



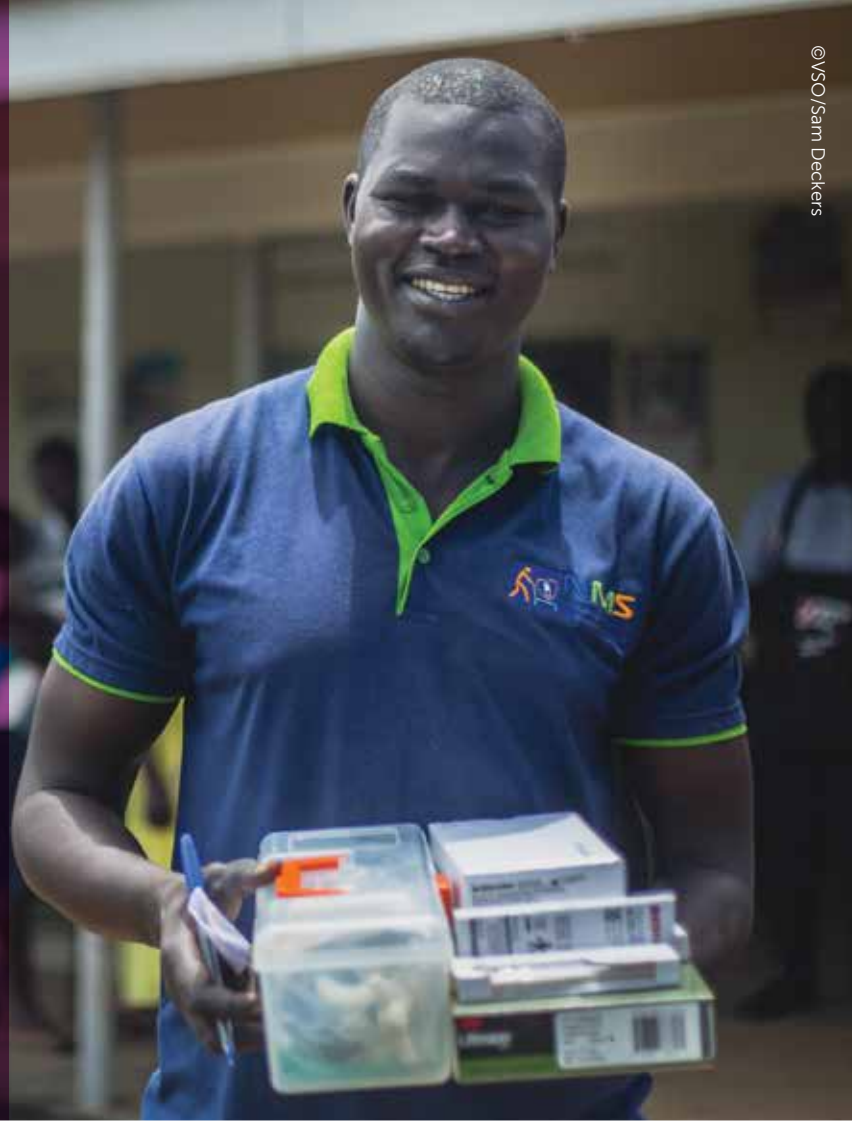
**2016/2017**

**UNITING AGAINST POVERTY**



# MISSION

Since 1958 our mission has been to bring people together to fight poverty through the lasting power of volunteering.



## VSO'S VISION

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A world  
without  
poverty.

# VALUES

Whether our work is with local communities or with governments, it is always grounded in our four values:

- By thinking globally, we can change the world
- Progress is only possible through working together
- People are the best agents of change
- Knowledge is our most powerful tool.





# WELCOME

## from the Chair and the Chief Executive



### MARI

In a remote community in Kenya I was fortunate enough to have met a group of Kenyan and UK youth volunteers on the International Citizen Service programme. Immediately, I was struck by the energy and enthusiasm of these young people. I then heard about the innovative work they are doing to promote inclusion, particularly for those with hearing problems, and it made me so proud of the role VSO is playing to ensure no one is left behind and the world is a better place.

*Mari*



### PHILIP

In June last year, I travelled to Eastern Ghana to meet women farmers on our agricultural livelihoods programme, delivered in partnership with Mondelez. Some of the women we have supported through our work have become community volunteers, working to support other women in neighbouring communities. During the visit I asked one of the women why she did this. She was both quick and eloquent in her reply, "We all have a duty to brighten our corner. If through my actions, I can help bring someone out of poverty and into the light, then it is my duty".

*Philip*



"Education is the most important thing, education is our future", Girls club in northern Ghana sing their dreams.



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Rekha Shrestha from the National Disaster Recovery Co-ordination Secretariat, chats to Kopila Tamang at the 'Internally Displaced Person' camp in Dhading, Nepal.

