



Vocational Committee Manual



Section One

Context:

During the recent global economic crisis, developing countries were hit the worst. Shortages in employment opportunities contributed to continuing cycles of poverty. Ways to make money have been in short supply and, although growth is beginning to happen again, true recovery might not be in sight anytime soon.

Vocational education helps to bridge the gap between a shortage in employment opportunities and young, underemployed workforces. By empowering local communities to develop and take an active role in their village or town economies, families can make money for themselves and their neighbors.

The needs of communities will differ greatly: vocational training can cover technical, entrepreneurship, and business skills. Some training is demand-oriented and is meant to build skills tailored to prospective employers' demands (*AGALI Economic Empowerment, Gonzalez-Velosa 2012.*)

In past Service Years, Youthlinc vocational projects have included sewing, haircutting, square-foot gardens, business combination classes, and making soap, just to name a few. Historically, our projects have been geared towards women as a means of economic empowerment outside of the home.

Committee Goals:

1. Create better economic opportunities for our community sites.
2. Participate in teaching skills including but not limited to: sewing, baking, haircutting, gardening, soap making, and a variety of other skills deemed necessary or wanted by community sites.
3. Work in conjunction with the business committee to use Youthlinc's 4Ps (product, promotion, placement, and price) to augment vocational trainings.
4. Offer sustainable information regarding vocational skills and how to best use those skills to create additional income for families, women, and other community members.

Committee Strategies and Timeline:

December

- Focus on local service
- Make sure everyone has each other's contact information. Decide as a committee the way that will work best for you to all keep in touch. Whatever you agree on as a committee you need to follow through with consistently throughout the Service Year.

January

- Team-wide committee training meeting. Youthlinc hosts committee-specific workshops this month. Here, you'll learn about what has and hasn't worked with your committee in previous years.

- Review projects and identify questions or needed info to plan the projects.
- Read last year's Committee report, the End of Year Summary from your team, and advice from previous Youthlinc teams
- Using information from your Team Leader, the ISD in charge of your site, and the In-Country Coordinator, talk about the vocational projects that your village has requested.
 - Think about what supplies your team will need
 - Think about how your team can obtain these supplies. In the past, some teams have bought supplies in-country (treadle sewing machines), while others have been brought over from Utah (seeds for gardens.)

February

- Travel health clinic at the University of Utah
- **Team Retreat!!!**
 - At the Team Retreat:
 - Review items from January
 - Think about how to best deliver your project: What lessons and how many will need to be taught? How can you best communicate your vocational projects to people in the village?

March

- Review and follow up on items from February
- Begin fundraising possibilities and supply drives to be carried out in April and/or May.
- Order supplies that need to be picked up and purchased in-country.
- Begin planning whatever lessons need to be planned. Break down the projects into smaller steps. Practice explaining your lessons to people
- During the meeting, **learn how to do your project!** This is incredibly important.
 - Figure out exactly how to sew, make soap, barbering, etc. If you don't know how to do your project, the people you're teaching won't learn much.
 - We also encourage you to practice on the project outside of this meeting.
 - If necessary, the Vocational Committee can meet at another location for this part of the meeting.

April

- Review and follow up on items from March
- Plan/carry out supply drives and start gathering supplies.
 - Start gathering any and all supplies you need
 - Continue fundraisers.
 - Present any committee needs to the rest of the team. Many participants on your team have connections to getting supplies you might need. This could especially be true for vocational items, such as fabric, scissors, etc.

May

- Review and follow up on items from April
- Finish up fundraising and supply collections.
 - Get the team involved in collecting your items.
 - Assemble any kits that need to be assembled beforehand- you can always choose to meet prior to packing meeting to do this as well.
 - Finalize fundraisers.

Section Two

In this section, we will discuss projects done by past Vocational Committees. Since the In-Country Coordinator, the International Service Director, and the people of your site, the Vocational Committee does not decide the projects. Instead, they have the responsibility of carrying them out and helping the village.

Past Vocational Committee Projects:

- Sewing
- Baking
- Drying fruit
- Gardening
- Soap making
- Haircutting
- Computer classes
- Food preparation
- Collaborations with the Business Committee