller, 2018, p. 64).

In Canada, the Canadian Volunteer Centre Network has played a pivotal role in unifying voluntary efforts across the country, as it works on building institutional capacities, supporting local associations, and providing digital platforms that facilitate the recruitment of volunteers. A document issued by the network indicates that this system is based on the principle of structured volunteering, which links community needs with individuals' skills within a unified national framework (Canadian Volunteer Centre Network, 2020, p. 27). Taken together, these three experiences illustrate how legal regulation, governmental programs, and community partnerships can raise the level of voluntary effectiveness and transform it into a sustainable institutional practice that enhances active citizenship and supports social development.

### **2-2-2- Major Organizations: The Red Cross, Oxfam, and Others:**

The National Societies Investment Alliance (NSIA) is considered an important financing mechanism jointly managed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross, aimed at supporting national societies in countries facing complex and protracted crises. The alliance provides long-term funding as well as short-term grants to enhance the capacity of these societies to deliver humanitarian services and expand their outreach. Manifestations of voluntary work appear in first aid programs that aim to improve access to health care services, develop the capacities of local branches to mobilize resources, support vulnerable groups, and engage youth and volunteers, in addition to environmental initiatives and digital transformation. This voluntary activity contributes to strengthening the values of citizenship by involving individuals in serving society, instilling the spirit of solidarity and mutual support, and building a cohesive society capable of confronting social and humanitarian challenges. This experience also reflects the ability of national societies to engage in strategic planning and provide specialized training to ensure the sustainability of voluntary efforts and achieve a long-term positive impact on the lives of vulnerable groups and the wider community (IFRC & ICRC, 2023).

### **2-2-3- The Arab Experience in Voluntary Work:**

The Arab experience in voluntary work has witnessed noticeable development in several countries, most notably the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and Tunisia, where governments and civil society have launched programs and initiatives to enhance community participation and instill the values of citizenship. In the United Arab Emirates, national voluntary programs such as "The Year of Giving" and "Volunteer Week" were organized, encompassing environmental, educational, and charitable activities aimed at engaging youth and society in community service and instilling the spirit of cooperation and citizenship among them (Al-Hashimi, 2021, p. 34).

In Morocco, local associations such as the "Initiative Association for Development and Solidarity" have contributed to supporting vulnerable groups and organizing health and environmental awareness campaigns, with a focus on involving volunteers in cultural and social activities to strengthen national belonging (Al-Aroui, 2020, p. 47). In Tunisia, national associations and youth voluntary initiatives have played a fundamental role in addressing social challenges through programs for educating children, supporting poor families, and participating in environmental and local development projects, which reflects society's concern for building active citizenship and a cohesive community (Al-Mahdawi, 2019, p. 29). These experiences reflect the ability of Arab countries to activate voluntary work as a tool for enhancing social solidarity, civic participation, and community responsibility, in a manner that ensures the sustainability of local development and strengthens the bonds between individuals and society.

## **2-3- The Comparison between the Algerian Experience and International Practices**

### **2-3-1 The Algerian Experience in Voluntary Work:**

1357 - [www.imcra.az.org](http://www.imcra.az.org), | Issue 1, Vol. 9, 2026

Volunteer work between national experience and international practices: A reading of the National Association for Volunteer Work in Algeria as a model

Fatiha Bekouaci; Boudjema Nekbil; Louafi Rabah

The Algerian experience in voluntary work is characterized by its strong connection to deeply rooted solidarity traditions within society, such as *Tawiza*, generosity, and mutual aid initiatives during crises and religious seasons, which makes volunteering often event-based and responsive in nature. The framing of voluntary work relies on the Associations Law 12-06, which regulates civil activity without a clear legislative specialization for the field of volunteering, a matter that limits the possibilities of institutionalizing voluntary work and developing its mechanisms. Algerian associations also depend in their management on purely voluntary efforts and limited funding, with weakness in long-term planning and the absence of unified national platforms for coordinating initiatives. In the field of training, preparation remains fragmented and irregular, varying from one association to another, and lacking official recognition of certificates. Despite this, the social impact of volunteering remains strong, as it plays a pivotal role in strengthening social cohesion and providing support to society during disasters and crises, even if it lacks scientific tools to accurately measure its impact.

