

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	WASH Climate Specialist
Assignment Modality	In country
Assignment Number	41960
Country	Solomon Islands
Location	Honiara
Partner Organisation	UNICEF
Duration	24 months

Sustainable Development Goals



Business Development Partner



1. Partner Organisation Overview

UNICEF works with and for disadvantaged children and adolescents in Solomon Islands. The organisation promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child. Working with their partners, UNICEF takes action that promotes health and nutrition, child protection, education, early childhood development, social inclusion, disaster risk reduction and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

An area that UNICEF has become increasingly engaged in is climate action. Children are the least equipped to deal with climate impacts and disproportionately suffer from their effects. In the Pacific region children are exposed to water scarcity; coastal flooding; cyclones, and air pollution. Girls, children with disabilities, and migrant children are even more vulnerable. The destruction of water resources by these impacts, as well as pollution and overuse, is increasingly interrupting sustained access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services, especially for poor and vulnerable children and their families living in remote areas and with limited coping capacity.

In 2020, UNICEF committed to ensuring that all its water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) work is climate-resilient and contributes towards building community resilience. Achieving this goal calls for new strategies, new partnerships, innovations, new financing mechanisms and stronger capacity to anticipate, mitigate and adapt to these changes. The 2020 UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) formative evaluation report recommended the development of better guidance to making all WASH sector programming climate resilient. It has been realised that while there is some understanding of the impact of climate change on the WASH sector, less progress has been made to find options for adaption or mitigation which is causing the sector failing to shift fast enough towards resiliency.



2. Assignment Overview

VSA is seeking a volunteer to support UNICEF in Solomon Islands and its partners to accelerate the shift towards climate-resilient and low-emissions development of the WASH sector. This position will provide technical, operational, and administrative support in the implementation of the Climate Resilience WASH activities of the Solomon Islands WASH Programme in close collaboration with country counterparts in the Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Disaster Management (MECDM), other key ministries responsible for WASH and WASH sector stakeholders. The volunteer will also document best practices on Climate Resilience WASH and provide analytical support for financial resource mobilization for the implementation of the Climate Resilient WASH in the country.

3. Goal/Outcomes/Outputs

Goal

WASH facilities and services are sustainable, safe and resilient to climate-related risks and stakeholders including key government ministries start working towards a carbon-neutral WASH sector.

Outcome 1

A Climate Resilience WASH tool is developed for use across communities and schools to assist with assessments and planning.

Working in alongside the lead Ministry of Environment Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, (MECDM) the volunteer will:

- Contribute to the development of WASH in Health Care Facilities Standards & Infrastructure designs to ensure that they are Climate Resilient
- Develop WASH Climate resilient capacity building tool that include water and sanitation safety planning for local community, Staff and partners and governments
- Support strengthening of school & health care facility level WASH resilience assessments and climate change adaptation interventions.

Outcome 2

Climate Financing avenues are explored and grants prepared.

- Support, undertake scoping all available climate funds in the country (GCF, IKI etc.) with a focus on expanding services to vulnerable groups and prepare bankable proposals for climate financing for WASH.
- Support sectoral consultations on WASH relevant to various climate financing windows.
- Identify requirements for GCF submissions and proposals for preparatory grant applications and contribute to proposal development of the proposed Regional Programme for East Asia Climate-Smart Social Services project jointly with MECDM and other sections.

Outcome 3

Climate resilient WASH Knowledge Products are developed, and impact studies undertaken.

- Develop specific knowledge products on Climate Resilient WASH based on lessons learned from the Climate resilient WASH programme interventions in the country:
 - Case study – Role solar energy in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change with reference to Water supply services in Schools & Health Care Facilities;
 - Technical brief on Community-Led Total Sanitation and climate change impacts; and



- Human-interest stories highlighting high impact interventions under the WASH in communities and WASH in Schools (WinS), and WASH in Com & WASH in healthcare facilities (WIHCFs) projects implemented in the country.
- Support the development of feasibility studies and scenario analysis to demonstrate costs/benefits of climate resilient WASH in Schools investments.
- Undertake an audit of drinking water safety and security plans developed by the target schools under current WinS project in Guadalcanal province and support the application of DWSSPs in the target schools.

4. Reporting, Working Relationships and Capacity Building

The volunteer will report directly and be accountable to the UNICEF WASH Specialist. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately work with the Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Disaster Management (MECDM), other key ministries responsible for WASH and WASH sector stakeholders.

The volunteer and UNICEF 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

- Advanced Degree in one of the disciplines relevant to the following areas: Civil/ Water Engineering or equivalent, Social Sciences, Climate Policy, Natural Resources Management or Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.
- A minimum of five (5 years) experience in Water, Sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming and WASH Climate Financing.
- Previous experience in Climate Resilience WASH, Water Safety & Security Planning and Climate Financing an asset.

Desirable

- Experience working with Government, UN organizations and NGO partners.
- Familiarity with national policy frameworks for environment, water, and sanitation as well as disaster risk reduction and climate change.
- Familiarity with environment and social safeguards.
- Experience working in a South Pacific Melanesian context

Personal Specification

Essential

- Good listener



- Effective communication skills
- Willingness to learn and speak Pijin
- Ability to prioritise tasks and manage time effectively
- Ability to be flexible and adapt to changing contexts

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
- Ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange

7. Country Context

For more information about Solomon Islands, see VSA website.

8. Living and Working Situation

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/>.

9. 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

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. 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 SBD7,500.
4. A location grant of NZ\$2,500 will be paid to the volunteer after completion of the first year on assignment.

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.

