

**VSO**

100 London Road  
Kingston upon Thames  
KT2 6QJ  
UK

+44 (0)20 8780 7500

**[www.vsointernational.org](http://www.vsointernational.org)**  
[enquiry@vsoint.org](mailto:enquiry@vsoint.org)

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive

H.E. António Guterres Secretary-General  
United Nations New York,  
NY 10017  
USA

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement  
From: June 2018 To: March 2022

2 March 2022

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that VSO reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents. In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

We continue to pledge to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact through our work on partnerships with private sector organisations at the global level, and wherever we implement our programs. As a development organisation working through volunteers, VSO engages with the private sector in a number of distinctive ways that lever impact for poor and marginalised people. These include supporting the delivery of programmes through leveraging resources, and as a source of social innovation in developing new approaches. Each lever has varying potential for improving impact by contributing to SDG 17. We commit to approach partnerships in line with the following principles:

- Focussing on changes that make a difference to the lives of poor and marginalised people with clear objectives, monitoring and evaluation;
- Accountability and transparency – in and between each other, to donors and relevant authorities and to the people the partnership aims to benefit;
- Sharing learning and willingness to change as a result of learning

- Promoting sustainable local ownership and respect for sovereignty of local organisations.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Philip Goodwin

CEO, VSO

During the aforementioned period, VSO has been involved in the following actions;

VSO has developed partnerships with mutual aims in the period, some examples include:

- VSO has renewed its long-term global (15 year) partnership with Randstad until 2022 to support marginalised people to access the labour market. Randstad supports our livelihoods work through corporate volunteer placements, pro-bono secondments, infrastructure and knowledge and joint marketing efforts to recruit volunteers across the world. In 15 years more than 250 employees have volunteered in VSO projects in more than 30 countries, contributing 180,000 hours. Randstad employees raise funds for VSO projects. We are also part of a consortium managing the Challenge Fund for Youth Employment set up by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- During the period VSO formalised a partnership with Arm Holdings Limited to collaborate on the TALK 2 project in Zambia since 2019. Arm contributed funding for the project as well as corporate volunteers to provide technical expertise to the conductors parts included in the talking books devices with our partner, Amplio. The partnership has featured in Arm's sustainability report for 2021. We are working in partnership to influence the practices of mining companies in Tanzania since 2020 through the EU-funded CLARITY project.
- VSO is working in partnership with Standard Chartered foundation on a youth employability project across multiple countries from 2021