Algeria has witnessed a gradual development of the associative movement since the colonial period, as Algerians benefited from the French law of 1901 to establish cultural and charitable associations that contributed to supporting national awareness despite colonial restrictions. After independence, the same law continued to be applied but with limited powers, which led to the narrowing of associative activity until the issuance of Order 71-79 in 1971, which focused on building the national state through mass organizations as an alternative to independent associations (Khalil, 2016, p. 35). With the beginning of the 1980s and the expansion of the margin of freedoms, the July 1987 law was enacted, facilitating the establishment of associations. The events of October 1988 then reinforced political pluralism and brought about constitutional reforms that resulted in the Associations Law 90-31 of 1990, announcing the birth of a wide pluralistic associative movement whose number exceeded 67,000 associations after a few years. This development formed the historical framework for the emergence of the experience of voluntary work in Algeria, as the activity of associations became linked to solidarity, cultural, and social roles, and contributed to spreading education, promoting art, charitable work, and preserving national components. This made voluntary work a central part of associative dynamics and of civil society contributions in serving national development.

### **2-3-2 International Practices in Voluntary Work:**

International practices in advanced countries such as Canada, Britain, and Germany are characterized by a solid institutional model that makes voluntary work an essential component of the civil structure. Associations, non-governmental organizations, and governmental bodies contribute to gathering scattered individual efforts and transforming them into an influential social force capable of achieving wide and effective impact. Instead of individual activity remaining isolated or limited in effect—such as someone donating money or having a small amount of time to serve society—institutions take charge of organizing these contributions within integrated programs that allow directing them toward literacy eradication, supporting vulnerable groups, promoting community health, or protecting the environment, which makes collective efforts stronger and more effective. These systems are based on clear legislations that define the rights and duties of volunteers, and provide national digital platforms to coordinate between volunteers and institutions, in addition to adopting professional governance based on long-term planning, diversification of funding sources, and the allocation of professional teams to accompany volunteers. Advanced countries also integrate recognized training programs that grant volunteers skills and official certificates, and ensure the culture of volunteering within educational curricula, making voluntary work a continuous practice throughout the year rather than being limited to occasions. This institutional model contributes to reducing opportunism, improving information flows, and enhancing participation in public life, in addition to providing precise tools to measure the economic and social impact of volunteering. Thus, voluntary work becomes an effective sector in national development and in the formulation of public policies based on citizens' needs and state priorities (Rahhal, 2001, p. 33).

## **3- An Analytical Reading of the Model of the National Association for Voluntary Work in Algeria**

### **3-1- The Emergence of the National Association for Voluntary Work:**



The National Association for Voluntary Work is an accredited Algerian national association, officially established on 22 January 2013 in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 12-06 dated 18 Safar 1433, corresponding to 12 January 2012, relating to associations. The association carries the official registration number 53/13/ج.ش.و.ط.أ.

The headquarters of the association is located at: Ouled Fayet Municipality Office, Bouchdawi Amar Street, Ouled Fayet, Algeria. The association seeks to instill a culture of volunteering and consolidate the spirit of initiative and active citizenship through purposeful social and humanitarian programs and projects that serve various segments of society, particularly in the fields of youth, environment, education, and social solidarity.

### **3-1-1- Conditions of Establishment and the Motivating Reasons for Creating the Association:**

#### **Conditions of establishment:**

The National Association for Voluntary Work in Algeria was established within a social context marked by the growing needs of vulnerable groups and the rising awareness of the importance of civil initiatives during the last two decades. Its emergence came as a response to the desire of a group of young people and civil actors to organize scattered voluntary efforts within an institutional framework capable of coordination and providing official supervision for community initiatives. The legal transformations witnessed in the field of associations following the issuance of the Associations Law of 2012 also helped in creating a more flexible environment for the establishment of civil organizations, which enabled the association to obtain official accreditation and launch its activities at the national level. Since then, the association has adopted a vision based on spreading the culture of volunteering and mobilizing youth energies to serve society, with a focus on humanitarian, social, and environmental work across different provinces of the country (Ben Youssef, 2020, p. 45).

#### **The most important reasons and motives for establishing the National Association for Voluntary Work in Algeria:**

##### **The religious motive:**

The engagement of individuals in voluntary work with the intention of attaining reward and divine recompense, in harmony with the values of social solidarity deeply rooted in Algerian society.

##### **Social and civic motives:**

The desire to serve society and strengthen the sense of responsibility and belonging, to defend human values and translate them into initiatives that serve the public interest, as well as to elevate self-respect and gain social appreciation, especially among those who do not find this recognition in their professional occupations.