This simple message from Ghana goes to the heart of VSO's mission – bringing people together to tackle poverty. It is why we're so proud to lead this organisation, which is so passionate about making tangible and sustainable changes in the lives of people, communities and societies. It is why we count ourselves lucky that – in a world faced by so many challenges and what seem like so many bad news stories – our employees, volunteers, and the people we are here to serve, provide so many inspirational stories of selflessness, hope and positive change. You will read about some of these in this annual report.

### THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE

VSO's work is special. It is special because it unlocks the possibility of positive change. It does that by bringing people from different backgrounds, expertise and experience together to generate new ideas, new insights and new ways of doing things. We are an organisation that builds what we call "social capital" – networks, ideas, relationships – that enable a community, an organisation, a society to function more effectively. This delivers not just immediate change but long-term and sustainable impact.

Importantly, in the places we work it also helps communities become more resilient. They are able to get back on their feet more quickly if disaster strikes. We've seen the impact of this kind of investment in our programmes in Nepal after the earthquake of 2015. We've also seen it in our work in Sierra Leone where we are now helping to

rebuild the health system after the terrible Ebola epidemic.

### BUILDING EVIDENCE

While we have achieved a lot in the last 12 months, we are an organisation that is always ambitious to do better. We have continued to build the evidence base for our work, looking for what works and, just as importantly, what doesn't work. At VSO, we pride ourselves on making decisions based on evidence. We're particularly pleased that we have completed our research, "Impact Beyond Volunteering", which shows how volunteering builds personal confidence and resilience, as well as energising citizens, who are then making a positive contribution to society.

### MOVING FORWARD

As we go forward, we continue to challenge ourselves to do more. First, to ensure we are working with those at the very margins of society, who most need VSO's support. Second, to work more closely with other organisations around the world to build a global network of active citizens and volunteers who can help deliver the fairer and more equitable world we all hope for.

At VSO, we say a volunteer is anyone who has the courage and determination to be the change that they want in the world. And while sometimes the world can seem a very troubling place, what we see in VSO programmes is that volunteering is a practical way for each of us to live our commitment to social change. We hope you enjoy reading about our work.



# VSO AT A GLANCE

Last year, VSO supported over 2.4 million people in 24 countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific. We worked with 420 local partner organisations and trained over 7,000 volunteers and professionals to help create long-lasting change in some of the poorest communities in the world.

## HOW WE WORK

Using our unique volunteering for development approach we brought thousands of people together to generate insights, ideas and, above all, action on poverty and exclusion.

Not only do we recruit international volunteers from all over the world, we are increasingly working with national volunteers who work in their own countries.

We also work with dedicated corporate and parliamentary volunteers, and with youth volunteers through the International Citizens Service (ICS). ICS is a UK-government funded volunteering programme that sees British volunteers aged 18-25 years undertake 10-12 week volunteering placements overseas

alongside young volunteers from their placement country. VSO leads a consortium of eight respected development organisations to deliver the ICS programme, and in 2016/17 mobilised 6,585 young people through the programme.

## WHAT WE DO

Our work focuses on delivering long term change in three areas: education, health and livelihoods.

We organise our efforts within five core programme areas:

- Maternal and newborn health
- Adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Inclusive education
- Agri-based value chains
- Youth employment and enterprise.

In addition, we recognise that social inclusion, gender equality and social accountability are critical to ensure sustainable, systemic change, and these are now core to our development approach.

We brought thousands of people together to generate insights, ideas and, above all, action on poverty and exclusion.



ICS volunteers get ready for a Community Action Day in the Lindi region, Tanzania.

# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

## OUR IMPACT

In 2016/17 we supported;

over **900,000** people through our education programmes

over **1,336,000** people through our health programmes

over **165,000** people through our livelihoods programmes

**420 Partners**



## VOLUNTEERING FOR DEVELOPMENT

VSO worked with 7237 volunteers from all countries, ages and backgrounds, including;

**6585** youth volunteers

**239** international volunteers

**319** national volunteers

**94** corporate volunteers

## YOUTH VOLUNTEERING ICS

ICS celebrated its biggest year to date, with 3317 UK volunteers joining 3268 local volunteers to help make a difference in some of the world's poorest communities. This included;

**26,400** hours of peer education

**3,300** action research projects

**14,600** hours of awareness raising activities

**25,300** hours of training

**1,779** community infrastructure projects





# VSO AT A GLANCE

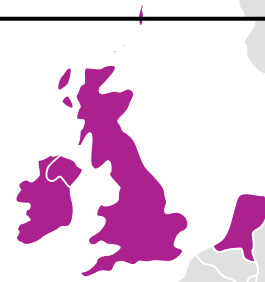
## VSO WORKS IN 24 COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- India
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



### NIGERIA

VSO has introduced a mobile science lab to support schools in Ifelodun increase the number of students studying science subjects. One school, which previously had no students studying science, has recorded 11 students for science subjects.



