

# Impact Assessment *Report*



**CCIVS**  
70 YEARS  
Coordinating Committee for  
International Voluntary Service  
1948-2018



**IVS** for **Climate  
Justice**

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# IVS for Climate Justice Don't just say it! Do it! Volunteering to Create a Network of Knowledge through Ecological & Sustainable Practice

## Impact Assessment Report

**Francesco Volpini**  
**Julia Perez Lema**

Author  
Layout and Design

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Project Coordinator



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# CLIMATE JUSTICE

IVS for Climate Justice is a worldwide campaign taking place in over 100 countries, coordinated by CCIVS : it engages volunteers with local communities to work on grassroots projects that combine manual work and awareness raising actions. These address issues such as climate change, carbon offset, environmental sustainability, protection of ecosystems, water and soil management and conservation.

The concept of climate justice addresses the unequal allocation of benefits and burdens by relating climate change to matters of social justice and human rights: the program impact assessment thus investigated not only the overall changes reported by the participants in the workcamps and local actions in terms of personal, interpersonal and social development of competences and skills; it also surveyed the volunteers' knowledge and attitudes towards crucial issues related to climate justice.

## RESEARCH ESSENTIALS

The impact assessment followed a quantitative approach and utilised a pretest-posttest design: volunteers answered the same series of questions before and after their participation in a project, self-reporting their agreement or disagreement with different statements on standard 1-5 or 1-7 Likert scales.

Several questions were clustered according to their content to create constructs: composite indicators that help increasing validity by gathering together items assessing the same objectives and categories. Based on the participative work implemented in the last years by several voluntary service organisations and institutions, the survey included eleven constructs relating to general competences we expect the participants to develop at the:

- Personal level (Self-awareness and confidence, Autonomy, Motivation, Problem-solving);
- Interpersonal level (Communication, Adaptation, Teamwork, Conflict management);
- Social-Cultural level (Intercultural awareness, Social Inclusion and Integration, Active participation).

In addition to these categories, which allowed for wider comparison across projects and programs beyond the “IVS for Climate Justice” campaign, the survey included ten additional and complementary items (for a total of 20 short questions) developed to assess the specific goals of the campaign, focusing around issues of Peace, Social Inclusion, Human Rights, Climate Justice, Sustainable Living.

Statistical analysis was performed to provide insights into the most significant changes that can be attributed to the Climate Justice program experience - that is, that are not the result of pure chance, or ‘magic’, but of our work and practices and the volunteers’ own efforts and engagement: statistically significant differences were measured through 2-tailed Paired samples t Test, with the 95% confidence level characteristic of social sciences studies. Results were also tested for relevant differences and correlations in order to underline the specific impact of individual and programme variables, and in particular of aspects of the campaign - such as training and thematic workshops - that might have contributed to the success of the programme. The outcomes were also compared to those of the participants in the workcamps and local actions of the Raising Peace campaign, which shared a series of targeted questions, in order to highlight the specific correspondence between programme objectives and programme results.

