



Healthcare Projects

Over the past decade, United Planet has brought together thousands of people all over the world in the effort to build cross-cultural understanding and provide vital services to communities in need.

Many communities around the world face serious health crises, often resulting from poverty and a lack of healthcare services. United Planet helps fill these gaps, and provide vital healthcare services to these communities.

Each year, United Planet places hundreds of medical professionals and students in projects that provide access to healthcare. Projects include: HIV/AIDS awareness, outreach education and home-based care; dental care; patient care in pediatric hospitals and clinics; and psychological treatment for abused women and children. People without medical backgrounds may also be able to volunteer in health-related projects.

Providing Access to Healthcare Worldwide

United Planet offers healthcare volunteer programs in several countries:

Chile

Volunteers work at a rehabilitation center in the capital city of Santiago. The modern facility provides care to children and teenagers with physical disabilities. Volunteers may have the opportunity to organize recreational activities for the patients. Intermediate to advanced Spanish required.

Costa Rica

United Planet volunteers work at the City Hospital in the capital city of San José. Tasks include interacting with bedridden children, playing with the children in the playground area, and assisting in specific activities assigned by the hospital staff in accordance with the volunteer's specific skills.

Ghana

The Putubiw Health Centre is one of the Community-based Health Planning Services (CHPS) that has been introduced by the Ghana Health Service to help with the treatment and diagnosis of common health problems such as malaria, diarrhea and respiratory diseases, while giving prompt and timely access to health services in remote communities. This project is an excellent placement for nurses or nursing students, but other volunteers are welcome as well. Licensed medical practitioners are able to actively participate in the patient care.

Guatemala

Volunteers have the opportunity to work at a health clinic in Guatemala's second largest city, Xela. Medical students may have the opportunity to shadow a local doctor. Nutritionists can help at the local orphanage or women's shelter. Intermediate to advanced Spanish required.

Ecuador

If you are a medical professional, United Planet offers the opportunity to work directly with patients. Volunteers who have a medical background will assist local medical professionals with physical therapy. Volunteers without medical experience may help with patient mobilization, orientation, and administrative work.

United Planet also offers the opportunity to work with mentally disabled adults and children. Duties may include leading artistic activities and providing educational support. Volunteers with a medical background will help therapists directly. Tasks for volunteers without medical experience may include activities for patients or teaching computer skills.

Peru

United Planet works with several clinics in Peru. Volunteers who have a medical background may observe doctors and assist nurses as well as help medical staff by administering first aid. Volunteers without medical experience may help with organizing recreational activities for patients and helping disabled children with everyday hygiene or homework. Intermediate to advanced Spanish required for some projects.



Tanzania

Volunteers work in the children's department of a Cancer Institute. Children come from all over the country; many stay in the ward for the duration of their treatment, which can range from 12 weeks to a year. The children's ward is very busy, and extra hands are always needed. Volunteers with medical experience can assist the medical staff and patients directly; those without medical experience may assist in many other important ways such as administrative tasks, interacting with the patients, and teaching. One month stay minimum.

Who Can Volunteer?

Pre-Medical, Nursing, and Medical Students: Students can gain experience in a medical setting abroad, take Medical Spanish Classes, and interact with patients. Medical volunteers may observe doctors or nurses at local clinics.

Nurses: Volunteer nurses may assist staff with minor procedures such as blood work and giving injections.

Doctors: Volunteer doctors may work directly with patients in coordination with local staff and doctors at a clinic or rural orphanage. Pediatricians are especially welcome to apply.

Dental Students and Dentists: Volunteer dental students can help clean teeth; there may also be an opportunity to observe a dentist.

Non-Healthcare Professionals: There are several opportunities for volunteers who do not have a medical background to work in a clinical setting.

Psychology and Psychiatry Students: Psychologists and psychology students are needed to work at women's shelters, clinics and juvenile detention centers. There are also opportunities for Psychiatrists to work in Peru.

Nutritionists: Nutritionists are needed at a rural clinic and orphanage in Cusco, Peru. In Guatemala, nutritionists may help at a local women's shelter or a small clinic.

Physical and Speech Therapists: Volunteers who do not have experience in the field may assist medical staff at a physical therapy clinic in Ecuador. Professional physical and speech therapists are also needed at a rehabilitation center for mentally disabled children.



How Can You Help?

Volunteer! There are many opportunities for volunteers to make a critical difference in the provision of healthcare worldwide.

When Can You Go?

Short-term Quests are available year-round with two start dates per month. Specific start dates vary by location. Long-term Quests begin in January and August.

Please Join Us for An Adventure of Service and Immersion!

"I am a nurse and worked in a clinic for my entire stay. There is an inpatient part of this clinic which houses about 50 children with mental and/or physical disabilities whose parents couldn't care for them. In this area I helped with the daily care of the children such as bathing, dressing, brushing their teeth, combing their hair, and feeding as well as played with the children.

"In the outpatient part of the clinic I was able to do more nursing tasks such as take blood pressure, pulse, temperature, height and weight to triage the patients and give injections. I also helped with preparing supplies and filling. Overall this was an amazing experience. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone."

—United Planet Peru Medical Volunteer