

“Your career in international development starts here...”

Opportunities for pathologists with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)

**Clive Ingleby – VSO Programme Development
Adviser (Health)**

Background to VSO

- Committed to reducing poverty through the sharing of skills and knowledge since 1958
- Currently has around 1,500 volunteers overseas, working in over 40 different countries
- Is truly international - recruiting volunteers from the UK, Ireland, Canada, Netherlands, Kenya, Uganda, The Philippines and India
- VSO works in partnership in 6 key development goals – Education, HIV & AIDS, secure livelihoods, disability, participation and governance, and health

VSO's work in global health is guided by the following:

- **Global health targets as expressed eg. in the MDGs**
 - **Reduced child mortality, improved maternal health, combating HIV & AIDS, malaria, TB and other diseases**
 - **Better public health through improved primary health care and health promotion**
 - **Strengthening of national health systems.**
- **Responding to the priorities of our partner organisations in developing countries and empowering them to take action and become agents for change**
- **Following a Rights Based Approach to health development and promoting gender equality**

Our health work is growing...

- **12 dedicated health programmes – Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Malawi, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Tajikistan, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Potential for growth and for opening new health programmes in eg. Zambia, Kenya**
- **Around 140 health volunteers - seeking to increase the numbers being recruited**
- **Significant health work in HIV & AIDS and disability programmes eg. SRH work in Vanuatu and Bangladesh and CBR rehabilitation in Guyana and Namibia**
- **Increase use of Study Tours, Small Grants, National Volunteering, and Advocacy ('Valuing Health Workers')**

Share your skills with VSO – opportunities for pathologists

- **Currently represents a small part of VSO's health work but potential to increase if supply of pathologists improves!**
- **As VSO expands its work in health systems strengthening, supporting the development of improved pathology/ laboratory services is increasingly identified by MoH partners in developing countries as a key priority.**
- **VSO normally requires some post graduate experience as we need those who are confident in their skills to 'show how' – to train, mentor and develop others**
- **Countries where VSO has sent pathologists/lab technicians include Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania and Indonesia**

Case Study: improving laboratory services in Malawi

- **VSO is an implementing partner of the national health Sector Wide Approach and receives significant funding from DfID**
- **VSO volunteers with a pathology background focus on:**
 - **Training students studying for the Diploma in Biomedical Sciences at Malawi College of Health Sciences**
 - **Continuous professional development of newly qualified lab technicians in 6 district hospitals across Malawi**
 - **Developing/introducing Standard Operating Procedures (including quality assurance) in district/central hospitals resulting in more timely and reliable laboratory results**

Working in partnership



‘We are contributing to the national improvement of the health service: the work we are doing will bring about meaningful change.’

VSO offers...

3 – 24 month development opportunities

All costs covered, accommodation, living allowance, health insurance

Comprehensive training, practical support

Public sector pensions covered

vso.org.uk/healthjobs

Thank You....

www.vso.org.uk/volunteering/faq