##### **Self-development and self-realization:**

The need to acquire new skills and knowledge, particularly among youth; the search for opportunities for innovation and breaking daily routine among adults; and also the desire of the elderly and retirees to find a new social role. This includes investing free time and directing it toward activities of social and developmental value instead of wasting it in unproductive activities, and enhancing social responsibility through the individual's awareness of his role in building society, contributing to local development, and improving quality of life.

##### **Psychological and value-based fulfillment:**

The feeling of self-satisfaction resulting from altruism and helping others without compensation, and engaging in an environment that allows initiative away from bureaucratic constraints.

##### **The need for social communication:**

The desire of individuals, especially youth, to expand their network of relationships, get to know others, and enhance social integration and openness toward their surroundings.

##### **The need for an organized institutional voluntary framework:**

The consolidation of these diverse motives within a national institution capable of directing voluntary efforts toward serving the public interest and consolidating the values of active citizenship.

#### **The need to connect with others:**

This innate human need leads individuals to join voluntary activities in order to create opportunities to meet peers and expand the circle of relationships, especially among youth, as getting to know others may serve as a gateway to deeper integration into society and the attainment of gains, whether personal or otherwise (Ma'touk & Zouqai, 2016, p. 23).

### **3-1-2- The Objectives of the Association and the Strategic Vision**

#### **Objectives of the National Association for Voluntary Work:**

The National Association for Voluntary Work seeks to achieve a set of developmental and social objectives that enhance the role of civil society in serving the public interest. The most prominent of these objectives can be summarized as follows:

##### **Promoting the culture of volunteering and consolidating the values of citizenship:**

Through spreading awareness of the importance of voluntary work as a fundamental element of sustainable development, encouraging individuals—especially youth—to engage in organized voluntary initiatives, and reinforcing the spirit of social responsibility and commitment toward public affairs. This also includes establishing volunteering as a societal value and reviving the traditions of “Tawiza” (solidarity and brotherhood) through awareness programs and local initiatives.

##### **Supporting vulnerable groups and improving quality of life:**

By implementing social programs directed toward people with special needs, poor families, and patients in isolated areas, such as organizing Ramadan iftar tables for needy families (more than 200 meals daily during Ramadan), visiting patients during religious feasts (Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha) and distributing gifts to children in hospitals to spread joy and reassurance, as well as providing humanitarian assistance during periods of crises and natural disasters (floods, fires, drought, etc.).

##### **Activating environmental and developmental work:**

Organizing tree-planting, cleaning, and environmental protection campaigns, and contributing to local development programs through field-based community initiatives.

##### **Building the capacities of volunteers:**

Providing continuous training courses to raise the efficiency of volunteers in fields such as first aid, management, digital media, and youth leadership, and encouraging skills-based volunteering that mobilizes individuals' professional expertise in service of the community.

##### **Strengthening partnerships and institutional coordination:**

Establishing cooperative relations with local authorities, educational institutions—such as organizing field visits for children to historical sites (the Casbah) and museums (Museum of Fine Arts), accompanied by drawing workshops and recreational activities in cooperation with the Directorates of Youth and Sports—cooperating with other associations and the Algerian Red Crescent, and developing international cooperation relations to benefit from leading experiences in voluntary work. The central objective of the association remains the collection of data related to individuals and groups suffering from vulnerability or weak social protection, and intervening in cases of disasters and crises.

In addition, the association follows up on the needs of these groups through initiatives and programs that contribute to improving their conditions. It also seeks to transfer expertise, monitor field situations, and employ them in the service of society by strengthening local efforts in the areas of protection, awareness, and social support. It further aims to consolidate the principles of solidarity and expand the base of civic participation through various activities aimed at empowering individuals and activating their role in community development (Shinon, 2018, p. 451).

**The Strategic Vision of the Association:**

The National Association for Voluntary Work adopts a strategic vision that anticipates a future in which volunteering plays an effective role in national development and the strengthening of social cohesion. This vision is embodied in the following elements:

**Building a sustainable volunteering system:**

Through establishing a national database of volunteers based on digital registration and continuous training, and ensuring transparent internal governance governed by standards of professionalism and quality of performance.

**Elevating voluntary work to an organized professional activity:**

By adopting mechanisms for planning, monitoring, and evaluation in accordance with international volunteering standards, and promoting skills-based volunteering to support developmental projects in line with the needs of each region.

