

## VSA Assignment Description

**Assignment Title:** Community & School Small-scale agriculture Garden Advisor

**Assignment Modality:** Standard (in-country)

**Assignment Number:** 41970

**Country:** Kiribati

**Location:** South Tarawa

**Partner Organisation:** Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

**Duration:** 12 months

### Sustainable Development Goals



### 1. Partner Organisation Overview



The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) is a treaty-based international, inter-governmental organization dedicated to supporting and promoting strong, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth in developing countries and emerging economies.

GGGI in Kiribati is based within the Ministry of Environment, Land and Agricultural Development. Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) is implementing Climate Smart Agriculture for Kiribati (KCSA), a 3-year project funded by Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD). KCSA aims to enhance the adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change through introduction of cost-effective technology, educate and build capacity of the target group. The project is mainly focused on supporting communities (home garden training), primary school (school garden training) and private sector (Agribusiness Training) on South Tarawa.

### 2. Assignment Overview

A VSA volunteer assignment will contribute to the following project goals of KCSA: goals in 2024:

- Build capacity of the Agriculture & Livestock Extension government officers and Ministry of Education (Primary Department) staff through training of trainer approach on modern gardening techniques and basic business management skills. The Ministry staff are expected to support the following:
  - Continuation of training and mentoring of the schoolteachers and students - the school garden program requires considerable support to ensure the teachers have adequate knowledge to teach the students on the principles of gardening, and setup gardens to inspire students on the benefits of growing and eating healthy and nutritious food. The initial training was provided in 2023. However, the support should continue in 2024 to ensure the gardens are setup adequately.



- Mentoring of women & youth in communities – the home garden training has concluded in December 2023. However, the gardeners who were trained through the project are still lacking experience and will require frequent inspection and one-to-one coaching from ALD's Extension officers. Without this support, the women & youth gardeners may face challenges and possible loss of interest to continue gardening.
- Support agribusinesses / entrepreneurs – investment in agriculture sector is not common and often the businesses lack the technical and business skills required to operate a successful business. While KCSA's training program will provide the fundamental training, however, these agribusinesses will need frequent visits from relevant ministry officials to check on their progress and provide one-to-one guidance to navigate any challenges.

This assignment will in turn, contribute to GGGI's long-term goal of: *By 2030 the economies of its member countries will have transformed into a low-carbon and resilient economic development model with GGGI's support to maximize their green growth outcomes and NDCs and SDGs implementation*

### 3. Goal/Outcomes/Outputs

#### Goal

Upon successfully completing the VSA volunteer assignment, GGGI envisions the target population will be trained and they will increase production of fruits and vegetables, more entrepreneurs engage in the agriculture sector and create green jobs. This will be achieved through:

- The primary schoolteacher will be able to deliver the school garden content in the classroom and the schools establish vegetables gardens at all levels.
- The students learn from the garden and are able to take the knowledge to their household. Women and youth in communities will have vegetable gardens. The meals will include more variety of vegetables from the garden.
- Women & youth in communities are knowledgeable and can establish home gardens and produce variety of vegetables for their families.
- More agribusinesses invest and create new employment opportunities for locals.

#### Outcome 1

The schoolteachers have the knowledge and confidence to teach the gardening content in the classroom and establish the gardens at school level.

- Provide one-to-one coaching and guidance tailored for the context of Kiribati (Atoll Island) to strengthen knowledge of the teacher on the concept of gardening.
- Assist the local Agriculture Division under the Ministry of Environment, Lands & Agricultural Development (MELAD) to provide advice on tending the garden, pest and disease management and harvesting of the vegetables.
- Share experience in utilizing vegetables for various dishes.

#### Outcome 2

Students gain knowledge on basic gardening skills, can setup garden, and understand the importance of vegetables in their diet.

- Provide guidance on basic gardening techniques and gardening activities.
- Share experience with students on utilization of vegetables into various dishes.

#### Outcome 3

Women & youth have access to technical guidance and are able to establish vegetables gardens.

