

VSA E-Volunteer Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Provincial Water Sector Advisor
Country	Vanuatu
Location	Penama - Ambae
Partner Organisation	Dept of Water Resources
Duration	12 weeks (part-time)
Sustainable Development Goals	



41525

1. Partner organisation overview

The Department of Water Resources (DoWR) is part of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources. Initially known as the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources, the DoWR was legally established in December 2016. The rationale behind this new department was to merge all of the water related activities across different ministries, which also highlights the Vanuatu Government's focus on water as a priority resource.

The purpose of the DoWR is to ensure there is sustainable and equitable access to safe water for the population of Vanuatu. Their goals are to have:

- Clear regulatory framework in place and roles between departments established to provide for transparent and accountable regulation and management of water resources.
- An adequate structure with sufficient capacity to deliver on the National Water Strategy.
- Water Supply infrastructures being operated and maintained by communities (with technical and management support) and have drinking water safety and security plans developed.
- Available water resources and catchments identified, managed and protected.
- Water quality monitoring and maintenance processes in place, meeting agreed standards.
- Appropriate and sustainable water infrastructure installed to meet domestic, customary use targets and needs sustainable economic development.
- An information and response mechanism in place that allows for mutual information sharing and accountability between government and stakeholders.

These goals link to two long term strategies:

- Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Plan: ECO 2.2 - Ensure all people have reliable access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Vanuatu National Water Strategy 2008-2018 – Vision: Sustainable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation for the people of Vanuatu to support improved public health and promote social and economic development.

2. Assignment overview

This assignment is a result of a partnership between Engineers Without Borders New Zealand (EWBNZ) and VSA. The three-year partnership between EWBNZ and VSA was signed in July 2017. This partnership is about contributing to both VSA and EWBNZ's activities in the Pacific and beyond and taking a flexible



approach, to evolve other ways of working collaboratively in development in the Pacific. For this assignment EWBNZ will provide technical input to develop the assignment scope and assist in the selection and pre-departure briefing of the volunteer. EWBNZ will advertise the position through the EWBNZ networks and provide technical assistance to the volunteer and DoWR, through mentors and the Technical Support Hub. VSA will undertake the briefing, deployment and debriefing of the volunteer, in line with standard VSA process.

Despite significant donor investment in the WASH sector, the Government of Vanuatu has lacked capacity to coordinate and oversee the multiple stakeholders involved, resulting in fragmented project delivery, duplications, overly complex water systems and often poor outcomes for communities. The newly formed Department of Water Resources (DoWR) is being supported by the New Zealand Government and UNICEF to address the challenges of coordinating the sector. As part of this support, a 'National Implementation Plan for Safe & Secure Drinking Water' (NIP) is being finalised and will provide a framework for achieving 100% access to safely managed drinking water by 2030.

The Provincial Water Office (PWO) is a conduit between communities and the government, an effective PWO is critical to achieving Vanuatu's vision of 100% access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation. One of DoWR's most significant challenges is a lack of technical and management capacity at the provincial level. PWOs lack technical skills relating to water system design, surveying, drinking water safety and security planning, and water quality testing. There are also challenges with basic programme management, procurement, business planning and administration functioning that underpins an effective provincial office.

The Vanuatu Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning (DWSSP) approach is based on the Water Safety Plans as promoted by the World Health Organisation. The DWSSP methodology involves the DoWR (or approved WASH entity e.g. NGO) guiding communities through a step-by-step process of identifying drinking water sources, identifying risks and issues relating to water safety and security, and then establishing a way forward for communities to address those risks/issues in order to achieve safely managed drinking water.

The DoWR consists of four Provincial Water Offices (each with 2 staff responsible for rural water) and a headquarters in Port Vila. Northern Sector: Sanma/Torba (based in Luganville), Malampa (based in Lakatoro), Penama (based in Saratamata). Southern Sector: Tafea (based in Lenakel); Shefa (served by head office in Port Vila).

3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

The Provincial Water Offices (PWOs) in the northern sector of Vanuatu (Penama) have strengthened capacity enabling them to deliver the 'National Implementation Plan for Safe & Secure Drinking Water' (NIP), assisting communities to achieve safely managed drinking water contributing to Vanuatu's goal of 100% access by 2030.

