



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

Volunteer Position Title	Animal Nutritionist		
Country	Kenya		
Partner Organization	Meru Dairy Co-operative Union		
Placement location	Capital city		Comments: Meru Dairy Co-operative Union is located in Meru in the central highlands of Kenya.
	Mid-sized town	X	
	Rural town/village		
	Various		
Duration (Months)	6- 12 months (flexible)		
Start date	June – September 2023 (or upon availability)		
Pre-departure Training Date/s	VWB/VSF will provide orientation training		
Eligibility requirements	Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents of Canada Only		
Language Requirements	<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>		
Academic Qualifications	<p><u>Essential:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University/college degree in Nutrition or Animal Production/Science with specialization related to animal nutrition preferred. 		
Professional Background / Skills	<u>Essential:</u>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth understanding of the technical (nutritional), institutional, and policy constraints affecting major livestock feeding systems in developing countries • Knowledge of and experience in the application of improved animal nutrition • Demonstrated knowledge on how to improve food and dietary diversity at intra-household level • Actively works towards continuing personal learning and development in one or more practice areas • Effective cross-cultural communication skills • Commitment to the principles of volunteer cooperation and familiarity with participatory approaches to development • Promotes a knowledge-sharing and learning culture in the office <p><u>Desirable:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-3 years of relevant experience in the development of feed resources and improved animal nutrition • Previous international work / volunteer experience in development sector.
<p>Placement goal and objectives (preliminary)</p>	<p>Overall Goal: 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 being which is in line with our one health approach.</p> <p>The role will involve working directly with the community members and Meru Dairy Cooperative staff, in liaison also with the local coordinator and Africa Program Officer.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of nutritional interventions and trainings. • Maintain awareness of technical and scientific developments in animal nutrition and propose changes in existing feed formulations. • Perform research to determine the effectiveness of dietary regimes on different types of animals • Ensure that all formulated diet plans and regimes are designed to maximize growth, reproduction and health. • Assess the nutritional and economic value of feeding systems and provide advice on bettering them. • Raise community awareness and consumption of diversified, nutrient dense, fortified and nutritionally adequate foods.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and capacity building support for Wakulima staff and volunteers <p>All volunteers are expected to promote gender equality, environmental sustainability and good governance within their placement responsibilities.</p>
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Volunteer Terms and Conditions

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

- 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 yet these 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 poor 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 & public health. VWB/VSF provides overseas volunteer placements for veterinarians and other animal & public health professionals.

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

Volunteers Engaged in Gender Responsive Technical Solutions (VETS), funded through the Volunteer-Cooperation Program at Global Affairs Canada, will engage 190 volunteers to work with local partner organizations in Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Volunteers will help create integrated animal health systems to increase the livelihoods and household nutrition of small-scale farmers.

The VETS program utilizes the skills of volunteers to build local partner capacity to support community members, primarily women, to reduce poverty. Through improved production of livestock and



crops, volunteers help improve family income and nutrition. The VETS program is built around the One Health concept, which recognizes that the health of people, animals, and the natural environment are interconnected. This project promotes the production of more and better food and increased incomes from livestock, all the while promoting land rehabilitation and conservation for sustainable development.

Veterinarians Without Borders/Vétérinaires sans Frontières 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 with "Animal Nutritionist(Meru) – Your Name" in the subject line.