

Apply today and you could be... A Nutritionist at NAPHAM in Lilongwe, Malawi

What's the context and purpose of the role?

In 2004, Malawi's health care situation was described as 'dangerously close to collapse'. Poor pay, difficult working conditions and lack of support meant that an alarming proportion of health workers were leaving the health service to work abroad. Things have improved a lot since then, with the Malawian Ministry of Health and other international and local organisations working together to ensure that Malawian health workers get the financial and professional support they so desperately need. But there's still a lot to do. The National Association of People Living with HIV and AIDS in Malawi (NAPHAM) provides health services and education to people living with HIV and AIDS. They are looking for an experienced Nutritionist to provide advice on the diet for people living with HIV and AIDS and to build the capacity of the nutrition section of the organisation.

What does the role involve?

- Training staff in nutrition
- Setting up nutritional and nursing guidelines
- Providing technical support to staff on nutrition and palliative care
- Participating in NAPHAM's advocacy activities on nutrition

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

You'll need a degree in Nutrition/Dietetics and at least 2 years' experience. You should also have some experience in training others and the ability to develop training modules and nutritional guidelines. As with all VSO placements you'll need to be flexible, patient and creative to work effectively with limited resources.

And the rest...

Malawi is a land-locked country whose area is one-fifth covered in water. Magnificent Lake Malawi is Africa's third largest lake with astounding sub-aqua life - it can feel a bit like snorkelling in an aquarium! The dry season is winter, between May and October when it can be quite cold at night. October to December is the hot dry season, when temperatures can rise to over 40° C in some areas. You'll be based in Lilongwe, Malawi's capital. There are two well-stocked supermarkets in town and several market areas with a wide range of fresh foods, clothes, second-hand shoes and household equipment. Tobacco is Malawi's most important cash crop and the tobacco auction floor in Lilongwe gives an interesting insight into the country's economy and trade. Lake Malawi is around 1-2 hours' drive from Lilongwe, so it's a popular option for weekends away.

