


# VSA Assignment Description

<b>Assignment Title</b>	Midwifery Education Adviser
<b>Assignment Modality</b>	Standard
<b>Assignment Number</b>	42144
<b>Country</b>	Kiribati
<b>Location</b>	Bikenibeu, South Tarawa
<b>Partner Organisation</b>	Kiribati School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Sciences (KSONMHS)
<b>Duration</b>	12 months
<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	

---

## 1. Partner Organisation Overview

The KSONMHS is the only tertiary institute that offers training for Kiribati nurses, and it is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. The institute is crucial in the Kiribati health sector in training and producing qualified nurses and just recently, they are also offering post graduate trainings to upgrade the national nursing workforce.

## 2. Assignment Overview

The KSONMHS recently reviewed and upgraded to Post Graduate Diploma of Midwifery program through the assistance of Burnet Institute in Australia. The school will soon roll out this new program and there is great need for having an experienced midwifery education advisor to assist and build the capacity of the faculty staff to ensure successful implementation of the new curriculum. As this would be an initial rollout of the new curriculum, the faculty needs on-site support from an experienced and well qualified midwife instructor to provide advice and build their confidence in their roles.

Further, due to human resources constraints in Kiribati, the School of Nursing (currently) is only able to recruit retired midwives to teach this course. These retirees will also benefit greatly from having refresher sessions as they have been out of practice for some time and have missed out on more recent midwifery techniques used nowadays

## 3. Goal/Outcomes/Outputs

### Goal

A successful volunteer assignment will enable the Midwifery Faculty to deliver quality teaching to their student nurses. This in turn will help improve the delivery of midwifery services to I-Kiribati

mothers and children and lower the national mortality for children under 5 years which is more than twice the regional average.

### **Outcome 1**

Midwifery instructors are confident to deliver the new curriculum to students

The volunteer will:

- Familiarize themselves with the new curriculum: Practical Obstetric Multi-Professional Training (PROMPT) on Pacific Emergency Maternal and Neonatal Training (PEMNet).
- Assess the existing competence level of the midwifery instructors
- Mentor and train instructors to ensure alignment with the new curriculum.
- Observe teachings of instructors and provide advice as required to ensure quality delivery of the curriculum and learning outcomes, as outlined in the manuals are met.

### **Outcome 2**

The Midwifery Faculty is supported in the development of the core Standards for Midwifery Care and Education in Kiribati.

The volunteer will:

- Assess the current state of midwifery education and service delivery in Kiribati
- Provide support to the Midwifery Faculty in developing a national Standards for Midwifery Care and Education in Kiribati which aligns with regional and international requirements.

## **4. Reporting, Working Relationships and Capacity Building**

Through engagement of all stakeholders – all Midwives from Midwifery Education, Service Delivery, Ministry Authorities, and mothers from certain community.

The volunteer will build the capacity of the Midwifery Faculty through:

- Providing mentoring and one-on-one sessions to build their confidence in their role
- Ensuring that the skills of the midwife instructors are updated as per the requirements of the new curriculum.
- Providing support to develop the national Scope of Practice for Midwifery Care and Education.

The School of Nursing will build the capacity of the volunteer through:

- Sharing of the midwifery issues in Kiribati
- Having cultural and language sessions with the volunteer.

The volunteer will report directly to the Head of Midwifery School and will be accountable to the Deputy Director, KSONMHS. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately work with the Midwifery Faculty staff.

The volunteer and KSONMHS 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

- Bachelor or Masters in midwifery,
- Minimum 5 years clinical experience as a midwife, including emergency maternal and neonatal care
- Hold a current practicing certificate
- Experience in mentoring others
- Experience in developing assessment and moderation processes
- Experience in creating midwifery and maternity resources; manuals, process maps, visual guides

#### Desirable

- Post-graduate qualification in midwifery/nurse education, public health, or related field
- Experience in Midwifery Education, Simulation and Clinical Supervision and Assessment for at least 3 years or so
- Emergency Maternal and Neonatal Certification
- Driver's license

### Personal Specifications

#### Essential

- Well-developed interpersonal skills with the ability to communicate effectively with people at all levels
- Good team player
- Ability to work in a small team of teachers with varying levels of experience
- Ability to work with limited resources and be creative with locally produced materials
- Ability to adapt to a hot climate.

#### Desirable

- Has a sense of humor;
- Pleasant personality.

## 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 Kiribati, see [VSA in Kiribati](#)

## 8. Living and Working Situation

The KSONMHMS is a health professional institution comprised of three faculties: faculty of

nursing, faculty of midwifery and faculty of health sciences. It is located at its only campus in Bikenibeu, South Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati. There are around 20 staff altogether at the school and an estimate of 140 students attending full time courses for Nursing and Midwifery at any given time (school term).

The volunteer will be based within the Midwifery Faculty and will be assigned a working station as well. There is internet connectivity in the school which the volunteer can access for work purposes. The KSONMHMS provides transport for its staff which the volunteer can use to commute to and from work. The Volunteer can bring her own lunch box or to go to Chatter box at the lagoon side of the campus, less than 10 minutes' walk from the office.

---

## **Additional Information**

### **Standard Assignment – 12 months or more**

#### **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 AUD 1,300

### *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.*