## PARTICIPANTS CHARACTERISTICS

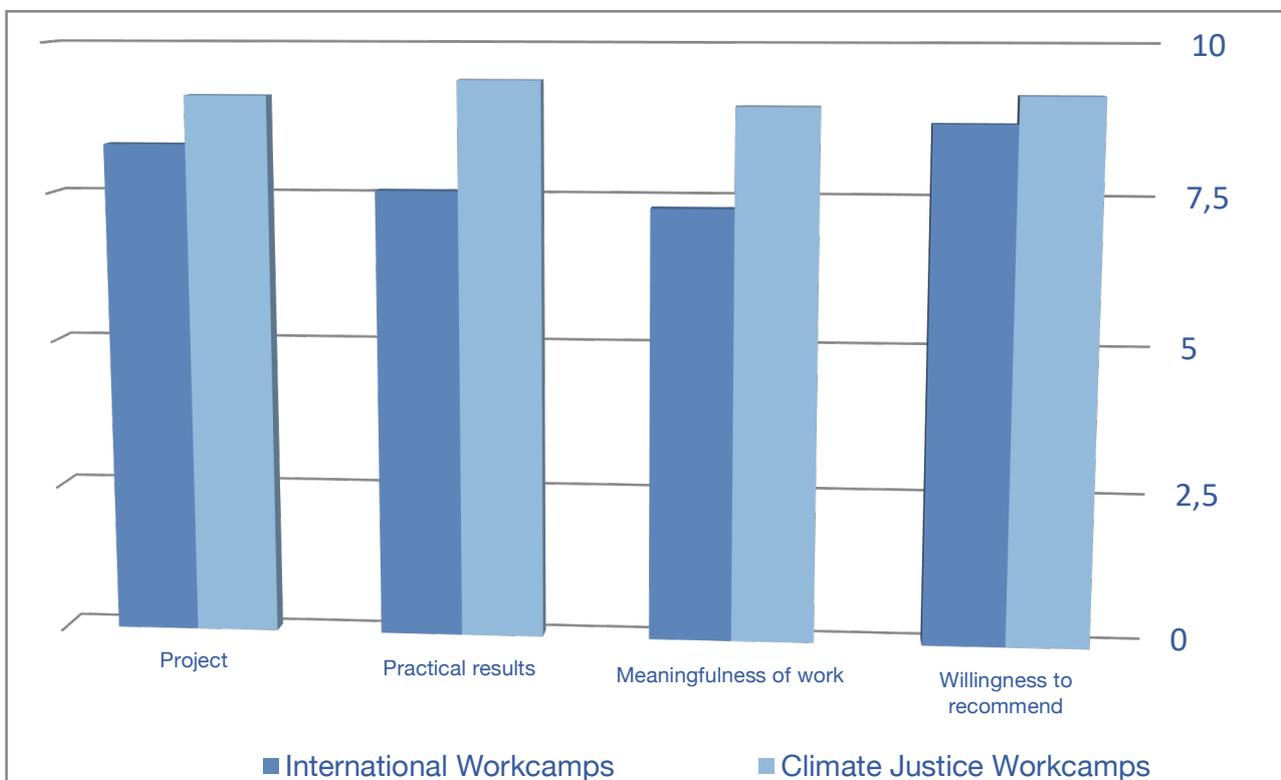
A total number of 73 volunteers from 22 different countries responded to the full pretest-posttest survey, representing 12 Climate Justice projects and actions in all regions of the world. The average age of the respondents was 22.3 years, with a prevalence of female (65.9%) over male (34.1%) volunteers, with a large majority of students (76%), and full-time volunteers (15%), workers (5%) and unemployed (2%) representing the remaining quarter. Around 39% of the volunteers had received a pre-departure training/orientation, 65% had already volunteered before, and 86% had been abroad - all variables influencing several of the constructs included in the research.

The thematic preoccupation of the Climate Justice participants is also partially reflected in their travel choices: with an average return distance of 3,677km, they travelled approximately 1,700km less than the average 5,381km of those taking part in other campaigns; they also utilised less the airplane as their main mean of transport (46.3% vs 64.5% for other campaigns), privileging in particular the use of BUs/Tramways (53.7% vs 12.9% for other campaigns).

## OVERALL PROJECT SATISFACTION

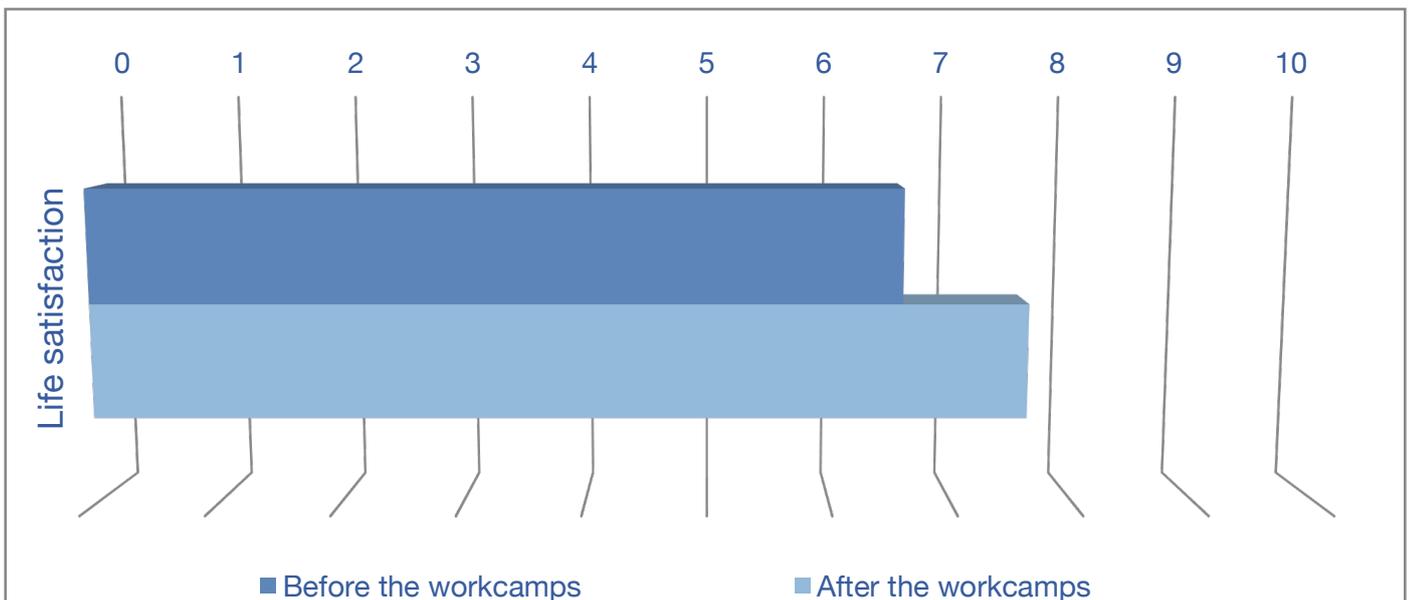
Comparison between project satisfaction of Climate Justice camps and general International Workcamps	Climate Justice	Int. Work.
On a 0 to 10 scale, how satisfied are you with the <b>project</b> you have joined?	9.125	8.310
On a 0 to 10 scale, how satisfied are you with the <b>practical results</b> of the work performed during the project?	9.395	7.560
On a 0 to 10 scale, how <b>meaningful</b> do you think the work performed during the project was?	8.979	7.300
On a 0 to 10 scale, how would you rate your <b>willingness to recommend</b> this experience to your close friends and family?	9.166	8.710

