



**Volunteers Engaged in Gender Responsive Technical Solutions (VETS)  
VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION 2020 - 2027**

<b>Job Title</b>	Animal Nutritionist		
<b>Country</b>	Kenya		
<b>Partner Organization</b>	Meru Dairy Co-operative Society		
<b>Placement location</b>	Capital city		Comments: Meru Dairy Cooperative Union is located in Meru in the central highlands of Kenya.
	Mid-sized town	X	
	Rural town/village		
	Various		
<b>Duration (Months)</b>	3 - 12 months		
<b>Start date</b>	As soon as possible		
<b>Pre-departure Training Date/s</b>	VWB/VSF will provide training orientation.		
<b>Eligibility requirements</b>	Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents of Canada		
<b>Language Requirements</b>	<p><u>Essential:</u> English</p> <p><u>Desirable:</u> Swahili Kimeru</p> <p>Please mention if the volunteer will need to work with a local translator for some of their duties:</p> <p>Volunteer will not need to work with local language translator when working with project staff and partners. However, working knowledge of local languages is helpful.</p>		
<b>Academic Qualifications</b>	<p><u>Essential:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University/college degree in Nutrition or Animal Production/Science with specialization related to animal nutrition preferred.</li> </ul>		
<b>Professional Background / Skills</b>	<p><u>Essential:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-depth understanding of the technical (nutritional), institutional, and policy constraints affecting major livestock feeding systems in developing countries</li> <li>Knowledge of and experience in the application of improved animal nutrition</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrated knowledge on how to improve food and dietary diversity at intra-household level</li> <li>• Actively works towards continuing personal learning and development in one or more practice areas</li> <li>• Effective cross-cultural communication skills</li> <li>• Commitment to the principles of volunteer cooperation and familiarity with participatory approaches to development</li> <li>• Promotes a knowledge-sharing and learning culture in the office</li> </ul> <p><u>Desirable:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-3 years of relevant experience in the development of feed resources and improved animal nutrition</li> <li>• Previous international work/volunteer experience in Kenya an asset</li> </ul>
<p><b>Placement goal and objectives (preliminary)</b></p>	<p><b>Overall Goal:</b> The primary purpose of the Nutritionist volunteer position is to support development of strategies for enhancing and better utilizing available/potential feed resources and implementing good feeding and nutritional practices—both for animals and human beings in line with our One Health approach.</p> <p>The role will involve working directly with the community members and Meru Dairy Limited extension staff, together with the local coordinator and Africa Program Manager.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of nutritional interventions and trainings</li> <li>• Maintain awareness of technical and scientific developments in animal nutrition and propose changes in existing feed formulations</li> <li>• Perform research to determine the effectiveness of dietary regimes on different types of animals</li> <li>• Ensure that all formulated diet plans and regimes are designed to maximize growth, reproduction, and health</li> <li>• Assess the nutritional and economic value of feeding systems and provide advice on bettering them</li> <li>• Raise community awareness and consumption of diversified, nutrient dense, fortified and nutritionally adequate foods</li> <li>• Training and capacity building support for Meru Dairy staff and volunteers</li> </ul> <p>All volunteers are expected to promote gender equality, environmental sustainability, and good governance within their placement responsibilities.</p>



### **Volunteer Terms and Conditions**

VWB/VSF covers most of the costs of being an overseas volunteer, including:

- Travel and accommodation for the pre-departure training course in Ottawa
- Return airfare to placement country
- Visa/permit costs
- The cost of required vaccinations, anti-malarial medication, and overseas emergency travel health insurance
- A monthly living allowance (MLA) that will be paid into the volunteer's bank account in Canada. The MLA is designed to be sufficient to cover simple housing, basic food requirements, and other typical monthly living expenses.

### **Fundraising**

VWB/VSF encourages each volunteer to raise funds towards the organization's operations.

### **About Veterinarians Without Borders**

In the global south, more than 90 per cent of food animals are raised by subsistence farmers. However, small-scale livestock producers, the majority of whom are women, have very limited access to quality and affordable animal health services. Aside from the risks associated with the loss of valuable livestock who provide important protein and/or income for low-income households, zoonotic diseases that can be passed from animals to humans offer a very real threat to human health on a wider scale.

Veterinarians Without Borders/Vétérinaires sans frontières (VWB/VSF) works for and with communities in need to foster the health of animals, people, and the environments that sustain us. VWB/VSF works nationally and internationally to train animal health workers, increase food security, and improve animal and public health. VWB/VSF provides overseas volunteer placements for veterinarians and other animal and public health professionals.

### **About the Project: Volunteers Engaged in Gender Responsive Technical Solutions (VETS)**

Livestock production is an important livelihood activity in many rural households in developing countries. It often contributes to multiple economic objectives and is an important source of nutritious food, income and climate resilience (Ilukor, 2017). However, animal diseases continue to be a threat to livestock production in most developing countries. An outbreak of disease can mean the difference between sufficient food and food insecurity; having a secure income and losing key household assets; and even between eating healthy or contaminated food (FAO, 2011). Epidemic diseases, such as peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), have led to the deaths of many animals, while other diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and brucellosis, affect animal growth and milk production (McDermott, Grace & Zinsstag, 2013). In developing countries, more than 90% of food animals are raised by small and subsistence farmers (FAO, 2014). These small-scale livestock producers the majority of whom are women, have very limited access to animal health services and remain extremely vulnerable as they lack the necessary support



to prevent, or cure diseases in their livestock, leading to a loss of their livelihoods and keeping them in the cycle of poverty.

Agriculture is an important engine of growth and poverty reduction. The sector is underperforming in part because women, who are often a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy, face constraints that reduce their productivity (FAO, 2018). Although women comprise about 43 percent of the agricultural labor force globally and in developing countries, 1 in 3 have no control over major household purchases such as livestock, limiting their influence over decision making and financial planning (ILO, 2016).

For fifteen years, Veterinarians Without Borders has been sending Canadian Veterinarians and Vet students to poor communities around the world to help increase the knowledge and skills of small-scale farmers to keep their cows, chickens, goats, pigs, guinea fowl and other livestock healthy, well-fed and housed securely. Volunteers Engaged in gender Responsive Technical Solutions (VETS), a project funded through the Volunteer-Cooperation Program at Global Affairs Canada, will allow VWB/VSF to substantially increase the number of Canadian volunteers it is able to send overseas. Over the next seven years (2020-2027), 190 Canadian volunteers will work with local organizations and community partners in Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Vietnam to help create integrated animal health systems that will increase the livelihoods and household nutrition of small scale farmers.

Veterinarians Without Borders/Vétérinaires sans Frontière is an equal opportunity employer and values the diversity of our team. We are committed to inclusive and equitable employment practices and strive to create a workplace that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion. VWB/VSF Canada welcomes applications from all qualified candidates, including members of racialized groups, Indigenous peoples, women, persons with disabilities, and persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity. Please let us know if you require an accommodation and we will work with you to ensure an equitable hiring process. Thank you for your interest in VWB/VSF Canada.

Apply now by sending your CV and cover letter to [volunteer@vetswithoutborders.ca](mailto:volunteer@vetswithoutborders.ca).