

**Community One Health Empowerment in Rwanda and Senegal (COHERS)
VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION**

Volunteer Position Title	Policy Engagement Volunteer
Country	Rwanda
Partner Organization	University of Global Health Equity (UGHE)
Placement Location(s)	<i>Primarily located in Kigali with travel to Nyamagabe District.</i>
Duration of placement	1.5 months
Planned Start date	January 2027
Eligibility requirements	Open to Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents of Canada only.
Language Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> English Will the volunteer have the support of a local translator for some of their duties? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Placement objective and volunteer role and responsibilities	<p>As the Policy Engagement Advisor based in Rwanda, you will provide technical support to UGHE and the COHERS project by developing policy briefs aimed at informing decision-makers, donors and stakeholders on key public health and One Health issues.</p> <p>As part of your role, you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with COHERS Rwanda team members to understand primary research results and project successes/challenges. • Lead formal capacity-building sessions and provide informal mentoring to UGHE faculty and staff on policy brief writing and knowledge translation. • Advise the development of key messaging and communication products derived from the policy briefs. • Lead the drafting, editing, and finalization of policy briefs (expected 2–4 briefs depending on scope). <p>Applicable to all volunteer placements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in pre-assignment training • Submit reports as required by the partner organization and by VWB
Professional experience and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree and/or relevant experience in public health, global health, public policy, political science, international development, or related field. • Demonstrated experience in writing policy briefs and evidence-informed policy documents.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong analytical and writing skills, with the ability to make complex information accessible to policymakers. • Ability to work independently and collaborate remotely or in person with diverse teams. • Familiarity with One Health, development, health systems strengthening, and/or socio-economic policy in the sub-Saharan Africa context. • Fluency in Kinyarwanda (an advantage but not required). <p>Applicable to all volunteer placements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional travel on bumpy gravel roads

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: Community One Health Empowerment in Rwanda and Senegal (COHERS)

The Community One Health Empowerment in Rwanda and Senegal (COHERS) project is a five-year initiative funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and led by Veterinarians Without Borders Canada (VWB). COHERS brings together a consortium of national and international partners, including the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE), WaterAid Canada, Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF), the University of Guelph, and the Institute of Health Economics. The project aims to reduce the burden of zoonotic diseases in rural areas of Rwanda and Senegal by operationalizing a community-based One Health model that is gender-transformative, sustainable, and cost-effective.