The participants of the Climate Justice camps report a much higher project satisfaction (+0.815), satisfaction with practical results (+1.565), feeling of having performed meaningful work (+1.679) and willingness to recommend the experience to their close friends and relatives (+0.456) than those reported by participants in international workcamps in previous research. They also consider their camp experience extremely relevant for their personal / professional development (9.083/10).



All the elements above show statistically significant medium to strong positive correlations among them and with other items assessed by the surveys, the strongest being the correlation between project satisfaction and satisfaction with the practical results of the work performed (Pearson .698), and between the satisfaction with the practical results of the work performed and the perception of the experience being relevant for their personal/professional development (Pearson .639), pointing at the importance of implementing concrete, meaningful work as an essential active step against climate change as promoted by the Climate Justice campaign.

It is also to be noted that the participants' life satisfaction increased of over one point on the standard Gallup question "Imagine an eleven-rung ladder where the bottom (0) represents the worst possible life for you and the top (10) represents the best possible life for you. On which step of the ladder do you feel you personally stand at the present time?", from an average of 6.59 before the camps, to 7.61 out of the maximum 10 points of the scale utilized.

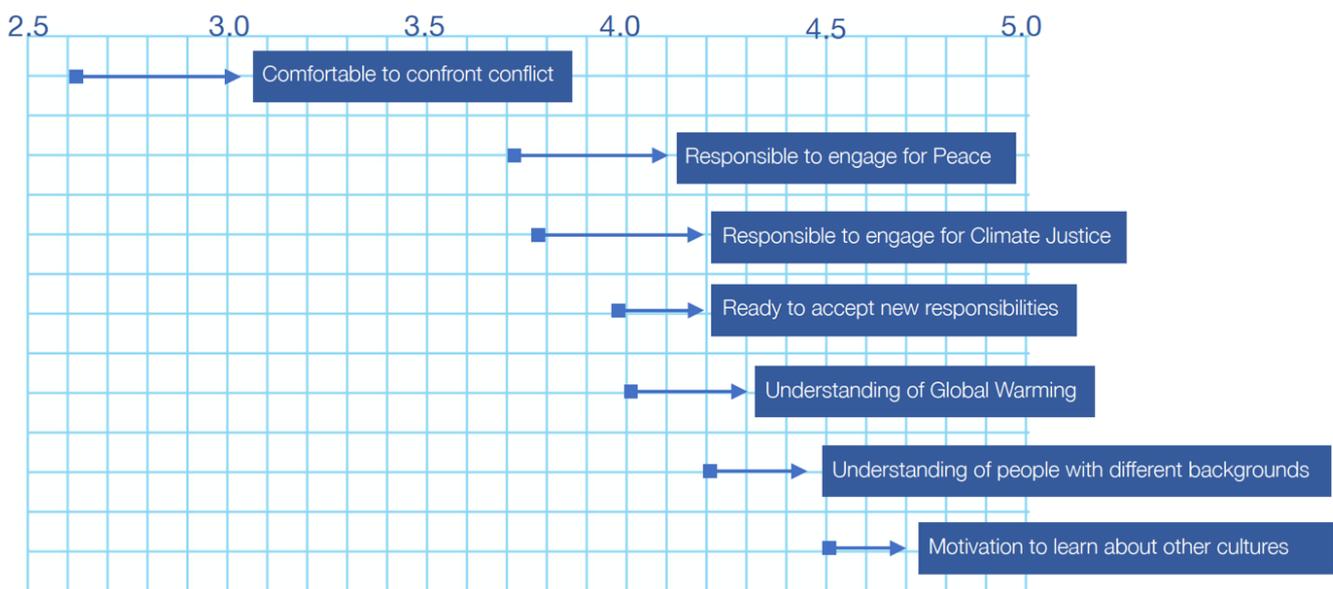


## MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

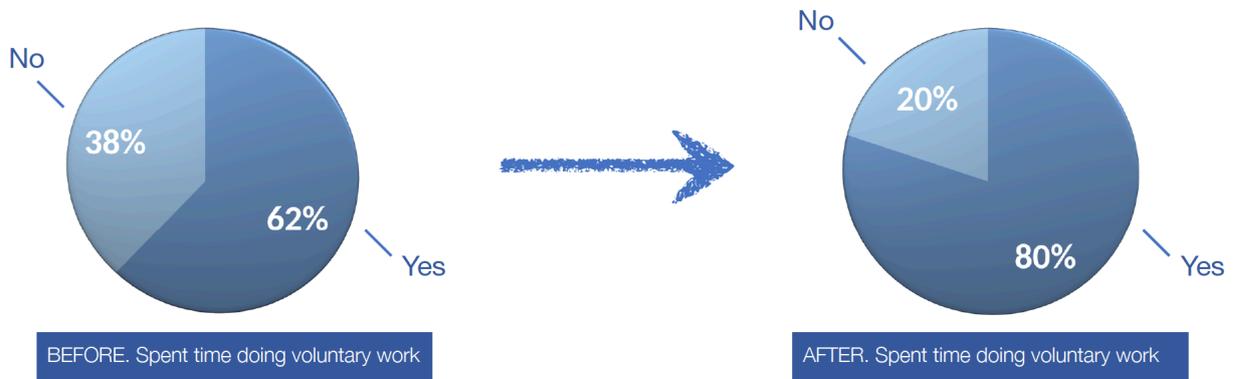
