

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title Public Health and Engagement Mentor

Assignment Modality Standard in-country volunteer

Assignment Number BOU 41957

Country Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

Location Arawa

Partner Organisation World Vision Papua New Guinea

Duration 12 Months

Sustainable Development Goals



Business Development Partner



1. Partner Organisation Overview

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision started working in PNG (WVPNG) in 1974 and uses an integrated approach to deliver in its core programming sectors of Education, Health, Livelihoods, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, Social Cohesion and Peace building.

WVPNG's programming focus is spread across 12 of PNG's 22 provinces, with field offices and staff in the 6 Provinces of National Capital District, Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB), Morobe, Madang, Western and Southern Highlands Provinces; as well as through partners in another six provinces across the country.

WVPNG works to increase access to sustainable clean drinking water; improve sanitation and hygiene via Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), Participatory Hygiene & Sanitation Transformation (PAST) and WASH facilities installation. WVPNG also strengthens governance capacity to design, finance, deliver and sustain inclusive, resilient WASH services.

VSA has worked with WVPNG in Bougainville for a number of years across a range of thematic areas including health and agriculture.



2. Assignment Overview

WVPNG has recently acquired funding to deliver a new WASH project to improve access to safe, adequate, and sustainable water supplies in South Bougainville. The project will involve construction of new WASH facilities, along with an increased focus on good WASH practice and awareness.

WVPNG has previously delivered water and sanitation projects in Bougainville, the most recent being 2019-2021. While the last project was successful, a key area identified for improvement was need for WVPNG to act as a stronger advocate for improved WASH policy from the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and to build relationships and capacity with key government stakeholders. The VSA volunteer would work to build the capacity of the project manager to engage with ABG stakeholders, and local level government, to see improved WASH policy implementation and governance in South Bougainville.

A well-suited volunteer, with experience in public health advocacy and stakeholder engagement would play a key role in supporting WVPNG to strengthen the enabling environment for better WASH outcomes through engagement with the ABG and local-level government. WVPNG recognises that a collaborative approach to WASH programming in Bougainville is crucial to ensuring sustainability and local ownership. WVPNG is wanting to advocate with and support the ABG to develop strong WASH policies and programming, and has identified the South Bougainville District WASH Committee, the ABG Department of Health, the ABG Department of Education, and community WASH committees, as key stakeholders for this project. The volunteer would work closely with the project manager to strengthen the relationships and WASH capacity of those stakeholders.

3. Goal/Outcomes/Outputs

Goal

The volunteer is able to make a strong contribution towards building the capacity and confidence of WVPNG's Bougainville Area Programme (BAP) staff to increase better engagement with key stakeholders and advocate for strengthening the WASH system in Bougainville.

Outcome 1

To increase the capacity of the Project team to better engage with key stakeholders in the Bougainville WASH sector.

Outputs that would contribute to this outcome are:

- Mentor the Project team on the importance of strong stakeholder engagement
- Mentor the Project team on strategic planning and implementation
- Work with the Project team to develop a stakeholder engagement plan
- Support the Project team in attending key meetings and forums with WASH stakeholders

Outcome 2

To build WVPNG BAP's reputation as a strong and credible partner for the ABG on WASH programming.

Outputs that would contribute to this outcome are:

- With assistance from the WVPNG WASH Portfolio Manager, work to build the knowledge of the Project team on WASH best practice in Bougainville



- Support in building the confidence of the Project team to advocate and provide advice on WASH best practice when engaging with ABG and other stakeholders.

Outcome 3

To build the capacity of Project Manager to effectively manager and deliver the project.

Outputs that would contribute to this outcome are:

- Mentor the project manager in necessary project management skills.
- Ensure that project manager can respond to project and donor requirements.

4. Reporting, Working Relationships and Capacity Building

The volunteer will be placed to work within the World Vision Bougainville Water and Sanitation Project team on a daily basis. This will provide the core opportunity for shared learning and capacity building of the team through one-on-one mentoring, coaching, observation of the volunteer by team members, possible internal trainings facilitated by the volunteer. The volunteer will report to the project manager, while also working with the World Vision PNG WASH lead based in Port Moresby.

There may also be scope for the volunteer to assist the World Vision Bougainville Water and Sanitation Project team in building capacity of local partners such as the Bougainville Government, and the sub-region WASH groups.

The volunteer will also be a key participant in the World Vision Bougainville team's monthly reflection sessions, which are an opportunity for staff to come together at the end of each month to specifically reflect on learnings from the past month, as well as plan for the coming month.

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 reviews and reflects on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.

