



Young Volunteer Program (YVP)

Volunteers Engaged in Gender-Responsive Technical Solutions (VETS)

Program Goal:

The overall goal of the Young Volunteer Program (YVP) is to improve food security and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in the global south. The program also aims to provide students with opportunities to learn and grow in a cross-cultural setting while contributing to the mission of VWB/VSF.

YVP Objectives:

- Strengthen skills, knowledge, and organizational capacity of partners and in-country projects
- Provide students and staff with cross-cultural/learning opportunities

What is the YVP?

As part of the VETS (Volunteers Engaged in Gender-Responsive Technical Solutions) program, the Young Volunteer Program provides university students and recent graduates with strongly supported international volunteer placements. These placements contribute toward the VETS program objectives and offer additional support to volunteers through ongoing technical training and guidance from experienced supervisors.

When does the YVP happen?

In-country placements of **8 to 12 weeks** to be completed from **May - August 2023**.

Where are YVP placements?

VWB/VSF will be recruiting for placements to support our VETS program activities and partners in **Cambodia, Ghana, Kenya, Laos, Senegal and Vietnam**. We are expecting volunteers to complete placements in-country following Canada's public health guidelines and the in-country COVID-19 guidelines and requirements.

Who is involved in the YVP?

VWB/VSF recruits participants who are currently studying or recently graduated with specialties identified by our partner organizations and demonstrated in posted placement descriptions. In most cases, this includes students from veterinarian programs but can also include other disciplines that support project implementation and evaluation activities (including monitoring and evaluation, gender, communications, and more).



VWB/VSF aims to recruit a minimum of two volunteers per partner so that peer volunteers can support one another throughout their placements.

VWB/VSF Partners work together with VWB/VSF to implement projects and improve human, animal, and environmental health in local contexts. As the host organization, Partners take the lead on identifying positions and selecting participants, and help to ensure the overall effectiveness of the placement and program.

In-country National Coordinators provide pre-departure and on-the-ground support related to in-country logistics, partner relations, and the overall experience for the volunteer.

In-country YVP Supervisors work with volunteers to achieve placement-specific deliverables and support integration into the host organization and community. They are the go-to person for the volunteer at the host organization for issues related to the specifics of the placement.

YVP Technical Supervisors provide technical support to help the volunteer contribute meaningfully to the objectives of the VETS program and the partner organization. They also support pre-departure training, veterinary knowledge/skills development, and travel with the volunteer for the first two (2) weeks. The technical supervisor is also available for remote support to answer questions throughout the placement.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for the YVP, applicants must be:

- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- Fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (must provide COVID-19 vaccination certification)
- 18 - 30 years of age
- Studying and/or recent university graduate (within the last 5 years)
- Specializing in any of the following: Animal health, nutrition, dairy management, food safety, health risk assessment, horticulture, monitoring and evaluation, disease management, veterinary medicine, gender equality, communication, and more (this list will be updated based on identified partner needs)

What is required of host organizations?

Hosting a YVP participant is one way for an organization to strengthen capacity and gain additional support for program activities. However, host organizations must also be prepared to support volunteers through in-country supervision and growth and development opportunities.

Host organizations must provide:

- Adequate office space for volunteer



- Internet capabilities that can support video calling
- Dedicated in-country supervisor/counterpart that will support the volunteer daily (3 - 4 hours per week)
- Clear placement description with tangible deliverables
- Translation (as needed) if supporting non-English or French staff/beneficiaries
- In-country orientation with a strong focus on cultural working environment and expectations
- Feedback to VWB/VSF Canada about the successes and/or challenges of the program
- Project expenses, including in-country travel, related to program delivery

How does VWB/VSF support YVP Participants?

- Pre-departure orientation to the assignment, living overseas, cultural adjustment
- Canadian supervisor to check in weekly and guide YVP participant on technical training
- Technical resources/veterinary training pre-departure
- Diverse learning resources for volunteers
- Volunteer conflict resolution support
- Anonymous incident reporting: www.vwbincidents.ca
- Volunteer Management Training for partner organizations

What travel expenses does VWB/VSF cover?

VWB/VSF will cover the cost of:

- Travel and accommodation for the mandatory pre-departure training course in Ottawa
- Return airfare (round trip) to placement country and visa/permit costs
- The cost of required vaccinations, anti-malarial medication and overseas emergency travel health insurance
- A monthly living allowance (MLA) designed to cover basic housing, food, and other typical monthly living expenses