

VSO Mongolia
Health Programme Area Summary
(updated in February 2008)

Aim

VSO Mongolia's work will contribute to reducing incidence of common illnesses in three regions and two peri-urban districts of Ulaanbaatar.

Objective 1

Through a range of initiatives, including increasing the contribution made by National Volunteers, partners implement sustainable and effective health promotion and prevention of communicable and non-communicable illness in the community

Objective 2

Partners deliver client-centred health services at all health levels through improved management capacity

Objective 3

Partners provide their clients with quality nursing services through strengthened approaches, communication and practices in nursing care.

Cross cutting theme

The issue of concern common to all VSO Mongolia programmes is the 'cross cutting theme' of disability. This means that in all volunteers' work, from business adviser volunteers to teacher trainers and health educators, the issue of disability will feature. The activities may range from awareness raising to training people in dealing with disability more appropriately and encourage them in mainstreaming disabled people and their issues.

Key partners

In Ulaanbaatar:

- Chingeltei District Health Unit (CDHU), including one district hospital, two outpatients' clinics, 18 Family Group Practices (FGP)
- Nalaikh District Health Department (NHD), including one district hospital, one outpatients' clinic, 2 village hospitals, 5 FGPs
- Mongol Vision (MV) and Mongolian Anti Tuberculosis Association (MATA), health NGOs

In Darkhan:

- Darkhan Health Department (DHD), including Darkhan Hospital, one outpatients' clinic, 5 FGPs and 3 soum FGPs

In Dornod:

- Dornod Health Department (DoHD), including 13 FGPs in Chiobalsan and soums

Current programme activities

In health promotion for illness prevention

- To replicate NV projects in other regions,
- To build capacity of the FGP nurses and community health volunteers in health promotion and illness prevention methodologies and techniques,
- To train the trainers of health promotion and health education on health related topics,
- To develop health education and promotion resources
- To set up cooperation between health and education department to improve effectiveness of the health education in schools

In health management

- To support partners in setting up effective management systems and structure,

- To build capacity of health managers through management trainings and on-the-job support
- To assist partners to work effectively as teams as well as to work effectively with other organisations,
- To assist partners to improve environment for quality health service delivery including resources, infrastructure, communication and attitude towards their clients

In nurse training

- To support nurses to implement nursing standards
- To assist nurses to upgrade practical skills through nurse training and on-the-job support,
- To assist nurses to work effectively as team and network with nurses of other organisations,
- To assist partners to improve environment for quality nursing services including resources, infrastructure, communication and attitude towards their clients,

In addition:

- To develop the health project proposal for external funding

Opportunities:

VSO Mongolia is gradually moving to expand the health promotion through to developing skills and methodology of the secondary school health teachers. VSO Mongolia will strengthen a recently built cooperation between the health and the education departments in Dornod, and we may bring health educators to place at joint placements for the health and education programmes in the future. We will support the health and the education partners in other geographical areas to replicate successful experiences.

Linking/training/professional support for partners:

- VSO Mongolia enables its partners to share information and experiences through offering exchange and study visits and joint workshops and seminars,
- VSO Mongolia Health volunteers network regularly to provide each other continuous professional and personal support and share resources,
- VSO Mongolia offers expertise of our programme office based volunteers to build partners' capacity in advocacy, networking with each other and effective working with VSO volunteers etc.
- VSO Mongolia brings English Teachers to assist the health professionals to develop their English skills, providing opportunities to access to professional development,
- VSO Mongolia brings IT specialists for the health partners to improve their IT skills, set up the IT networking systems etc.
- VSO Mongolia offers Medical English training for the Interpreters of our health volunteers,

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

VSO is one of only a handful of development organisations in Mongolia contributing directly to ongoing capacity building of health workers' skills in peri-urban and regional health areas. There is some funding going into improving medical equipment and to a lesser extent to improving standards of care in large hospitals and institutions in the capital city. VSO is the organisation that is most directly taking action on improving standards outside these major centres and working on the grass roots level.

VSO is also contributing to the health sector development in Mongolia by establishing an effective national health volunteering system using VSO's expertise, increasing effectiveness of the primary health care services and improving health promotion in the community.