Outcome 1

The capacity of the Provincial Water Officers to deliver the DWSSP process is enhanced

Output

- Provide technical support and advice for PWO staff. Suggestion of weekly or fortnightly Zoom – or equivalent - catch ups organised by the volunteer after discussion with their counterparts.
- Provide education and training support for PWO through online workshops. Identification of at least 2 topics of priority for the volunteer to train counterpart in.



- Liaise with the UNICEF team and support DoWR (and MoH) staff to incorporate the new findings and material, currently being implemented to improve the DWSSPs packages.

Outcome 2

Department of Water Resources Engineering graduates and technicians have access to a professional development programme specifically designed for their needs

Output

- Co-design (with DoWR staff) a professional development online programme to teach engineering graduates and technicians the skills necessary to use the Design and Construction Standards for Rural Water Supply in Vanuatu
- Co-design (with DoWR staff) a professional development online programme to teach engineering graduates and technicians the skills necessary to project manage a small project
- Ensure that cross cutting issues such as Child Protection issues and PSEAH are incorporated into the content of the course.

Outcome 3

The Penama PWO and EWB mutually benefit from a strong partnership based on shared reflections and learnings

Outputs

- Participate in planning, monitoring and evaluation, communication and reporting activities of EWB WASH team in country and internationally. These activities include the EWB Vanuatu program monthly meetings and the WASH quarterly reflections. There are also options to contribute to articles for EWB website and to the bimonthly EWB WASH meeting.
- Implement learnings from EWB-led reflections.
- Shared learning and collaboration with the VSA/EWB Water Sector Advisers in other provinces for synchronicity at a national level.

4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

This assignment is a partnership assignment between VSA, Engineers Without Borders New Zealand (EWBNZ), and the Department of Water Resources (DoWR). The volunteer and DoWR will have an ongoing relationship with the VSA programme manager in terms of assignment monitoring, reporting, and personal support. EWBNZ will provide professional support for the volunteer and the DoWR – including support to complete initial environment and risk surveys, ongoing technical advice and support, access to EWBNZ Technical Support Hub, and support for any adjustments to the assignment outcomes/outputs over time.

The volunteer will work with three Provincial Water Supervisors (Sanma, Torba, Malampa, Penama) and three Community Water Development Officers (Sanma, Torba, Malampa, Penama). The volunteer will report to the DoWR's Strategy and Planning Adviser. The volunteer will be accountable to the Director of the DoWR.

This is an e-volunteer (e-vol) position. The volunteer will primarily communicate and work closely with the VSA Program Manager and EWB CEO Dane Hart.

The volunteer and DOWR will have an ongoing relationship with the VSA programme manager in terms of assignment monitoring, reporting, professional advice, and personal support.



As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the Assignment Description in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA Programme Manager. By their very nature, development situations can involve significant change, so it is advisable that the volunteer periodically review and reflect on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.

5. Selection criteria/position requirements

Education and Experience

- Bachelor's degree in engineering (civil or natural resources)
- At least three years' experience in water infrastructure design and construction contract administration
- Experience in providing on-the-job training and mentoring
- Desirable
- Experience in drinking water system design, including water source assessments, water quality, treatment, and distribution systems
- Experience in project management, including programme planning, budgeting, and monitoring
- Previous experience of water safety planning
- Working knowledge of water resource management and conservation
- Working knowledge of the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of a range of water supply systems
- Experience working with a diverse range of stakeholders towards a common goal

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Excellent communications skills and a participatory approach to working with others
- Willingness to learn Bislama
- Willingness to travel to remote locations and work in challenging, rural environments
- Ability to work in a team and to also be a self-starter

6. VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation
- Cross cultural awareness
- Adaptability and a willingness to approach change or newness positively
- Able to form good relationships, both personally and professionally, with work colleagues and in the community
- Resilience and an ability to manage setbacks
- Initiative and resourcefulness
- An ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange



Additional information

Residency status

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status, and currently living in NZ.

Final appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory VSA clearances, and partner organisation acceptance.

Children's Act

VSA is committed to the protection of vulnerable children and adults, which also includes meeting our commitment under the Children's Act 2014.

The information requested during the application process is necessary to assist VSA to determine applicant suitability to work and/or interact regularly with children and is part of a series of pre-selection checks undertaken on all applicants for VSA assignments.

E-Volunteer package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

Reimbursements

Volunteers will receive a monthly honorarium of **NZ\$90**. This amount is expected to reimburse the volunteer for costs associated with undertaking the assignment.

Final terms and conditions relating to the specific volunteer assignment will be confirmed in a personalised volunteer contract.

