

TASKS

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

Task
<p>Dental Nurse / Assistant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the dentist in providing emergency and on going dental treatment to residents and staff of facilities run by in country hosts • Provide emergency dental treatment to communities in rural and remote locations • Provide treatment as required and appropriate, under supervision and instruction of the dentist • Provide treatment with the assistance of a translator and/or local partner • Adhere to operating systems and protocols as indicated by the Head of the Dental team. This includes such items as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment modalities offered • Infection control protocols – eg use of autoclaves • Treatment priorities • Record treatment data • Provide preventive care such as oral hygiene instruction, tooth brushes and tooth paste where possible • Liaise with other health care team members providing dental opinion and advice where necessary and appropriate • Liaise with in country hosts to schedule treatment for residents of their facilities • Personally dispose and supervise disposal of clinical waste at end of each day • Provide own equipment as outlined in pre departure information • Be responsible for return of instruments and supplies to Australia • 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

Task
Public Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in identifying general public health issues and solutions Assist in implementing public health treatment such as de lousing and other duties under supervision of medical staff
Team Meetings <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
Logistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with recording of daily statistics Assist with sorting and managing of dental stock Assist in carrying dental 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
Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete post evaluation questionnaire on the final day of camp Attend compulsory final dental debriefing Attend compulsory final team debriefing
Other Duties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other duties as directed by the Team Leader

Hours of Work

In India, volunteers work approximately 10 – 12 hour days. Due to the challenges of the working conditions, volunteers will have scheduled work free days. In South Africa volunteers work Monday to Friday and have the weekends free.

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

The aid you provide will deliver dental help and dental hygiene education to underprivileged people in the Indian State of Tamil Nadu. 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 new village locations. Each morning after breakfast the group receives a briefing, confirming the day's activities. In the villages you will be working alongside an optical and medical team.

Priority is assigned to completing medical, optical and dental care on all of the residents at the of host organisations.

Using portable equipment, dental teams are able to provide basic restorative treatment and extractions. Due to the time frame involved and the weight of work, it is not possible to perform complex restorative treatment, endodontics, nor prosthetic work. The way teams have worked in the past is on a needs basis where treatment is provided according to the problem presented; the teams do not attempt to treatment plan other necessary work as the sad fact is there is no way the patient has acces to further work.

Away from the bases the main aid provided is extractions. Temporary restorations as a means of enabling the patient to get to the bases for restorative treatment are sometimes appropriate, however often the realisation is that an extraction remains the only option. It can and will be frustrating in this sense.

In the villages, the rooms you will be working out of 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, a dental team is likely to attend to around thirty people.