

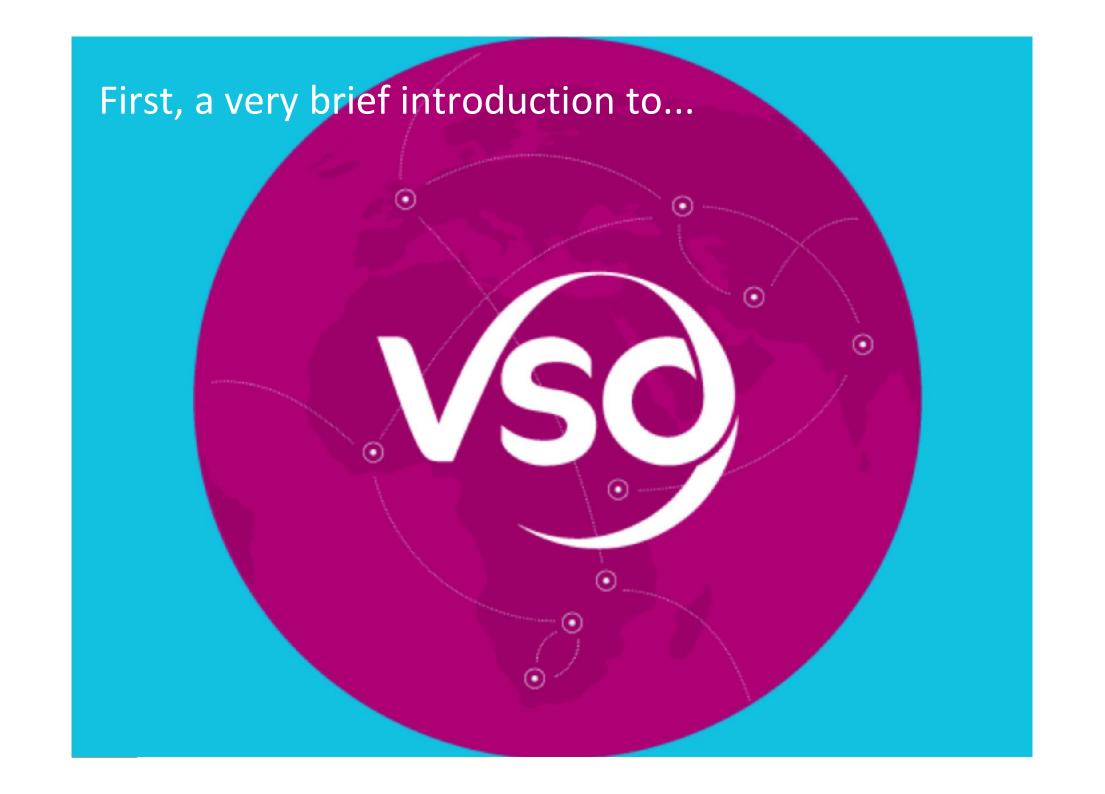
2017 ANNUAL EVALUATION CONFERENCE

10–11 MAY 2017 HOLIDAY INN REGENT'S PARK, LONDON



UKES 2017 presentation





A little history



Then...

Founded in 1958

when 16 British volunteers were sent to teach English in Borneo Now...

Today, VSO is a highly respected international development organisation

that has engaged over

43,000 volunteers to work on programmes in more than 120 countries



595 in-country program partners

leading largest multi-country study on the development impact of volunteers with IDS



e-Volunteers

VSO volunteers



Parliamentary & Eminent Volunteers



National Volunteers



International Volunteers



Corporate Volunteers



Youth & International Citizen Service Volunteers

Unlocking Talent through Technology Maternal & **Newborn Health Adolescent Sexual** Reproductive Health & Rights education health, HIV & AIDS VSO's areas of work Agri-based Value Chains Social participation & governance Accountability Youth

Employment

1. The journey so far: Building the practice of action research





Practices we would like to share today:

Building closer loops for learning and action planning:

 Globally planning evaluations with multiple layers of consolidation, participatory validation and quicker loops for learning before getting to the final written knowledge product.

Collective sense making of evidence:

 Collective analysis and synthesis of evidence within communities of practices around VSO thematic areas, in order to make immediate use of the evidence generated through evaluations and shorten the gap between programme learning and rigorous generation of evidence.



What have we learnt and want to share?

- These practices have started to demonstrate how developing more appropriate
 mechanisms for intentional learning and reflection at multiple levels can speed up at the
 process at which evaluation findings can be put in use.
- Our finding is that learning loops, combined with a focus on synthesis rather than aggregation, are more instrumental in transferring evidence across programmes in different contexts then the traditional focus on recommendations and management responses.
- These practices are possible in a context where the generation of evidence if closer to programme implementation and design, and the focus is shifted from independence to learning.



