



# A Theory of Change



Sharing skills  
Changing lives

## Who is VSO?

---

### VISION

VSO's vision is a world without poverty in which people work together to fulfil their potential.

### PURPOSE

Our purpose is to promote volunteering to fight global poverty and disadvantage, sharing skills, creativity and learning to build a fairer world.

### Where and how we work

- Working in 52 countries through 1,600 international volunteers at any given time and
- Working in 32 countries with partners who support 250,000 local volunteers
- In the last year, VSO has changed the lives of 26 million people in 44 countries (VSO impact assessment)

For more info see [http://www.vso.org.uk/Images/annual-report-2010\\_tcm79-28422.pdf](http://www.vso.org.uk/Images/annual-report-2010_tcm79-28422.pdf)

## **What is the change that you have made?**

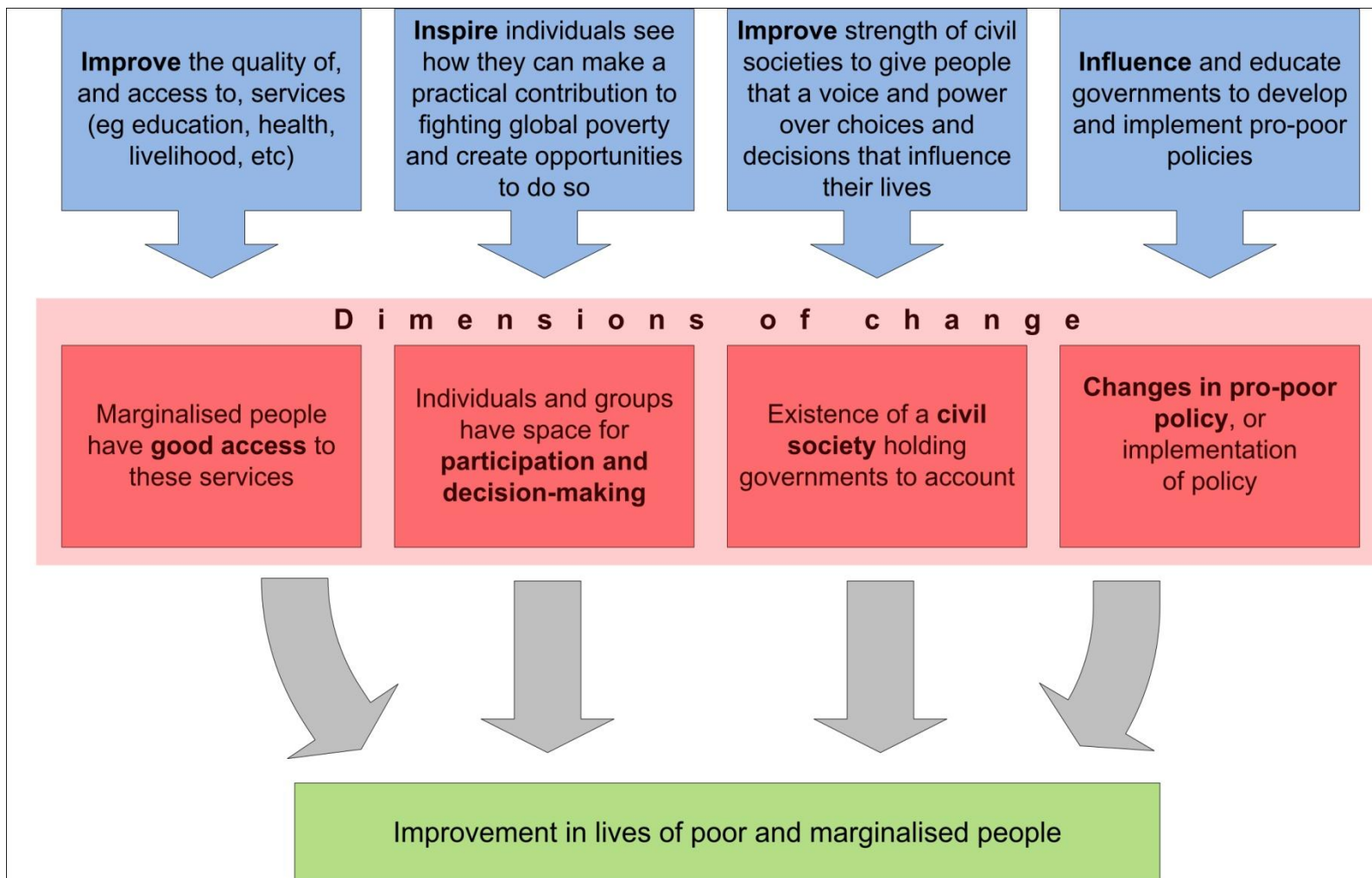
---

1. Find a partner
2. Decide who talks first and who listens first
3. Think of a positive change that you as a volunteer, or an organisation you were part of, has made happen.
4. If you are the first to talk, tell your partner about this change: what started it? who started it? what were the results of it? who benefited?
5. If you are the first to listen, JUST LISTEN (your turn will come later)
6. Now swap roles and do it again.



**Sharing skills**  
**Changing lives**

## VSO's Theory of Change



## **Our Shared Europe and Global Exchange**

---

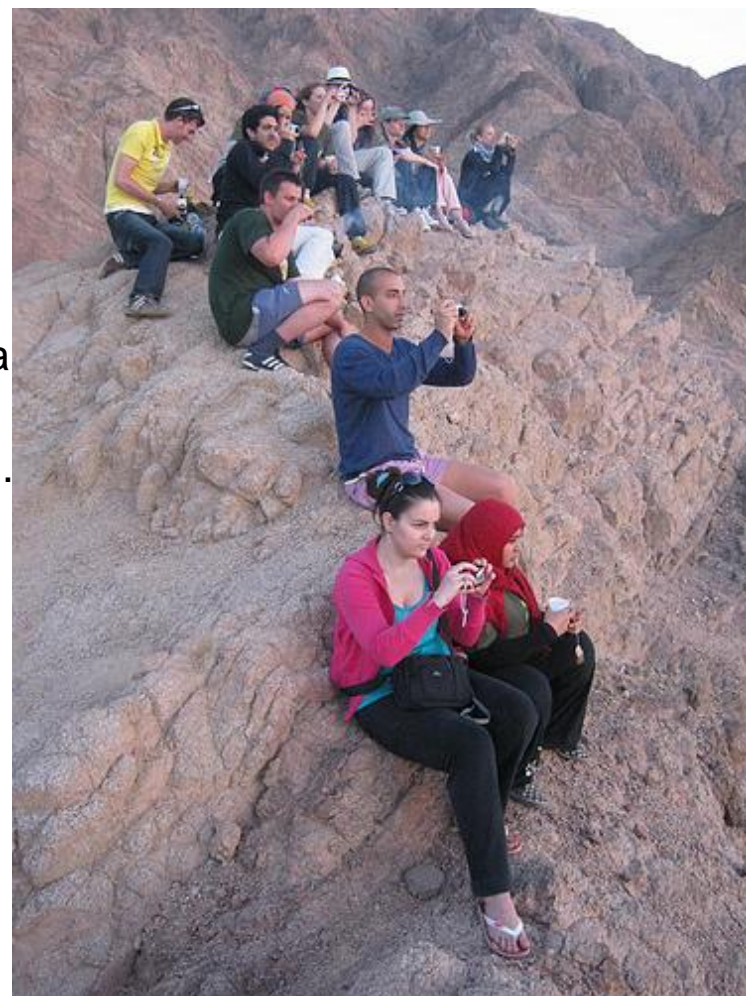
VSO works to inspire individuals see how they can make a practical contribution to fighting poverty and creates opportunities for them to do so.

