


VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Radiographer / Medical Imager
Assignment Modality	ST1
Assignment Number	42071
Country	Vanuatu
Location	Luganville, Santo
Partner Organisation	Northern Provincial Hospital (NPH)
Duration	3 months minimum (up to one year)
Sustainable Development Goals	

1. Partner Organisation Overview

The Northern Provincial Hospital (NPH) based in Luganville on the island of Espiritu Santo (Santo) is the second largest hospital in Vanuatu with just over 100 beds. It serves as the main referral centre for the Northern provinces namely Sanma, Malampa, Torba, and Penama. As such it has a significant catchment area and is the main referral centre for emergencies within the Luganville Municipality and Sanma Province. NPH provides paediatric, general medical, general surgical, obstetric and gynaecological services as well as a very busy out-patient and Emergency Department.

2. Assignment Overview

In December 2023, JICA had donated, installed and commissioned a Fuji Innovality Unit with the autopsiography unit. The NPH Radiology team require support and training in use of the mammogram machine and PACS system for storing and accessing imaging and reports.

The volunteer would have skills needed to teach medical imaging technicians and radiographer on the ground how to use the machine and database. Training an increased number of staff to become confident to use the machinery and system will result in more imaging being conducted and improved record keeping and secure sharing of patient information. Ultimately, this work will be lifesaving for many women in Luganville in early stages of breast cancer.

3. Goal/Outcomes/Outputs

Goal

Junior Doctors and other staff in Radiology at NPH are well trained and confident in using the Fuji Innovality Unit Mammogram machine and PACS database, enabling improved access to much needed screening for the women of Santo and the wider Northern Provinces of Vanuatu.

Outcome 1

Fuji Innovality unit mammogram machine is properly utilised by staff to identify breast cancers.

- Provide training on safe and correct operation of the mammogram machine
- Run workshops and training to upskill radiology staff and all clinicians to improve interpretation of images and medical image report writing

Review and improve radiology procedure, protocols, and patient care while ensuring counterparts are appropriately trained and mentored in these areas.

Outcome 2

Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) is utilised by NPH to access x-rays and CT scan images from VCH.

- Provide training in accessing and interpreting medical imaging on PACS
- Working with Vila Central Hospital (VCH) radiology team to improve access to patient records and images between VCH and NPH
- Review and improve medical image storage procedures

4. Reporting, Working Relationships and Capacity Building

The volunteer will be building the capacity of all medical imaging staff through training, mentoring, and running workshops. The volunteer will transfer knowledge and skills to individuals, and support NPH to improve communications with Vila Central Hospital (VCH). Through this work women in the wider Northern Community will have improved health outcomes.

The volunteer will be accountable and report to Acting Superintendent / Dental and Medical Services Manager. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately work with as many medical imagers and junior doctors as possible.

The volunteer and NPH 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 reviews and reflects on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.

5. Selection Criteria/Position Requirements

Professional Specifications

Essential

- Qualified and experienced as radiographer / medical imaging technician
- Good oral communication skills
- Ability to teach and instruct staff
- Sound knowledge of operating mammogram machinery

Desirable

- Experience in the Pacific and/or developing countries
- Knowledge of PACS system

Personal Specifications

Essential

- Adaptability
- Patience
- Kindness

Desirable

- Enthusiasm for learning Bislama

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 [VSA Vanuatu living and working](#)

8. Living and Working Situation

The volunteer will be based in radiography section of NPH. They will be provided with a desk to work at in the administration area as needed and there is access to shared computers for staff. They are encouraged to bring their own laptop to use for work purposes, such as creating workshop presentations, due to the limited resourcing.

There is a dedicated space for staff training at the hospital which is set-up to run workshops. Wi-Fi connectivity can be unreliable in the workplace but data plans to hotspot off your own phone are very affordable.

Accommodation will be provided within the town of Luganville. Taxis are easy to access and 200vt to travel anywhere in town. From NPH it is a ten-fifteen-minute walk into town where there are cafes, restaurants, grocery stores, and other basic services.

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 is unable to support partners to accompany volunteers on assignments shorter than 6 months.

Fundraising

VSA funding stakeholders are both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and donors. We ask volunteers to fundraise to help cover the cost of sending volunteers throughout the Pacific and beyond. Fundraising can be as simple as doing something you enjoy with a group or friends, and our Fundraising team is available to help you every step of the way.

Vaccination requirements

Potential volunteers are advised that VSA's insurers require volunteers to be vaccinated, 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. The volunteer will receive a daily living allowance of 4,065Vt for an assignment of less than 6 months
2. If the volunteer is available to come for a period greater than 6 months, they will have a monthly living allowance.

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.