


VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Diabetes Nurse Specialist Mentor
Assignment Modality	In-Country
Assignment Number	41968
Country	Papua New Guinea
Location	Kokopo, East New Britain
Partner Organisation	East New Britain Provincial Health Authority (ENBPHA)
Duration	9 months
Sustainable Development Goals	

1. Partner Organisation Overview

The East New Britain Provincial Health Authority (ENB PHA) was established as a unified healthcare entity for the province and is responsible for the provision of publicly funded healthcare. It plays a crucial role in protecting, promoting, and improving the health and well-being of the population. The Authority has the mandate to ensure the availability of specialist doctors in hospitals and rural health facilities, establish and monitor provincial health standards, and provide guidance on healthcare issues.

The Authority's responsibilities also include disease prevention and control, healthcare planning and policy, data collection and analysis, healthcare quality improvement, and health promotion and education.

2. Assignment Overview

The purpose of this assignment is to enhance the quality of healthcare, improve health outcomes, and reduce costs and the disease burden on individuals and the healthcare system by strengthening ENBPHA's capacity and capability in preventing, treating, and controlling diabetes.

In Papua New Guinea, there is a concerning increase in preventable deaths and disabilities linked to diabetes. The effects of an unhealthy diet, inadequate nutrition, smoking, and harmful use of alcohol and betel nuts are apparent in the rising rates of chronic conditions like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and hypertension. Diabetes and its complications are major causes of illness and death, leading to distress and significant burdens on patients, their families, and society as a whole. People with untreated or poorly managed diabetes often develop kidney failure, blindness, and foot problems that may require amputation.

In East New Britain Province, the ENBPHA is deeply concerned about the rising prevalence of Type 2 diabetes and has embarked on a multipronged and proactive approach to addressing the scourge of diabetes and associated health economic, social, and psychological impacts. The ENBPHA is looking for an experienced Diabetes Nurse Specialist to help strengthen their capacity in diabetes prevention, treatment, and control. The ideal candidate should have a solid clinical background in diabetes care and education, along with experience in training and mentoring healthcare professionals.

3. Goal/Outcomes/Outputs

Goal

The ENBPHA's capacity and capability in preventing, treating, and managing diabetes are strengthened, leading to enhanced quality healthcare, improved health outcomes, and reduced cost and disease burden on individuals and the healthcare system.

Outcome 1

The ENBPHA has strengthened its capacity and capability in preventing, diagnosing, treating, and controlling diabetes, resulting in improved patient outcomes and a reduced burden of diabetes in the community.

Working collaboratively with nurses, doctors, and other healthcare workers:

- Lead the assessment of current practices and capabilities in diabetes management to identify areas for improvement and develop a detailed plan for enhancing the ENBPHA's capacity and capability in diabetes prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control.
- Assist in developing a framework and detailed plan to enhance hospitals' and health centres' capacity and capability in preventing, diagnosing, treating, and controlling diabetes. This includes strategies for improving patient education, screening, diagnosis, treatment protocols, and follow-up care.
- Assist in implementing the plan, providing training and support as needed, and recommending adjustments as necessary to ensure optimal outcomes.

Outcome 2

The ENBPHA develops and implements an effective and sustainable community-led Diabetes Prevention Programme aimed at reducing the incidence of type 2 diabetes, strengthening support for people living with diabetes, and promoting healthier lifestyles in the community.

- Work collaboratively with health workers, communities, and other stakeholders to assess and understand the local burden of diabetes, its risk factors, and existing community resources, aiming to mitigate or eliminate these risk factors.
- Assist in developing, updating, and sourcing suitable educational materials and resources on diabetes prevention, healthy eating, physical activity, and weight management.
- Work with health workers and community leaders to deliver health education workshops in villages, schools, and workplaces, aiming to educate and raise awareness of the importance of healthy eating habits and lifestyle choices in reducing risk factors associated with diabetes.

4. Reporting, Working Relationships and Capacity Building

The capacity strengthening will take place through a variety of activities, including training, mentoring, coaching, collaboration, and knowledge sharing.

The volunteer will report directly to the Specialist Medical Officer (Disease Control) and will be accountable to the Director of Medical Services. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately work with the health practitioners at the Frangipani Friendly Clinic at Nonga Base Hospital and occasionally visit other health centres. The volunteer and Nonga Base 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 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

- Registered Nurse with a current Annual Practising Certificate.
- Minimum of 3 years of experience in diabetes management, preferably in a hospital setting.
- Strong knowledge of diabetes prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control strategies.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary team environment.
- Experience in training and mentoring healthcare professionals.

Desirable

- Experience living or working in a Pacific island country.
- Experience in diabetes-related wound management.

Personal Specifications

Essential

- Self-motivated and committed to providing high-quality patient care.
- Patience, tolerance, empathy, and flexibility.
- Ability and preparedness to work effectively in a multicultural and resource-limited setting.

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 Papua New Guinea, see [VSA in Papua New Guinea](#)

8. Living and Working Situation

Furnished accommodation will be provided to the volunteer. Located within the suburbs of Kokopo, the distance between the volunteer's accommodation and the furthest hospital is about 30 minutes; the closest hospital is 5 minutes from the volunteer's accommodation - transport to and from Nonga General Hospital will be provided by the Partner Organisation for the volunteer. Volunteers may be asked to share accommodation depending on the situation.

The Nonga General Hospital (formerly known as Nonga Base Hospital), was established before 1975. The Hospital is the largest public hospital in East New Britain Province and is located in Rabaul, which was the former provincial capital of East New Britain. It has several departments including: Out Patient, Accident & Emergency, X-Ray, Consultation Clinic, Dispensary, and Laboratory. "Nonga General Hospital is located in a friendly and safe environment. There are several other institutions (churches, schools) near the hospital and excellent access to public transport to get into Rabaul town (about a 5-minute drive). The hospital is located on the seaside and the sea is clean and pleasant to swim in".

The volunteer will have a workspace at the Nonga General Hospital. Basic office equipment and resources will be provided by the Hospital, including printer, stationery, and internet access. The Diabetes Clinic is located in the Frangipani Clinic, which is near the labour ward of the hospital. It is air-conditioned and fully furnished. There is very little space however and as such the Diabetes Clinic takes place 3 days a week with the patient load spread over that time. The volunteer may be required to provide their own laptop for work. In addition, the volunteer will occasionally be required to work at St Mary's Hospital in Kokopo and other clinics.

Additional Information

ST2 Assignment (6-11 months)

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

VSA funding stakeholders are both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and donors. We ask volunteers and accompanying partners 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 may be entitled to an establishment grant to help them set up in their country of assignment, and a rest and respite grant after a specified period of active service in-country to encourage the volunteer to take a break away from the immediate assignment location. These grants depend on the length and location of the assignment. The volunteer's contract will specify any grant entitlements.
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 PGK2100.

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.