

Canadian Crossroads International (CCI)

WHAT IS IT?

CCI is a non-profit educational organization that gives Canadians the opportunity to live and work within a local family or community in a developing country, and to assist in setting up self-help development projects. Canada has participated since 1958.

THE CCI'S OBJECTIVES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- to promote sustainable development and cross-cultural understanding;
- to educate Canadian volunteers by providing opportunities to live and work in a developing country, and to educate volunteers from developing countries by providing opportunities to live and work in Canada;
- to develop leadership skills in program participants and volunteer leaders in Canada and the developing world; and
- to promote understanding of the root causes of inequitable development, and to encourage personal involvement in the issues.

CANADIAN CROSSROADS

INTERNATIONAL OFFERS TWO MAIN OVERSEAS PROGRAMS:

Overseas Group Program: Canadian volunteers live and work with local families and groups on self-help development projects in a number of Francophone countries including Mali, Togo, Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Senegal. Volunteers, in teams of five or

six, work for two months on different projects such as construction of clinics, tree planting and farm labour.

Overseas Individual Program: Volunteers participate in short-term programs in about 20 developing countries in Asia, Africa, Central and South America, the South Pacific, and the Caribbean.

CCI programs are administered almost entirely by volunteers. Throughout Canada there are 70 local volunteer committees that actively recruit and select candidates for overseas placement.

CCI includes a Francophone group, based in Montréal, which sets up exchanges between Québec and West Africa.

The national office in Toronto has a small professional staff that co-ordinates communications and provides support services to the various committees.

HOW LONG IS IT?

Volunteers usually spend four to six months in the host country.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

TO BE ELIGIBLE, YOU MUST:

- be at least 19 years of age;
- be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant; and
- be able to adjust to a different environment, and to live and work as part of a group (for the group program) or independently (for the individual program).