

Apply today and you could be...

## A Gender Specialist with The Network of Ethiopian Women's Associations in Addis Ababa

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

Ethiopia is an ancient and conservative society, with many traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and early marriage. Women face lack of access to socially and economically valued resources; disproportionately higher responsibility in the household; unrecognised contributions in social affairs; lack of educational opportunities; increased vulnerability to HIV and AIDS and under-representation in decision-making and policy-planning bodies. The Network of Ethiopian Women's Associations (NEWA) is the first women's network in Ethiopia. Its aim is to promote equal participation and opportunities for women. NEWA undertakes a range of activities in order to achieve this aim, including organising gender forums, advocacy and networking, capacity building training for member organisations, working on women's reproductive health and HIV and AIDS issues, and creating public awareness. As a Gender Specialist volunteer, you'll help develop NEWA's strategic plan. You'll make a tangible contribution to creating a society free from gender disparity.

### What does the role involve?

- Working with staff and member associations to strengthen and implement the organisation's first strategic plan
- Providing technical support for a sustained focus on NEWA's gender programmes and advocacy plans
- Undertaking data gathering and analysis of relevant regional, national and international policies related to gender and women's rights in order to inform NEWA's activities
- Researching gender issues in Ethiopia for use in future advocacy strategies



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

You'll have degree in the Social Sciences and experience of working at policy level (local/national/international). This will include policy writing, implementation and monitoring. You'll need excellent analytical skills, as well as at least two years' experience in a diversity promotion setting. You'll be flexible and patient when things move slowly. Cultural sensitivity, patience and a very good sense of humour are a must for all VSO volunteers!

### And the rest...

Ethiopia is unique! Secluded in its highland vastness, Ethiopia has developed a religion, calendar and language all of its own and is the only African country that was never colonised. You'll be based in the capital Addis Ababa, a thriving city with many fine restaurants, street side cafes, cinemas, theatres, casinos and bars. You'll work in the NEWA office and you'll also have access to resources at VSO Ethiopia's offices. You'll find it easy to travel as Addis offers excellent transport links to other part of the country. The train service of the Addis Ababa/Djibouti Railroad terminates at the Addis Ababa Railway Station. A wide network of roads, most of them all-weather highways, link the city with all the regional centres and most other towns in Ethiopia. Due to its elevation, the climate in Addis is pleasant and healthy. There are two wet seasons, the small rains (*Belg*) in March and April and the big rains (*Meher*) from late June until about September. The staple Ethiopian food is injera, which is a large circular pancake made from a small grain called *teff*, served with stews and vegetables – you'll eat with your fingers and the right hand only is used for eating!