

Apply today and you could be...

A Maternal and Child Health Educator at Belu District Health Office in West Timor, Indonesia

What's the context and purpose of the role?

Indonesia is still suffering from the aftermath of the Asian economic crisis of the late 1990s. The gradual progress the government had made in improving the health status of the nation was suddenly reversed with almost a quarter of Indonesia's vast and growing population currently living below the poverty line. Decline in income has reduced families' access to health and other social services with women being particularly disadvantaged. Belu District has been set the ambition target to achieve 'Healthy Belu District 2010', which is part of a national programme to provide adequate health services to the whole population. The main health problems identified in the district are high maternal and infant mortality rates and malnutrition. As a Maternal and Child Health Educator you'll help health workers in the field to improve maternal and child healthcare services at community level.

What does the role involve?

- Evaluating existing maternal and health care services on the ground
- Developing and implementing an activity plan based on the results of this evaluation
- Training and mentoring government health workers through workshops and on-the-job training
- Accompanying and advising government health workers in handling emergency cases related to pregnancy
- Exploring potential relationships with other organisations to complement capacity building and knowledge sharing



What skills, experience and personal qualities are needed for the role?

You'll need to be a registered midwife with least 3 years' experience as a midwife practitioner, preferably at community level. A background in public health and knowledge of nutrition would be advantageous. Patience and flexibility are also important as you'll be working with limited resources and will need to get used to a slower pace of working. You'll be travelling around from community to community by motorbike (VSO will provide training), so a sense of adventure is also desirable!

And the rest...

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago and the fifth most populous country, with 17,700 islands stretching 5,120 kilometres (3,200 miles) between Australia and the Asian mainland. It's a tropical country with high humidity, a dry season from May to October and a wet season from November to April. You'll be based in Belu District on Timor island. The island is rural and very green with scattered tranquil villages and stunning beaches. You'll be provided with simple and secure accommodation with running water, electricity and cooking facilities. The staple food in Indonesia is rice and coconut milk and chilli peppers are common ingredients nationwide. The most popular dishes are "nasi goreng" (fried rice) which is often served for breakfast, "satay" barbequed meat or chicken on skewers and "gado-gado", a vegetable salad with a peanut sauce...