

Medicine Volunteer Projects in the Democratic Rep of Congo

Volunteering on a medical placement in the Congo with Menelik Education is an excellent way to learn about and experience a hospital environment in a developing country. Volunteers will gain a great deal of valuable work experience alongside some inspirational doctors in the country.



All Medical volunteers must have completed at least three years of medicine related studies by the time they take part on this placement. However, in some circumstances, if we have a qualified volunteer, we may allow volunteers with lesser experience to take part in these projects. If you have you volunteers with less than three years experience, please let us know as soon as possible, as we may be able to accommodate them too. All placements will be tailored to their level of experience and interests.

Volunteers will work at various medical centres in Kinshasa and some safe rural areas outside of Kinshasa. The exact role within these centres will be determined their level of medical experience as well as the enthusiasm and effort that they demonstrate to the local staff.

They will have the opportunity to learn about many different conditions and treatments including haemodialysis and HIV/Aids. They will shadow doctors in a variety of departments, including general medicine, nursing and the laboratory. Most importantly, they should be prepared to see some shocking cases but if they keep an open mind, they will learn a lot about health conditions in the DRC and help us bring tangible solutions to some of them.



Medical Outreach in the DRC

Our team in the Congo organises medical outreach work for our medical volunteers. This work gives you the opportunity to get directly involved in the local community and usually takes place over a week depending on location. Medical volunteers visit a local community or one of our placements to carry out basic check-ups and medical assessments, or give presentations to raise awareness on topics like contagious diseases and hygiene. Medical outreaches are sometimes combined with a Menelik Education funded 'dirty day', where all volunteers can get involved in a practical day's work like painting a mural or creating a play area at one of our care or teaching placements.

Volunteers will stay at one of Menelik Education accommodation sites for the duration of their time volunteering with us. You will be part of our volunteer community and can spend time exploring Kinshasa and the surrounding areas with other volunteers.

How can volunteer doctors help in the Congo?



They can use their knowledge and training to help local staff as a volunteer doctor. They can work on tasks such as:

- Working with existing staff to treat patients, including:
 - Diagnosing medical conditions and planning/providing appropriate treatment.
 - Observing surgeries where possible.
 - Organising preventative medical programmes for individual patients.
 - Providing advice on medical care and immunisation etc.
- Coordinating medical outreach programmes
- Observing and assessing the work of local trainee doctors.
- Organising and running training clinics for Menelik Education volunteers working with other institutions such as Addenbrookes Abroad.

They will work alongside a team of 4 doctors and 10 nurses. Some staff members may speak English and all are used to working with volunteers. You will be expected to work six to eight hours a day from Monday to Friday.

Most of our projects run all year round. Volunteers decide how much time they can spare and we will help them get the most out of it.

What will I gain from this project?



Volunteers will experience new methods of treating patients. They will also benefit from being able to have discussions with fellow professionals and pass on any information when back in the UK or their home country. Working under pressure with a lack of facilities will help them improve as a doctor.

They will spend a lot of time with local staff and patients. This will teach them about the culture and way of life. They will all want to hear about their life back home and their family and friends. We call this 'cultural exchange' and we think it helps our volunteers gain a new perspective on life.

Professional Volunteering Opportunities in Medical, Congo

What will Projects Abroad PRO provide?

We have over 10 years' experience of running volunteer projects. We provide you with the following support to make sure your time in the Congo is successful and enjoyable:

- Safe accommodation within a Menelik Education community house close to your project.
- Friendly and dedicated local staff available to help 24 hours a day.
- A member of staff to meet you at the airport when you arrive.
- Comprehensive medical and travel insurance.



What skills or qualifications do I need?

You need to be fully qualified as a doctor and have a relevant licence to practice in your country of residence.

Please contact us if you think your knowledge may be useful on this project but do not have the required qualifications.

www.menikeducation.info / www.menelikpartnership.org