### *After the projects*

*Understanding.* After their projects, participants in the workcamps of the Climate Justice campaign report statistically significant differences in their general understanding of issues related to Global Warming and Climate Change, which increased from 4.03 to 4.30 (sig. .034), as did their understanding of people with different societal and cultural backgrounds, from 4.22 to 4.45 (sig. .034), as well as their motivation to learn about cultures and habits of people in their own countries and abroad, which increased from 4.52 to 4.67 (sig. .011) on the 5-items Likert scale utilized.

*Responsibility.* Returned volunteers also report an increased readiness to accept new responsibility, from 3.98 to 4.17 (sig. .040), and in particular their feeling of responsibility to actively engage for the construction of Peace and the creation of inclusive societies, which increased from 3.73 to 4.08 (sig. .001), and their feeling of responsibility to actively engage to address and mitigate the consequences of Climate Change and promote Climate Justice, which increased from 3.78 to 4.17 (sig. .003). They also report that their feelings of being comfortable to confront potential conflict with other people has increased significantly, from 2.63 to 3.12 (sig. .003) on the 5-items Likert scale utilized.

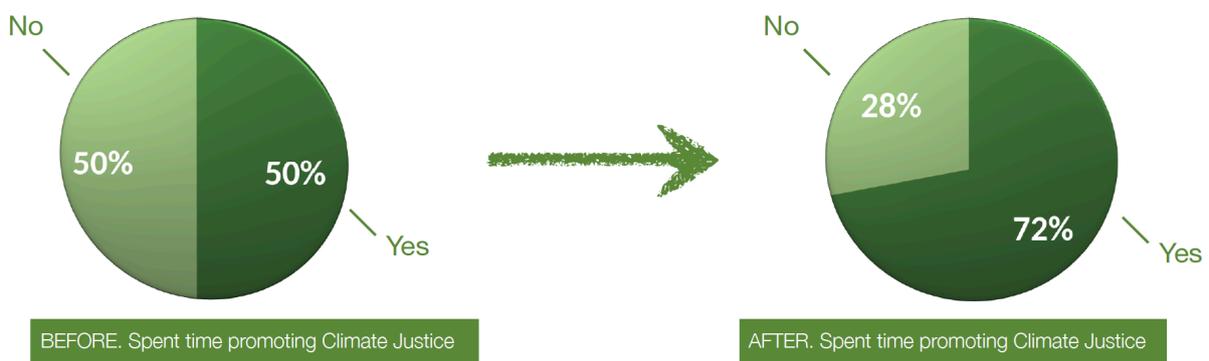


*Motivation and engagement.* After the projects, the percentage of respondents having spent time during the previous two months doing volunteer work for a social/civic/non-governmental organization or helping other people outside their family without being paid increased from 61.7% before their involvement in the Climate Justice project, to 80% after.



The percentage of respondents having spent time during the previous two months on activities promoting international peace and/or solidarity increased from 43.3% before their involvement in the Climate Justice project, to 51.7% after. The percentage of respondents having spent time during the previous two months on activities promoting Human Rights increased from 40% before their involvement in the Climate Justice project, to 50% after.