### KENYA ICS

UK volunteers worked alongside Deaf volunteers from Kenya on the 'Deafway' project in Kasabet. The team carried out community training on basic Kenyan Sign Language and created community spaces where deaf people could share their experiences. These activities promoted integration, equality and awareness.



### MYANMAR

VSO midwife advisers supported four midwifery training schools in the use of clinical competency-based models and computer-based learning resources. Eight out of 10 midwives tutored by VSO advisers reported improved skills in clinical, antenatal and postnatal care.



### ZIMBABWE

Graduates came from Zimbabwe's first-ever accredited vocational training course in a prison setting. The training was established with support from a VSO project promoting human rights and access to health services in prisons in three countries across southern Africa.



### BANGLADESH ICS

Over a thousand people attended a community action day organised by ICS youth volunteers in Dinjapur, Bangladesh, to celebrate International Women's Day.



### INDIA

VSO's Aaghaaz project, in partnership with telecoms provider Bharti Infratel, trained 1,004 vulnerable women in Jharkhand province in vocations such as security and hospitality as well as life skills. Over 70% of the women have found secure employment. We plan to expand the project to train more than 3,000 women.





# GLOBAL PROGRAMMES

## Education

Every child has the right to a quality education that gives them the best start in life.

Millions of children around the world are denied their right to a quality education, which could help them escape poverty.

VSO works to improve education for children, especially the most marginalised in society. We do this by developing teachers' skills, improving education management and increasing community support for education.

Last year our education programmes helped support over 900,000 children across 15 countries.

### INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Our education programmes target the children most likely to be excluded, including girls and those with disabilities. We've increased school enrolment and improved attitudes towards such children in projects across Ethiopia, Nepal, Kenya and Rwanda.

In Ethiopia, VSO supported the Abi Adi College of Teachers Education and 10 primary schools to improve access to quality education for children in remote and disadvantaged areas. Children in these schools benefited from greater learning outcomes and school attendance. The project also improved school facilities in areas affected by drought, meaning more children can access quality education.

### TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION

Technology provides innovative and cost-effective learning improvements on VSO programmes. In Ghana, for example, we successfully piloted a technology-based platform to deliver teaching and learning resources to teachers.

In Malawi, we saw a 45% improvement in learning gains of children involved in our Unlocking Talent through Technology project. This uses digital education technology to accelerate learning for children in overcrowded, under-resourced classrooms. As a result, the Ministry of Education has expressed interest in integrating the approach across Malawi.

### INVOLVING COMMUNITIES

VSO has strengthened parent-teacher associations and school management committees which has successfully increased parental and community involvement in education.

In Nigeria, ICS volunteers ran a programme focused on getting children to school. They created child-friendly learning spaces in local communities, where they taught basic literacy and numeracy alongside soft skills like personal hygiene. The programme was successful in providing education alternatives and re-enrolling children in schools.



**15**  
countries



over **900,000**  
people supported



**132**  
partners



Pupils at Ngwenya Primary School in Lilongwe, Malawi, waiting to log in to their Unlocking Talent Through Technology class session.

## HELPING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN RWANDA

Charles, 11, has learning disabilities. He used to stay silent in school and kept separate from other children. But then his teacher at Gahanga Primary School in Nyamagabe, Rwanda, was trained as part of VSO's L3+ project. Now Charles mixes with other children, and has even begun to speak.

Around one in 10 children in Rwanda live with a disability. Most are not in school, and teachers generally lack the training and resources to do justice to those who are.

The L3+ project provides specialist training to teachers in mainstream schools on engaging children with disabilities, including by making special no-cost teaching and learning materials. Now 78% of teachers involved are confident that children with disabilities are properly included in their classrooms.

The project also provides training and awareness raising to parents and health workers on identifying and referring children with disabilities, and on understanding and protecting their rights.

At the start of the L3+ project, four out of 10 teachers said children with disabilities were a burden to society. This number has now fallen to one in 10.





# GLOBAL PROGRAMMES

## Health

Each year, over 2.6 million babies die within the first 28 days of life. Most of these deaths happen in developing countries from preventable causes.

Around the world people are suffering needlessly due to a lack of quality health services, keeping them trapped in a cycle of poverty.

VSO works with health workers, communities and governments to improve health services, focusing on the areas of maternal and newborn health, and adolescent and youth sexual health and rights.

Last year our health programmes helped over 1,336,000 people access the quality health care they deserve.

### MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH

Each year, over 2.6 million babies die within the first 28 days of life. Most of these deaths occur in developing countries from preventable causes. VSO works in communities and health facilities to train health workers in clinical skills such as newborn care and resuscitation, improve service management, and promote low-cost, high-impact technology and practice.

Newborn death rates dropped significantly in partner hospitals in Ethiopia, Myanmar, Tanzania and Uganda, where VSO has supported improved neonatal intensive care units. In Ethiopia, the development of maternity waiting homes has allowed women experiencing complicated pregnancies to access specialised support

before, during and after delivery.

In Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda, VSO supported communities to demand better access to maternal and newborn healthcare, increasing referrals to specialist care facilities and reducing the number of unattended home births.

### ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Globally, adolescents and youth are disproportionately affected by poor sexual and reproductive health services. VSO works to make these services youth friendly and accessible. Last year we supported communities to challenge the discrimination that can stop young people accessing the information and services they need to make informed choices.

Increasingly, we work directly with young people, while influencing those who exert power over them. In 10 countries youth volunteers delivered peer-to-peer programmes focusing on education, support, mentoring, leadership and research.

As a result, more young people are accessing sexual and reproductive health services, and have been empowered to challenge harmful practices such as early forced marriage, female genital cutting and gender-based violence.



14  
countries



over 1,336,000  
people supported



101  
partners

Janet, 17, is one of the young mothers who received vital specialist care for her baby thanks to the VSO supported neonatal intensive care unit in Gulu Regional Referral Hospital, Uganda.

## SAVING NEWBORN LIVES IN TANZANIA

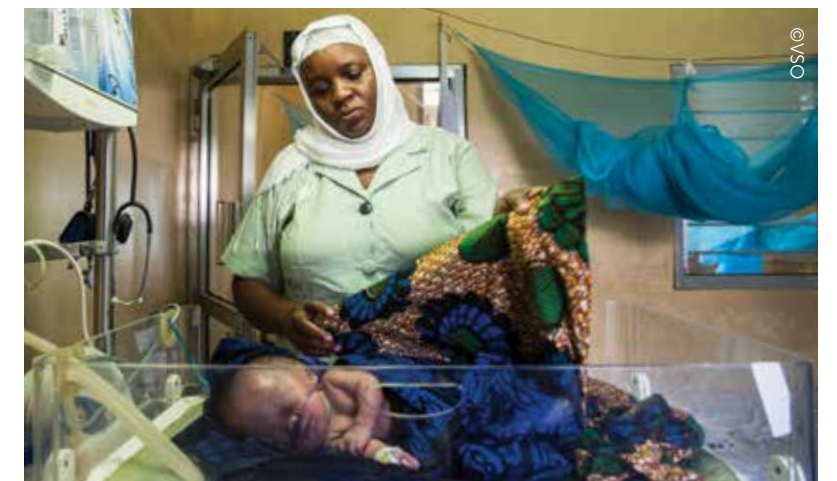
Medical attendant Sophia uses a Newborn Triage Checklist Card supplied by VSO to assess newborn health at St Walburg's Hospital, Nyangao, Tanzania. The unit is being supported as part of VSO's Accelerated Care and Treatment (ACT) project improving health care for pregnant women, mothers and newborns.

Seven newborn intensive care units (NICUs) have been established through ACT in rural areas of the Mtwara and Lindi districts. These are equipped with easy-to-use, low-cost but effective technology such as portable ultrasound machines.

SMS text messaging was also successfully used to remind expectant mothers of prenatal checks and share other health information.

Before ACT, there were no specialised NICUs or training on newborn care for health workers in these regions. VSO is the first organisation to support the provision of these, and is proud of the results.

This year antenatal visits increased from 45% to 75% and the facility of delivery from 64% to 90%, while the time for identifying and managing complications and referring patients to NICUs decreased. A comparison of relative data shows that newborn death rate has dropped by 37% since 2013.





# GLOBAL PROGRAMMES

## Livelihoods

VSO builds programmes that help people live in dignity and security.

Millions of people are struggling without a reliable source of food and income to support themselves and their families. VSO programmes help people live in dignity and security, with better skills, income and fairer access to markets.

### IMPROVING INCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Global youth populations are booming - but young people are three times more likely to be out of work than adults.

VSO improves the employability of young people through education and vocational training, and by working with businesses to create more jobs.

In Uganda, the Youth Empowerment and Local Governance project to increase sustainable employment opportunities for young people, led to higher income for all participants. Indeed, the average weekly income for those involved in the project was three and half times larger than for the youth in northern Uganda.

### ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR FARMING COMMUNITIES

Many of the world's farming communities face high risks and low returns. We work at all levels of society to provide better market access for marginalised farmers, improve

farmers' bargaining power and increase yields.

Our Growing Together programme supports the livelihoods of farming communities in northern Bangladesh. Over two thirds of farmers in the Mithapukur region, who have diversified crops as part of Growing Together, report increases of net income by an average of 300% over the past two years.

In Tanzania, our Commercial Agriculture for Smallholder Farmers in Horticulture project helps smallholder farmers increase quality of produce and access to markets, and continues to deliver great returns on investment. For every £1 invested, £4.70 was returned in economic value. Last year, this project reached over 7,000 people.

### CHANGING OUR APPROACH

Following an in-depth review of VSO's livelihoods work, we have improved our practices to ensure greater resource is devoted to understanding the aspirations, abilities and assets of the communities we work with so that we can deliver significant change.

