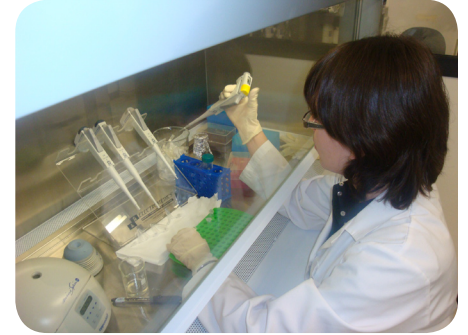


Ecuador

Wildlife Health

For the past year, VWB/VSF has supported the development of a wildlife disease prevention program in Ecuador that focuses primarily on wild birds. Partnering with Ecuadorian biologists, pathologists and virologists, the VWB/VSF team is building a framework for monitoring and preventing the emergence of infectious diseases like avian influenza.



Backyard chicken flocks are a key source of food, trade, and income for many Ecuadorian families, particularly for those living in rural communities. Most of these backyard chickens are kept in open areas without fencing, which increases the likelihood of them coming into contact with other bird species and transmitting avian influenza.

An outbreak of avian influenza in backyard chickens would result in substantial livestock losses and have devastating economic and health-related consequences for those whose livelihoods depend on them.

This wildlife disease prevention program in Ecuador is a long term project focused on sustainable capacity building. An important component of this comprehensive program is a series of training workshops that will be held both in Ecuador and in Canada, including a workshop on avian influenza diagnostics at the National Centre for Foreign Animal Diseases at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (NCFAD-CFIA). The goal of these workshops, and the program as a whole, is to train local Ecuadorian animal and human health professionals so that they are better equipped to monitor and prevent the emergence of infectious diseases.

About VWB/VSF

Founded in Guelph, Ontario four years ago, Veterinarians without Borders / Vétérinaires sans Frontières - Canada's (VWB/VSF) mission is to work for, and with, those in need to foster the health of animals, people, and the environments that sustain us. We are committed to engaging people where they live and working with them to build on their existing strengths to adapt and prosper in the rapidly changing world. From developing a canine population control program in Guatemala, to improving goat production for women and children in HIV/AIDS – affected households in Uganda, to assisting in the development of veterinary curricula in Senegal, VWB/VSF is continually working to help communities develop locally-defined strategies to promote and maintain public and animal health.



www.vwb-vsfc.ca

VETERINARIANS
WITHOUT BORDERS

VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES

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