

Programme Area Summary

Country: Tanzania

Programme Area: Education (2005 – 2010)

What is the aim of the programme area?

To enable disadvantaged boys and girls to receive inclusive high quality basic education in areas where VSO works.

Why is VSO working in this particular Programme Area and region?

The Human Development Report 2006 (UNDP) placed Tanzania as the 16th poorest country in the world. VSO Tanzania is committed to working in education as a means of supporting the Government's vision for poverty reduction. The Government and VSO Tanzania see enabling access to quality education as a key component of poverty reduction.

Tanzania's commitment to Education for All has led to a significant improvement in enrolment rates in primary schools (90% of children attend Grade One). The key challenge now is to enable disadvantaged boys and girls to receive inclusive high quality basic education. VSO is focusing on achieving this in the areas in which it works.

Kagera and Dodoma are amongst the poorest regions in mainland Tanzania and the Zanzibar poverty reduction plan states that well over half the population live on an income of less than US\$15 per month. VSO Tanzania's education programme therefore focuses on these three regions.

VSO Tanzania also works at a National level focusing on Zonal Teachers Colleges to enable the effective use of ICT as a media for teaching, learning and networking. In the capital, Dar es Salaam, VSO Tanzania works alongside Non State Organisations, which are supporting links and learning between system and policy levels.

Key beneficiaries and partners:

VSO Tanzania's key beneficiaries are rural boys and girls as they are often marginalised. To enable rural boys and girls to receive high quality inclusive basic education, VSO Tanzania's professional volunteers work alongside teachers, tutors, lecturers, School Heads, in/pre service management, district education management and Non-State Actors (NSAs). The NSAs we currently work with are focused on policy engagement, debate, information sharing and advocacy.

VSO Tanzania's education programme works alongside government and private schools, teacher- training institutions, teacher resource centres (TRCs), District Education Offices and National Teacher Resource Centres. VSO also works alongside other leading educational umbrella organisations and NSAs including TEN/MET, HakiElimu and TanEdu.

VSO Tanzania strategic partners are primarily the Ministries of Education and Vocational Training in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar

Key objectives of the programme and the cross-cutting themes

VSO Tanzania focuses on the following 3 objectives:

- Teachers are able to deliver good quality, inclusive basic education, including HIV & AIDS life skills.
- Schools and local government bodies have the capacity to deliver education services and are accountable to stakeholders.
- Improved teacher development programmes, educational management and terms and conditions for teachers. From participating in networking, advocacy and policy debates.

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Cross-cutting themes:

- In Education girls are more likely to drop out earlier or fail exams. HIV & AIDS prevalence is currently estimated to be 7% of the population (7.7% of woman and 6.3% of men). The education systems capacity to cope with this is a major factor in how well societies will eventually recover from the HIV & AIDS epidemic.
- HIV & AIDS and Gender are cross-sector linkages between the Education programme and the HIV & AIDS and Secure Livelihoods programmes. A HIV & AIDS mainstreaming manual has been developed and is in the process of being rolled out. A gender-mainstreaming manual is in the process of being developed and gender mainstreaming is a key goal and area of focus for our programme in 2007-2008.
- In HIV & AIDS mainstreaming volunteers and partners and staff have developed and shared resources across sectors. VSO Tanzania Education Programme recognizes the complexity of mainstreaming issues and is still looking to develop staff, volunteer and partner knowledge, skills, attitudes and capacity to deliver HIV & AIDS mainstreaming.

Current programme activities

Focus of International Volunteer Placements

- The VSO Education Programme currently has 26 long and short-term professional education volunteers working across the education system in Tanzania.
- Volunteers support individual and organisational capacity building, strategic service delivery and the development of networks.
- Volunteers employ observation and learning, coaching, training, technical system development and modelling strategies to support change.
- Education volunteers are currently working as pre-service and in-service teacher trainers, management advisers and technical advisers supporting capacity building at: Schools, Teaching Resource Centres, Teacher Training Colleges, Regional and District Offices, Libraries and with Non State Actors including TEN/MET, HakiElimu and TanEdu.
- Volunteers support change at pre-primary, primary and secondary levels focusing on methodology and content upgrading (English and Science), special educational needs, leadership and the use of ICT to share learning and support teaching and learning.
- VSO Tanzania uses a range of volunteer interventions including long-term placements, short-term placements and Netcorps placements and is currently exploring the use of Youth for Development volunteers.

Workshops, training & conferences

- Placement and partnership reviews
- 5 Quality Education Regional Meetings to:
 - Share learning
 - Capture learning
 - Facilitate gender mainstreaming activities
- 6 'Putting learning into action' mini meetings, focusing on VSO Tanzania's Values, ways of working and learning, indicators / outcomes of quality and mainstreaming
- A Quality Education Programme Area Workshop
- Leavers workshops

Research

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- VSO Tanzania is exploring the potential to conduct valuing teachers / managers research in Zanzibar and review the structure, sustainability and potential to build capacity within the Teaching Resource Centre system in the Tanzania mainland.

Advocacy and Global Education

- VSOTz is exploring how to even more effectively support the strengthening of networks within and between organisations at regional and national level, providing opportunities for teachers', tutors', lecturers' and educational managers' voices to be heard.
- VSOTz is a board member of Tanzania Education Network (TEN/MET) and a member of the TRC coalition. VSO Tanzania, through professional volunteering, is supporting building capacity of Non-State Actors, whose work is focused on policy engagement, debate, information sharing and advocacy (including TENMET, Haki Elimu and TanEdu)

Partner exchange visits/study tours

- VSO Tanzania Education programme is exploring potential for volunteers and partners to conduct exchange visits in country. We will look to explore using the Commonwealth Fellowship Programme next year.

Providing grants and/or equipment for partners

- VSO Tanzania received £40,000 last year from the British High Commission, approximately one third of which was used to effectively support the implementation of the Programme Area Plans through small grant projects. Examples of projects have included the development of sustainable teaching and learning resources at whole school level and the building of girls' toilets to support access to education.

Development of publications or other materials for training or communication

- In Zanzibar volunteers and partners have developed pupil's books to support teaching and learning in primary schools.

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

VSO Tanzania has developed strong relationships with the Ministry of Education, and National Non-State Organisations and is consolidating relationships at district educational level. VSO has significant experience of building capacity at teachers' level and supporting in- and pre- service providers to even more effectively meet the professional development needs of teachers. Our ability to work with partners across the education system is a key strength.