**Expanding social impact and strengthening the association's presence at the national and local levels:**

To ensure geographical spread through active branches in different provinces, enhance rapid response capacities in emergency situations, and engage youth and women as a central force in voluntary programs.

**Digital transformation in the management of voluntary work:**

By adopting electronic platforms for volunteer registration, campaign management, and fundraising, and developing a professional media presence that promotes the culture of volunteering and increases public trust.

**Strengthening the values of active citizenship:**

Through consolidating the principles of solidarity, belonging, and collective responsibility, and making voluntary work a pathway for building a civic personality capable of participating in local development and community decision-making.

**3-1-3- The Organizational Structure and Internal Management Mechanisms of the National Association for Voluntary Work:**

The National Association for Voluntary Work is characterized by an organizational structure aimed at organizing volunteers' efforts and ensuring the effective implementation of initiatives at the national level. The structure includes a board of directors that sets general policies and supervises work strategies, in addition to specialized committees in the fields of social activity, environment, and training, which work to monitor the implementation of programs and initiatives. The association also relies in managing its internal work on clear mechanisms that include strategic planning of activities, distribution of tasks among volunteers and departments, performance monitoring, and results evaluation to ensure the sustainability of initiatives and the achievement of their social and humanitarian objectives. Periodic meetings, internal communication systems, and the use of volunteer databases also contribute to enhancing organizational efficiency and coordination among the association's various branches at the local and national levels (Ben Youssef, 2020, pp. 85-87).

These mechanisms reflect the association's ability to organize voluntary work in an institutional manner, which ensures the activation of the values of citizenship and community participation among individuals and achieves a tangible impact on beneficiary groups.

**3-2- Fields of Work of the Association and Mechanisms for Implementing Initiatives****3-2-1- Fields of Work within the Association include the following:****Social and humanitarian activities:**

These constitute one of the most prominent fields of action of the National Association for Voluntary Work. They include providing support and assistance to vulnerable groups such as orphaned children, patients, and the elderly, in addition to

organizing educational and pedagogical programs for the local community. These activities aim to consolidate the values of solidarity and social cohesion and to encourage active civic participation.

#### **Environmental initiatives:**

The association works to implement environmental campaigns aimed at protecting the environment and enhancing environmental awareness within society, such as cleaning beaches and public parks, tree-planting campaigns, and awareness initiatives on the importance of preserving natural resources. This field highlights the vital role of voluntary work in instilling values of responsibility toward the environment and the community.

#### **Training and supervision:**

The association focuses on training and mentoring programs for volunteers in order to develop their skills and enhance their efficiency in implementing voluntary projects, while instilling a spirit of initiative and active engagement in society. These programs contribute to building qualified volunteer cadres capable of managing various initiatives efficiently.

#### **Humanitarian campaigns:**

These campaigns include field activities carried out in cooperation with state institutions and international organizations, such as the Red Crescent and national associations, with the aim of providing continuous and effective services to beneficiaries. They also reflect the strategic role of the association in supporting society and involving volunteers in social responsibility (Ben Youssef, 2020, pp. 78–81).

### **3-3- Evaluation of the Experience of the National Association for Voluntary Work at the National and International Levels:**

Voluntary work today constitutes one of the most prominent indicators of societal vitality and its ability to organize civic energies in the service of development. In this context, the National Association for Voluntary Work in Algeria, under the leadership of Ahmed Malha, has emerged as a successful local model seeking to frame voluntary efforts and invest them in supporting vulnerable groups, promoting social awareness, instilling the spirit of citizenship, and participating in national initiatives of a humanitarian and social nature. However, the evolution of the international environment of civil society work, accompanied by global standards related to governance, volunteer management, resource transparency, and impact-based planning, necessitates a re-examination of this experience and its evaluation according to objective criteria that allow for the identification of strengths and weaknesses and the anticipation of possible development pathways. Hence, the analysis of the performance of the National Association for Voluntary Work is conducted in light of internationally recognized standards for organizing voluntary work, and through exploring real opportunities to strengthen its alignment with international standards and best global practices, as a prelude to enhancing its role within the Algerian societal landscape.

