

Programme Area Summary

Country: Tanzania

Programme Area: Secure Livelihoods 2005-2009

What is the aim of the programme area?

Income security for disadvantaged groups is improved with wider options for vulnerable people to make a dependable living.

Why is VSO working in that particular Programme Area and region?

Partnerships and volunteer placements with a significant contribution to livelihood improvement had been running for many years in Tanzania but needed to be consolidated and more strategic. This programme area provides a framework in which partnerships and programme initiatives will combine to have a greater impact through a focused and strategic approach.

Although the national economy of Tanzania appears to be picking up and elements of reform under the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction have contributed to this success, levels of income poverty experienced by the majority of Tanzanians, especially rural small holders engaged in subsistence agriculture, have realised little benefit. The weak link between broader economic growth and conditions faced in most households mean that there has been little reduction in the number of people living below the poverty line, especially in rural Tanzania.

VSO is working in Dodoma, Mtwara, Kagera and Zanzibar with a number of strategic partnerships with key organisations in Dar es Salaam. It has been necessary to focus efforts in a limited geographical area so that partnerships and volunteer placements are clustered and complementary by nature.

Key beneficiaries and partners

The disadvantaged and poor people of the regions that VSO Tanzania works in.

Main partners on this programme are:

- NGOs & CBOs
- Chambers of Commerce
- Local and national organisations for small businesses
- Farmers organisations
- Local government
- Small businesses
- Training institutes

Key objectives of the programme and the cross-cutting themes

1. Disadvantaged people within three regions of Tanzania and Zanzibar have diversified livelihood sources and improved agricultural production.
2. Disadvantaged people within three regions of Tanzania and Zanzibar have access to markets, business services and micro-finance.
3. Civil society organisations and networks provide improved services to disadvantaged people and collaborate more effectively with other stakeholders.
4. Policy & local practice is more reflective of the priorities and rights of disadvantaged groups to make a dependable living.

The cross-cutting themes & overlap with other Programme Areas are HIV & AIDS, gender, disability, education and governance.

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Current programme activities

Focus of International Volunteer Placements

- Linking the disadvantaged to improved economic opportunities. e.g. Oil/cassava processing in Mtwara/Dodoma; Eco-tourism, vegetable supply and fisheries on Zanzibar; Fair Trade/Organic coffee in Kagera
- Examples of placements: small business development, agribusiness advice, community work, organisational advice, planning advice.

Workshops, training & conferences

- Volunteer Annual Conference
- Africa Wide VSO Secure Livelihoods Workshop (Jan 06)
- Value Chain Development Training in Aursha for VSO Programme Managers from Tanzania, Mozambique, Ghana, Zambia and a volunteer (Jun 06)
- Annual programme reviews

Research

- Market assessment studies have been conducted in Zanzibar for Eco-Tourism and vegetable supply chains with a view to enhancing equitable gains for disadvantaged groups. Similar research studies are planned for Dodoma.

What makes VSO's work in this programme area special?

VSO Tanzania is the learning centre for a Market Disadvantage Sensitive Approach, (making markets work for the poor). In this, Tanzania is the first 'flagship' programme of a grant from VSO's Corporate Partnership with Accenture.

In addition to two Marketing and Enterprise Advisers at local districts, an Accenture-funded short term volunteer has worked on Zanzibar to do a Market Chain Assessment.

Experience and learning gained in applying market disadvantage approaches will be shared with other VSO country programmes with the Secure Livelihoods goal. Several Secure Livelihoods Programme Managers in the area have already followed training on the Value Chain. 3 important elements of the Value Chain are (market focused) collaboration, governance and equitable benefit-sharing.