

## **Summary of overall context of VSO Pakistan strategy**

### **Overall context**

- Youth form 60% of Pakistan population.
- Economic, political and social environment and implication for youth
- Religious intolerance and extremism.
- Volunteerism

### **Key findings of strategy**

- Limited access to basic rights
- Education quality verses market demand
- Lack of opportunities for capacity building/engagements.
- Lack of political and social spaces for networking
- Limited structured programmes for youth.

### **Mission**

- Creation of an environment conducive to increasing the number of youth active citizens, especially in marginalised communities, who are volunteering for the sustainable development of their own communities through good quality volunteering programme and their volunteering is valued.

### **Objectives**

- Sustained increase in the number and diversity of youth active citizens who have a strong and effective voice and role in development processes in their own communities and can demonstrate their impact on poverty and marginalisation.
- Improved recognition for youth volunteering and volunteering generally as effective for the development of Pakistan.
- Youth and volunteering organisations are seen as role models for social inclusion and community participation in local initiatives that contribute to the national development.

### **What success looks like?**

- Increase capacity building opportunities for youth, mentoring and coaching facilities.
- Youth Networks and organisations have strong voice at the national level.
- Number of young people visibly contributing in achieving Millennium Development Goals in their communities. Health, education, gender and environment and have strong voice.

- Partners' organisations have effective volunteering programmes in place and creating opportunities for diverse group of young volunteers.
- Increased numbers of female volunteers (including HIV and AIDS and disability) are accessing opportunities and carrying out volunteering actions.
- Volunteers and youth policies are strongly demanded and lobbied for by young people and civil society organisations.

### **Approaches and related activities**

- **Partnership development:** Implementing and strategic partners.
- **Capacity building:** VPDM, Resource Bank, active citizenship and mentoring and coaching, seminars, trainings.
- **Advocacy/networking:** National partnership forum, youth forums, advocacy campaigns, media engagement.
- **Learning and sharing:** Forums, websites, newsletter, documentaries, publication, IEC material.

### **Geographic coverage**

- Punjab Province – Central and Southern
- Scaling-up in other two provinces: Sindh and Baluchistan at limited scale.

### **Challenges**

- Capacity of Pakistan programme, resources and experience in working with youth.
- Working with government is a challenging especially on policy dialogue.
- Political security
- Traditional approach of the partners/key stakeholders.