#### **3-3-1- Strengths and Challenges Facing the Association in its National Performance:**

The strengths of the National Association for Voluntary Work lie in its historical and foundational experience, which has positioned it as a pioneer in the field of voluntary work in Algeria. Its accumulated experience has enabled it to organize initiatives and community projects and to gain broad national credibility. The association also possesses a wide network of volunteers distributed across various provinces, capable of implementing initiatives in both urban and rural areas. In addition, the diversity of its fields of work—covering education, health, environment, culture, and care for persons with special needs—gives its contribution a comprehensive and multidimensional character. Institutional partnerships and support further enhance its ability to access resources and technical and logistical expertise, while its capacity to organize large-scale national campaigns and initiatives allows it to reach diverse segments of society.

Conversely, the association faces several challenges that may affect the sustainability and effectiveness of its work, foremost among them the limited funding and reliance on governmental support and donations, which restrict its ability to implement long-term projects or expand into new areas. There is also an imbalance in the geographical distribution of volunteers, with some southern or remote provinces experiencing weak voluntary participation. In addition, challenges include insufficient

specialized training and qualification of volunteers, limited utilization of media and social networks to promote initiatives, as well as administrative constraints and the legal framework that may hinder the rapid implementation of projects. The social and economic context also affects the level of volunteer commitment and the association's ability to secure the material resources necessary for its projects.

### **3-3-2- Evaluation of the Performance of the National Association for Voluntary Work at the National Level and its Standing at the International Level:**

#### **Evaluation of the association's performance at the national level:**

Evaluating the performance of the National Association for Voluntary Work at the national level constitutes a fundamental step in understanding the extent of its effectiveness in achieving its societal objectives and strengthening its role in local development. The national experience has demonstrated the association's capacity to mobilize a large number of volunteers and to organize diverse projects in the fields of health, education, environment, and social solidarity, thereby contributing to the provision of direct services to vulnerable groups and enhancing societal awareness of the importance of voluntary work. The association's organizational structures have also shown relative flexibility in project management and human resource administration, despite the presence of certain challenges related to strategic planning and geographical coverage in some remote provinces.

On the other hand, the evaluation has allowed for an analysis of the association's commitment to the principles of transparency and accountability, where the publication of some annual reports and the provision of limited information on funding and resources were observed. This highlights the need for greater clarification and documentation in order to strengthen trust with volunteers and beneficiaries. Based on the extracted quantitative and qualitative indicators, it can be concluded that the association possesses a record of achievements that is open to further development. However, improving planning, expanding coverage, and strengthening accountability and transparency mechanisms would contribute to raising the level of national performance and ensuring the sustainability of voluntary projects in line with international best practices in the management of voluntary work.

The experience of the National Association for Voluntary Work shows that voluntary work is not limited to providing material services or assistance opportunities for vulnerable groups; rather, it goes beyond that toward a real embodiment of the principles of citizenship and community participation. Organized voluntary work contributes to the development of a culture of citizenship among individuals through consolidating values of solidarity, belonging, and responsibility toward society, which enhances the feeling of collective duty and engagement in serving the public good (Bellaarabi, 2022, p. 45). In addition, many studies have shown that civil associations and voluntary organizations play a central role in transforming citizenship from a legal/rights-based concept into an actual practice that establishes social capital based on trust and cooperation among citizens (Ben Awali, Arabesh, & Belmeshri, 2022, p. 78).

In this context, it can be said that the performance of the National Association for Voluntary Work, in terms of mobilizing volunteers, organizing initiatives, diversity of fields of action, and the scale of societal response, represents an effective mechanism for translating citizenship from discourse into action. When the association contributes to health, environmental, educational, and social initiatives, it enhances community awareness and creates a dynamic of voluntary participation, away from official coercion, and in a way that elevates the concept of citizenship to an individual and collective commitment (Khelifa, 2024, p. 102).

However, the evaluation also reveals some challenges that may limit the association's ability to entrench citizenship in a comprehensive manner. According to some studies on the reality of youth in Algeria, despite the presence of religious and cultural motivations toward volunteering, there is a reluctance to legally engage within voluntary bodies, perhaps due to the association of some organizations with political orientations or a lack of trust in formal organization. This reflects a fragility in the relationship between formal voluntary work and collective citizenship (Bellaarabi, 2022, p. 50). Therefore, evaluating the performance of the National Association should not be limited to numbers and achievements, but should also include

an analysis of its capacity to entrench a culture of citizenship, stimulate sustainable participation, and deepen awareness of belonging and societal responsibility, which makes it an important actor in social development and citizenship (Ben Awali, Arabesh, Belmeshri, 2022, p. 80).

