

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Feasibility Study Specialist
Country	Solomon Islands
Location of Partner Organisation	Honiara
Partner Organisation	Health First Specialists Group Ltd
Duration	3-8 months
Sustainable Development Goals	



41832

1. Partner organisation overview

In 2022, a group of national senior specialist clinicians shared the idea of forming a specialist corporate group to privately provide a specialist health service in Honiara. The group would like to establish a specialist private health care facility in Honiara, Solomon Islands that offers an alternative to the government run National Referral Hospital. The group would like to provide tertiary health service that contributes to the National Development Strategy, particularly in the provision of healthcare and economic growth of Solomon Islands.

In order for the group to determine whether what they propose will be feasible or not, a prefeasibility analysis to assess the demand for services and the revenue and costs expected needs to be conducted. A positive outcome of this study would lead to development of a detailed feasibility study for a private specialist health centre. It is envisaged that this centre would complement the work done at the National Referral Hospital and from general practices.

2. Assignment overview

A VSA volunteer could support Health First by conducting a prefeasibility analysis that will give the board members and shareholders initial information for decision making on the long term technical and financial sustainability of the proposal. A feasibility study could then be conducted to build a business case with details of all components of the facility/service, construction, and operations.

3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

The Health First board has feasibility studies to inform decision-making on the construction and operation of a health specialist facility.

Outcome 1

Health First has information that will support their decision to either continue or discontinue with the idea of building and creating a specialist health facility.



Working alongside the Director:

- Develop a prefeasibility study proposal;
- Conduct the different elements of the prefeasibility plan to gather required data including but not limited to:
 - desk review of relevant reports and data from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Finance and Trade, World Health Organisation, World Bank, UNICEF, the National Development Strategy and other sources; and
 - Face to face consultations with key stakeholders as identified with the Board.
- Develop a concise report with the information required by the Board to support decision-making; and
- Conduct workshop to present findings to Board members.

Outcome 2

Health First has a detailed feasibility assessment that will form the basis on the decision to build a specialist health facility.

Guided by Terms of Reference (ToR) developed with the Director:

- Review prefeasibility study outcomes and other available information and data;
- Establish project committee with all skills required to develop feasibility study;
- Develop ToR for and with project committee;
- Conduct feasibility study including but not limited to:
 - Hold consultations with all stakeholders;
 - Develop sections for the feasibility study including site, service planning, architectural design, construction, operation, staffing and tendering.
- Develop a concise report with the information required by the Board to support decision-making; and
- Conduct workshop to present findings to Board members.

4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

The volunteer will work with the Directors to determine what needs to be included in the prefeasibility study and then the feasibility study. The volunteer will report directly to one of the Directors and will be accountable to the board. On a day-to-day basis the volunteer will predominately with identified stakeholders.

The volunteer and Health First Specialist Group Ltd 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

- Relevant qualification and at least two years' experience in health economics, hospital planning, hospital management and administration, OR at least five years' experience in development of feasibility studies in healthcare and/or construction projects.
- Demonstrated experience in private health services development and hospital facility management and administration.
- Evidence of having undertaken similar assignments
- Financial analysis capability

Desirable

- Infrastructure specialist.
- Experience working in a Melanesian country.

Personal specification (personal)

Essential

- Good communication skills
- Excellent English writing skills
- Willingness to learn and speak pijin
- Ability to establish strong working relationships and networking,
- Good rapport with people from other cultures
- Ability to work with minimum supervision
- Results oriented

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.

VSA will provide basic, furnished accommodation with gas facilities for cooking. In Honiara, you will have access to power (although power outages can occur), phone, internet, piped water, restaurants, a variety of shops and a large expatriate population. Public transport is very cheap within Honiara. The local bus service is provided by a plethora of vans, and some larger buses. A single fare of SBD3 applies, regardless of the length of the trip. Taxis charge a moderate fare (currently SBD10 per kilometre) but it is wise to establish a fare before commencing a journey.

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 Honiara during the day, but it is not safe to walk or catch public transport alone in Honiara after dark.

For more information, 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 or not 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 SBD 7,000.

Accommodation

Basic, comfortable furnished accommodation will be sourced by VSA. For security purposes volunteers in Honiara should expect 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 prior to departure.

