

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Agribusiness Development Mentor
Country	
Location of Partner Organisation	Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB), Papua New Guinea (PNG)
Partner Organisation	Department of Police, Corrective Services and Justice, and Principal Legal Adviser (DPCSJ) / Department of Primary Industries (DPI)
Duration	One year with the option to extend by mutual agreement
Sustainable Development Goals	



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1. Partner organisation overview

Mabiri was established through an innovative partnership between the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), the GoPNG Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Catholic Diocese – the roles and responsibilities of each organisation is detailed in an MOU signed in December 2015. The Mabiri concept, infrastructure, and partnership development, has been generously supported by the Australian Government, initially through the PNG-Australia Law and Justice Partnership (PLJAP), then Justice Services and Stability for Development (JSS4D) programmes. The Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation (NCFR) has been contracted by the ABG to manage the MJRC.

The concept of Mabiri includes focusing on strength and evidence-based practice that incorporates holistic restorative justice activities so that family and communities are involved with the juvenile’s rehabilitation journey. Mabiri will focus on creating a conducive environment to support the welfare and wellbeing of juveniles while they receive rehabilitation programmes. The rehabilitation programmes will target the core issues contributing to the juvenile’s behaviours with the aim of working towards sustainable positive change in the juvenile’s behaviours and attitude. Implementing partners intend to establish Mabiri into a facility that has a strong foundation around education, peace, and reconciliation.

Mabiri will cost approx. K350,000.00 per year to fully operate. Funding from ABG has been sought through the Special Intervention Fund allocated under Law and Justice. This funding support is crucial for the first few years; however, the vision is for MJRC to develop several means to derive revenue that will assist with its long-term sustainability. Simultaneously, funding from the ABG will reduce as the economic activities become established and are able to cover operations. As of 2022 any funding from ABG has been minimal, due to slow release of monies from PNG government



2. Assignment overview

The centre is located on very fertile ground and so is ideal for activities for agricultural purposes such as gardens and production of pigs, cows, and chickens. The land is also near the river and sea so there will be easy access to fresh water and fishing. Currently garden produce is being used to feed the juveniles as well as to sell to generate regular income. Further, the ABG, with generous support of the Australian Government, via JJS4D, has constructed a piggery, layer's house, and broiler chicken project, which was completed early in 2019

The facility has started small; however, it will eventually expand to include a workshop for carpentry type of activities. Other crops and plants for economic benefits will be explored as the facility grows. All these activities will be integrated into the practical programmes for the juveniles as part of their development of life-skills. The land area is large, and some areas are being used and planned to be used by DPI in conjunction with Mabiri

Centre staff have planted crops, which are being transported to Arawa and sold at market, although the current selling of produce is not providing an income stream. The cost of labour and freight to Arawa means the profit is very small. Moving to higher value crops and planned distribution will change this.

It is proposed that a volunteer will assist with the establishment of the JJS4D-funded economic development projects at the Centre and once embedded, incorporate revenue into ongoing Centre operations.

3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

The Mabiri Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre (MJRC) is generating revenue through agriculture product to support the Centres operation and staff have necessary competencies and confidence to sustain these alternative, non-government revenue streams

Outcome 1

MJRC staff have necessary competency in animal husbandry and technical knowledge to improve quality and/or quantity of production

In consultation with DPI advisors:

- Assess staff competency in animal husbandry and farm management
- Develop recommendations to improve competencies, farm functionality and the quality and/or quantity of production
- Develop and implement a work plan to train staff in effective animal husbandry and farming practices
- Produce a summary report on training completed and ongoing support requirements to the development partners and relevant stakeholders

Outcome 2

The MJRC is generating sustainable revenue and staff have increased agribusiness acumen

- Conduct market analysis for production and sale of proposed and potential goods/services at MJRC
- Develop post-analysis recommendations on improving revenues, identify and report on resource constraints for meeting expected standards, and present report to relevant partners
- Draft a work plan in line with recommendations, this may include, but is not limited to an immediate training programme for MJRC staff in business principles (to be executed by volunteer and/or development partners), establishment of supply contracts with Arawa-based wholesalers/retailers, or investment in capital goods
- Provide on-going monitoring and evaluation, and mentoring as needed



Outcome 3

Alternative revenue streams are incorporated into MJRC operations

Work with Centre Manager and development partners:

- Assess means to incorporate independent revenue streams into MJRC operations
- Design and execute strategy to incorporate independent revenue streams to ensure long term sustainability

4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

The volunteer will report directly to Francis Bongin MJRC Manager and will be accountable to DPCSJ Secretary, Kenneth. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately work with Centre Manager and NCfR Sisters

The volunteer and <Partner Organisation> 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

- Training/qualification in a relevant discipline e.g., business, economics, agriculture, development studies, or related area practical experience in agribusiness such as breeding, production, contracts, distribution, marketing, and sales)
- Experience and knowledge of poultry or pigs, or other livestock production/care

Desirable

- Experience working with cooperatives/collectives and/or farmer groups
- Experience mentoring or training
- An interest in supporting and working with young people

Personal specification (personal)

Essential

- Ability to live and work in rural or remote settings with a good level of physical fitness
- Strong ability to think innovatively in an environment with limited resources and monetary support
- Ability to problem solve and self-motivate
- Strong organisational skills and ability to work independently at times



Desirable

- Demonstrated high-level interpersonal skills to promote co-operation between organisations
- Experience working in a developing country context or poorly resourced region
- Understanding and experience living in PNG or Melanesia
- A willingness to learn and use Tok Pisin

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

For more information about Bougainville, see <https://vsa.org.nz/about-vsa/countryregion/bougainville/>

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 or not that partner is also a VSA volunteer), VSA will pay an establishment grant of NZ\$1,100 per couple.
2. The volunteer will receive a remote location grant of NZ\$2000 after six months on assignment.
3. 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.
4. The volunteer will receive a monthly living allowance of PGK1,900.

