

Apply today and you could be...

A Community Health Coordinator for Common Vision for Social Development, Malawi

What's the context and purpose of the role?

HIV and AIDS in Malawi is now the leading cause of death in the most productive age group of the population – the WHO estimates 86 000 losses a year mean that 700 000 Malawian children are now orphaned or vulnerable. Many Malawian communities have come together to tackle the pandemic but lack support and resources from overstretched public health and social services. Common Vision for Social Development is a community-led initiative, working in the rural Changoima area of southern Malawi to ensure people with HIV and AIDS can access nutritional food, appropriate health services, and that affected children can continue schooling. They are looking for an experienced community health professional to strengthen their home-based care and health education work, so that people affected by HIV preserve their dignity, become free from stigma and can access the services they need.

What does the role involve?

- Facilitating community outreach and health education activities to increase awareness of healthy living practices and fight stigma
- Managing home-based care programmes for the chronically ill, training staff and volunteers in care provision
- Strengthening support for children affected by HIV and AIDS in community-based childcare centres
- Training healthcare workers and community members in counselling, confidentiality, and patient communication



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

You'll be a community health professional or registered community nurse with 3-5 years' relevant experience and practical knowledge of HIV and AIDS. You'll be able to act as an autonomous practitioner with the ability to teach and train others, building their expertise in healthcare delivery, patient-centred care, and health education. You'll have the determination to work in a remote area with basic amenities, travelling by motorbike (VSO will provide training). The willingness to immerse yourself in a new culture, participating in village life and adapting to working with few resources, are essential – as is a good sense of humour!

And the rest...

Malawi is a land-locked country whose areas is one-fifth covered in water. Magnificent Lake Malawi is Africa's third largest lake with astounding sub-aqua life: snorkelling here can feel like diving in an aquarium! The climate is generally hot, although in winter between May and October, it can get quite cold at night. October to December is the hot dry season when temperatures can rise to over 40 degrees centigrade. Most of the rainfall happens between December and March. However the rainy season doesn't mean endless days of rain, the sun still appears frequently but when it rains it tends to deluge! You'll be based in Mwanza district, which being largely hilly and wooded tends to be cooler than the neighbouring districts. You'll live in a two-roomed house in the heart of the village, where a posting with a partner would be a possibility.