

**Apply today and you could be...**  
**An Audiologist and Sign Language Instructor, Rwanda**

**What's the context and purpose of the role?**

One of the impacts of the 1994 genocide was an increased number of people with physical disabilities. The government has developed a strategy which commits to addressing the needs and rights of disabled people. Audiology is a new discipline in Rwanda, with the first training delivered to a few teachers in 2008. You'll build on this training and put it into practice ensuring that a high quality of care is provided and that access to testing is available as widely as possible. VSO Rwanda has taken a Rights-Based Approach to Disability, which is unique in that the various needs of disabled people are addressed as a matter of right and not privilege. To support this you'll focus on the use of sign language in the classroom and on incorporating Rwandan Sign Language into the teaching methodology.

**What does the role involve?**

**Audiometry**

- Support teachers to carry out audiometric tests and to give advice to patients, family and teachers.
- Set up mobile clinics for audiometry testing at 10 outreach centres.
- Support the teachers and Director in setting up an Audiometric testing programme (to include issues such as fees, access, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation).

**Sign Language**

- Assist teachers and deaf children in primary schools to improve their skills in the use of sign language.
- Incorporate the newly recorded Rwandan Sign Language into the HRD training programme.
- Assist teachers to consolidate and put into practise their sign language training.
- Develop and train teachers in the use of appropriate didactic materials.



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

You'll be trained as an Audiologist and need to be competent in sign language and willing to learn Rwandan Signs. You'll have gained practical experience of Special Education, which you'll draw on when accompanying teachers in their work. As this is a relatively new area, you'll need to be confident, take initiative and be realistic about what you can achieve. In addition you'll need to speak at least basic French and have lots of energy and enthusiasm to travel to the different HRD centres around the country.

**And the rest...**

The HRD office is 10mins from Gitarama town, which lies in the center of the country. Rwanda is one of the most beautiful countries in Africa and has a surprisingly varied landscape for such a small country. Most of it is low mountain ridges (hence the name "Land of a 1000 hills"), with deep valleys and steep slopes. The food available is excellent with the staple Rwandan diet consisting of beans, rice, chips, beef or mutton or goat stew, sweet potatoes, grilled bananas, spinach (or some sort of greens), cabbage, avocado and tomato salad. The fast food favourites are goat shish kebabs (called brochettes), meat or veg samosas and spicy fried meatballs.

We'll ask you to commit to 12 - 24 months to make a sustainable contribution to our development goals. In return, we'll give you comprehensive financial, personal and professional support. We'll provide you with extensive training before your placement, and our financial package includes a local salary, return flights, accommodation, insurance and more. When you return to your home country, we'll help you to resettle and many of our returned volunteers stay involved with us long after their placement ends. [www.vso.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.vso.org.uk/volunteering)