

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment title	Physiotherapist
Country	Kiribati
Location	Bikinebeu, Kiribati
Partner organisation	KSCCSN (Kiribati School & Centre for Children with Special Needs)
Duration	12 Months



Sustainable Development Goals

41185

1. Assignment goal

Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs' (KSCCSN) staff are empowered to deliver effective physiotherapy practice to the children through curriculum development, training and mentoring.

2. Assignment outcomes

Outcome 1

A best practice manual is available and being utilised by staff and support workers.

Outputs

- Consult staff to understand special needs within Kiribati.
- Develop a best practice manual providing a clearly outlined curriculum to deliver physiotherapy to children with special needs
- Train and mentor staff to practice and deliver the activities/therapeutic methods as outlined in the manual.

Outcome 2

Staff are trained in physiotherapy methods and practice and able to effectively implement these skills to improve students' physical abilities.

Outputs

- Assess and report on organisational needs in relation to physiotherapy □ Design and implement a capacity building programme for staff.
- Provide competency-based workshops and training for teachers and support workers.
- Conduct sessions with students to demonstrate to staff the practice of physiotherapy.

Outcome 3

Develop opportunities for inclusion in the school and the community.



Outputs

- Students are more physically able in the community thereby increasing their opportunities for social inclusion and employment.

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.

3. Reporting and working relationships

The volunteer will report directly to the Principal of the School. They will work directly with Teachers, support workers and the students at the school and centre.

4. Capacity building

The volunteer will directly be involved in on-the-job training with the teachers and support workers, as well as work with students to identify, assess and demonstrate best practice physiotherapy methods. The volunteer will develop a best practice manual that could be used at KSCCN for future reference on best practice methodology. The volunteer will run training and facilitate workshops for teachers, support staff and family/community members on best practice methodology and develop opportunities for inclusion within the community.

5. Person specifications (professional)

Essential

- Physiotherapy qualification and registration with NZSTA
- Extensive experience working with children with Special Educational Needs.
- Knowledge of assessment and intervention approaches for children with complex needs
- The ability to work closely with teachers, support staff and parents

Desirable

- Training and facilitation skills

6. Person specifications (personal)

Essential

- Strong interpersonal skills
- Good team player
- Enthusiasm, imagination and initiative
- Empathetic
- Resilience
- Adaptable and open to working in another culture

Desirable

- An ability to promote and enable change to happen
- Ready to hit the ground running
- An ability to work with very limited resources

Additional information



Residency status

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

Partner organisation

The volunteer's partner organisation will be KSCCSN

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 \$1,000 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.

Vulnerable Children 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 Vulnerable Children 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\$1,100 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 AUD\$1,080.
4. A location grant of NZD\$2000 will be paid after each four months of service. For this assignment this will be paid at four and eight months.

□ Accommodation

Basic, comfortable and 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 prior to departure.

Attachments Appendix 1: Background to the assignment Appendix 2: Living situation Appendix 3: Kiribati



Appendix 1: Background to the Assignment

Assignment focus

KSCCSN Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs is the only school in Kiribati that provides services to children with disabilities and currently educates over 230 children. It is also the main avenue for ensuring child protection in a society where there is still significant stigma attached to disability. KSCCSN's staff are empowered to deliver effective physiotherapy practice to the children.

The School for Children with Special Needs was established in 1991. The school caters for students with a range of impairments. Sign language (Australian) and braille are taught. Where possible, the school uses the approved I-Kiribati educational curricula, but given the age ranges and variety of impairments, this can be challenging. Teachers have not received any formal training. Some teachers educate their students about puberty (both boys and girls) but they have scarce support or resources to do so. Broader SRH issues are not taught, such as sexuality and sexual health, or keeping yourself safe from violence.

Disability in Kiribati

23% of the 3,840 surveyed disabled people are less than 20 years old. (2003-2005 survey). Disabled children are culturally accepted, and families make it their duty to provide a loving, secure environment for all their children. Discrimination against mentally or physically disabled children is also outlawed by the Constitution.

However, disabled children are discriminated against in other ways, since very few resources are actually allocated to such children. Only KSCCSN in South Tarawa caters for the disabled. This school accepts children of all ages with all sorts of disabilities but is managed by teachers without any specific training.

Moreover, the admission criteria for wheelchair users are based on their weight and mobility: if the child is too heavy to be lifted onto the bus, the child cannot come to school because the buses are not equipped with any mechanical system to load wheelchairs.

It is actually a breach of children's rights to be denied access to schools because of a disability, as set out in article 23 of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. Despite a lack of resources and funding, the government is committed to implementing policies for the disabled; it hopes to bring the country in line with article 23 of the Children's rights convention.

