



# Strongim na bung wantaim

Papua New Guinea Country Plan 2011-15

# Contents

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Foreword</b>                                   | <b>1</b> |
| VSO in Papua New Guinea                           | 1        |
| What we do  | 1        |
| How we do it                                      | 1        |
| <b>VSO Papua New Guinea<br/>country programme</b> | <b>2</b> |
| Who we work for                                   | 2        |
| What we hope to achieve                           | 2        |
| Focus on education                                | 3        |
| Focus on health                                   | 3        |
| Rising to new challenges                          | 3        |
| <b>Partnership: the way we work</b>               | <b>4</b> |
| Planning  | 4        |
| Implementation                                    | 4        |
| Evaluation and continuous<br>improvement          | 5        |
| <b>Our impact</b>                                 | <b>5</b> |

*Strongim na bung wantaim, our Papua New Guinea Country Plan 2011–15* is based on development priorities outlined in Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Medium Term Development Plan (2011–15) and is the result of extensive participation and consultation with VSO staff, volunteers, partners, donors, community members and other key stakeholders. This document provides an overview of our objectives, programmatic focus, the way we work and our anticipated impact. Our intentions are mapped out in a detailed five-year implementation plan that incorporates programmatic and organisational objectives, timelines, activities, outputs and expected impacts. The implementation plan is updated and reviewed by the VSO PNG Management Team on a quarterly basis.



## Foreword

VSO is a leading independent charity, which places committed volunteers with carefully selected partner organisations, so their skills can generate maximum results in the global fight against poverty. We deliver relevant and cost-effective programmes that fight poverty around the world.

We believe that unequal and unjust power relations between people must be addressed. For this to happen poor and marginalised people must have access to quality essential services, be able to work to improve their lives, have access to information and ideas that link them to the wider world, understand their rights and be empowered to participate as equal, fully-valued members of their society.

Since being founded in 1958, VSO has encountered poverty in countless forms and contexts, and worked to combat it. In response, we've evolved into a modern, international organisation: one global VSO.

### VSO in Papua New Guinea (PNG)

VSO has had a continuous presence in PNG since 1960, and remains firmly committed to the development of PNG's people. So far, we have placed more than 2,100 international volunteers, recruited from 11 countries worldwide to support local partners and government in 15 provinces, strengthening capacity to improve the quality, delivery and access of services, mainly in the areas of education and health.

### What we do

Our international volunteers transfer knowledge and experience not locally available, while the local volunteers we support use their skills and cultural understanding to make an impact in their own communities. Our strength is in our ability to work in long-term collaboration with our partners, providing skilled resources living and working among target communities and brokering knowledge and information across PNG and international boundaries. We have the ability to translate plans and aspirations into culturally transferrable actions.

### How we do it

Our efforts focus on increasing the impact of existing government and civil society development efforts to strengthen organisational and human capacities. This is because we consider sustainability and capacity building in the way programmes and projects are designed and implemented. Empowering women and men — strengthening the ability and confidence of individuals and communities to take control of their future — is essential for long-term and sustainable change. This is why our approach in delivering the work outlined in this plan is to recognise and appreciate existing accomplishments, and to work alongside our partners and stakeholders in a consultative, inclusive and respectful manner.



# VSO Papua New Guinea country programme: Strongim na bung wantaim

VSO Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a proud member of VSO's global network unified by a common goal:

**Our vision is for a world without poverty.**

**Our mission is to bring people together to fight poverty.**

*Strongim na bung wantaim* is in *tok pisin*, the common language for all Papua New Guineans. It means "strength by coming together" and it describes our approach to our country programme objective.

**We aim to improve the health and education of PNG's most disadvantaged people. They include rural populations, persons with disabilities, women and girls, and people living with HIV and AIDS.**

We intend to achieve this objective by bringing people and information together to fight poverty through targeted engagement with the government, private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society.

## Who we work for

Primarily the focus of our efforts is to improve poor people's access to quality services. Also underpinning our work is the intent to promote the development and implementation of policies to support poor people and to ensure the participation of socially-excluded groups in determining their own path to development. The principles of inclusion, participation and good governance, strengthening the ability of people to participate in their communities and to influence decisions that affect their lives underlie all of our efforts.

## What we hope to achieve

Through our work with approximately 25 partners over the next five years, we aim to reach 45,000 local people who are critical to PNG's development: people such as teachers, government officers, healthcare workers, local leaders and NGO workers. We will achieve this by offering them capacity-building support so they can then provide services for 2.3 million beneficiaries. Our institutional strengthening work such as the Provincial AIDs Committee Capacity-building Programme, Teachers Colleges Language Support Programme and Rural Health Systems Strengthening Programme, will reach increasing numbers of direct and indirect beneficiaries as they will have impact on district, provincial and regional populations as a whole.



## Focus on education

“Education is the most basic insurance against poverty. Education represents opportunity. At all ages, it empowers people with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to shape a better future.”

(Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO)

In the education sector our main priority is to support the implementation of Universal Basic Education so that all children in PNG complete nine years of free, quality education. We are building on our existing education programmes which address the quality of education and education management in elementary, primary and secondary schools. We work alongside schools, standards officers and provincial divisions of education to improve school learning improvement planning and improve the teaching of literacy and numeracy. To increase impact and reach, we are increasingly focusing on supporting reforms in teacher education, and building strong links between our work with schools and teachers and our support for teacher training institutions.

Our long-established role in sharing information and building collaborations and partnerships in the education sector is being strengthened, and we are becoming increasingly involved in the development of national policies, curriculum materials and programmes.

Our education goals also support the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities, building on our work with special education centres and disability partner organisations. In addition, we are exploring support for partners who provide training in literacy, numeracy and vocational skills to the many young people who have never completed a basic education and lack the skills to earn a living.

## Focus on health

“Health is a fundamental human right indispensable for the exercise of other human rights. Every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health conducive to living a life in dignity.”

(The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966)

The overarching theme of our work in health is to support improved service delivery and integration in a health system strengthening context. The focus of our partnerships and interventions is to increase access to quality health services, particularly sexual and reproductive health, to mitigate the impact of gender-based violence, to improve service delivery for people living with disabilities, and to strengthen the capacity of provincial/district and local entities to deliver an effective and coordinated response to HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

We have been working with rural communities, provincial and district entities to strengthen their response to HIV and AIDS at the local level. We are building upon these partnerships, community-based networks and our experience in HIV and AIDS to develop a wider sexual and reproductive health programme that focuses on integration and creating stronger links between HIV and AIDS prevention and care services, and broader sexual and reproductive health promotion and services including STI detection and treatment, family planning and family support centres. Our work in this area also includes advocacy in support of sexual and reproductive rights, with a particular focus on mitigating the effects of family and sexual violence and addressing gender inequality. Additionally, we intend to support more meaningful engagement of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in the response to HIV and AIDS at local, provincial and national levels. This support will include advocacy work and capacity development of PLHIV networks and support groups.

We are continuing to build upon our long history of work in disability by focussing our efforts on improving delivery of community-based rehabilitation (CBR) services to rural populations. Our work includes institutional capacity strengthening at the national level while also supporting development of an integrated approach to CBR at the provincial level with a focus on improved education and healthcare service delivery. The work in CBR takes a comprehensive approach and includes national, sub-national and local partner organisations and international volunteers with expertise in health-focused rehabilitation approaches and inclusive education.

## Rising to new challenges

Severe gender inequality exists in PNG. Women and girls are disadvantaged in numerous ways relative to men and to women in other parts of the world. Mother and infant mortality is high, and women often have multiple pregnancies with inadequate spacing. PNG’s maternal mortality is more than double that of any other Pacific island country. Educational enrolment rates for girls relative to boys are among the lowest in the Pacific, which leads to disadvantage in the formal economy. Thus addressing gender inequity is a foundational element of our work. Although promoting gender equity is currently a cross-cutting theme in all of our programmes, during the five years covered by this plan we are deepening our expertise in this area so that we can strengthen and expand our gender advocacy work and that of our partners.

Disadvantaged people, in PNG as elsewhere, are the most vulnerable to weather-related disasters and other climate change impacts, and it is they who will feel the brunt of climate change’s adverse effects. Therefore we are integrating climate change considerations into our operations and programmes. We intend to conduct research to identify the most appropriate additional partnerships and effective interventions so that we can expand our work in this area.

## Partnership: the way we work

Although our work contributes to the overall development of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and to realising the rights of its entire people, our particular focus is on the most disadvantaged, including rural populations, persons with disabilities, women and girls, and people living with HIV and AIDS.

We recognise that we are one small part of a process involving many diverse players. We believe that our strength and uniqueness lies in our ability to collaborate and to support partners to meet their objectives. Thus, supportive partnership is central to our approach to development.

We intend to continue to build and maintain strong working partnerships with government departments, institutions, the private sector and civil society which are developing and delivering initiatives that are meeting or have the potential to meet the needs of our target groups. Our focus is on increasing the impact of existing efforts to strengthen organisation and human capacities within the health and education sectors. In addition to capacity-building, this may include establishing and/or providing vital services to fill gaps as part of an overall long-term sustainable development plan.



## Planning

Because our emphasis is on most disadvantaged populations we necessarily work in communities in rural areas. There is a need to adopt a long time-frame for development activities and avoid short-term solutions to complicated and established traditions and approaches. To achieve impact our interventions must be linked at national, sub-national and community levels. While many of our actions are implemented at the community level, we intend to support structural change and the realisation of rights by bringing voices of communities to government and strengthening the capacity of government to respond effectively.

