



Funded by the
European Union

[European Solidarity Corps Humanitarian Aid Initiative](#),
Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC)



Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities to the effects of climate change impact and environmental shocks through the deployment of European Solidarity Corps volunteers fostering the innovation in Humanitarian context.

ESC Aid Volunteer in Communication and Grant, MAURITANIA

1 position

Deployment dates: November 1st, 2024 - October 31st, 2025

The European Solidarity Corps in Humanitarian Aid is an EU funding program for young people wishing to support, as volunteers, humanitarian aid operations in third countries outside of the EU that have faced humanitarian disasters or need to increase their preparedness to possible disasters in the future.

Volunteers will support humanitarian aid operations while learning new skills, improving, and properly validating their competences.

The program is open to 18-35 years old individuals, EU citizens or legally residing in an EU Member State or in a third country associated to the Program (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Turkey, and Republic of North Macedonia), who have registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal.

Action Against Hunger

Action Against Hunger is an international non-governmental private organization that is politically and religiously neutral and non-profit. Established in 1979 in France to implement interventions worldwide, its vocation is to fight against hunger, physical suffering and situations of distress that threaten the lives.

In line with its Inclusion and Diversity Strategy, the program aims at including young people with fewer opportunities.

HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania is a lower middle-income country in the Sahel, with a population of 4.4 million (UNFPA, 2017) living over a vast but mostly arid 1,030,700 km² territory. Mauritania is exposed to recurrent cycles of drought resulting in regularly nutritional crisis and structurally affecting resilience of populations.

The 2022 rainy season was generally good in the Sahel, as was biomass production in most areas. On Mauritania, rainfall totals were normal to surplus during the 2022 winter season, following a very difficult lean season due to the poor rainy season in 2021.

The effects of the war in Ukraine are affecting people's living conditions, with soaring prices for almost all basic commodities. Mauritania is more than 80 percent dependent on grain imports, 50 percent of which were imported from Ukraine or the Russian Federation in 2021. This difficult economic context, impacted by the war, has led to a significant increase in the price of foodstuffs.

The difficult economic situation is exacerbated in the areas bordering Mali by armed conflicts, resulting in an influx of Malian refugees into the Mbera camp and other border areas, and the arrival of Mauritanian returnees. This population influx, in an area that was already under stress, Hodh el Chargui, has led to a deterioration in access to basic services that were already under pressure (health, education, water and sanitation), and increased pressure on natural resources that were already scarce (water, pasture, and wood, in particular), often leading to conflicts between host populations and new arrivals. Restrictions related to insecurity in the border strip with Mali have also led to significant disruption of transhumance movements.

At the end of November 2022, 440,765 people, or 10% of the population, were estimated to be food insecure. The situation was foreseen to likely worsen during the lean season (June to September 2023) if no assistance was to be provided. According to projections, the food insecure population (phase 3 and >) between June and September 2023 is estimated at 694,612 people, or 16% of the population. As in 2022, Mauritania has the highest rate of food insecurity, not only in the Sahel, but in all West Africa, plus Cameroon (CH Nov 2022 Communication Sheet - Sahel - West Africa - Cameroon).

Along with the deterioration in food security, and as a result, the nutritional situation has remained at alarming levels over the past 10 years. According to SMART survey data, the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition in Mauritania is consistently above the WHO nutritional alert threshold of 10%, and remains at an alarming 11.1% in 2021, with peaks of 27% in some regions. As for Severe Acute Malnutrition, the prevalence is around 2%, which is the WHO emergency nutrition threshold, with peaks of 27% in some regions.

In terms of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), the prevalence is around 2%, which is the WHO emergency nutrition threshold, with peaks of 5.4% in some regions.

SECURITY CONDITIONS

According to the contextual analysis made by Action Against Hunger, the teams intervening in Mauritania do not expose themselves to security risks daily. Action Against Hunger has security rules in place on each base as well as a referent security: the coordination of security management is ensured in the capital by the Logistics Coordinator, under the responsibility of the Country Director. Security watches are regularly conducted.

In Nouakchott region, the security conditions are relatively safe.

The area of the country bordering with Mali (Hodh El Chargui region) is subject to possible attempts infiltration by armed groups present across the border. Also, the mission Action Against Hunger Mauritania is in regular contact with the Action Against Hunger mission in Mali to make a close monitoring of the contextual and security situation in these areas. Caucasian type expatriate cannot be based in this area and their visits reduced to a maximum of 5 days.

In Guidimakha region, only travel in Action Against Hunger vehicles or in a partner vehicle (INGO, donor, or Embassies) are allowed for expatriates. Expatriate nights in the field are only exceptionally accepted after agreement of the Country Director, and it is not possible to spend two nights in a row in the same location. Night travels are not allowed countrywide, except within urban area.

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER VALUES

We are an international non-governmental private organisation that is politically and religiously neutral and non-profit, which was established in 1979 in France to implement interventions worldwide. Our vocation is to fight against hunger, physical suffering and situations of distress that threaten the lives of men, women, and children.

We uphold the Humanitarian Principles: Independence, Neutrality, Non-Discrimination, Free and direct access to people in need, professionalism, and transparency.

More information is available here:

<https://www.accioncontraelhambre.org/en/our-principles>

TASKS

Objective 1: Develop and implement Action Against Hunger communication and visibility plan in Mauritania.

