

Gareth Owen's tips for a career in international development:

- 1) You can get into humanitarian work from a wide range of different backgrounds.
- 2) The work is not glamorous; it involves dealing with raw emotions and many different types of people.
- 3) Passion and persistence are key; making change happen can be a slow and frustrating process.
- 4) You must have a very strong character and not let things get personal.
- 5) You cannot be a difficult person. You must be humble, energetic and adaptable.
- 6) Gender can play different roles when working in developing countries. In some situations, it is uncomfortable to be a woman, in others it gives you an advantage.
- 7) Seek out volunteering opportunities at home at first, perhaps on projects with an international angle.
- 8) Smaller projects abroad are fantastic for the experiences you can gain and for what they add to your CV.
- 9) Speaking additional languages is a big bonus. French and Arabic are particularly useful.
- 10) It may take several years of working on small things before the opportunity to work on a large or significant project comes up.

