

Apply today and you could be...

A Maternal and Child Health Adviser at the Kratie Provincial Health Department in Cambodia

What's the context and purpose of the role?

Although Cambodia today is enjoying peace and stability, the country is still recovering from war, displacement and the massive depletion of its human resource base during the Khmer Rouge period. Health indicators in Cambodia are poor compared to the rest of Southeast Asia. Often, illness and death occur from conditions that are preventable or treatable. The maternal mortality rate in 2000 was 437 per 100,000 live births and each year approximately 46,000 infants die in Cambodia. VSO volunteers are supporting the implementation of new reproductive health services as they are introduced and as a Maternal and Child Health Adviser you'll strengthen the provision of a life-saving maternal healthcare programme in Kratie Province.

What does the role involve?

- Addressing weaknesses of the existing Mother and Child Health programme by providing support and training to health centre staff
- Working with Health Department staff to strengthen the routine supervision of health centres to ensure that weaknesses are identified and addressed
- Supporting the Health Department in the planning and reviewing of their Mother and Child Health activities
- Training health centre midwives in effective patient communication to deliver appropriate health and nutrition education
- Assessing specific training needs of health centre midwives and other healthcare staff and provide training as necessary



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

You'll need to be a registered midwife with extensive training and management experience. Excellent communication and team working skills are essential and knowledge of basic nutrition would be an advantage. As with all VSO placements you'll need to be patient, flexible and realistic about what can be achieved in a constraint health system. A good sense of humour is important and you'll be travelling around the province by motorbike (VSO will provide training), so a sense of adventure would be an advantage!

And the rest...

Cambodia is a small country in Southeast Asia, bordered in the west by Thailand, in the east by Vietnam and in the north by Laos. Most of the country's area is flat and only 10-30 meters above sea level. The climate is tropical monsoon with 2 distinct seasons, the rainy season from June to October and the dry season from November to May. You'll be based in the small and idyllic town of Kratie on the Mekong, one of the world's major rivers, running from Tibet through China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. The friendly town is dominated by a busy market place surrounded by charming French colonial houses. Kratie is also home to the rare Irrawaddy river dolphins that can be spotted early mornings or late afternoons from a viewing platform nearby. The local market offers an extensive variety of fresh fruit, vegetables and fish and Cambodia produces some excellent coffee! Cambodian cuisine is quite similar to that of Thailand with lots of curries and coconut milk, but not as spicy...