

Apply today and you could be...

A Health Capacity Builder at Sanggar Suara Perempuan 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 1997/98. Human development indicators have dropped since 1998 and almost a quarter of Indonesia's vast and growing population currently live below the poverty line. Decline in income has also reduced families' access to health and other social services, with women being particularly disadvantaged. Maternal mortality rates are high and there are many cases of domestic violence against women. Sanggar Suara Perempuan (SSP) is a registered charity aiming to empower women, raise awareness of health rights and increase the knowledge of healthy living practices at community level. The organisation is looking for an experienced community health manager to support their Maternal and Child Health Programme to improve the health status of women and children in the province.

What does the role involve?

- Visiting SSP target communities with local counterparts to observe and assess health needs
- Working with SSP staff to design and implement an effective health programme, including monitoring and evaluation processes
- Supporting SSP's community development work and provide training on maternal and child health issues
- Building relationships with related stakeholders, such as local government institutions, national and international organisations

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

You'll need a degree level qualification in programme management or community health as well as extensive experience in community-based maternal and child health programmes. Some experience in community development work and knowledge of gender and women's right issues is also essential. You'll be flexible and patient, have the ability to set achievable targets and need to be willing to compromise where necessary. Good communication and training skills are important to build strong relationships with colleagues. And a sense of adventure is always useful, as you'll be travelling around by motorbike! (VSO will provide training)

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 Soe, the capital town of Timor Tengah Selatan District on Timor island where you'll live in 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...