Finally, the percentage of respondents having spent time during the previous two months on activities promoting Climate Justice and sustainable living increased from 50% before their involvement in the Climate Justice project, to 71.7% after, while the percentage of respondents planning to spend time on activities promoting Climate Justice and sustainable living in the following months also increased from 75% to 81.7% after their participation in a Climate Justice camp.



## THEMATIC UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGES

### *Climate Justice topics*

Important changes between before and after the projects also concern the percentage of participants who believe they have a good understanding of each of the thematic issues that constituted the objectives of the Climate Justice campaign:

The Sustainable Development Goals: from 61.7% (before) to 76.7% (after) +15%

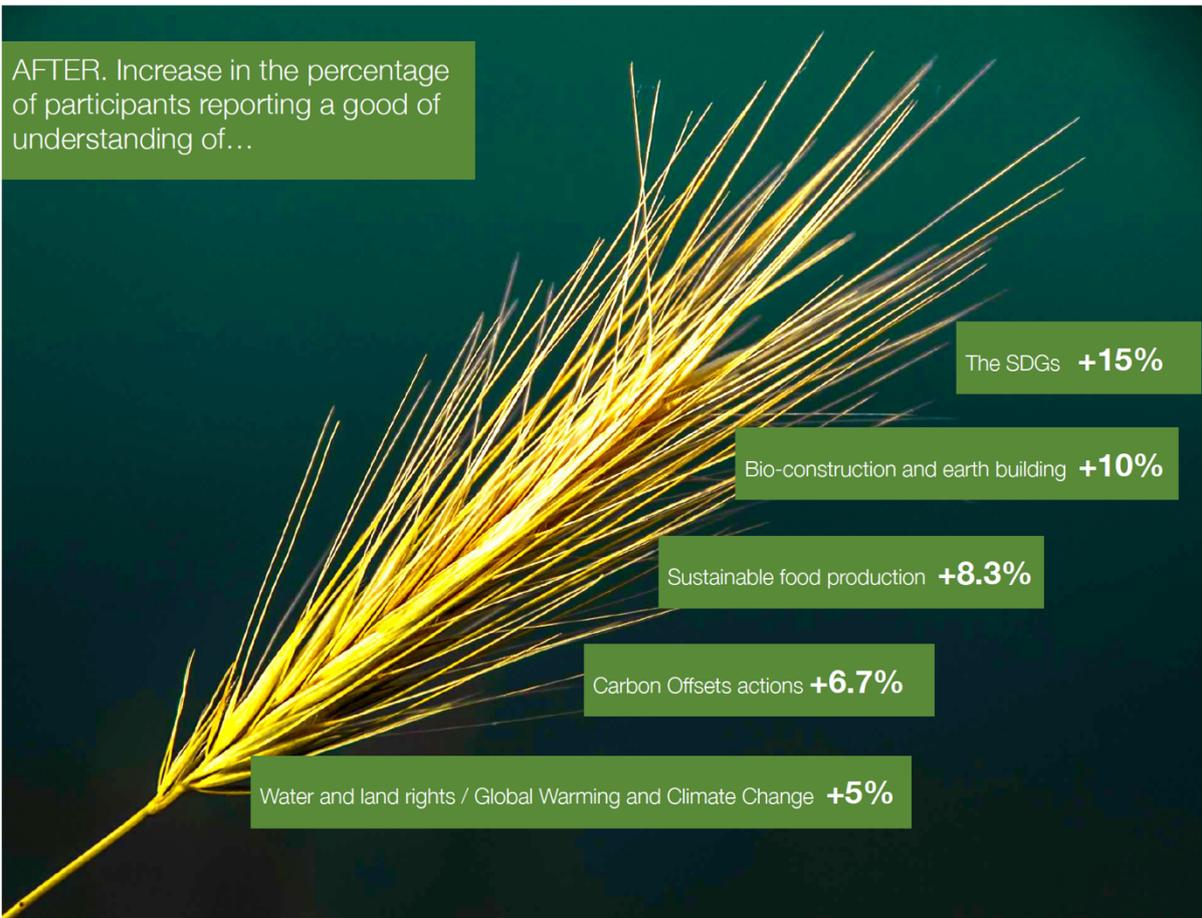
Bio-construction and earth building: from 65% (before) to 75% (after) +10%

