



Call for Ethiopian-Canadian health professionals with clinical and/or academic expertise to volunteer at medical faculties in Ethiopia for 3-6 weeks in spring/early summer 2009

The Association for Higher Education and Development (AHEAD), CUSO-VSO and VSO Ethiopia are seeking **health professionals from the Ethiopian diaspora in Canada to participate in a pilot short-term volunteering project at two locations in Ethiopia.**

AHEAD is an Ethiopian-Canadian not-for-profit organization that has partnered with CUSO-VSO and VSO Ethiopia to explore the effectiveness of short-term diaspora volunteer assignments to build the capacity of Ethiopian institutions. The International VSO Federation – and its North American member, CUSO-VSO – form the world’s largest international development organization that works through volunteers. VSO Ethiopia is the largest country programme worldwide with over 100 volunteers working in various areas. This project fits into VSO Ethiopia’s plans to expand its operations in the area of health.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

During this pilot, we are seeking to fill four short-term placements – two each at the University of Gondar and Jimma University. The four assignments will be selected from the following areas of highest need that have been identified by the universities:

At the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Gondar:

- **Occupational Therapist**
- **Optometrist (Lecturer)**
- **Physiotherapist (Academic/Lecturer)**
- **Physiotherapist (Clinical)**
- **Speech Therapist**

At the Faculty of Medical Science, Jimma University:

- **Cardiologist**
- **Gastroenterologist**

- **General Surgeon**
- **Gynaecologic Oncologist**
- **Infectious diseases specialist**
- **Paediatric Ophthalmologist**

Unless otherwise noted, volunteers' main responsibilities will generally include service delivery and/or student and staff capacity-building. While the actual workplan will be determined based on the needs of each placement, volunteers may be called upon to provide clinical service to patients, give lectures to medical students, run staff development sessions on selected specialist topics and promote team building with the different medical disciplines. As the goal of these short-term placements is to promote capacity building, candidates with a commitment to sharing their skills with others are highly valued.

Please note that although the above areas have been identified as a priority, we welcome interest from healthcare professionals in other fields as well.

PLACEMENT TIME PERIOD

Potential candidates should be available to spend 3-6 weeks working in Ethiopia between April and July 2009.

Candidates must also be available for a few hours per week during the 1-2 months before their assignment in Ethiopia to work jointly with the host organization to define the activities to be undertaken and prepare a workplan. A similar period after their return to Canada will be used for follow-up on placement activities. Ideally, successful volunteers would form an ongoing professional relationship with colleagues and organizations in Ethiopia that would continue after the placement.

VOLUNTEER BENEFITS

Participants in this project will have all placement-related costs covered, including:

- pre-assignment orientation and training
- travel and accommodation
- in-country living allowance
- vaccinations, medications and health insurance

Volunteers will be provided ongoing support and logistical assistance throughout their period of engagement, including full support from VSO Ethiopia's programme and administration teams during their stay in Ethiopia.

Detailed terms and conditions will be made available in due course.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY

Interested applicants should send a letter expressing their interest and a copy of their CV to Bathseba Belai at bathseba@aheadonline.org no later than 19 January 2009. For further information please contact Bathseba at the above email address or at 613-829-7445 ext. 433.

More information on the participating partners may be found at:

- AHEAD www.aheadonline.org
- CUSO-VSO www.cuso-vso.org
- VSO Ethiopia <http://www.vso.org.uk/about/cprofiles/ethiopia.asp>