Our new framework is being piloted across a range of programmes throughout 2017 and will be supported by continued in-depth analysis.



14  
countries



over 165,000  
people supported



112  
partners

Members of EpilBaha Farmers Group celebrate with Syngenta and VSO volunteers involved in the Growing Together in Rangpur, Bangladesh.



## SUPPORTING LIVELIHOODS IN UGANDA

Northern Uganda has struggled following years of conflict. Many children and young people were displaced during the fighting and their education suffered. Today, around eight in 10 young people in Uganda are unemployed.

VSO volunteers are supporting young people to access training in employment and agriculture.

Christine Atoo, 27, is one of the young farmers benefitting. Her family were forced to flee during the war. When it was finally safe to return, she had to start from scratch:

"We couldn't afford to take care of our needs. We didn't have clean water. When someone was sick we couldn't afford treatment."

"We would only farm small amounts of food for consumption. I used to dig my land using my hands alone."

Things changed for Christine after she became involved with the project.

"I've been trained in how to space my crops out and identify diseases - it's amazing. It's improved my yield dramatically."

"VSO is different. They didn't just give us oxen or money. They taught us on how to sustain our enterprises. We learned how to get something by working hard. This is something that we have ownership of."





# GLOBAL PROGRAMMES

## Core approaches

These three core approaches underpin everything VSO does as an organisation.

In 2016/17 VSO introduced its three core approaches: social accountability, resilience and social inclusion. These three approaches underpin everything VSO does as an organisation under our new People First strategy.

### SOCIAL INCLUSION AND GENDER

The Sustainable Development Goals are a promise to end global poverty by 2030, leaving no one behind. But today thousands of the people VSO works with are discriminated, marginalised and excluded on the grounds of their gender, race, age, sexual orientation, disability and many other factors.

All our programmes across education, health and livelihoods are targeted at the poorest and most marginalised in society. We aim to break down the barriers that cause and perpetuate inequality and

exclusion, and improve access to quality services for all.

VSO ensures that all programmes consider gender, age and disability within their projects and VSO is working to define marginalisation and exclusion further within specific local contexts. For example, discrimination based on caste in Nepal, or religion in Pakistan.

We recognise that our programmes need to undergo in-depth social exclusion and gender analysis at the design phase. We made strides forward in the past year, carrying out detailed social exclusion and gender analyses in Rwanda, Bangladesh, Swaziland and Kenya. These analyses will help understand the systems of social exclusion and refocus our programming towards reaching the most marginalised members of society.

VSO's commitment to gender equality and social inclusion goes beyond programmes, extending into the behaviour and practices of staff, volunteers and partners. We made conscious efforts to raise awareness of these issues in 2016/17, including training for over 700 people working to deliver VSO's vision. Over 40 people were also identified to continue this awareness raising with new staff, volunteers and partners.

### SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

VSO is committed to ensuring that poor and marginalised people have access to more responsive and inclusive services and are able to hold decision-makers to account.

Throughout our programmes, we aim to:

- Build willingness and capacity of government and other service and resource providers to be accountable to citizens, especially poor and marginalised people
- Build willingness and capacity of citizens to exact accountability from those in power



Dr Padma, GP, is the first international volunteer back in Sierra Leone after the Ebola endemic was declared over. She is building up the knowledge of local healthcare workers so that the hospital remains a trusted place of healthcare.

Through our Social Accountability work VSO is supporting a Teenage Mothers School in Sierra Leone, helping young mothers like Fatama get an education and build a better future for herself and her daughter.

- Develop spaces and processes for engagement
- Advocate for the inclusion of marginalised people

Examples include strengthening civil society organisations in Cambodia, and providing technical advice to Zambian government officials to improve planning and service delivery.

In Rwanda, we continued work with the National Council of Persons with Disabilities to ensure that the rights and priorities of people with disabilities are considered in local decision-making and service delivery.

Having recently adopted social accountability as a core approach, VSO is in a transitional phase. More efforts will be made to ensure that social accountability elements are integral to the design of our programmes.

### RESILIENCE

Resilience means the capacity of an individual, population group or system to anticipate, absorb, and recover from hazards, shocks and stresses. This includes the impacts of climate change.

VSO identified a number of stresses and shocks that have impacted our

programmes, including natural disasters, conflicts and political instability. These include health stresses like Ebola in Sierra Leone, and the ongoing HIV and AIDS pandemic in Zimbabwe and across much of Southern Africa. Among environmental factors, drought is having a significant impact on lives and livelihoods in countries such as Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

In Nepal, Pakistan, Malawi and the Philippines, VSO has consulted with people directly affected by poverty and inequality to identify the different stresses and shocks faced. We also highlight groups of people that are especially vulnerable, such as pregnant women, people living with HIV and rural smallholder farmers.