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. Or as if most often the case in Bougainville Utilities are paid directly by VSA in Country

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

Appendix 1: Living situation Appendix 2: Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB)



Appendix 1: Living Situation

Arawa

Arawa, once a prosperous coastal town, is in a dilapidated state due to destruction during the conflict and lack of maintenance for 25 years since then. Arawa was originally developed in the 1970s as a major service centre and to house mine workers and their families. The population, once 15,000, has stabilised at about 3,000 to 5,000 since the conflict.

There are many trade stores with a few having a surprising range of groceries (including milk and frozen foods), meats, hardware, and clothing. Fresh and smoked fish is plentiful. Fresh vegetables and fruit are constantly available and of a reasonable variety. Arawa has several guesthouses, new and second-hand clothing stores, a number of takeaway food stores, ice-cream shops, two wholesalers, retail beer outlets and a small "pharmacy" (with basic supplies). There are four supermarkets and the BSP Bank has a branch with ATMs in town.

Swimming in the rivers and the sea away from the town area is a popular activity. With the sorts of sensible precautions applicable to any town almost world-wide, Arawa is a safe community. A bicycle is very useful in an around Arawa

Buka is 177 km to the north from Arawa and is where the main airport is situated. At the end of 2014 Aropa airport, 25 kms south of Arawa, was reopened after 25 years of closure. Public Motor Vehicles (PMVs) ply the coastal highway to and from Buka every day except Sunday and costs fifty kina each way. The trip takes three to four hours or longer depending on the state of the road.

PNG Power provides electricity to Arawa. Since a new generator was installed towards the end of 2015 the service was generally good although recently due to fuel shortages there have been long blackouts. VSA has placed a small generator at our Arawa housing to enable a water to be pumped, and phones and laptops charged if required.

Digicel and Telikom offer mobile phone and 3G (mostly) internet services. Telikom has recently introduced very competitive internet and rates and a 4G Lite internet service, however, Digicel has the most extensive coverage in the ARoB.

The Arawa Town Council provides a weekly rubbish collection, an untreated water supply and a reticulated sewage collection (with untreated discharges into the lower reaches of the two rivers in Arawa).

Arawa has a number of churches of Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Methodist and Evangelical faiths and these are well attended.

There is one public hospital at Buka and two major health centres, one at Arawa and the other at Buin. There is a doctor at both Buka Hospital and the Arawa Health Centre. Otherwise, there are smaller health centres and aid posts scattered around the islands.

On the whole, Arawa is a mostly a quiet town although there are a couple of "nightclubs" but these are hardly ever frequented by volunteers. Regular Friday evening get-togethers often become feature of expat life in Arawa.

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Appendix 3: Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB)

The ARoB emerged from nine years of civil conflict in 1998, suffering social trauma and with much of the island's infrastructure in tatters. The process of re-building and determining the region's political future follow a difficult and uncertain path. It will continue to take a combined effort, supported where appropriate by funding and technical assistance from international sources, to emerge as a fully functioning society. The ongoing desire of some for independence and the scarcity of development funding from Papua New Guinea create a challenging political and developmental environment.

While the autonomous region has had a particularly difficult colonial and post-colonial history, the people of Bougainville continue to demonstrate tremendous resilience in the face of these challenges. Bougainvilleans are a hardworking, proud and happy people, and continue to display innovation and strength in spite of complex political and social challenges.



For more information on ARoB, see:

- ABG Website: www.abg.gov.pg
- Bougainville Travel: www.bougainville.travel
- Bougainville News: www.bougainvilnews.com
- Radio Broadcasting Service: <http://www.bougainville.typepad.com>
- New Zealand Aid Programme in PNG: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-work-in-the-pacific/aid-partnership-with-papua-new-guinea/>
- Former Volunteer Travel Website: <http://www.travelinspired.co.nz/category/bougainville-papua-new-guinea/>

VSA in the ARoB

New Zealand, from the signing of the cease-fire in January 1998, has indicated a willingness to help the people of the ARoB help themselves. VSA, with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) New Zealand Aid Programme, has been involved in the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase of the ARoB's recovery since May 1998.

Since 1998, VSA has built up a programme involving project management and volunteer placement in sectors including health, construction, education, and economic development. VSA volunteers are currently based in Buka, Chabai, Wakunai and Arawa and they are supported by a field office in Arawa and a sub-office in Buka. The Programme Manager is based between Arawa and Buka and a full time Programme Officer assists from the Buka sub-office.

General security

The physical, psychological, and cultural damage resulting from a decade of civil strife will take many years to heal. The peace process is still fragile, and it will take time before people gain confidence and build trust within their communities and with outsiders.

Volunteers must be aware of, and accept the heightened risk, and adopt behaviour that reflects due caution. This includes taking precautions such as not moving around after dark alone, keeping the house secure and keeping items of value out of sight. All VSA volunteers to the ARoB must sign a set of security protocols that set out behaviour, designed to minimise risk.

VSA has confidence in the peace process and a commitment to the people of the ARoB. The Programme Manager is constantly monitoring the security situation. VSA has found the people of Bougainville to be incredibly hospitable, friendly and keep watch over VSA volunteers as needed.