Practice 1: Global, multi stakeholder ICS evaluation

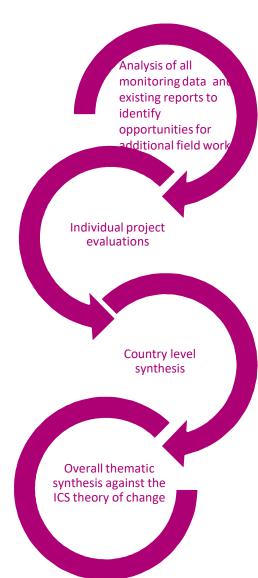
- This evaluation took place over a period of six months and consisted of different stages and a multitudes of activities. The approach and the methodological design for the evaluation has been multi-layered and included an overarching methodological design combining open qualitative research, analysis across a multitude of cases, realist evaluation in the synthesis, quantitative data collection and the incorporation of literature on youth led development and youth volunteering.
- The overall evaluation consisted of 3 main phases:
 - Phase 1: analysis of all existing monitoring data from over 130 projects.
 - <u>Phase 2</u>: Field work and primary data collection in 5 countries, across 16 projects, reaching more than a 1100 respondents, amongst community members, members of partner organizations, volunteers and host homes.
 - Phase 3: synthesis of finding across all steps of phase 1 and 2.



Evaluation levels

Individual projects evaluations ended with participatory validation processes so that the learning feed immediately back into programme design.

Realist inspired synthesis across themes and geographies to validate overall ICS theory of change and design



Through the analysis of monitoring data and existing reports, individual projects were identified for the field work. A thorough participatory process was followed to develop individual ToRs for each country.

Learning from each project fed into a final country validation where higher level learning fed back in learning, reflection and programme adaptation.



From recommendations to action planning

Management responses

Collective action planning

Typically written in response to recommendations written by evaluators at the end of an evaluation, after analysis and sense making have been completed.



Programme management and practitioners are continuously engaged with the findings as they emerge, included in sense making, analysis and the very generation of actions to address the findings. Different levels of actions planning emerge over the life of an evaluations.



Practice 2: Use of Evidence synthesis templates

- Grounded on the levels, indicators and questions of VSO's Global results framework
- Collective analysis and synthesis of evidence generated through evaluation in communities of practices around VSO core programme areas, in order to make immediate use of evidence generated through evaluations and to shorten the gap between programme learning and rigorous generation of evidence
- Synthesis templates after each evaluation, build on global theories of change and intended to enable programme practitioners to engage with the evidence differently from a management response.



Core Programm e Areas and Approache

Inclusive Education and Unlocking Talent through Technology

> Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Maternal and New-born Health

Agri-based Value Chains

Empowered Youth for Employment and Enterprise

Social Accountability

VSO Global Results Framework

Global Impact Indicators

Evidence of improved learning outcomes for disadvantaged or marginalised learners

Evidence of improved adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights

Evidence of improved health and wellbeing of mothers and their newborns

Evidence of improved livelihoods for marginalised women, men and youth through increased participation and influence in value

Evidence of increased capabilities and agency for decent employment or viable enterprise for

marginalised youth Evidence of marginalised people being able to hold to account decision makers, services providers, resources providers

Scale/Reach indicators

Number of disadvantaged or marginalised learners (male/female/PWD) accessing education services supported by VSO

Number of adolescents (male/female/PWD) accessing SRH services supported by VSO

Number of pregnant women and new-borns accessing health services supported by VSO

Number of marginalised people (male/female/PWD) accessing services to increase their participation and influence in agribased value chains, supported by VSO

Number of marginalised youth (male /female/PWD) accessing employability or enterprise development services supported by VSO

Inclusion

Number of people (male/female/ PWD) from a specific marginalised target group who are accessing a specific service or VSO supported intervention

Evidence that services meet the needs of specific marginalised group / or Evidence of quality of specified service

Innovation & Failure

Evidence of development and implementation of innovative approaches/ practices AND/OR failed approaches/

project
at different
intervention
levels (volunteer,
partner,
signature
package,
country)

Primary Actor Voices

Scale and quality of direct participation of primary actors across VSO's programmes, programme development, monitoring and evaluation.

Scale and quality of citizen led monitoring of SDGs facilitated thought VSO's programmes.

3

Global Learning Questions

Do VSO's interventions contribute to systemic change towards social inclusion, beyond changes in individual believes, attitudes and

nractices?

configuration of VSO's volunteering interventions and projects contributes to positive and sustainable change in the lives of marginalised and impoverished people?

4

Programme Performance

Percentage of programmes reaching their target in relative performance measures:

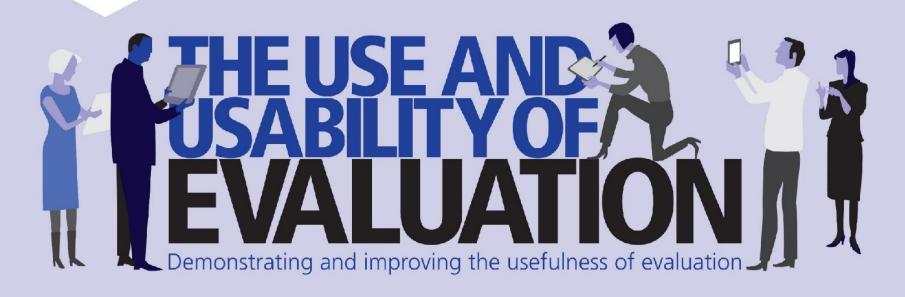
e.g. Number of practitioners trained; # of partners demonstrating improved capacity, # of project reaching most marginalised groups

Quality and quantity of evidence generated

Social Accountability, Resilience, Social Inclusion and Gender Core Approaches

Sharing learning across the organisation and externally





2017 ANNUAL EVALUATION CONFERENCE

10–11 MAY 2017 HOLIDAY INN REGENT'S PARK, LONDON