- Finalize the communication and visibility strategy and the communication and visibility plan.
- Collect information in various formats (written, photographic, audiovisual, etc.) for communication activities and purposes.
- Support the teams on communication activities.
- Coordinate and follow up on all communication activities that are outsourced.
- Participate and collaborate in meetings related to communication work as per needs.
- Contribute to and supervise the design of different communication tools and assets (leaflets, posters, t-shirts, press articles, web articles, events, surveys, etc.).
- Contribute to ensuring the upload of the final online communications assets on the BrandForum platform.
- Organize, plan, and manage the media plan (TV, radio and social networks) and exploit all the media spin-offs linked to the mission's activities.
- Guarantee and make a monthly follow-up of the communication budget of the mission to be managed in collaboration with the finance and coordination department.
- Support, as needed, in the coordination of communications work with mission staff as well as headquarters content and media staff.

Objective 2: Ensures the coordination, monitoring, and regular support of the Mauritania ACF mission portfolio through the drafting of proposals and the monitoring of the submission of funding requests to donors, following the validation processes and quality standards of Action against Hunger and considering donor directives:

- Coordinate and support, in collaboration with the various technical coordinators, the GM, project managers and field staff as required, the preparation and submission of reports of ongoing interventions.
- Manage the process of writing final and interim reports to ensure that they are prepared in a timely manner and with realistic deadlines and are well communicated and understood by the teams.
- Under the supervision of the GM, consolidate contributions from technical and other staff in external reports, and ensure validation at mission level. Ensure the upload of the final documents on the GESPR/A/NHF platform.
- Send project documentation (reporting obligations) to donors, while ensuring compliance with donor formats and standards, deadlines and final product quality.
- If necessary, provide support in the preparation and review of capitalization documents and evaluation reports, in close collaboration with the monitoring-evaluation and partnership-gender-advocacy departments.

Objective 4: Supervise, monitor, and support the application of ACF project cycle management tools.

- Mission focal point for regular follow-up of GESPR/A updates.
- Support the technical department in monitoring and respecting the reporting schedule.
- Develop tools to ensure the application of Action Against Hunger project cycle management tools.

Objective 5: Contribute to strengthening the institutional and editorial capacities of the teams.

- Assist the GM in building team skills in the report writing process.
- Assist the GM in strengthening the skills of the teams in the knowledge of donor schedules and their funding procedures.
- Establish a database on donor funding procedures and mechanisms to ensure compliance with donor formats and standards.

Objective 6: Communication and Awareness on ESC Aid Volunteers Initiative

- Write and publish articles describing the experience of volunteers in the field.
- Collect audiovisual materials for use in a public awareness activity in the local volunteer community in Europe.
- In coordination with the project's NGO partners, organize, and implement a public awareness activity once back in Europe.

REQUIRED COMPETENCES

Studies: University degree (bachelor's degree minimum, master's degree preferred) in International Development / in human or social sciences (communication, journalism, law, sociology, psychology), or in Relations Women and Gender Studies or equivalent training or significant experience

Languages: French compulsory. English and Arabic are an asset.

Skills: Communication and information management techniques. Knowledge of communication tools and software for design, photography and video is an asset. Knowledge of gender equality principles and practices, including case management of SGBV and preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) will be an asset. Excellent writing skill in French. Knowledge of Office automation tools (Word, Excel, Power Point...), messaging, Internet and new information and communication techniques. Knowledge of writing techniques for the public. Good knowledge of gender mainstreaming in communication. Good communication and listening capacities.

Experience: Experience in communication activities and networking activities. Experience in teamwork. Good experience in planning reports, drafting, donor rules and regulations and coordinating processes. Experience in project cycle management and capacity building initiatives. Ability to write donor reports in excellent French and English.

Required competences: Know-how to design and implement a communication strategy and plan. Know-how to understand, analyse, synthesize information. Knowledge on how to interact and engage with the media, as well as write press releases. Knowledge on how to write thematic articles and any other communication supports. Have a good capacity for organization, planning, teamwork. Have good organizational, planning, and teamwork skills. Good knowledge of the sub-region. Adaptability and creativity.

BENEFITS FOR THE VOLUNTEER AND CONDITIONS

The volunteer will be deployed to Action Against Hunger Mauritania

Duty station: Nouakchott, Mauritania

Length of Deployment: 12 months

This position offers the opportunity to volunteer in the context of the ESC Humanitarian Aid Volunteers initiative.

The volunteer will have a standard of living like the standard in the country.

The working calendar will correspond to the agenda and system established in the field. For each month of voluntary activity, two days of rest are earned, in addition to public holidays. It is highly recommended not to use the rest days during the first and the last month of deployment.

A monthly Subsistence Lump Sum will be provided to cover basic needs such as food and personal hygiene items.

Accommodation, travel costs, visa, pre-deployment medical check and vaccinations (if mandatory for the country), and allowance will be covered. In case of need, a Fewer Opportunities Support will also be covered.

5 resting days every 3 months considered as break periods to disconnect from daily activities are granted by the organization.

Learning Opportunities: the ESC Humanitarian Aid Volunteer will attend online before and on-site induction at the arrival to her/his deployment Mission.

Training during deployment will also be offered to improve the volunteer's skills and competences.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are made exclusively through the European Youth Portal.

All persons interested in submitting their candidatures **MUST** first:

- Register for the [European Solidarity Corps](#) program.
- In their European Solidarity Corps profile, indicate their interest in [Volunteering in Humanitarian Aid](#).
- Pass the free and compulsory free online course.
- Be available for, and pass, a 5 day in-presence training course of the EU Academy already open and available.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Candidates must be between 18 and 35 years old, have citizenship or long-term residence in Europe, or be from countries associated with the program (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Turkey, and the Republic of North Macedonia)

Action Against Hunger is an equal opportunity employer.

Young people from disadvantaged communities such as racialized groups, refugees, migrants with long term residency in EU, members of minority gender identities and sexual orientations, people with disabilities, minimum income, long term unemployment and remote geographical areas, are strongly encouraged to apply.