### **The Position of the National Association for Voluntary Work at the International Level**

The National Association for Voluntary Work in Algeria enjoys a growing position at the international level, as it has begun to weave cooperative relations with Arab and international organizations specialized in civil and voluntary work. This has allowed it to exchange experiences, adopt best practices, and become acquainted with global experiences in the field of volunteer management and the evaluation of the social impact of projects (Ben Awali, Arabesh, & Belmeshri, 2022, p. 82). This international cooperation has contributed to enhancing the association's efficiency in organizing voluntary initiatives, developing training programs for volunteers, and integrating principles of governance and transparency in accordance with international standards, which raises its credibility before donors and beneficiaries alike (Khelifa, 2024, p. 105). Despite these gains, the association still faces challenges related to expanding its international presence, such as limited resources, disparities in expertise between local and international branches, and the need to align its work with recognized international voluntary work standards, especially with regard to governance, strategic planning, and institutional evaluation (Bellaarabi, 2022, p. 53). Nevertheless, its participation in international events and specialized conferences reflects its ambition to strengthen its role as an influential actor in the global voluntary landscape, and contributes to building a network of international partnerships capable of supporting national initiatives and increasing their impact on Algerian society (Ben Awali, Arabesh, & Belmeshri, 2022, p. 85).

### **3-3-3- Requirements for Developing the Performance of the National Association for Voluntary Work According to International Standards**

Developing the performance of the National Association for Voluntary Work in accordance with international standards requires adopting a set of strategies and mechanisms that enhance governance, transparency, and institutional efficiency. First, it is necessary to adopt advanced management systems for human resources and projects, including a database for volunteers, training programs to develop their skills, and tools for performance evaluation, in line with best international practices in the management of non-profit organizations (Khelifa, 2024, p. 108).

Enhancing transparency and accountability is among the fundamental requirements, through publishing annual reports on activities and financial resources, and applying internal and external evaluation mechanisms to ensure the optimal use of resources. This has been pointed out by many researchers in the field of governance of voluntary organizations. Expanding the network of international partnerships is also necessary, including similar associations, academic institutions, and international organizations, for the exchange of expertise, transfer of administrative technology, and adoption of international quality standards in planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Finally, development should include a focus on assessing the social impact of all initiatives, so that outcomes and outputs are measured according to quantitative and qualitative indicators, while monitoring the extent of the association's contribution to enhancing citizenship, social solidarity, and community development. This ensures the sustainability of voluntary work and its real impact on society (Bellaarabi, 2022, pp. 56-59).

### **Conclusion:**

Voluntary work is no longer merely a social activity with limited impact; rather, it has become today a parallel developmental path to the efforts of the state, and a strategic tool for strengthening solidarity and social integration. The Algerian experience has demonstrated that society possesses a strong capacity to engage in voluntary initiatives, especially with the growing civic awareness among youth, which makes investing in these energies a developmental necessity rather than an additional option. Moreover, benefiting from leading international experiences, not with the aim of imitation only, but rather for adaptation to the specificities of the Algerian reality, allows the formulation of an integrated national model capable of transforming volunteering into an institution based on organization and governance, instead of remaining merely an individual effort or



seasonal initiatives. From here, the importance of supporting legal frameworks, developing volunteers' skills, and expanding a culture of complementarity between civil society and official institutions becomes evident, in a way that guarantees the sustainability of voluntary work and raises its contribution to local development and the social economy.

In this context, the model of the National Association for Voluntary Work represents an important step that can be built upon to establish unified national policies and professional standards that make voluntary work one of the pillars of sustainable development in Algeria. The Algerian experience, despite its challenges, shows a clear ability to move toward a qualitative model in voluntary work, which opens new horizons for scientific research and decision makers to develop a future vision that responds to social and economic changes.

### Ethical Considerations

This study adheres to internationally recognized ethical standards for research in the social sciences. The research is based exclusively on secondary data, documentary analysis, and publicly available institutional information related to volunteer work in Algeria. No human subjects were directly involved, and no personal or sensitive data were collected. Consequently, formal ethical approval was not required. The authors ensured objectivity, academic integrity, and respect for institutional sources throughout all stages of the research, in accordance with the principles of transparency, responsibility, and scholarly honesty.

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### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper. The research was conducted without any financial, institutional, or personal relationships that could have influenced the objectivity or integrity of the findings.

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