

Apply today and you could be...

A Paediatrician at the Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital in Banjul, The Gambia

What's the context and purpose of the role?

The Gambia is one of the poorest countries in Africa. The majority of the population faces inadequate healthcare, nutrition and education. VSO's work in The Gambia focuses on improving the lives of people with disabilities through empowerment and improved services. It works closely with The Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital (RVTH). Built by the British in 1853, the RVTH is the country's main provider of tertiary level healthcare. By training Gambian doctors, you'll help ensure that VSO's work in The Gambia is both effective and enduring.

What does the role involve?

- Developing standard hospital procedures for the diagnosis, treatment and follow up of children with disabilities
- Training a Gambian counterpart doctor on disability identification, referral and screening of children to make a positive long- term impact on reducing disability in The Gambia
- In collaboration with the VSO disability programme, advising the hospital on building integrated multidisciplinary service pathways for the care of disabled children. This includes building links with the state, private and charity/volunteer sectors and developing allied services such as physiotherapy, orthopaedics etc



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

You'll be a consultant paediatrician or specialist registrar in years 3 or 4 of your training. Ideally you'll have experience of working with children with disabilities. You'll be flexible and creative, as you'll be expected to work effectively with limited resources and facilities. You'll need good written and oral communication skills, and strong organisational and managerial skills are also desirable. Cultural sensitivity, patience and a very good sense of humour are a must for all VSO volunteers!

And the rest...

The Gambia is the smallest mainland nation on the African continent. Banjul, the island capital, is located at the mouth of the Gambia river and serves as the central transport and trade route. English is the official language but Wolof and Mandinka are also widely spoken – you'll receive introductory lessons in one of those. There are two main seasons in the country, hot and hotter! However, Banjul enjoys a milder climate than areas further inland and the dry season runs from the beginning of November to June with daytime temperatures ranging from 25-35°C. You'll be living in basic accommodation with your own kitchen and bathroom and there'll be running water and electricity.

http://www.vso.org.uk/image_metadata.asp?id=tcm:8-3318