The Draft Kiribati National Disability Policy has estimated that there is most likely to be between 9,700 (10 per cent) and 19,400 (20 per cent) people with disabilities in Kiribati, with about half of these people residing on South Tarawa. In 2004 the Kiribati National Disability Survey was carried out and this identified 3,840 persons with 4,358 disabilities, of whom 55 percent were men and 45 per cent were women.

The survey found that physical disability accounted for 32 per cent of all disabilities reported, followed by visual impairment at 27 per cent, while people who had a hearing impairment represented 24 per cent.⁴⁵ The survey noted that there may be underreporting of disabilities, such as mental health problems or intellectual impairments, due to a lack of understanding about disabilities. The survey does not provide a breakdown by sex and disability.

Other findings of the survey include:

- 40 per cent of all disabilities were found in the age group over 51 years.
- 23 per cent of disabilities were found in the under 20-year-old age group; hearing impairment accounting for 30 per cent of disabilities in this age group.
- Many people were unaware of the causes and treatments for disabilities, contributing to a lack of understanding and discrimination against people with disabilities.



Appendix 2: Living Situation

South Tarawa

Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert group is the administrative centre of Kiribati. It is divided into North and South Tarawa, with the majority of services and population located in the south. South Tarawa is very densely populated, with 6,000 people per square kilometre. The area consists of small islets, from Betio in the west, to Bonriki in the east, connected by causeways along the South Tarawa road.

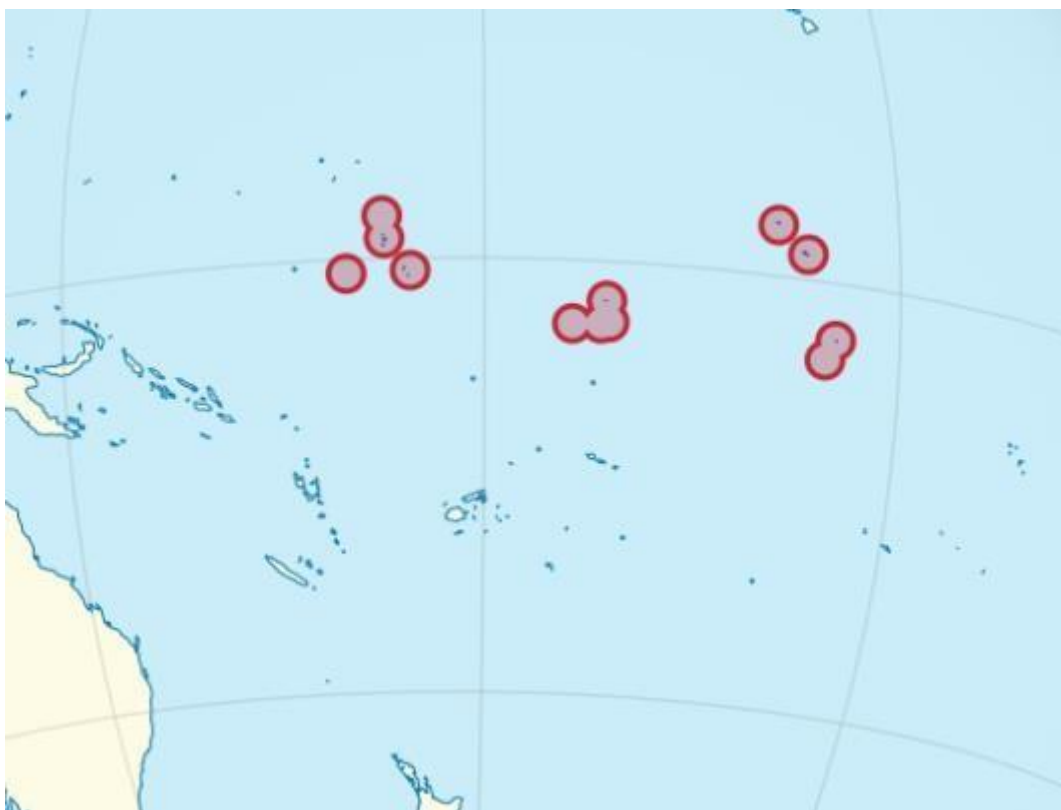
Tarawa has two hospitals, the Tungaru Central Hospital and Betio Hospital, a few health clinics and a medical clinic at the Marine Training Centre (MTC) which volunteers can access. There are a number of supermarkets but supplies of foreign goods are dependent on irregular shipping services and infrequent airfreight for fresh produce. Computer, internet and e-mail services are available at local internet cafés and motels. Kiribati uses the Australian Dollar and long-term volunteers usually open an account with ANZ Kiribati.

