



Project Name: Voluntary Service Overseas  
(Registered Charity 313757)

**Project goal:**

Promoting volunteering to fight global poverty and disadvantage. Bringing people together to share skills, creativity and learning to build a fairer world.

**Rotary service type:**

Overseas Service, Awareness Raising and Fundraising.

**Unique selling proposition:**

Rotary Clubs or Districts can link with individual volunteers

**Description:**

VSO is an international development charity that works through volunteers.

Our vision is a world without poverty in which people work together to fulfil their potential. Instead of sending food or money, we send men and women from a wide range of professions who want the chance to make a real difference in the fight against poverty. These volunteers work in partnership with colleagues and communities to share skills and learning and achieve positive change together.

Since 1958, we have sent more than 30,000 volunteers to work in developing countries in response to requests from governments and community organisations. At present we have around 1,500 people working in placements in 33 countries mainly in Africa and Asia.

On 1 April 2005 VSO merged with beso, a development organisation also working through volunteers. This merger has given VSO more flexibility to also offer short term volunteers to our overseas partners.

**Linking with VSO volunteers:**

Linking with a volunteer is one of the most effective and rewarding ways Rotary Clubs can support VSO.

Via the scheme, you can become involved in the life of a volunteer. Through letters and reports Rotary members can follow their progress and gain a fascinating insight into what life as a volunteer is really like. Most clubs choose a volunteer from their local area, or someone working in a project or country that is of particular interest to their members.

**Benefits to club:**

A one to one link with a specific volunteer or project overseas means members feel a personal connection with the work of VSO and our volunteers.

Returned Volunteers make excellent speakers – we are happy to arrange speakers to visit any individual club.

**Feedback from clubs:**

'As a club we have enjoyed taking part in the sponsorship scheme and found it to be a first class project. Our close personal contact has given us a greater insight into the

hard work and dedication shown by VSO and its volunteers.' *Rotarian Davies, Rotary Club of Stockton-on-Tees*

**Personal volunteering opportunities for Rotarians:**

VSO welcomes applications from qualified and experienced professionals aged between 20–75 years. We recruit volunteers from a range of backgrounds including Health, Education, Public and Private Sector Management, IT and Community Development. Placements usually last two years and you are supported at every stage.

We also have a growing number of shorter-term assignments for people with very specialised skills or high levels of experience. These assignments complement our longer-term work and individuals need to be available at short notice.

We also have opportunities for youth volunteering for 18 to 25 year olds who are passionate about development.

**Personalities supporting project:**

- HRH The Princess Royal
- Jonathan Dimbleby
- Jon Snow

**Contact for further information:**

**Web:** [www.vso.org.uk](http://www.vso.org.uk)

**Volunteer Sponsorship:**

Claire Lanham  
Events and Community Relations  
VSO; Harborne Hall  
Old Church Road  
Birmingham  
B17 0BE

Tel: 0121 426 6806 (direct line) or 020 8780 7500

Fax: 0121 428 1614

or any member of the RIBI International Service Committee.

**Volunteering:**

For a list of skills currently in demand visit [www.vso.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.vso.org.uk/volunteering) or call 020 8780 7500