Sustainable food production: from 75% (before) to 83.3% (after) +8.3%

Carbon Offsets actions: from 50% (before) to 56.7% (after) +6.7%

Global Warming and Climate Change: from 83.3% (before) to 88.3% (after) +5%

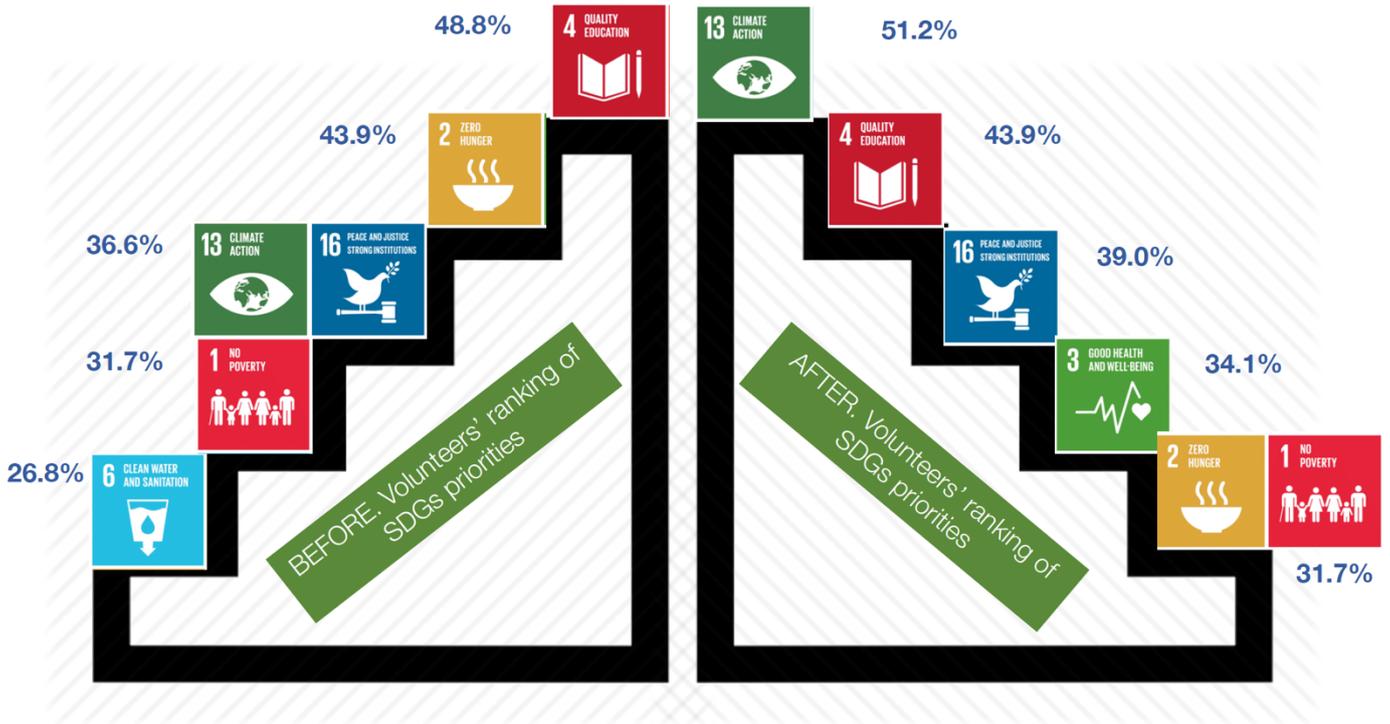
Water and Land Rights: from 65% (before) to 70% (after) +5%



Whenever targeted workshops were run during the camps, such outcomes in terms of thematic understanding were significantly higher: study elements introduced during the camps on Healthy Life and Housing, Water and Land Rights, Global Warming, Sustainable Food Production, the SDGs, all produced statistically significant better results on one or more of the learning objectives above when compared to projects within and outside the Climate Justice campaign where such study elements were not integrated in the activities.

## THEMATIC UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGES *Sustainable Development Goals*

Changes in the volunteers' understanding of key Climate Justice issues extend to the way participants in the campaign considered as their top five priority SDGs before and after their volunteer experience:



Before: 48.8% of volunteers considered Goal n. 4 Quality Education among their top priorities, followed by Goal n. 2 Zero hunger (43.9%), Goal n. 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and Goal n.13 Climate Action (36.6%), Goal n.1 No Poverty (31.7%), and Goal n.6 Clean Water and Sanitation (26.8%).

After their projects, participants reflected their increased understanding of Climate Justice issues and impact in their SDGs preoccupations, also showing a more holistic approach and a deep understanding of the principles of Climate Justice: Goal n.13 Climate Action was now mentioned by 51.2% (+14.6%) among their top priorities, becoming the n.1 across the participants' sample, still followed by Goal n. 4 Quality Education (43.9%) and Goal n. 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (39%), but also by strongly increased Goal n. 3 Good Health and Well-Being 34.1% (+21.9%), and Goal n. 2 Zero hunger and Goal n. 1 No Poverty – 31.7%.