Life is generally relaxed but the density of people in Betio can mean a buzz of noise and activity. Kava bars and a few 'nightclubs' tend to be very loud. Music and dance are important aspects of Kiribati culture. Limited space in South Tarawa means limited room to play sports but football, volleyball and basketball as well as traditional Kiribati games are played.

The weather in South Tarawa is hot and humid all year round. It has high average rainfalls that can sometimes be unpredictable and can mean many months with almost no rain during the dry season. South Tarawa is prone to flooding and this is often exacerbated by poor irrigation and infrastructure. While outside the cyclone belt, Tarawa can still experience the tail-end effects of cyclones.



Appendix 3: Kiribati



Map courtesy of Wikipedia.org

The Republic of Kiribati (pronounced “kee-ree-bus”) became independent in 1979. It has the largest sea-to-land ratio in the world with only 810 square kilometres of land spread over a staggering 3.5 million square kilometres of the Pacific. With a population of approximately 105,711 (2015 estimate), population density is extremely high with 137 people per square kilometre compared to around 45 worldwide.

Traditionally, power in Kiribati was exercised by the councils of older men, or the *unimwane*. They remain a powerful force and continue to exert a significant influence on the selection of parliamentary candidates. This can place pressure on elected representatives to put local interests ahead of national interests.

The role of women in Kiribati is still very much influenced by tradition with limited participation in political activities. Women continue to do all domestic work. Although girls comprise 78% of primary school enrolments, they only account for 47% for secondary enrolments. Within the public sector, only 9.5% of senior administrative positions are held by women. Furthermore, whilst women represent 60% of the country’s teaching force, only 3% of school principals are women.

Relationships are the core of Kiribati culture and the family is the central point for education and learning – ranging from techniques for fishing and house building, weaving, cooking and preserving food, traditional medicine, black magic and land management. In most households, there will be resident children who are not born of the parents of the household, but who have come to live with them for one of a range of practical reasons. Children in Kiribati are the community’s responsibility, and it is not uncommon for the closest adult to admonish a child for misbehaviour.

Because the communal extended family is the foundation of Kiribati society, the concept of privacy differs greatly from Western society. I-Kiribati are not used to people preferring to spend some time alone, and they may consider that if you are living by yourself you must be lonely and in need of company.



The *maneaba* (community house) is traditionally the centre of community life in Kiribati and still plays an important part in today's society. This is where community discussions, council meetings and celebrations take place, and where important decisions are made.

The majority of the population of Kiribati live in traditional village settings. Village life is strongly orientated around the extended family and the *unimane* and *unaine* (old women), who continue to play a prominent role in society. Eating, singing and traditional dancing are an important part of I-Kiribati culture and nearly every village has a *maneaba* where people gather for a *botaki* (party). I-Kiribati are generally friendly and courteous to foreigners and are likely to extend invitations to weddings and birthdays.

Although health indicators have improved in recent years Kiribati continues to see the highest infant mortality rate in the Pacific, low life expectancy and a high incidence of nutrition related non-communicable diseases. Tuberculosis is a serious health problem and there are regular outbreaks of dengue fever and occasional cases of leprosy and typhoid.

Forty percent of the population of Kiribati is under the age of 15. As in other Pacific nations, Kiribati has begun to see adolescent reproductive health issues, substance abuse, juvenile offences and increased cases of youth suicide.

Kiribati is in the category of least developed countries. It has few natural resources, with the majority of its economy based on the subsistence lifestyle of its people. Eighty per cent of the population survives through fishing. A feature of the Kiribati economy is the large divergence between the balance of trade and the balance of payments. Although exports account for 25% of the cost of imports, the balance of payments is favourable due to transfers on accounts of overseas investments, repatriation of earnings and fishing license fees.

Religion plays a very important part in the everyday lives of the I-Kiribati and the church is very active in education and social issues. I-Kiribati contribute a large amount of money (especially considering their small income) to religious causes. Each village has one or more churches and villagers are expected to attend church and other church related activities.

For more information on Kiribati, see:

Government tourism website: <http://kiribatitourism.gov.ki/>

Economic overview: <http://data.worldbank.org/country/kiribati>

New Zealand Aid in Kiribati: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-work-in-the-pacific/kiribati/>

General Security

Volunteers are required to be security conscious and adhere to the advice of their partner organisations, VSA and the NZ Embassy in Tarawa on security matters. If there is a major emergency or should security deteriorate, VSA has established evacuation procedures and volunteers will be fully supported by staff in Wellington. VSA staff will go through security measures with the volunteer and develop an individual security plan.

