

WUSC Leave for Change Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply?

Each Leave for Change partner has their own application process. Speak to your employer to find out more and to receive an application form.

Once you have obtained your application form and are familiar with the application process, we invite you to apply. Please ensure to state your main areas of interest and skill set in the application form, as well as your top three countries.

How long is a Leave for Change volunteer assignment? When do they take place?

Leave for Change assignments are designed to fit in with your busy professional and personal schedule. Assignments are short-term, usually three to four weeks with flexible, year round departures. Although we endeavor to accommodate your preferred choice of country and departure date please note that our top priority is to match your skills, experience and interests to the needs of one of our local country partners.

In which countries do Leave for Change assignments take place?

Leave for Change assignments currently take place in Sri Lanka, Ghana, Jordan, Malawi, and Cote d'Ivoire. The qualifications, skills and experience required vary greatly depending on the needs of our local partners. Please note that country preferences are taken into consideration but not guaranteed. The first priority is to match your skills and interests to the needs of one of our local country partners.

What do WUSC Leave for Change volunteers do?

The WUSC volunteer cooperation program is all about strengthening the capacities of our local partner organizations. Acting as advisors, volunteers share their knowledge and skills from their area of expertise with our partner organizations. By working together, they strengthen the host organization's capacities in a specific field. By sharing their experiences and time, volunteers gain a host of new skills such as increased intercultural communication skills, better knowledge and understanding of global development and become more open-minded, adaptable and innovative.

What will I gain from taking part in Leave for Change?

You will gain a wider understanding of global development issues, gain valuable intercultural experiences, expand your skill set and meet interesting people along the way. See what [past Leave for Change volunteers](#) have said about their experience and the skills they have gained.

What skills and experience are required to volunteer?

Volunteers must have the required professional qualifications for their assignment. As the assignments are very short in nature, we also seek volunteers who are very adaptable and able to quickly immerse themselves into their new work environment.

Can spouses/significant others participate?

No, due to the short term nature of the assignment and funder's requirements, accompanied assignments are not possible for assignments under 12 months duration.

What type of accommodation is provided?

Accommodation will be consistent with local standards; they will be safe, clean and meet WUSC's accommodation criteria.

Can I make stopovers to and/or from the country I will be volunteering in? Can I extend my stay?

No. The Government of Canada, the funder of the WUSC IGNI+E volunteer cooperation program (including Leave for Change), specifies that the lowest possible fare and most direct route are required for volunteer travel.

Do I need to contribute financially?

Unless stipulated otherwise by your employer, you do not have to contribute financially. Pre-departure training, vaccinations, visas, flights, accommodation, a modest per-diem for food and local travel required for the volunteer work are all provided.

WUSC's volunteer cooperation program would not be possible without the financial support of the Government of Canada and our Canadian Leave for Change partners.

What is the support package?

- Support and guidance from the WUSC Volunteer Mobilization Team prior to departure and from WUSC Country Team while on assignment
- Pre-departure training to learn about the volunteering for development program, gain practical skills for living and working in an intercultural context and network with other volunteers
- Travel, meals and accommodation during in-person pre-departure training
- In-country orientation upon arrival in country of assignment
- Modest living allowance
- Accommodation provided by WUSC
- Airfare to and from the assignment country
- Visa/work permit
- Pre-departure medical exam
- Health insurance
- Vaccinations and antimalarial medication
- Criminal record verification
- Debriefing after completion of assignment
- An incredible opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to global development, enhance your professional skills and participate in an experience of a lifetime!

In case of an accident or disease while I'm abroad, am I insured?

Yes, you are insured under WUSC's emergency medical insurance policy from the date you travel until the date you return to Canada. The WUSC insurance policy includes hospitalization fees and medical evacuation as required, reimbursement of eligible medication and vaccinations.

Is there an evacuation policy in case of serious problems in the host country?

Yes. We have a WUSC office in each of the countries where volunteer assignments take place. There is an emergency protocol established in each country. Our staff in the host country is responsible for assisting volunteers in case of serious social, medical or environmental problems in the host country.