

Volunteers Engaged in Gender Responsive Technical Solutions (VETS)
VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION

Volunteer Position Title	Climate Change Advisor
Country	Lao PDR
Partner Organization	CARE International
Placement Location(s)	Vientiane, Laos
Duration of placement	6 months (flexible)
Planned Start date	April 1 st 2026, onwards
Eligibility requirements	Open to Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents of Canada only.
Language Requirements	☐ English Will the volunteer have the support of a local translator for some of their duties? ☐ Yes
Placement objective and volunteer role and responsibilities	As the Climate Change Advisor based in Vientiane, Lao PDR, you will support CARE Laos to develop and improve their Climate Change Strategy and climate smart strategic plan. You will collaborate with staff to integrate concrete actions and solutions into existing programs to support women's resilience against climate change. As part of your role, you will: • Build capacity of staff members by offering training and mentoring on intersection of gender and climate change • Assist in developing/evaluating/updating the CARE Laos Climate Change strategy and project design supporting women and girls to cope with and adapt to the impacts of climate change, and to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in climate actions • Support with developing the climate smart agriculture manual in the context of CARE Laos and build staff capacity on the manual. • Build the capacity of staff and support in raising awareness and knowledge on the gender-specific impacts of climate change and the benefits of gender-responsive climate solutions, among various stakeholders, such as communities, policy makers, media, donors, and other partners • Enhance the participation and leadership of women and girls in climate decision-making and implementation at all levels, by providing capacity building, mentoring, networking, and advocacy opportunities • Support the development and implementation of CARE Laos Climate Change and Environment policies, action plans by providing technical assistance, data collection, monitoring and evaluation, and feedback mechanisms. • Support in the integration of solutions and actions in existing programs which strengthen the capacity and resilience of women and girls to cope with and adapt to climate change, by providing access to information, resources, technologies, and services, such as early warning systems, climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, water and sanitation, health and education.

	• Contribute, support and collaborate with relevant teams on policy campaign and advocacy on climate change • Ensure an environmental and sustainability climate action lens is applied throughout the placement by integrating climate friendly solutions and activities where applicable during the placement. • Promote human rights by promoting inclusive activities and ensuring the rights of marginalized individuals are protected where applicable during the placement. • Participate in pre-assignment training • Submit reports as required by the partner organization and by VWB
Professional experience and skills	• Degree and/or relevant experience in climate and environment sustainability for agriculture, agroforestry international development, women's studies or a related field • Minimum two (2) years relevant professional experience in your field of expertise • A commitment to gender equality, One Health principles, and international volunteering • Flexibility, adaptability, excellent interpersonal skills and cultural sensitivity • Experience with group facilitation and trainings, including content development considered an asset • Experience living and working internationally considered an asset
Working conditions	• Travel to remote communities by flight/ train or car • Travel in remote areas may be on gravel/bumpy roads • Virtual meetings and meetings in the office at Vientiane

Support Package

VWB offers you an incredible experience to take part in an international volunteer experience where you will expand your personal and professional skills while contributing to global development. VWB commits to supporting you throughout your volunteer journey and will cover the majority of the costs involved in being an overseas volunteer, including:

- Pre-departure training
- In-country orientation upon arrival in country of placement
- Return airfare to placement country
- Visa/permit costs
- The cost of required for vaccinations and anti-malarial medication
- 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.
- Debrief after the placement

Fundraising

VWB 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) works for, and with, communities in need to foster the health of animals, people and the environments that sustain us. VWB works nationally and internationally to train animal health workers, increase food security, and improve animal & public health. VWB 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) is a seven-year (2020 to 2027) Volunteer Cooperation Program funded by Global Affairs Canada. VETS will engage 190 volunteers who will support 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.