Over the past year VSO programmes have learnt and adapted in response to resilience issues. In Nepal we have worked with school management committees and parent teacher associations to ensure that disaster management is a compulsory component of the education system. In post-Ebola Sierra Leone VSO is supporting the Ministry of Health to strengthen health system capacity to cope with future shocks. Meanwhile, VSO Malawi is strengthening climate change adaptation through reforestation, soil conservation and cultivation of drought-tolerant crop varieties.



# GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

VSO is committed to enabling anyone with the right attitude to volunteer.

VSO's ambition is to influence and lead the development and volunteering sector to adopt practices that promote impactful and responsible volunteering. This can only be done in collaboration with others and by leading by example.

In Thailand, VSO has helped to influence the Government's national strategy on volunteering, with a policy announced last year and high-level commitments to volunteering. Alongside VSO's national partner, the Volunteer Spirit Network, which works with over 30,000 national volunteers, VSO has helped secure the first national volunteer centre supported by the government. This will help to better coordinate volunteering efforts in Thailand.

During the negotiations around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), VSO brought the voices of our volunteers and partners to the heart of discussions at the UN. As global governments set their

plans for how they will implement this new agenda, we have ensured that the voices and experiences of the communities we work with continue to be heard. For example, in Kenya VSO is running community dialogues supported by youth volunteers to contribute to national plans for implementing the SDGs.

## **VOLUNTEER, WHEREVER YOU ARE FROM**

VSO is committed to enabling anyone with the right attitude to volunteer. Working in partnership with other volunteering for development agencies across Europe, our IVO4All project has been making international volunteering more accessible for young people who wouldn't normally have that opportunity.

UK volunteer, Senara, worked on an ICS project in Nepal to improve education and sanitation for children in rural areas – building her skills, experience and



VSO National Volunteers Tangina Mehnaz (right) from Bangladesh and Gregory Okonofua (left) from Nigeria at the IVCO 2016 conference in Bonn, Germany.



Youth policy makers, practitioners and the ICS consortium came together for the IVO4All conference in London to discuss how to create a more inclusive and accessible approach to youth volunteering.

confidence: "Before I even stepped foot in Nepal, I had gotten over certain fears and anxieties, and had experienced things that would never have been possible if it weren't for ICS."

In 2017, we'll be working closely with our IVO4All partners to influence policy across Europe. We're also continuing to work with the UK Government, to further reduce the barriers facing young people from less affluent backgrounds taking part in ICS.

## **DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERING**

As an active member of the International Volunteer Cooperation Organisations (IVCO), our staff and volunteers helped to shape the debate at the annual conference. Civil society, governments, UN bodies, academia and the private sector from 35 countries came together to discuss the role volunteers play in creating a more just and sustainable world.

Attendees benefited from hearing the experiences of two inspirational national youth VSO volunteers: Gregory Okonofua from Nigeria and Tangina Mehnaz from Bangladesh.

Tangina kicked off the conference with a powerful speech about what resilience means to her, saying, "If I wasn't resilient I wouldn't be here today, I would be married

with children in Bangladesh."

Gregory contributed to a panel session about how we can create a lasting impact: "Community volunteering needs collaboration and knowledge sharing, so community members become more accountable for the issues they face. I believe volunteering holds the key that can unlock so many doors of positive change." We'll use the IVCO 2016 Call to Action to further inform VSO's approach to volunteering for development, and we will be reflecting on how we can best communicate our work around resilience as a core approach.

## **WORKING IN COLLABORATION**

In December 2016, VSO signed a formal agreement with the Commission of the African Union (AU). This agreement represents a high-level commitment by the African Union to integrate volunteering into its peace and development work.

The AU will be developing two important policy documents during 2017: a ten-year action plan to promote human rights, and an action plan to realise the benefits of Africa's large youth population. VSO will play an important role in ensuring that the voices of the impoverished and marginalised people with whom it works are represented.



# GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Since 1958, we've worked with volunteers from all over the world.

Global engagement is core to VSO's People First strategy. Since 1958, we've worked with volunteers from all over the world. We've grown our work with young people, national volunteers and community volunteers. And we focus on the participation of those directly affected by poverty and inequality.

Our ambition is to mobilise and engage active citizens across the world to play a vital role in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Our People First strategy will allow VSO to:**

- Create space for those most affected by poverty and exclusion to advocate for and enact changes in their own lives and communities
- Help our global network to understand, engage with, and act in support of the SDGs
- Develop multi-sector partnerships to inspire people and their institutions into active support for "a world without poverty".

## VSO'S GLOBAL NETWORK

Many of our volunteers stay connected with VSO for a long time, in many different ways. Some volunteer again, others fundraise and donate. Increasingly, they advise on the design, delivery and evaluation of VSO's programmes.

This passionate global network remains connected to VSO because they care about ending poverty and inequality. Being a VSO volunteer is not an experience that ends with the journey home.