5. Selection Criteria/Position Requirements

Professional Specifications

Essential

- Bachelors degree in public health, environmental health, or a health related field
- Experience in government or stakeholder engagement (ideally in the Pacific)
- Experience of working collaboratively in a cross-cultural setting
- Experience of mentoring or coaching staff to build capacity

Desirable



- Experience in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) projects in a developing country
- Experience working in a public health system
- Experience in project management
- Experience working with a diverse range of stakeholders towards a common goal

Personal Specification

Essential

- Community-minded, with a willingness to learn about, and respect Bougainvillean values and protocols
- A willingness to learn the local language (Tok Pisin)
- A self-sufficient and self-motivating attitude
- The ability to adapt to changing situations, and be flexible to change where factors may be beyond your control
- Willingness to travel to remote locations by and work in rural environments

Desirable

- Experience working and living in a developing country

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

Autonomous Region of Bougainville – Papua New Guinea

Bougainville is a warm and vibrant Autonomous Region within Papua New Guinea (PNG). It is the easternmost region of PNG and sits on the border with the Solomon Islands. Going back many decades, the region has a strong sense of identity and culture, that is distinct from other parts of PNG, and something that Bougainvillians are very proud of.

The region was been passed between colonial powers for many years, until being passed from the Australian-administered Territory of New Guinea, to the newly independent nation of Papua New Guinea in 1975. By this time the opencast copper and gold mine at Panguna has started operation, which was one of the largest in the world at the time. The mine quickly came to account for nearly half of PNG's export revenue, underlining the economic importance of Bougainville. However, the mine brought significant environmental and social issues that had not been seen in Bougainville before. By the late 1980s, what begun as a low-scale sabotage campaign to bring about dialogue on compensation for landowners, descended into a complete breakdown in law and order, accompanied by the closure of the mine. In the decade that followed, The Bougainville Crisis became complex in nature, with elements of internal conflict emerging alongside the desire for independence. The signing of the Peace Agreement in 2001 brought the conflict to an end, and in the years since Bougainville has been steadily rebuilding it's public and private sectors.



While Bougainville does still have its challenges as it continues to recover from The Crisis, it provides a unique opportunity for dedicated and adventurous volunteers who are skilled in their respective fields to work alongside their local Bougainvillean counterparts to achieve locally-identified development goals. The region is rich in culture and is unbelievably beautiful, with volunteers finding ample opportunities to immerse themselves in all aspects of the local environment.

VSA has been working in Bougainville since 1998, when it entered into Arawa towards the end of the conflict. In the years since, VSA has supported local organisations across a range of sectors including health, education, agriculture, and tourism. VSA has built a strong reputation in Bougainville, and is committed to continuing to work in the region.

8. Living and Working Situation

Arawa

Located in the Central Bougainville Region, Arawa was formerly the capital of the province. Prior to the Crisis, Arawa was lively and prosperous town that serviced the nearby Panguna Mine. In the 1970s and 1980s, Arawa peaked with a population of over 15,000 and included facilities such as a golf course, yacht club, and beach resort. Sadly the town suffered extensive damage during the Crisis, and has since been on a path of rebuilding. Today Arawa continues to grow, with the market and town centre being key areas for residents to meet and interact.

Arawa is situated on the coast with the Bovo and Tupukas Rivers running through the town. The lush forest-covered hills behind the town make for an impressive backdrop. The climate is warm and humid, with daily rains common.

The town is safe and locals are welcoming of VSA volunteers, who have been present in Arawa for 25 years. Many volunteers buy a bike and find this is a great way to get around the flat and well laid out town. Arawa is situated on a beautiful piece of coastline, and volunteers will often spend weekends out at a beach or island hopping out from town. There are also a number of beautiful waterfalls and rivers in the hills behind town that are safe for swimming in.

The town is well serviced with a range of stores selling most food items, a great market with fresh fruit, vegetables, and seafood, as well as a bank, chemist, and a couple of guesthouses which also serve as restaurants and bars.

Arawa is located in the middle of Bougainville, roughly halfway between the northern town of Buka and the southern town of Buin. Travel to the other towns can take 3 to 4 hours depending on the state of the roads. There are publicly available vehicles that drive the unsealed highway everyday that cost roughly \$30NZD. Bougainville's main airport is located in Buka, with flights running most days of the week. Arawa is serviced by a sealed airport 25kms to the south, where flights run once a week to Port Moresby and Rabaul.

PNG Power (a private company) provides electricity to Arawa via diesel generators. Inconsistent fuel supply means that blackouts are common, and can last for a number of days. VSA has a generator at the Arawa housing for conservative use during blackout periods to run water pumps and charge phones.

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 Bougainville.

Arawa has a number of churches of Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Methodist and Evangelical faiths and these are well attended. During the sport season, the local field is a busy place on a Sunday afternoon with football and volleyball games.



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.

