

Hydroponic and Food Security Mentor

Tanoa International Dateline Hotels , Tonga

Assignment title	Hydroponic and Food Security Mentor		
Partner organisation	Tanoa International Dateline Hotels		
Location	Tonga	Nuku'alofa	
Type of assignment	In-country Assignment		
Duration of assignment	12 months		
Assignment phases	Phase	Mode	Duration
	1	In-Country	12 months
Proposed start date	17 January 2026		
Website	Website link Not Available		
Australian organisation:	No Australian organisation linked to this assignment		

ABOUT THE PARTNER ORGANISATION

Tanoa International Dateline Hotel, based in the heart of Nuku'alofa, has a commitment to community development. Although it's a hotel, it has initiatives like the Village Operational Development Program empowering local youth and fostering career pathways in hospitality. The hotel actively reinvests in it's properties with a focus on environmental protection, guest experience and local partnerships. Tanoa Hotels operates across **Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga**, offering consistent hospitality standards and deep cultural integration across the Pacific.

Inspired by the legacy of founder Mr. YP Reddy, the organization emphasizes education, empowerment, and cultural respect, making it a values-driven workplace.

ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT

The Hotel currently sources produce directly from an on-site garden to its kitchen. They are endeavouring to establish a sustainable, culturally aligned food production system within the Hotel by leveraging hydroponic technology. This would be supported by the mentorship of a volunteer. There is currently no publicly available information on the hotels' food production activity and it would be advantageous to share that information more widely. As Tonga faces challenges with food import dependency the volunteer can support the hotel to grow fresh produce on-site and offer sustainability.

ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVES AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The volunteer will work alongside members of Tanoa International Dateline Hotels to support the below objectives:

Assignment objectives	Proposed activities
In-Country Phase Objective: Support the set up of the Hydroponic System.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the team to design and implement efficient hydroponic systems suited to Tonga’s climate
In-Country Phase Objective: Capacity build staff in sustainable growth and maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify training needs of staff in sustainable growing techniques and maintenance of the system. Support the provision of training to fill the required knowledge gaps.
In-Country Phase Objective: Integrated local produce into operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the team to integrate the fresh, locally grown produce into their kitchen operations.
In-Country Phase Objective: Community awareness of food resilience initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the team to promote community awareness and involvement in food resilience initiatives.
Inclusion objective and proposed activity	
<p>The volunteer will work alongside members of Tanoa International Dateline Hotels to uphold the values of diversity, equity and inclusion. Inclusive approaches will aim to make everyone welcome and support equal access to activities and opportunities regardless of gender, age, disability status or background.</p>	

SELECTION CRITERIA

Education and qualifications

Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate in Agriculture Degree in environmental science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of hydroponic techniques Ability to formulate and adjust nutrient solutions for optimal plant growth

Knowledge and experience

Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydroponic Farming • Plant Science & Nutrient Management experience • Environmental Control & System Optimization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement and education • Involve in food security initiatives

Following the Program’s values on locally led development, this Assignment Description has been developed and negotiated in good faith with the Partner Organisation. The information contained was correct at the time of acceptance of the request. However, while we take responsibility for matters under our direct control, all assignments and arrangements are subject to change. This assignment may be amended or withdrawn to reflect changes in circumstances.

Line Manager: Jason Strickland

Working relationships: All departments

Hours and days of work: In line with office hours, full time role

Leave: All volunteers are entitled to 20 days leave per 12 months, unless advised otherwise. The same conditions and terms as local colleagues apply, including national holidays.

Work from home: Working from home while on an in-country phase must be in line with usual partner organisation's practices and agreed with the in-country office.

<p>Professional indemnity insurance <i>(Required for all volunteers who are acting as a medical, allied health or legal professional whilst on assignment):</i></p>	<p>No, this assignment is not deemed to require professional indemnity insurance</p>
<p>The volunteer should consult the partner organisation about the need for professional indemnity insurance for the role prior to departure. Where required and/or considered essential to hold this insurance, please discuss this with the Volunteer Services Manager in Melbourne prior to departure.</p>	

LIFE AS A VOLUNTEER

The Australian Volunteers Program supports volunteers from preparing to go on assignment through to returning home. For a full breakdown of support provided including assignment allowances, please visit: <https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/lifestyle-and-support/>

Country context

Learn more about the host country's location by reading the country profile. We encourage candidates to research the specific location of this assignment as it will be discussed and addressed with a recruitment officer during the interview process.

For more information, please visit country links: <https://www.australianvolunteers.com/countries/tonga> and <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/tonga>

HOW TO APPLY

All applications must be submitted online through the Australian Volunteers Program website. If you have not already done so, you will need to register on our website prior to applying. For more information about how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/how-it-works>

We actively support and encourage people of all backgrounds and abilities to volunteer internationally and aim to make the program as accessible and inclusive as possible. The program has a dedicated Indigenous Programs Coordinator to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander volunteers, who can be contacted at indigenouspathways@australianvolunteers.com. Access and inclusion plans are available for volunteers with disabilities, to ensure their assignments and living and working arrangements are made more accessible.

Personal circumstances *(This may not apply for Remote-only assignments; consider discussing with AVP team)*

Due to security, cultural, legal or visa restrictions associated with this location, we ask that applicants disclose the following:

- If they want their same-sex partner to accompany them on assignment.
- If they want their partner, to whom they are not legally married, to accompany them on assignment.
- If they want their child(ren) to accompany them on assignment.