**There were some wonderful examples of that this year from VSO's country offices:**

- VSO India asked a former volunteer, Sayani Basu, to test new fundraising approaches. As a result, Sayani has developed a crowdfunding model to fund a locally developed project for the education of blind children
- Ibrahim Kamara, a former ICS volunteer, carried out field work in his home country of Sierra Leone into the effect Ebola had on



Ibrahim Kamara, 28, ICS Alumni who helped VSO during the Ebola crisis by conducting research in his home country of Sierra Leone.



In November 2016 VSO volunteers and staff gathered in London for our first ever Volunteer Awards. The evening celebrating the work of our dedicated volunteers who have gone above and beyond to help change the lives of those most in need.

women accessing maternal health services.

- In Bangladesh, volunteers interviewed rural farming communities to produce a ground-breaking analysis of social exclusion and gender dynamics.

## VSO VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Last year, VSO held its first annual VSO Volunteer Awards. These awards celebrate the best in VSO's volunteering approach, whether through professional volunteers or through ICS; acting as individuals or part of a team; right across the world.

While our winners were extremely diverse, what they had in common was an incredible commitment and a connection to VSO's mission of ending poverty and inequality.

**Our winners included:**

- Judith and Simon Hill, international volunteers of the year who turned down repatriation to support the disaster and rebuilding effort in the aftermath of the April 2015 Nepal earthquake
- Maryam Masood, a national volunteer from Pakistan, whose work included advocating the protection of women from domestic violence
- Syngenta's corporate team won the team award for what they achieved with the Growing Together project in Bangladesh.

## IMPACT BEYOND VOLUNTEERING

In March, VSO published our Impact beyond Volunteering research, on how the experience of volunteering creates lasting change in VSO volunteers themselves, affecting their behaviour and career choices, and influencing others.

The study, available on the VSO website, shows that people who have volunteered with VSO tend to behave and act differently as a result of their experiences. It shows three main kinds of impact: social action and influence, career and goals, and changed practices.

More than three quarters (77%), report changes in their level of social action after volunteering. Over a third of volunteers continue to support individuals or groups with whom they worked with during their placement. Many reported being more confident, resilient and adaptable. Other impacts include former volunteers expanding their skills and knowledge.

Being a VSO volunteer can not only have a significant and lasting impact in some of the world's poorest communities – it can also have a significant and lasting impact on the volunteers themselves.



# HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

At VSO, we believe that progress is only possible by working together. Thousands of people who want to see an end to global poverty and injustice are taking actions to support us. Could you join them?



## VOLUNTEER IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

VSO supported over 7,237 people to volunteer as part of programmes reducing poverty last year. We have opportunities for professionals, young people and corporate employees to volunteer around the world on a wide range of placements. Find out more at [vsointernational.org/volunteering](https://vsointernational.org/volunteering)



## SUPPORT US WITH A REGULAR DONATION

We depend more than ever on public support to be able to transform lives in the world's most disadvantaged communities. Please consider supporting us– just £5 a month could make a huge difference. Donate today at [vsointernational.org/make-donation3](https://vsointernational.org/make-donation3)



## PARTNER WITH US

Partnerships lie at the root of all the positive transformation that we create. Together, we work on programme development and delivery, research, advocacy and fundraising. We partner with institutions, private philanthropists, trusts and foundations, private sector businesses and community groups who share our vision of a world without poverty. To find out more contact [partnerships@vsoint.org](mailto:partnerships@vsoint.org)



## REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

One day, a gift in your Will could change the world. Leave a lasting legacy to the people who need it most of all. To find out more contact [legacies@vsoint.org](mailto:legacies@vsoint.org)



Local teacher Shila Dhakal donates her spare time to talk to children in the local community in Lamjung, Nepal, about school and earthquake preparedness.

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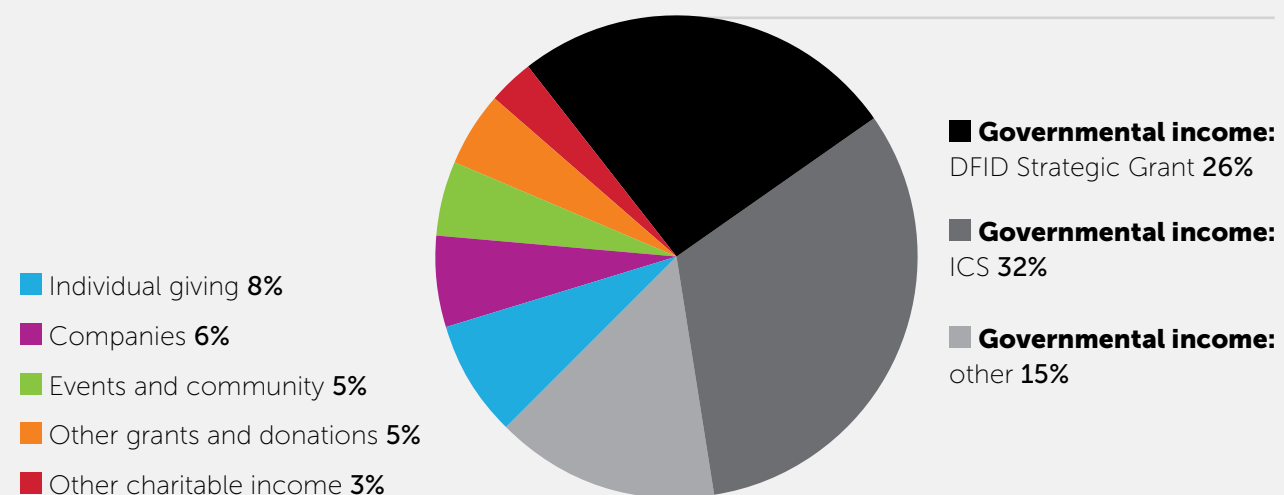




