

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

<b>Volunteer Position Title</b>	Animal Health Advisor (Emerging Leaders Program)
<b>Country</b>	Kenya
<b>Partner Organization</b>	Meru Dairy Co-operative Union
<b>Placement Location(s)</b>	Meru town with travel within Meru County
<b>Duration of placement</b>	3 months (early May – Early August, 2026)
<b>Planned Start date</b>	May 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 (with pre-departure orientation the week of May 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2026)
<b>Eligibility requirements</b>	Open to Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents of Canada only.
<b>Language Requirements</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> English  Volunteers will have the support of a local translator for some of their duties
<b>Placement objective and volunteer role, and responsibilities</b>	<p>As an Animal Health Volunteer Advisor based in Kenya, you will support Meru Dairy Cooperative Union to improve the social economic well-being of the farmers especially women and girls both in one health approach</p> <p>As part of your role, you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build the capacity of farmers, particularly on improving milk quality to reduce rejections, managing and preventing mastitis and proper calf rearing practices.</li> <li>• Promote gender equality by building the capacity of COHCs (Community One Health Champions) as community lead farmers</li> <li>• Ensure an environmental and sustainability climate action lens is applied throughout the placement by training staff to integrate climate-smart agricultural practices in dairy farming.</li> <li>• Promote good governance and human rights practices by capacity building partners by linking animal health to human rights</li> </ul> <p><b>Applicable to all volunteer placements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in pre-assignment training</li> <li>• Submit reports as required by the partner organization and by VWB</li> </ul>
<b>Professional experience and skills</b>	<p>Required skills and experience for the placement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently enrolled in Veterinary School or a recent graduate from a DVM program, within the last 5 years</li> <li>• Bachelor's degree and background in animal health, animal nutrition, veterinary sciences, etc.</li> <li>• Strong experience managing dairy herds and dairy cow health</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-depth understanding of the technical, institutional, and policy constraints affecting major livestock feeding systems in developing countries</li> <li>• Knowledge of and experience in the application of improved animal management.</li> <li>• Promotes a knowledge-sharing and learning culture in the office</li> <li>• A commitment to gender equality, One Health principles, and international volunteering</li> <li>• Flexibility, adaptability, excellent interpersonal skills and cultural sensitivity</li> <li>• Experience with group facilitation and training, including content development considered an asset</li> <li>• Experience living and working internationally is considered an asset</li> </ul>
<b>Working conditions</b>	<p>Physical requirements for the placement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physically fit to access the office by stairs. No lifts available.</li> <li>• Travelling on gravel roads to access farms.</li> <li>• Light lifting of training materials like mastrite and flip charts.</li> </ul>

<b>Support Package</b>
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-departure training</li> <li>• In-country orientation upon arrival in the country of placement</li> <li>• Return airfare to placement country</li> <li>• Visa/permit costs</li> <li>• The cost of the required vaccinations and anti-malarial medication</li> <li>• Overseas emergency travel health insurance</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Debrief after the placement</li> </ul>
<b>Fundraising</b>
VWB encourages each volunteer to raise funds towards the organization's operations.
<b>About Veterinarians Without Borders</b>
<p>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 that 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.</p>

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 2028) Volunteer Cooperation Program funded by Global Affairs Canada. VETS will engage 190 volunteers who will support local partner organizations in Ghana, Kenya, Lao PDR and Cambodia. 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 is 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.