In 2009 - 2010 VSO and the British Council ran a multilateral youth volunteer exchange that took place in Zagazig, Egypt and Southwark, London. Participants came from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Yemen and Morocco.

<http://www.oursharedeurope.org/visual-narratives>

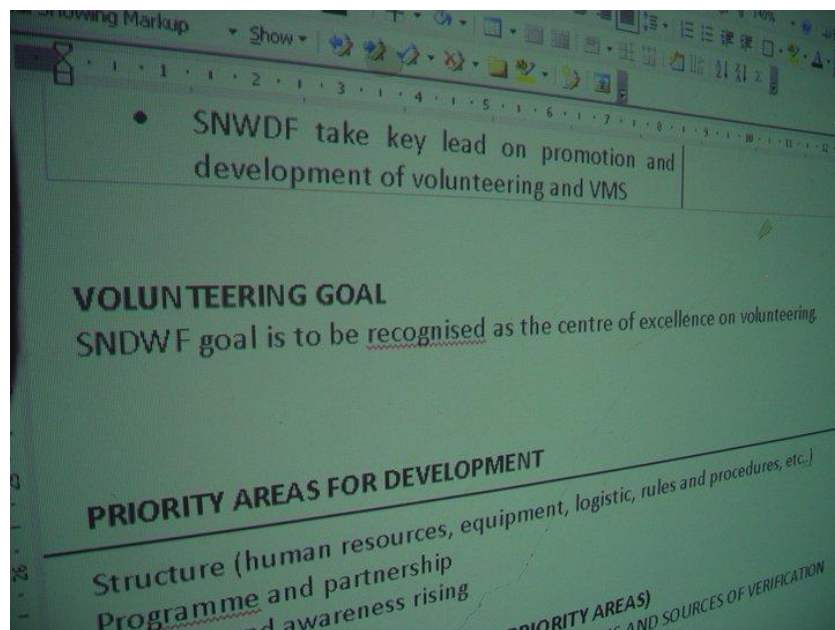
### **Programme Impact:**

- Personal development of volunteers
- Community Development
- International Development



## China – Balkans Knowledge Based Partnership

VSO works to improve the strength of civil society in China to respond to development challenges through volunteering



- Aim of project: to develop a network of volunteer centres in China
- Partners: Shaanxi Western Development Foundation, VSO China, OKC Banja Luka
- Video filmed as we speak!

## **NV in Home Based Care/Public Health**

---

- VSO's National Volunteering Programme and VSO's RAISA programme *works* in Southern Africa with Home Based Carers to mitigate the effects of HIV & AIDS on local communities
- This results in improved service delivery at a local level
- Challenges: gender based violence against volunteers; does volunteering make the volunteers poorer?; how to involve men in home based care
- Strategies: advocacy (through world-wide alliances focused on the role of carers in HIV& AIDS); volunteer management systems training; working closely with governments and government health workers so that volunteering doesn't replace statutory services

## National Youth Volunteer Service Kenya

---

VSO works with the government of Kenya to develop better policies for volunteering

- NYVS Kenya improves the quality and access to services for marginalised people
- Online at <http://vimeo.com/17001014>



## **How could 'your' change be bigger?**

---

1. Find the same partner
2. Go and find another pair – now you are a group of four
3. Number off from 1-4
4. Think of how the change you described in the first exercise could have:
  - reached more people
  - continued for a longer time
  - made a bigger difference in the lives of those affected

Then take turns talking about your ideas, using the 'theory of change' if that helps you.

## Contact details

---

Margaret Mliwa  
Chief Youth Officer  
Ministry of Youth and Sports, Kenya  
[wamliwa@yahoo.com](mailto:wamliwa@yahoo.com)

Violeta Vajda  
Volunteering Development Adviser  
Eastern Europe, Central Asia and China  
VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas)  
[Violeta.Vajda@vso.org.uk](mailto:Violeta.Vajda@vso.org.uk)  
[www.vso.org.uk](http://www.vso.org.uk)