

Apply today and you could be...
A HIV & AIDS Medical Officer at the Kunene Regional Health Office in Opuwo, Namibia

What's the context and purpose of the role?

Sub-Saharan Africa has just over 10% of the world's population, but is home to more than 60% of all people living with HIV and AIDS. People infected with HIV and AIDS in Namibia are suffering discrimination and stigma, are often living in poverty and many are excluded from treatment programmes. VSO is supporting the Ministry of Health and other HIV and AIDS focused organisations to expand and improve prevention, care and treatment for all affected. As a Medical Officer at the Kunene Regional Health Office, you will help to improve health services and access to Anti-Retroviral (ARV) treatment for patients living with HIV and AIDS in the region. You'll be an important part in VSO's programme to reduce the impact of the pandemic by helping to strengthen the response of our local partners.

What does the role involve?

- Treating HIV positive patients within the ARV and Preventing Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Treatment Programme
- Undertaking routine clinical duties and ward rounds
- Assisting the day to day management of the ARV and PMTCT Programme
- Sharing medical skills and knowledge with local health workers by organising workshops and training sessions



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

You'll be a qualified doctor with at least 3 years' post-registration experience. You should have experience in some or all of the following areas: obstetrics, paediatrics, accident and emergency, tropical medicine and primary healthcare. As the position involves working with HIV positive patients, a strong interest in HIV and AIDS issues and treatment is beneficial. You'll need to be sensitive, patient, have a positive attitude and a good sense of humour to deal with new challenges posed by limited resources as well as working and living in a different culture.

And the rest...

Namibia is one of the largest and least known countries in Southern Africa, with vast landscapes, the spectacular red dunes of the Namib Desert and game-rich national parks. You'll be based in Opuwo, the capital of the Kunene region in northwestern Namibia. The area is inhabited by several semi-nomadic tribes, such as the Himba and Herero, whose way of life has changed little over the past centuries. Etosha National Park with its impressive variety of wildlife and the remote wilderness of the 'Skeleton Coast' are both accessible from the area. Opuwo has a supermarket, bakery and a recently opened bank and you can buy a variety of foods and clothing at the bustling Otuzemba street market. The climate is typically desert-like with large temperature differences between day and night. Summer temperatures can reach 30 – 35 degrees C and winter temperatures are a pleasant 20 degrees C, although it can go below freezing during the night. There is a small expatriate population in the area and there are generally other volunteers working in town.