

Programme Area Summary

Country: Kenya

Programme Area: HIV & AIDS

What is the aim of the programme area?

To contribute to a reduction in individual and organisational vulnerability to HIV infection and susceptibility to AIDS

Why is VSO working in this particular programme area and region?

- Kenya is showing good progress in sustainable reduction in HIV prevalence rates, but still has large numbers of people who are infected or affected by HIV & AIDS
- Western and Nyanza Provinces have seen prevalence rates of over 20%; some areas up to 30+%
- Coast Province offers a good opportunity for focused impact with new data emerging on prevalence figures of children working in sex industry in the province; VSO has emerging partnerships with well-resourced collaborators who can support direct work to build the capacity of smaller local Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

Key beneficiaries and partners

Beneficiaries include staff working in VSOJ partner organisations, youth, women and people with disabilities.

VSO Jitolee will partner with organisations who share common values with VSO, and whose strategic direction is similar in developing strong organisational capacity to deliver HIV & AIDS programmes. The partnership profile will include faith-based organisations, and local NGOs, particularly in Nyanza and Western provinces, as well as Government of Kenya. Key partners include:

- National Organisation of Peer Educators: local NGO involved in training peer educators, linking corporate companies and community organisations in community outreach
- AMPATH: large-scale organisation providing continuum of services from prevention, treatment & care, mitigation, psycho-social support to People Living With HIV or AIDS (PLWHAs) for over 40,000 people.
- Lea Toto: local NGO providing specialist services in paediatric HIV care, treatment and support in community-based facilities
- Liverpool VCT (Voluntary Counselling and Testing) and Care: national quality-assured provider of VCT and AIDS treatment & care services, supporting range of local CBOs in training and issues of VCT and AIDS care.
- KUAP: local NGO providing holistic development services for communities in high prevalence region of Western Kenya
- FHI: international NGO providing capacity-building programmes for variety of local CBOs and NGOs involved in continuum of HIV & AIDS services; linking VSO with a number of smaller CBOs/NGOs.

Key objectives of the programme and the cross-cutting themes

- To increase all VSO Jitolee partners' understanding of the concept of mainstreaming, and their ability to apply it to their organisational policy and practice, both internally and externally.
- To increase the capacity of AIDS service organisations, including those run by PLWHAs, to plan, resource, implement and evaluate their programmes.
- To increase access to appropriate and quality treatment and care services, with an emphasis on ARV literacy and uptake, VCT and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) access.

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- To increase capacity of organisations to provide effective, accessible information on HIV & AIDS to people with disability.

Current programme activities

Focus of International Volunteer Placements

...Long term placements:

- Training in basic concepts for all VSO Jitolee partners and volunteers; development of mainstreaming 'toolkit' and application of VSO Mainstreaming Guide; regional training in peer education by VSO partner; development of HIV & AIDS Resource Centre and dispersal of materials to partners; development and implementation of workplace policy and sharing lessons learned with partners.
- Placements of international volunteers with essential management skills, strategic planning, financial management and experienced project management skills, and IT professionals; development of resource materials and tools for programme planning and management; training for managers of national volunteer programmes involved in HIV & AIDS services. Partnerships will be developed primarily in Nyanza and Western Provinces, but also respond positively to opportunities in Coast and Eastern Provinces.
- Capacity building placements of health professionals, including laboratory technicians, and specialists such as paediatricians; linked placements with partners working in food security & HIV & AIDS programmes; support for Community Based Health Care (CBHC) programmes. This objective will be achieved primarily through partnerships in Nyanza and Western Provinces, although we will develop partnerships in other areas where opportunity exists.
- Collaborating with VSO Children with Disabilities Empowerment Programme (CDEP) in provision of HIV & AIDS materials; facilitating links between National Disability Associations and core HIV & AIDS training providers; lobby with Government of Kenya National AIDS Control Council for development of appropriate IEC materials.

...Short term (less than 6mths):

- Strategic planning for AIDS service organisations (ASOs) strengthening HR systems, financial management systems, marketing and communications, strengthening IT capacity

Workshops, training & conferences

- The Right 2 Life Programme will offer a number of partners each year comprehensive training and support in the development of workplace policies including management sensitisation, training of focal people, training of peer educators, development of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials, exchange programmes, small grant scheme to launch local workplace policy.

Support to national volunteering

- Feasibility study to examine level and quality of and challenges to using local or national volunteers as an element of community and partner responses to HIV & AIDS
- Development of National Volunteering strategy for HIV & AIDS partners to include strengthening of partner organisations systems to plan for, recruit, train, support and monitor volunteering programmes as part of their wider HIV & AIDS work.
- International volunteering support to strengthen NAVNET, a national volunteering network organisations which includes HIV & AIDS as a focus area, in its strategic planning and operational management.
- An office-based volunteer to examine links and opportunities across all VSO programmes for enhancement of national volunteering as a strategy to deliver on programme objectives.

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Research

- Feasibility of national volunteering opportunities and challenges within AIDS service organisations

Partner exchange visits/study tours

- Exchange programmes between VSOJ partners
- Strategic partnerships will be identified in the partnership portfolio; one criteria for strategic partnership will be an ability to offer other VSOJ partners, and VSOJ itself, access to training courses and other learning opportunities such as exchange visits
- LINKS exchanges with partners from other countries where VSO operates.
- HIV & AIDS partners have previously been supported to apply for the Commonwealth Fellowship Programme, and have benefited from such. The programme manager will identify strategically placed partner organisations who would benefit most from such an opportunity

Providing grants and/or equipment for partners

- Placement Support Fund with quarterly monitoring to ensure HIV & AIDS partners are receiving equitable proportion to such funds
- R2L project partners will be able to access small grants to prepare and launch their organisational workplace policy and programmes.

Development of publications or other materials for training or communication

- The Right2Life programme is expected to produce a body of learning, relating to development of workplace policies and programmes within NGOs and CBOs; this work has traditionally been applied to corporates or larger NGOs and it is expected that the R2L project will provide some unique and exciting learning potential

Other partnership activities

- Skills workshops on monitoring and evaluation for VSOJ HIV & AIDS partners
- The development of a relevant, up-to-date Resource Centre for HIV & AIDS materials to provide partners and volunteers with technical materials on HIV & AIDS issues.
- Hosting VSO International fundraising trekkers visits; to show-case VSOJ work and support corporate fund-raising efforts: 5 visits planned for 07/08

What makes VSO's work in this programme area special?

- Strong mainstreaming project in workplace policy and programmes, using TMF funding ('Right 2 Life' project)
- Niche area of organisational development, through volunteer interventions; direct HIV technical expertise is available locally but not the support to maintain organisational growth to sustain programme growth.
- Working through a number of larger NGOs and INGOs to access greater numbers of smaller CBOs; hosting volunteers, who will then work in peripatetic roles; 2007 to 2008 will see initial entry point placements within these larger INGOs and NGOs; the anticipated success of these will provide opportunities for more of the peripatetic placements. Good opportunities for volunteers to work with medium-size organisations, and thereby increase impact.
- 2007/ 2008 will see greater focus on AIDS service organisations which target HIV+ children (still under-represented in national response data), and young women.