- Provide coaching and technical support to the women & youth in selected communities to build their knowledge on setup of healthy gardens.



#### Outcome 4

Agribusinesses are able to establish or expand their business operations.

- Regular visit to the agribusiness to provide coaching and technical advice on business operation.
- Monitor progress of the business.

#### Outcome 5

Agriculture & Livestock Division & Ministry of Education have the technical knowledge to implement school garden activities at primary school level.

- Support the extension officers to train the participating schoolteachers.
- Share knowledge on modern gardening techniques, and in-field diagnosis of garden health.

### 4. Reporting, Working Relationships and Capacity Building

The volunteer will report directly and be accountable to Senior Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Project Management Officer. The volunteer will be working closely with GGGI's Project Management Officer, the Director for Agriculture & Livestock Division and extension officers.

The Volunteer will work closely with GGGI's Project Management Officer to build capacity of the local government staff, for example, agriculture extension officers, officials from MoE, Business Development Officer from Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, Industries & Cooperative. This is a great opportunity to share knowledge and experience with these officers to strengthen their capacity who will continue to work with the direct beneficiaries, i.e., communities, schools & private sector to support the growth and development of the agriculture sector.

GGGI will provide an orientation of the KCSA project and introduction to the key stakeholders involved in the community and school program. All the materials developed as part of the programs will also be shared with the volunteer.

The volunteer and GGGI 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 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

- A minimum of 7 years of professional experience in the horticulture sector, preferably experience working in the atoll condition.
- A minimum of 3 years of experience working with communities and schools (training of teachers & students) to setup horticulture gardens.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.



### **Desirable**

- Working experience with schools in the Pacific island, especially in the atoll countries with conditions similar to Kiribati.
- Experience in the implementation of capacity development programs at community and primary school level.
- Experience as a coach/mentor for teachers and agriculture extension agents.
- Ability to work with multiple government organizations.
- Require minimum supervision and can work independently.
- Adapt to island lifestyle and can travel to remote places

### **Personal Specification**

#### **Essential**

- Strong passion to support quality education for primary school students.
- Good cultural awareness of the Pacific countries.
- Excellent active listening skills.
- Excellent communication (both written and oral) skills.
- Willingness to share appropriate knowledge, advice and lessons learned.
- Creative problem solver, able to identify roadblocks, find and implement solutions.
- Excellent personal organizational skills.
- Open-minded and innovative thinker.
- Builds respectful relationships, rapport and resolves conflict easily.

#### **Desirable**

- Prior experience working with national organisations, communities, and schools.
- Strong existing network with actors in the agriculture sector (such NGOs, private sector, support services, etc.) in Kiribati.

### **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 Kiribati, see [VSA in Kiribati](#)

### **8. Living and Working Situation**

GGI is embedded within the office of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD) Headquarters in Bikenibeu, South Tarawa. The government office has the usual amenities including internet service. The office is conveniently located near the main access road. Kiribati has public bus service available at a regular interval however government also provides transport for the staff to commute from home to office (every morning and afternoon). Kiribati is generally safe and no major



security concern has been observed. The volunteer will have an option to station either at MELAD Headquarter in Bikenibeu or at Agriculture & Livestock Division office located at Tanaea.

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## **Additional Information**

### **Standard Assignment (12 months or more)**

#### **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**

VSA funding stakeholders are both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and donors. We ask volunteers and accompanying partners to fundraise to help cover the cost of sending volunteers throughout the Pacific and beyond. Fundraising can be as simple as doing something you enjoy with a group or friends, and our Fundraising team is available to help you every step of the way.

#### **Vaccination requirements**

Potential volunteers are advised that VSA's insurers require volunteers to be vaccinated, 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. The volunteer may be entitled to an establishment grant to help them set up in their country of assignment, and a rest and respite grant after a specified period of active service in-country to encourage the volunteer to take a break away from the immediate assignment location. These grants depend on the length and location of the assignment. The volunteer's contract will specify any grant entitlements.
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 AUD 1,300



4. A location grant of NZD\$2000 will be paid after each four months of service.

*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.**