We utilise a team-based approach to programme and project design and volunteer placements. This allows us to work across a number of organisations on a single issue, or multiple issues in specific locations, so that we can work more effectively in rural areas. In our experience volunteer placements are most effective when well supported and integrated as part of larger teams or based in cluster groups.

## Implementation

Our strength is in our ability to work in long-term collaboration with our partners and communities providing skilled resources living and working among target communities, and brokering knowledge and information across PNG and international boundaries. We have the ability to translate plans and aspirations into culturally transferrable actions and the tools in our development toolbox include:

- **Long-term overseas volunteering (professional placements of up to two years):** Our volunteers help build social infrastructure by passing on their expertise. They come from both developed and developing nations.
- **Short-term specialist assignments (positions of six months and under):** Our highly experienced professionals provide support at senior levels. They come from both developed and developing nations.
- **Knowledge brokering:** Through workshops, conferences and national and international exchanges we connect individuals and organisations so that they can share knowledge, perspectives, ideas and practices. This provides access to knowledge for those who are often excluded.
- **Advocacy:** We bring knowledge to those responsible for deciding on and implementing policy. This provides opportunities to raise the voice of communities to influence individuals and organisations which set and deliver policies that affect their lives.

## Evaluation and continuous improvement

Based in beautiful Madang, VSO PNG has a well-established professional office, with robust international standard financial management and reporting systems. We have effective processes for measuring the impact of our interventions and support for partners, including detailed programme implementation plans, project logframes, targeted research, monitoring and evaluation frameworks and reporting tools.

All our staff and volunteers are involved in development and are supported to become effective, committed development practitioners through an ongoing process of learning through utilising formal and informal methods. One of the activities in our organisational plan is to ensure that all staff and volunteers are trained to conduct participatory research and analysis to ensure that the voices of disadvantaged men and women are always incorporated into our actions.

We take a practice approach to our work. This means being willing to actively engage in learning through doing, assessing, adjusting and openly sharing our experience. To do this we intend to re-examine how we are learning from our work, how we are documenting and making our learning accessible to others, including future team members. We will also ensure we are learning and applying best practices from VSO interventions in other countries.

Our programmatic work will be reviewed for progress quarterly, and each year we will undertake an annual performance review. This review will actively involve our staff, volunteers, partners, donors and key stakeholders, so we can focus on our development outcomes and impact, as well as look forward to the next year's plans.

The results of our annual performance review will be made available to our partners and stakeholders.



## Our impact

The priority for our country programme over the next five years is to improve the health and education of PNG's most disadvantaged people, including rural populations, persons with disabilities, women and girls, and people living with HIV and AIDS.

In the education sector our work will improve the quality of education and education management in elementary, primary and secondary schools. We will increase the quality and number of teachers through our work with teacher training institutions and support of reforms in teacher education. We will expand the opportunities for out of school youth, vulnerable children and children with disabilities to access education and to benefit from the prospects it affords.

We will support increased access to quality health services, particularly sexual and reproductive health, work to mitigate the impact of gender-based violence, improve service delivery for people living with disabilities, and strengthen the capacity of provincial/district and local entities to deliver an effective and coordinated response to HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Our advocacy priorities will support progress towards gender equity and strengthen meaningful engagement of people living with HIV in the response to HIV and AIDS. We will bring the voice of communities to government and civil society so that they are influencing debates on issues that affect the quality of their lives. Climate change considerations will be integrated into our operations and programmes.

*Strongim na bung wantaim*, our Papua New Guinea Country Plan 2011–15 is ambitious but focussed. It calls on us and our partners to build on experience and strengths, while remaining willing to innovate and experiment. We will continue to strengthen our partners' organisational capacity and increase the scale, reach and impact of their interventions through technical support, capacity-building and knowledge sharing. Monitoring, evaluation and research will help us understand which programmes and approaches are the most effective. The results, learnings and implications will be communicated and shared with the wider development community.

We expect that our work with our partners in education and health will have a positive impact on the social and economic well-being of PNG's most disadvantaged people, including rural populations, persons with disabilities, women and girls, and people living with HIV and AIDS.

We fully intend that our actions will move us closer to our vision of a world without poverty.



PO Box 1061 Madang  
Madang Province  
Papua New Guinea

t +(675) 422 1924  
f +(675) 422 1926  
[www.vsointernational.org](http://www.vsointernational.org)

VSO is a registered charity in England and in  
Wales (313757) and in Scotland (SC039117).

Cover image ©VSO  
Papua New Guinea/Nov 2011

VSO Bahaginan  
[www.vsobahaginan.org.ph](http://www.vsobahaginan.org.ph)

VSO Ireland  
[www.vso.ie](http://www.vso.ie)

VSO Jitolee  
[www.vsojitolee.org](http://www.vsojitolee.org)

VSO Netherlands  
[www.vso.nl](http://www.vso.nl)

VSO UK  
[www.vso.org.uk](http://www.vso.org.uk)