

GVNML Volunteer Ms. Isabel Kerney from UK

Hi, I'm Isabel, aged 25 and from UK. I spent 9.5 months volunteering at GVNML Laporiya from March to December 2010, through Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO). As Documentation and Communication Associate it was my job to help GVNML improve their communication materials and increase their visibility within the NGO sector so that they could attract more funders and implement more activities to help lessen the hardship people face in rural Rajasthan.



A big project I worked on was collecting case studies from beneficiaries, where I got to visit local people who GVNML had helped and hear their stories through a translator. It was really inspiring and an honour to visit team in their homes and understand more about their lives and the impact of GVNML's work. I put together the Annual Report, describing all activities over the year and researched all the programme areas, which was really interesting. I also produced a brochure to help GVNML fundraise for more projects, and created an entirely new website with much more information on their work in Rajasthan. As well as having the opportunity to learn all about rural development techniques, I had the huge privilege of being welcomed into Laxman Singh's family home and taken in as a family member. I gained a wonderful insight into Rajput culture and experienced a very different lifestyle to what I was used to in England. It was a simple life, and humbling, but also hugely rich in culture and colour.

Volunteering at GVNML was a life changing experience for me, and I'd recommend it to others. I learnt a great deal about my own abilities and now want focus my career on international development, so I can help the world's poorest people.