



CHANGING THE WORLD,

• • • • • ONE **VOLUNTEER** AT A TIME



CUSO-VSO...a member of the VSO Federation

[CUSO-VSO.org](http://CUSO-VSO.org)





CUSO and VSO Canada have merged to form CUSO-VSO, one of North America's largest international development organizations that works through volunteers.

The two agencies have joined forces to more effectively work towards our vision of a world without poverty and injustice.

Since 1961, CUSO and VSO Canada have sent over 12,000 volunteers to support solutions to complex development challenges.

We want to change the world, one volunteer at a time. But together, we can send more volunteers to work in solidarity with more partner groups in more countries.

CUSO-VSO gratefully acknowledges the financial support of our donors, partners and the government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).



# CUSO-VSO...Global Reach, Grassroots Impact

CUSO-VSO is the North American member of the VSO Federation.

The Federation is a worldwide partnership of Voluntary Service Organizations (VSOs) based in the U.K., the Netherlands, Kenya and the Philippines, as well as Canada.

Together, these VSO entities make up the world's largest non-governmental, international development organization that works through volunteers. Collectively, the members of the VSO Federation have placed over 43,000 volunteers since 1958.

With CUSO joining the VSO international family, the federation now works in 44 countries. The VSO Federation recruits from North America and around the world.

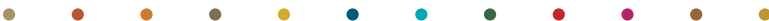


Where we work

With more placements in more countries, we can offer new opportunities for volunteers to contribute to community and human development, to broaden their worldviews, and to deepen cultural connections within the global community.

CUSO-VSO has an independent Board of Directors, and sits on the VSO Federation Board as the second-largest member. This international alliance means that the 'best practices' of one country can be shared in others.

To learn how our best development ideas will travel across borders, please visit [www.cuso-vso.org](http://www.cuso-vso.org)





# CUSO-VSO...A World of Solutions

CUSO-VSO works on long-term, sustainable solutions. We are not an emergency aid agency.

In spite of the obstacles facing them, organizations in every corner of the developing world are building better futures through community economic development, education, democratic governance, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Our international volunteers are working shoulder-to-shoulder with dedicated citizens to make this grassroots, positive change happen.

Lasting transformation requires not just a financial investment, but also a human investment. Our volunteers help build 'social infrastructure' by passing on their expertise and experience to those who need it most. Medicine and hospital equipment are of little use when there is a shortage of trained doctors and nurses. School books and school buildings are wasted without trained teachers.

CUSO-VSO volunteers work collaboratively with local people to equip them with the skills they need to exercise their basic human rights. These include the right to a livelihood, an education, accessible healthcare, a safe environment, a say in the future, and equal access to opportunity.

To find out how our projects are rooted in the knowledge our partners have of the unique development challenges facing their communities, please visit [www.cuso-vso.org](http://www.cuso-vso.org)





# CUSO-VSO supports solutions in seven focus areas:

## 1. Education

- Strengthening teaching through teacher training
- Providing basic education, particularly for girls
- Improving the quality of secondary education, particularly in math, science, and English as a Foreign Language
- Developing informal education and vocational training

## 2. HIV and AIDS

- Prevention, education and awareness
- Providing care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS
- Supporting orphans and vulnerable groups

## 3. Disability

- Promoting independence for people with disabilities and their families through child development, education, living skills, mobility assistance and employment training
- Increasing opportunities for people with disabilities to participate fully in society by strengthening the capacity of social service organizations

## 4. Health and Social Well-being

- Delivering health and social services, particularly in community settings
- Addressing causes of ill health, including sanitation and water supply
- Promoting health and health education

## 5. Secure Livelihoods

- Building the capacity of organizations through management training, fundraising and networking support
- Supporting enterprise development where it provides livelihood opportunities for women, youth and disadvantaged people
- Youth economic and social inclusion

## 6. Participation and Governance

- Promoting good governance
- Strengthening and supporting civil society organizations
- Peace-building
- Supporting judicial reform and access to justice for vulnerable populations

## 7. Environment and Natural Resource Management

- Promoting resource conservation
- Supporting sustainable forestry, agriculture and water resource management
- Eco-tourism
- Responding to the challenges of climate change



# CUSO-VSO...One World, Many Volunteers

CUSO-VSO volunteers come from many professional backgrounds, and sign up for short- and long-term placements.

Around one-quarter of the VSO Federation's volunteers are recruited from the developing world. This practice promotes active citizenship, enabling people to contribute to the development of their own countries. It also aids in the sharing of knowledge and expertise across borders.

CUSO-VSO volunteers are matched with placements that meet the direct requests of our overseas partners. They work on nationally and locally-designed and managed programs, so the benefits of their efforts continue to be felt by local people long after the volunteers have passed on their skills and returned home. Capacity-building and long-term sustainability are key elements of our work.

CUSO-VSO believes the act of volunteering overseas is transformative for both the overseas communities and the volunteers themselves. Our volunteers come home with expanded horizons. They contribute to the development of an informed, global perspective in North America.

CUSO-VSO places volunteers from many fields of expertise, including:

- Education
- Health
- Community economic development
- Business development
- HIV/AIDS prevention and support
- Natural resource management
- Human rights
- Democratic governance
- Technology

To find out how you can volunteer overseas or in North America and help build better futures for all, please visit [www.cuso-vso.org](http://www.cuso-vso.org)





## To achieve its goals, CUSO-VSO reaches for many tools in its development toolbox:

- **Long-term volunteering** – professional placements for up to two years
- **Short-term specialist assignments** – positions of six months and under for highly experienced professionals who provide support at senior levels
- **Youth volunteering** – an opportunity for young people to gain overseas development experience
- **National volunteering** – support for local and in-country volunteering, helping people contribute to the development of their own communities
- **Diaspora volunteering** – support for people interested in using their skills in their countries of heritage
- **‘Links’ (Learning through International Networking and Knowledge Sharing)** – a program that gives partner groups the chance to go to another country to learn and share best practices
- **Volunteer partnership fund** – volunteers can apply for small grants to support their placements and their partners
- **Public engagement** – using the knowledge gained at the grassroots of international development to raise awareness of global issues at home



# CUSO-VSO...Donate for Change

CUSO-VSO sends volunteers around the world because international volunteering works. With your support, we can achieve long-lasting positive impact.

By supporting the volunteers of CUSO-VSO, you are a global citizen, contributing to a collective effort to create a sustainable future. Your spirit and solidarity travels with each volunteer we place.

With your support, we can achieve long-lasting positive impact, and come that much closer to our dream – and your dream – of a world without poverty.

There are many ways to give to CUSO-VSO and support the volunteers working alongside their counterparts in the field.

You can offer a one-time gift online, or donate by telephone, fax, or mail.

CUSO-VSO would be grateful if you considered becoming a Sustaining Donor through monthly giving. This way, you ensure the greatest possible impact from your donation. Because we only contact sustaining donors once or twice a year, you'll receive less mail – and we save on printing and mailing costs, so more of your donation is put to work on overseas projects.

But regardless of how you give, you have our promise that your donation will support solutions on the frontlines of international development.

To learn how we will use your donation to achieve maximum impact at the grassroots of change, please visit [www.cuso-vso.org](http://www.cuso-vso.org)



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