


VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Maternal Health Trainer
Country	Vanuatu
Location of Partner Organisation	Luganville, Santo
Partner Organisation	Northern Provincial Hospital
Duration	12 Months
Sustainable Development Goals	

41619

1. Partner organisation overview

Northern Provincial Hospital (NPH) in Luganville is the second largest hospital in Vanuatu. It serves Vanuatu's northern islands. The hospital has just over 100 beds spread over Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and TB wards, as well as hosting Outpatients, X-Ray, laboratory and limited ultrasound facilities. There is no CT scanner. Part of the hospital has recently been rebuilt and opened. NPH still does not have its own paediatric anaesthetist and specialist paediatrician.

The Northern Provincial Hospital is on a hill above Luganville, a relatively small town. It is to this community and those in the rural areas surrounding the town, that the hospital provides services. The hospital also serves the people living on other northern islands of Vanuatu such as the Banks islands. The hospital has a collegiate relationship with many charitable overseas organisations receiving specialist volunteer doctors and aid from overseas countries, notably Australia, New Zealand, and China.

2. Assignment overview

The volunteer will focus on improving maternal health at several levels; working with nurses and local midwives to support care to women and babies and advocate for best practice family planning service. This will be achieved by working alongside nurses, midwives, medical staff, and the family health organisations.

3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

Strengthen the capacity of the program manager and staff to improve/enhance the maternal health skills and experience in helping to reduce the maternal and infant mortality rate.

Outcome 1

Assess, report, and recommend on the best practices for maternal health.

- Review and report on the causes of the maternal health deaths from current reports of cases.
- Facilitate awareness around the causes with staff and management.



- Review resources and use of current guidelines to respond to maternal and neonatal emergencies.

Outcome 2

Review family planning post-partum best practice services.

- Support the NPH hospital services for contraception options for post-partum women.
- Review previous system for immediate post-partum contraception.

Outcome 3

Support Clinical Services in the Family Planning unit.

- Assist and support the Neonatal Ward with clinical methods by working alongside the midwife nurses in an advisory and training role.
- Support the midwife nurses by running best practice workshops as and when required.

4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

The volunteer will report directly to Andy Ilo/ Medical Superintendent and will be accountable to Andy Ilo/ Medical Superintendent. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately work with nurses and midwives.

The volunteer and Norther Provincial Hospital will have an ongoing relationship with the VSA programme manager in terms of assignment monitoring, reporting, professional advice and personal support.

As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the Assignment Description on arrival in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA Programme Manager. By their very nature, development situations can involve significant change, so it is advisable that the volunteer periodically review and reflect on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.

5. Selection criteria/position requirements

Person specifications (professional)

Essential

- A Midwifery Qualification (registered and practising) or Nursing Qualification with midwifery as specialisation
- Family Planning,
- Counselling skills

Desirable

- Leadership
- Management skills
- Facilitation or training skills
- Specialised in maternal issues



- Counselling and communication skills

Personal specification (personal)

Essential

- Willingness to learn basic Bislama
- Flexible
- Willingness to go the extra mile
- Compassionate

Desirable

- N/A

6. VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation
- Cross cultural awareness
- Adaptability and a willingness to approach change or newness positively
- Able to form good relationships, both personally and professionally, with work colleagues and in the community
- Resilience and an ability to manage setbacks
- Initiative and resourcefulness
- An ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange

7. Country Context

For more information about Vanuatu, see <https://vsa.org.nz/about-vsa/countryregion/vanuatu/>

Additional information

Residency status

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status, and currently living in NZ.

Pre-departure briefing

As part of the volunteer's contract, successful candidates will be required to take part in a pre-departure briefing course run by VSA in Wellington and complete all required pre-reading.

Final appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory medical and immigration clearances (costs covered by VSA), partner organisation acceptance, and successful completion of the pre-departure briefing course.

Family status

VSA supports partners to accompany volunteers on assignments of six months or longer. However, volunteers with accompanying dependents will not be considered for this assignment.

Fundraising

Volunteers are encouraged to fundraise at least \$1000 with the support of VSA's fundraising team. Accompanying partners are encouraged to raise the same amount. All funds raised will help VSA keep its programmes in action and support future volunteers.



Vaccination requirements

Potential volunteers are advised that VSA's insurers require volunteers to be inoculated, prior to departure, in accordance with the instructions of VSA's medical adviser. VSA covers the cost of any required vaccinations.

Children's Act

While on assignment, VSA volunteers may be required to work with children and/or may choose to participate in informal activities in their own time that involve interactions with children (such as coaching teams or teaching English). VSA is committed to the protection of vulnerable children and adults, which also includes meeting our commitment under the Children's Act 2014.

The information requested during the application process is necessary to assist VSA to determine applicant suitability to work and/or interact regularly with children and is part of a series of pre-selection checks undertaken on all applicants for VSA assignments.

Volunteer package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

Reimbursements and grants

1. Volunteers will receive an establishment grant of NZ\$750 to help them set up in their country of assignment. For volunteers with an accompanying partner (whether or not that partner is also a VSA volunteer), VSA will pay an establishment grant of NZ\$1100 per couple.
2. A resettlement grant of NZ\$200 will be paid for each month the volunteer is on assignment. This is payable on completion of the assignment.
3. The volunteer will receive a monthly living allowance of VUV107,580 paid in-country.

Accommodation

Basic, comfortable furnished accommodation will be sourced by VSA. In some circumstances volunteers may be asked to share accommodation.

Airfares and baggage allowance

VSA will provide the volunteer with economy airfares to and from New Zealand for their assignment plus a baggage allowance.

Insurance

VSA will provide travel insurance to cover baggage and personal property, and non-routine medical expenses for the duration of the assignment. Further details of the insurance cover will be provided during the volunteer pre-departure briefing.

Utilities

VSA will reimburse volunteers reasonable expenses for household utilities while on assignment.

Final terms and conditions relating to the specific volunteer assignment will be confirmed in a personalised volunteer contract.