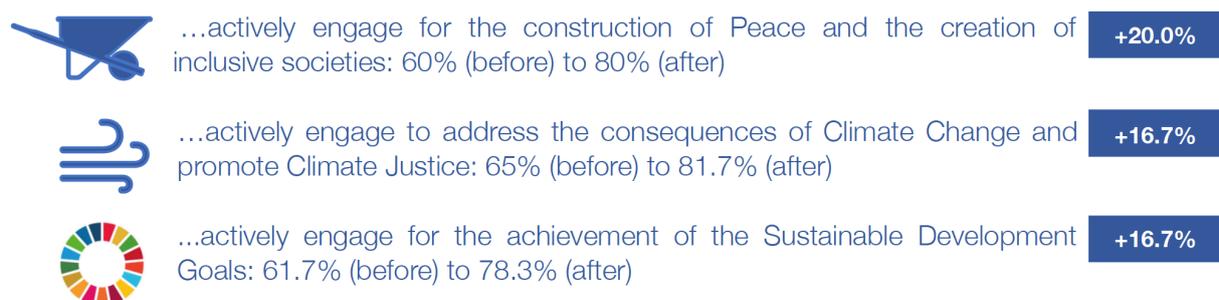
In addition to the dramatic increase in the percentage of volunteers considering Climate Action as their top priority after taking part in a Climate Justice camp, and in that of participants now including Good Health and Well-Being in their list, it is to be noted that other theme-specific and cross-cutting SDGs relevant to the Climate Justice campaign and activities also saw a significant increase in the ranking by the volunteers:



This seems to reflect not only the direct impact of the Climate Justice thematic activities on the participants' worldview (Climate Action, Responsible Consumption, Good Health and Well-Being), which were treated extensively in the camps both in terms of work performed and pedagogical activities; but also the indirect impact and recognition by the participants of the importance of some of the working pillars that constitute the essence of IVS non formal education practices (Decent Work, Gender Equality, Partnerships).

## A RENEWED SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY

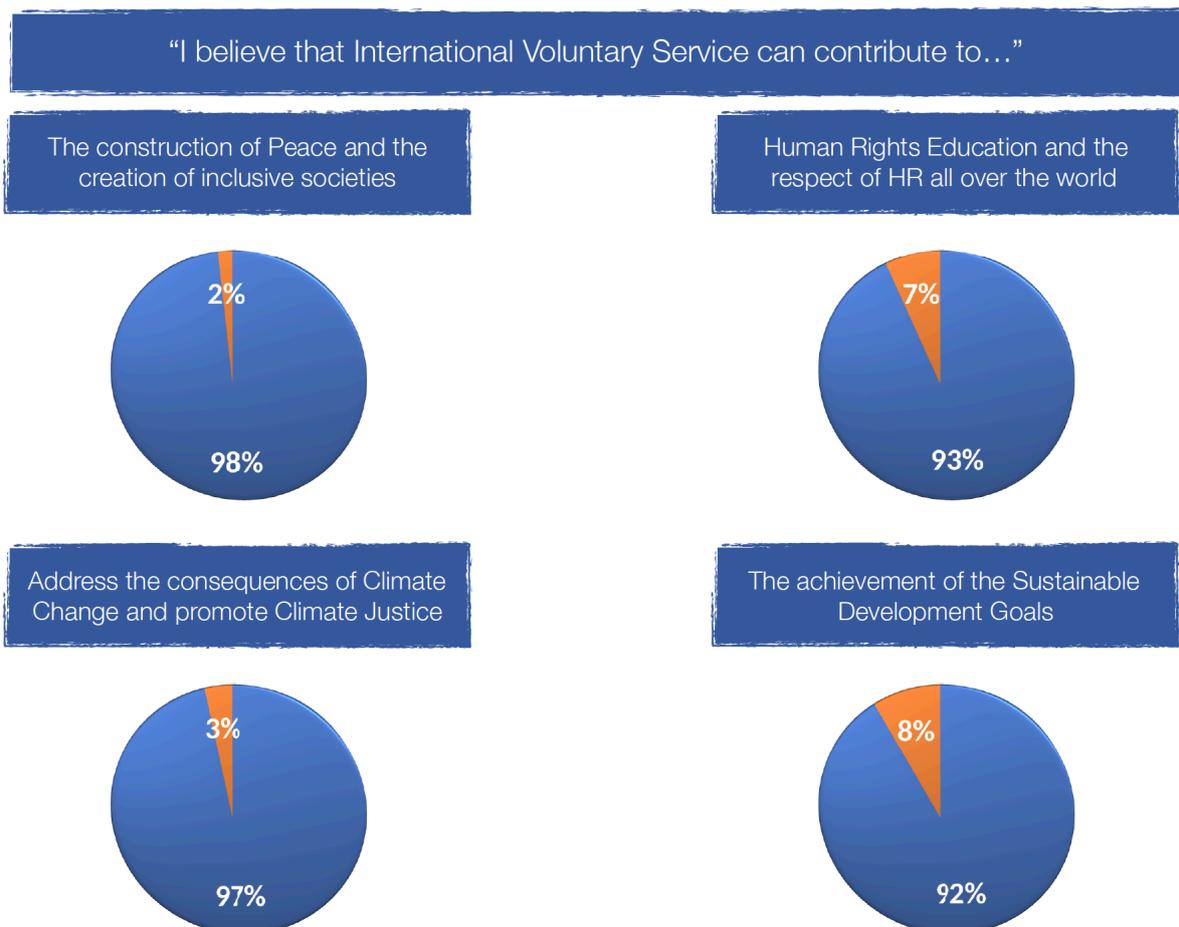
In addition to the considerable changes in the quality and extent of the participants' understanding of crucial Climate Justice issues, volunteers also reported important increases in the percentage of respondents who feel personally responsible in their daily life to...



