

## *Programme Area Summary*

**Country:** Nigeria

**Programme Area:** Secure Livelihoods and Community Development 2005 -2009

### **What is the aim of the programme area?**

To improve access of disadvantaged women and men in targeted states to employment income generation and food production. This is being realised through support to NGOs and community based organisations (CBOs); strengthening small and medium enterprises/ entrepreneurship; enhancing organisational and institutional capacity of partners; and promoting vocational skills acquisition and sustainable food production.

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

During the strategic planning process Secure Livelihoods came out strongly as a key area of need and clear opportunities; the context and needs analysis supported this. VSO is working in 4 geopolitical zones namely Niger Delta (South South), South East, South West and North Central including the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja). We have temporarily suspended volunteer placements in the Niger Delta due to insecurity.

### **Key beneficiaries and partners**

Key partners are listed below, including civil society organisations (NGOs and CBOs) and state institutions (indirectly).

- Small scale development partners: Growing Businesses Foundation, Ideal Builders, Lady Mechanic Initiative Communicating for Change, Oke Ogun Development Network, Youth Business Initiative, Urban Ministry, Adolescent Action Pact, Rural Widows and Orphans Foundation, Fantsuam Foundation, Alternative Trade Network of Nigeria, Amena Hotels, WABBA and Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)
- Skill development partners: Mary Slessor Foundation, Fantsuam Foundation, Wealth Windows Foundation, Lady Mechanic Initiative, SMEDAN, Umutu Skills acquisition Centre
- Food Production Partners: Forward Africa, Growing Business Foundation, Eastern Obolo Development Foundation, Akassa Development Foundation, Idea Builders

### **Key objectives of the programme and the crosscutting themes**

- Strengthen capacity of civil society in long term planning;
- Work with civil society to develop sustainable income generating activities
- Develop networks between partners, civil society organisations and other development actors including local councils

Gender and HIV and AIDS are cross cutting themes. There are programmatic linkages with Education and HIV and AIDS goals.

### **Current programme activities**

#### *Focus of International Volunteer Placements*

- 20-25 long-term placements in a broad range of specialist professional backgrounds; short-term placements also exist

#### *Workshops, training & conferences*

- Training workshops with partners and review workshops, making linkages between SME, Vocational Training and Food Production and partners therein

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### *Support to national volunteering*

- National volunteering is considered important and organisations working in local volunteering have been supported and networks encouraged. Volunteer Management capacity developed

### *Partner exchange visits/study tours*

- LINKS visit explored on value addition to processing of food stuffs

### *Other partnership activities*

- Evaluation and impact assessment of interventions
- Development of partnerships and networks and strengthening the cooperation of partners in the Networks

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

- Sustainable human resource development, capacity building and training
- Interlinking skills acquisition, food security and income generation
- Linkages and opportunities of working with International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Association of Nigeria
- Facilitating capacity building of partners across the board