

VSA E-Volunteer Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Science Teachers – E-Mentors
Country	Papua New Guinea
Location of Partner Organisation	Kokopo, East New Britain
Partner Organisation	East New Britain Provincial Government (Div. of Education)
Duration	4 months (Part-time)
Sustainable Development Goals	



41520, 41555, 41556

1. Partner organisation overview

The Division of Education sets the strategic direction of education, and facilitates and leads the delivery of high-quality education in the province. To ensure the delivery of high-quality education across all school levels, the Division of Education is continuously improving teaching and learning practices. In recent years, there is ample evidence to show that science education teaching and learning practices are not preparing students well enough to meet the knowledge demands for life and work in the 21st century “knowledge societies”. As a result, one of the priority goals of the Department is to strengthen science education (teaching and learning practices) in the province.

2. Assignment overview

The declining quality of teaching and associated poor learning outcomes remains a major concern in Papua New Guinea. A significant proportion of students are leaving schools with poor literacy, numeracy and science literacy. Some contributing factors for poor learning and education outcomes include ineffective teaching practices, poor teacher training, inexperienced science teachers, and inadequate resources. Improving the standard and quality of teaching in schools is one of the Division of Education of East New Britain Provincial Government’s major priorities because science education and strong science skills are of critical importance for good jobs in the 21st century. One of the aims of the Division of Education is to ensure that students gain the required level of proficiency in science subjects on completion of their secondary school education. By working closely with science teachers, volunteers will mentor, support, advise and guide them in improving their teaching practices and enhancing their subject knowledge.

3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

The pedagogical strategies and subject knowledge of science teachers in secondary schools in East New Britain are more effective, enabling them to improve students’ learning outcomes.

Outcome 1

The teaching and learning of science in selected secondary schools is more effective, leading to improved students’ learning and attainment outcomes.

- Cooperatively and collegially work with science teachers (physics, chemistry, and biology) to identify gaps in subject matter knowledge and pedagogical practices.



- Jointly develop improvement plans to address identified gaps, and support them to strengthen their capabilities and improve the effectiveness of teaching and delivery practices.
- Provide support to enable the sourcing and creation of electronic science teaching and learning resources.

4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

This is an e-volunteer (e-vol) position. The volunteer will primarily communicate and work closely with science teachers from selected schools in East New Britain. One strategy to achieve the aim of ensuring students gain the required level of proficiency in science subjects is to address the poor teaching of science through mentorship - upskilling and supporting science teachers. Research has shown that students do better if teachers are proficient in subject knowledge matter and more effective teaching strategies.

The volunteer will report directly to the Provincial Education Adviser and school principals and be accountable to the Provincial Education Adviser. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately work with the teachers.

The volunteer and East New Britain Provincial Government (Division of Education) 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

Person specifications (professional)

Essential

- Relevant teaching qualification/s and strong science teaching experience in secondary schools
- Demonstrated excellence as a classroom practitioner
- Ability to mentor, coach and support the professional development of teachers
- Sound knowledge and expertise in high-quality teaching and learning

Desirable

- Experience with Microsoft Office 365 Education

Personal specification (personal)

Essential



- Supportive and understanding
- Excellent relationship management skills (ability to relate well to people from different backgrounds and cultures)
- Ability to work collegially and collaboratively
- Patience and flexibility

Desirable

- Excellent communication skills

6. VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering (to VSA and partner organisations)
- 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

7. Country Context

For more information about Papua New Guinea, see [VSA in PNG](#)

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 for a part-time assignment. 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.

