

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Business Development (Social Enterprise) Adviser
Country	Solomon Islands
Location	Aruligo
Partner Organisation	San Isidro Care Centre
Duration	18 months
Sustainable Development Goals	

41625

1. Partner organisation overview

San Isidro Care Centre (the Centre) was established in 2007 as rural training centre (RTC) for young people living with disabilities, predominately hearing and speaking impairment. SICC is a charitable institution that operates under the Roman Catholic Education Authority and welcomes anyone with special needs regardless of denomination. The Centre educates young people from the ages of 14 and over, over a period of three years. The Centre offers courses in sign language, literacy and numeracy, agriculture, life skills (home economics), carpentry (woodwork) and practical trade and skills. The Centre provides young people living with disabilities with training of basic academic and skilled subjects, of which they may otherwise be deprived.

The Centre's mission is to advocate for basic human rights for people with disabilities, their right to an education and an opportunity to build their skills and self-esteem to enable a life of dignity and wellbeing. Their vision is to change social attitudes towards people living with disabilities, ensuring their right to dignity and a decent life for anyone.

At present there are about 40 students enrolled at the Centre. Most of the students are deaf. The Centre is managed by a principal from the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (MSSM) with the support of local teachers and ancillary staff. Altogether there are 13 staff.

2. Assignment overview

San Isidro Care Centre has in the past few years embarked on income-generating projects to boost income for the Centre. Most of this is based on agriculture and small livestock. The income-generating projects have resulted in San Isidro having more income that they are able to put towards upkeep of the Centre. The Centre does not currently have staff trained in business or social enterprise, or who have the skills to ensure that the Centre is growing its agricultural- and livestock-based social enterprise.

A volunteer is being sought to support San Isidro to conduct training in business and social enterprise and to develop a handbook for use at the Centre. The volunteer will assist the principal and staff to document what is being done and recommend steps to increase income. The volunteer will also work with staff and students to develop a strategy that guides social enterprise and implement it.



3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

San Isidro has a successful social enterprise.

Outcome 1

Staff and students understand what social enterprise is.

Working alongside staff:

- Conducting training in social enterprise.
- Develop handbook for use in the centre for training.

Outcome 2

The Centre knows opportunities for social enterprise.

Working alongside staff and students:

- Document what is currently being done to generate income.
- Conduct marketing analysis.
- Provide recommendations on expansion of social enterprise efforts.
- Develop a social enterprise strategy.

Outcome 3

The Centre has thriving social enterprise.

Working with staff and Student:

- Implement the centre's social enterprise strategy.
- Mentor and coach key staff who are engaged in social enterprise.

4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

The volunteer will report directly and be accountable to the principal. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominantly work with the principal and staff and students involved in social enterprise. The volunteer will participate in capacity development by mentoring and training staff.

The volunteer and the Centre 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 on arrival 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

- Qualification or experience in business or Social Enterprise
- Ability to mentor and coach colleagues
- Strong project management skills
- Ability to think strategically and understand organisational goals
- Sound financial management skills
- Ability to work with organisation that is semi-rural and has minimal resources

Desirable

- Experience in adult education
- Background in agriculture and livestock
- Experience working in tertiary education
- Creative and innovative
- Experience working in the Pacific

Person specifications (personal)

Essential

- Willingness to learn sign language
- Willingness to learn Solomon Islands pijin
- Respectful of other cultures and religion
- Patience

Desirable

- Adaptable to tropical environment

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.

7. Country context

Honiara is the business centre of Solomon Islands and as such is a melting pot for people from all the island groups that make up the diverse nation. A hot and dusty place, Honiara offers most facilities albeit in a rudimentary form. You are strongly encouraged to build relationships in the local community and socialise with Solomon Islanders at every opportunity, as this will enrich your experience of living in



Solomons. However, entertainment options are few and far between so there is also a very active expatriate social scene. There are various clubs and social groups in Honiara, which you will get to know with time.

Aruligo is a rural area. Most goods have to be sourced from Honiara. The Centre is about 500m from the main road. Public transport from Aruligo to Honiara runs daily and a bus ride from Aruligo to Honiara takes about 45 minutes. The Centre has transport into Honiara each week. The Centre will provide basic, furnished accommodation with gas facilities for cooking. Solar power is used for lighting and charging of cell phones and small equipment.

Most volunteers feel safe in Solomon Islands, but it is important to know the risks and take personal responsibility for your safety. As in many countries, foreigners tend to be the target of petty crime, so always be alert and take precautions. In general, there are no problems moving around the majority of Aruligo and Honiara during the day, but it may not safe to walk or catch public transport alone in Honiara after dark.

For information about Solomon Islands country context, see <https://vsa.org.nz/what-we-do/countryregion/solomon-islands/>.

Additional information

Residency status

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

Pre-departure briefing

As part of the volunteer's contract, successful candidates will be required to take part in a pre-departure briefing course run by VSA in Wellington and complete all required pre-reading.

Final appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory medical and immigration clearances (costs covered by VSA), partner organisation acceptance, and successful completion of the pre-departure briefing course.

Family status

VSA supports partners to accompany volunteers on assignments of six months or longer. However volunteers with accompanying dependents will not be considered for this assignment.

Fundraising

Volunteers are encouraged to fundraise at least \$1000 with the support of VSA's fundraising team. Accompanying partners are encouraged to raise the same amount. All funds raised will help VSA keep its programmes in action and support future volunteers.

Vaccination requirements

Potential volunteers are advised that VSA's insurers require volunteers to be inoculated, prior to departure, in accordance with the instructions of VSA's medical adviser. VSA covers the cost of any required vaccinations.

Children's Act

While on assignment, VSA volunteers may be required to work with children and/or may choose to participate in informal activities in their own time that involve interactions with children (such as coaching teams or teaching English). 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.

Volunteer package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

Reimbursements and grants

1. Volunteers will receive an establishment grant of NZ\$750 to help them set up in their country of assignment. For volunteers with an accompanying partner (whether that partner is also a VSA volunteer), VSA will pay an establishment grant of NZ\$1,100 per couple.
2. A resettlement grant of NZ\$200 will be paid for each month the volunteer is on assignment. This is payable on completion of the assignment.
3. The volunteer will receive a monthly living allowance of SBD6,500.
4. A location grant of \$1,000 will be paid to the volunteer at 6 months and 18 months.

Accommodation

Basic, comfortable furnished accommodation will be sourced by VSA. In some circumstances volunteers may be asked to share accommodation.

Airfares and baggage allowance

VSA will provide the volunteer with economy airfares to and from New Zealand for their assignment plus a baggage allowance.

Insurance

VSA will provide travel insurance to cover baggage and personal property, and non-routine medical expenses for the duration of the assignment. Further details of the insurance cover will be provided during the volunteer pre-departure briefing.

Utilities

VSA will reimburse volunteers reasonable expenses for household utilities while on assignment.

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

