

Apply today and you could be... A Social Worker with People in Need in Keetmanshoop, Namibia

What's the context and purpose of the role?

Sub-Saharan Africa has just over 10% of the world's population, but is home to more than 60% of all people living with HIV and AIDS. People infected with HIV and AIDS in Namibia are suffering discrimination and stigma, are often living in poverty and many are excluded from treatment programmes. VSO is supporting HIV and AIDS focused organisations to expand and improve prevention, care and treatment for all people affected. People In Need is committed to providing assistance to families and individuals affected by HIV and AIDS in the Karas region of Namibia. As a Social Worker you'll work with other social workers in the organisation to provide psychosocial services to the community and establish support groups and networks.

What does the role involve?

- Conducting interviews and providing information and counselling to families affected by HIV and AIDS
- Identifying and evaluating social problems faced by people living with HIV and AIDS in the community
- Assisting in the development of and participating in support groups for people affected by HIV and AIDS
- Writing reports and developing systems for monitoring and evaluation of social work programmes

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

You'll need to be a registered social worker (CQSW, DipSW or equivalent) with at least 5 years' recent post-qualification experience. Additional knowledge of psychosocial sciences and HIV and AIDS related issues would be beneficial. You'll need good communication skills and the ability to work within a diverse team. Flexibility, patience and a good sense of humour are vital qualities for all VSO placements as you'll need to adapt to living in a different culture often work with limited resources.



And the rest...

Namibia is one of the largest and least known countries in Southern Africa, with vast landscapes, the spectacular red dunes of the Namib Desert and game-rich national parks. You'll be based in the Karas region in Southern Namibia, bordering South Africa. 25% of its area is taken up by the Namib Desert and the rest is farmland. Keetmanshoop is the capital town of the region with a population of about 35,000 and a lovely, well-kept park in the centre of town. Good facilities are available such as supermarkets, banks, a good variety of restaurants, an internet café and a post office. Sunshine is abundant like everywhere in Namibia. In the summer day-time temperatures can go above 40 degrees C and winter nights can be very cold, with temperatures below freezing but pleasantly warm days.