## THE POWER OF IVS

The Climate Justice campaign relied on the strong believe that “IVS projects and activities are a powerful tool to support local communities worldwide, and allow to reallocate resources and capacities. By taking active steps against climate change and demonstrating solidarity with most vulnerable population groups and peoples, we assume our responsibility in the global sustainability challenge and seek to do our part in attaining climate justice.”

It is therefore promising and reassuring that, beyond the undeniable impact produced by the campaign in a great diversity of domains related to Climate Justice, after their projects the overwhelming majority of participants also show a strong believe in the role of International Voluntary Service: 98.3% of then considers that it can contribute to the construction of Peace and the creation of inclusive societies, 93.3% that it can contribute to Human Rights Education and the respect of Human Rights all over the world, 96.7% that it can contribute to address and mitigate the consequences of Climate Change and promote Climate Justice, and 91.7% that it can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



# INFLUENCING FACTORS AND GROUP DIFFERENCES

## *Technical note*

In addition to the importance of programme variables specific to the Climate Justice campaign, like the organisation of targeted workshops on relevant sustainability issues highlighted above, it is worth pointing out that several other individual and programme factors also contributed to intergroup statistically significant differences when data were disaggregated according to known influencing variables, which should be taken into account in the organisation of future programs:

Project duration: participants taking part in longer camps (three weeks) reported statistically significantly more capable to stay focused on their work and less likely to avoid potential conflict than participants taking part in shorter camps (two weeks or less than two weeks). Participants in three-weeks and two-weeks camps also reported more assertive, being more able to tell others what they need and feel, and to tell others when they make them uncomfortable, than participants in camps lasting less than two weeks. They also reported more willing to actively engage for the construction of Peace and the creation of inclusive societies.

Age: younger participants (25 years old or younger) reported thinking they have a better level of understanding of people with different societal and cultural backgrounds, as well as respecting more people who hold different values, heritage and identity than their own, compared to older participants (above 25 years old).

Occupation: participants with employed status also reported feeling less able to communicate in a foreign language, being less open when it comes to interacting with other cultures, having a lower level of understanding of people with different societal and cultural backgrounds, as well as a lower level of respect for people who hold different values, heritage and identity than their own, compared to participants who were students or full-time volunteers at the time of the camps. Students and volunteers also reported a better understanding of carbon offset mechanisms than workers, and stronger motivation to actively engage to address and mitigate the consequences of Climate Change and promote Climate Justice.

Gender: female participants reported more afraid of conflicts and finding difficult to deal with them than male participants; they also reported less aware of their own abilities, while they indicated liking to meet people from other cultures more than male participants. Female participants also reported a better understanding of the Rights on Gender, Body and Sexuality than male participants.

Pre-departure orientation: participants having taken part in an orientation/training prior to joining their projects reported less afraid of conflicts, more confident and less uncomfortable in dealing with them than those who did not attend a pre-departure orientation/training. Participants having taken part in an orientation/training prior to

joining their projects reported a better understanding of bio-construction and earth building than those who did not attend a pre-departure orientation/training.

Prior volunteer experience: participants having already volunteered before reported stronger feeling of possessing work-related skills (such as using tools or techniques, working with their hands, team work, etc.), than those at their first volunteer experience. They also reported less likely to get upset or depressed, and feeling very unprepared, when facing problems. Participants having already volunteered also reported being more aware of their own culture and identity than those not having volunteered before. Finally, they also reported a better understanding of the International Voluntary Service movement and its actions.

Prior experience abroad: participants having already been abroad in the past reported to like to meet people from other cultures more than those without prior experience abroad, as well as feeling more able to communicate in a foreign language. They also reported a better understanding of Carbon Offsets actions, and are more likely to consider the conditions of their life as excellent.



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