

TASKS

This position has a range of responsibilities and key tasks as follows:

Task
<p>General Medical Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide general consultations, and appropriate on going medical and surgical treatment to residents of facilities run by in country hosts • Provide medical consultations and treatment to communities in rural and remote locations identified by Equal Health objectives and medicines and equipment provided • Consult with the assistance of a translator and/or local partner • Record treatment data • Refer to specialised medical services where available and appropriate • Liaise with other health care team members providing medical opinion and advice where necessary and appropriate • Provide own equipment as outlined in pre departure information • Personally burn clinical waste at end of each day • Implement policy, as directed by the Team leader, to encourage community participation in aspects of the treatment process. This includes educating and training locals in appropriate skill sets that are sustainable in the absence of the Equal Health Team
<p>Community Involvement and Socialisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in excursions with residents and staff of partner organisations where planned • Socialise with residents and staff of partner organisations after clinical work where possible • Participate in entertainment skits where such activities are provided • Attend concerts, plays and ceremonies organised by in country hosts • Attend formal dinners, functions and ceremonies planned and attended by in country hosts
<p>Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in identifying general public health issues and solutions • Assist in implementing public health treatment such de lousing and other duties under supervision of medical staff
<p>Team Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend compulsory de briefing sessions at the end of each day • Attend compulsory briefings held at the beginning of each day

Task
<p>Logistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with recording of daily statistics • Assist with sorting and managing of medical stock • Assist in carrying medical bags and equipment on a daily basis • Set up work environment on a daily basis • Conduct final stock take and sorting of equipment • Assist all team members as reasonably directed by team leader
<p>Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete post evaluation questionnaire on the final day of camp • Attend compulsory final medical debriefing • Attend compulsory final team debriefing
<p>Other Duties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other duties as directed by the Team Leader

Hours of Work

Volunteers work approximately 10 – 12 hour days. Due to the challenges of the working conditions, volunteers will have schedule work free days.

Position Accountability

Volunteers have a high degree of autonomy and are required to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and adhere to the Equal Health Code of Ethics. The position reports directly to the team leader.

Key Responsibilities

Volunteers work towards the achievement of Equal Health's mission and objectives through the above range of tasks.

Working conditions

Each medical team consists of a doctor, a nurse and an interpreter. The medical teams provide general medical outreach to rural communities. On some of the days you will be working at one of Equal Health's bases and on other days rising early to leave for remote village locations. Each morning after breakfast the group receives a

briefing, confirming the day's activities. Priority is assigned to completing medical, optical and dental care on all of the residents at the of host organisations.

During village days, past medical teams have discovered some benefit in walking around the village before starting work for the day. This is to survey the types of problems that are likely to present. It also provides an opportunity to institute a triage approach to your work; some of the sickest people in the village can be stifled by the long line of patients who may only be attending your clinic with minor ailments.

Each medical team is equipped with a supply of pharmaceuticals that are dispensed to at no charge. These people ordinarily receive little or no medical care. The rooms you will be working in are often poorly lit, cramped and dusty. In some of the locations you will find the greatest impediment to your work will be crowd control. During a normal working day each medical team is likely to attend to around fifty people. Where possible you will be working with local village doctors and health workers.

In the villages you will be working alongside an optical and dental team. Apart from prescribing spectacles, the optical teams will also be assessing people for cataract surgery. These patients will ultimately be transported by Equal Health to a modern hospital in Chennai where they will receive cataract eye surgery.

Changes that have been initiated by past medical teams towards the wellbeing of the children at the orphanage bases provide some of the most satisfying results. Public health issues are responsible for many of the health problems that these children experience. As well as delivering vaccinations to the children, the medical teams have made physical changes within the structure of the orphanages that are now benefiting their health.