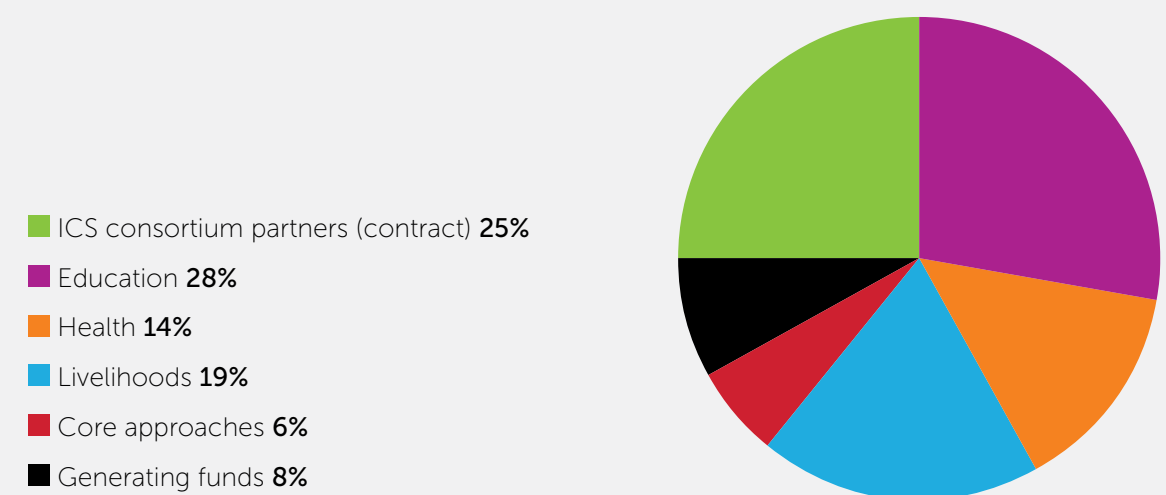
# HOW WE RAISE OUR MONEY

# HOW WE SPEND OUR MONEY

Income for the year totalled £78 million.



Total expenditure for the year was £76 million.





# THANK YOU

Our work would not be possible without the support and dedication of many people, partners and organisations. From the volunteers who give up their time and salaries to work in our programmes around the world, to the individuals who choose to leave a gift in their will and the staff, supporters, and fundraisers who work tirelessly on our behalf.

Here are just some of the organisations and individuals who have made a vital contribution to VSO's work:

Accenture	Human Development Innovation Fund	Sint Antonius Stichting
AUSAID	IBM	Stavros Niarchos Foundation
BG Tanzania	Irish Aid	Sue and Greg Dyke
Bharti Infratel	Jhpiego	Swedish International Development Agency
Big Lottery Fund	Mannion Daniels	Swiss Development Corporation
British Council	Mastercard Foundation	Syngenta
Cadbury-Schweppes	Medicor Foundation	The Adrian and Jane Frost Charitable Trust
Citi	Mondelez	The Grocers' Charity
Comic Relief	Mott Macdonald	The Kilwaughter Chemical Company Ltd
Cuso	Mr and Mrs Errol Pereira	The Kirby Laing Foundation
Department for International Development, UK	New Venture Fund	The Million Hours Fund
Department of Education, PNG	NORAD	The Swire Charitable Trust
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia	Oil Search Foundation	The Zochonis Charitable Trust
European Union	Palladium International Ltd	UNICEF
Faroe Islands Government	Pestalozzi PCF	USAID
FHI360	Pharo Foundation	Vodafone
GREAT Britain Campaign	Provincial Capacity Building Project	Water Aid
Greg Dyke and Sue Howes	Randstad Global Partnership	Weeshuis Der Doopsgezinden
Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission	Royal Norwegian Embassy	ZVM Rangoonwala Foundation
	Scottish Government	Zochonis Charitable Trust
	Shell	







**If you would like to know more about VSO's work worldwide, visit [www.vsointernational.org](http://www.vsointernational.org)**

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