

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

Volunteer Position Title	Social Enterprise Advisor
Country	Laos
Partner Organization	Health Poverty Action (HPA)
Placement Location(s)	Vientiane + occasional travel to the communities
Duration of placement	3-6 months
Planned Start date	April 1, 2026 (flexible)
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 Social Enterprise Advisor based in Vientiane, Laos, you will support Health Poverty Action (HPA) to identify and develop income-generating opportunities that strengthen the organization's financial sustainability while staying aligned with its mission and community impact. As part of your role, you will: • Conduct an assessment of potential social enterprise opportunities based on HPA's strengths, community needs, and local market conditions. • Support in the development of guidelines, standard operating procedures, and business models, including cost structures, pricing strategies, and financial projections. • Build the capacity of staff in business planning, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy through mentoring, tools, and workshops. • Support the integration of social enterprise initiatives into HPA's long-term strategic planning. • Provide guidance and capacity building on establishing governance, accountability, and monitoring systems to ensure enterprises balance social impact with financial return. • Explore and advise on potential partnerships, supply chains, and investors to support enterprise development. • Promote gender equality by ensuring that women and marginalized groups are considered in enterprise design • Ensure that environmental sustainability and climate action are considered within enterprise planning (e.g., sustainable sourcing, reducing carbon footprint). • Promote good governance and human rights practices by embedding equity and inclusivity in enterprise strategies. • 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 Business Administration, Entrepreneurship, Finance, or a related field. • Demonstrated experience in business development, business planning, or social enterprise development with NGOs – specific experience working with NGOs is desired • Knowledge of financial management, market analysis, and sustainability planning. • Experience with capacity building, training, and mentoring teams in enterprise development. • Familiarity with gender equality and social inclusion approaches within economic development. • Minimum five (5) years of 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 living and working internationally considered an asset.
Working conditions	• Stairs in the office • Community roads in poor conditions • Rainy season – possible flooding and slippery 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: 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 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.