

# VSA Assignment Description

<b>Assignment Title</b>	Medical Doctor
<b>Country</b>	Vanuatu
<b>Location of Partner Organisation</b>	Luganville
<b>Partner Organisation</b>	Churches of Christ Medical Santo known as “Medical Santo”
<b>Duration</b>	6 Months - with option to extend
<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	



41899

## 1. Partner organisation overview

Churches of Christ Medical Santo (Medical Santo) is a Christian not-for-profit humanitarian aid organisation, registered in Vanuatu as a Charitable Association to provide Primary Health Services and support to the existing health services in Northern Vanuatu. Medical Santo is governed by an Executive Committee that oversees all aspects of the operation and ensures the medical services provided are in line with the needs of communities.

They are dedicated to working in partnership with the Vanuatu Ministry of Health to provide support and to build the capacity of local medical staff in a way which respects the local community, meets human needs both physical and spiritual, and works for a lasting change in the lives of all those they interact with.

## 2. Assignment overview

A VSA volunteer doctor would bring a wealth of experience and capability into the clinic by treating the everyday medical conditions and many unusual conditions that some patients have put up with and suffered with for their whole life.

The volunteer would contribute to improving the health of the people in the northern islands of Vanuatu through the provision of quality health services based out of the Medical Santo clinic in Luganville. The volunteer would assist with expanding the Clinic services into the rural communities of Espiritu Santo and provide Continuing Medical Education (CME), training and mentoring to the Medical Santo staff. The volunteer would bring current international medical information and procedures into the mainstream of Vanuatu services thus encouraging and supporting staff whilst building capacity into the Vanuatu system.

## 3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

### Goal

Medical Santo maintains a high standard of public health services and information for the population of Santo, including its rural communities.

### Outcome 1

Work in a team environment, to provide the best medical care to every patient in need.



- Provide practical care, leadership, training and mentoring of Medical Santo staff to achieve a high standard of care for every patient of Medical Santo.

## Outcome 2

Awareness, training and mentoring to communities, and individuals to increase the level of care and personal responsibility in looking after one's own health.

- Provide additional training and speaking with individuals/communities to be more aware of good health practices in their daily life and to encourage early intervention with regards to medical issues.

## Outcome 3

To achieve an increase of upskilling of medical staff and community awareness in the looking after one's own health.

- Provide informal training talks (CME) when requested to the Northern Provincial Hospital, to rural communities, to community groups and to individuals for the purpose of increasing the medical understanding and personal responsibility for each person's own health situation.

## Outcome 4

To build on our strong working relationship with the Ministry of Health, the Northern Provincial Hospital, and the Sanma Rural Health Services when appropriate

- Provide reports, statistics, and information to the MOH as and when requested.
- Provide best practice advice and training to the MOH when requested or when standards are a concern.

## 4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building

The volunteer will report directly to the Clinic Manager, and will be accountable to the Executive Manager. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately work with medical staff and administration.

The volunteer and Churches of Christ Medical Santo known as "Medical Santo" 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 Registered Medical Practitioner with no licence restrictions.
- At least 5 years clinical and hospital experience.
- The ability to work independently in a low resource setting with help of a small but dedicated team.

#### Desirable

- Rural, remote, indigenous, acute/emergency or third world medical care experience.

### Personal specification (personal)

#### Essential

- Good communication skills interacting with medical personnel, local staff, key stakeholders, and the local health services
- Respectful of the local traditional and Christian cultures.
- They should be unafraid of being in a foreign country and embrace the unexpected.
- Willingness to learn Bislama.

#### Desirable

- Minimum five-year experience in a general practice/hospital setting/rural or remote service.

## 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/our-work/countryregion/vanuatu/living-and-working/>

### 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.**

