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European Union

[European Solidarity Corps Humanitarian Aid Initiative](#),  
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Working with development and other instruments in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, building the resilience of the most vulnerable populations, and preparing the conditions for longer-term sustainable engagement of national and international development and stabilization/peacebuilding instruments and programs.

## Humanitarian Volunteer in Communication, PHILIPPINES

1 position

**Deployment dates:** July 2024 - June 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.**

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## **HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT**

The population of the Philippines stands at approximately 118 million people, facing a yearly population growth rate of 1.54%, with over a quarter living below the poverty line. The nation holds the 116th position out of 191 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI 2021) and the highest ranking in the World Risk Index (WRI), indicating a significant risk of disasters and vulnerability to extreme natural events such as typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, and droughts.

The Philippines is classified as a lower-middle-income country with the most unequal income distribution in the Asia region, as per the Asian Development Bank (ADB). In 2021, 18.2% of the population lived below the national poverty line (Source PSA). Urbanization, poverty, and the evolving climate make urban resilience and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) increasingly crucial. The country has enacted laws on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change, with national plans in place. However, barriers such as insufficient guidelines and technical capacity hinder compliance at the local government level.

In Mindanao, amidst ongoing national government challenges on the peace process and despite continuing conflicts and displacement in the region, progress in the establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and its decommissioning program could pave the way for a finalized peace agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), this transition allows a shift from purely humanitarian responses to strategic measures addressing recurring risks in the region. The Bangsamoro leadership has increased autonomy and resources, enabling them to play a crucial role in community resilience, but support and capacity building are essential, particularly at the Municipal and Barangay levels.

Despite existing gender and development laws in the Philippines, gender issues are often overlooked in emergency, development, and DRR programs. Implementation projects frequently fail to systematically analyse and mainstream gender, and outcomes and impacts are not adequately monitored. Women in rural and peri-urban areas are typically consulted and provided support, but the 2019 gender assessment conducted by AAH revealed that gender roles in Mindanao have shifted without a reduction in women's reproductive workload. This emphasizes the need for a more comprehensive approach to gender mainstreaming in various sectors and strategic priorities.

## **SECURITY CONDITIONS**

The Philippines encounters a multifaceted security landscape that encompasses natural disasters, health challenges, and various security threats. The country frequently faces the impact of typhoons, particularly during the June to November season. These storms result in extensive flooding, landslides, and wind-related damages, posing significant humanitarian and security issues. The compounding factor of heavy rainfall, often intensified by typhoons, increases the likelihood of flooding and landslides, especially in mountainous and low-lying areas, posing threats to communities, infrastructure, and transportation networks over the last 3 years.

In a seismically active region and as part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines is becoming more vulnerable to volcanic activity and is prone to the persistent threat of earthquakes that adds to the challenges, endangering infrastructure, communities, and overall safety. The presence of active volcanoes introduces the risk of displacement, property damage, and respiratory health hazards due to ashfall.

Beyond natural disasters, the country grapples with health challenges, including tropical diseases like dengue fever, malaria, and various waterborne illnesses. These not only impact the local population but also pose risks to travelers.

Security concerns extend to terrorism, particularly in the southern regions, where groups such as Abu Sayyaf and other Islamist extremist organizations remain active. Internal conflicts persist involving the government's armed forces and various non-state armed groups, clan feuds, including Muslim separatists, political opponents, private militias, criminal organizations, and radical offshoots influenced by the Islamic State. This region experiences a complex mix of political violence - evident during the recently concluded 2023 Barangay Elections, identity-based armed conflict, ethnic/clan divisions, and ongoing rebel/terrorist violence. These factors hinder political unity and social cohesion, exacerbating socio-economic and development challenges, and providing an environment conducive to the flourishing of non-state armed groups engaged in criminal activities, thereby undermining peace and stability.

The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) insurgency is an ongoing challenge, despite attempts at peace talks. Armed clashes between government forces and communist rebels continue in certain areas.

Territorial disputes in the South China Sea could escalate tensions with neighboring countries, making maritime security, and defending territorial integrity key government priorities.

Considering this, Action Against Hunger adopts a proactive approach to risk management. The process is founded on a risk analysis and response cycle, wherein risks are identified, assessed, mitigated, and continually monitored across different phases. Throughout the risk management process, Action Against Hunger systematically collects information, enabling the global and individualized monitoring of pre-identified risks. Recognizing that risk management is a shared responsibility, the organization ensures that security risks are addressed through a comprehensive security plan. This plan outlines objectives, actions, resources, and timelines, and assigns responsibility (risk owners) to implement the plan. Specifically, Action Against Hunger employs Local Security Plans per Base, where conditions and protocols are meticulously defined. These plans are subject to periodic updates or adjustments based on the evolving security context.

## **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>

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## **TASKS**

**Objective 1: Gain insights from the development and implementation of Communications Strategies at the organizational level to enhance External Communication.**

- Support in the development and implementation of external communication strategies to increase awareness of Action Against Hunger's mission, programs, and impact.
- Learn and assist in developing and maintaining relationships with media outlets, partners, and stakeholders.

- Support the coordination of media events, interviews, and press conferences.
- Contribute to and learn from the development of multimedia content, including but not limited to infographics, photos, and videos, for diverse communication platforms, particularly, materials that can be used in public awareness activities.
- Provide support in the social media management and outreach of Action Against Hunger by monitoring social media trends, and potential risks, and identifying opportunities to promote the organization's work.

**Objective 2: Support in raising awareness and the implementation of Communications Guidelines at the organizational level to strengthen Internal and External Communication.**

- Support in the facilitation of internal communication processes to ensure effective information flow within the organization and with external partners.
- Collaborate with Action Against Hunger team and ECHO consortium partners to gather and disseminate relevant information about ongoing projects, success stories, and relevant updates.
- Support the creation of engaging content for various communication channels, including social media, press releases, newsletters, compelling articles, blog posts, and other written content highlighting Action Against Hunger's activities, achievements, and impact.

**Objective 3: Gain knowledge and expertise in preparing, facilitating, and monitoring communication guidelines and plans at the project/community level.**

- Assist project leads in the development and implementation of communication plans for ongoing projects, ensuring alignment with Action Against Hunger's and respective co-branding partners' messaging and branding guidelines.
- Assist in collecting and disseminating project-related stories, updates, and impact achievements to various communication channels.
- Collaborate with project teams to capture multimedia content, including photos and videos, highlighting project activities and outcomes.
- Develop a deep understanding of the people-centered approach and ethical storytelling principles.
- Collaborate in conducting interviews with disaster/crisis-affected communities, actively engaging with beneficiaries and partner communities to authentically capture their experiences, perspectives, and challenges, and gain firsthand exposure to the disaster/crisis context in the field.
- Collaborate with project/field teams to ensure accurate representation of community voices and stories in communication materials.

**Objective 4: Compliance with Communication and Branding Guidelines**

- Assist in reviewing and monitoring compliance with Action Against Hunger's and co-branding partners' communications, branding, and visibility requirements across all materials and platforms.
- Support in the review and editing of communication materials to align with organizational standards.
- Support in reviewing and developing an action plan to improve the communication process and dissemination of communication materials during emergencies.

- Assist in maintaining an organized and accessible archive of communication materials for reference and reporting purposes.
- Promote ECHO-funded humanitarian action and raise awareness on the humanitarian situation and key thematic issues.

#### **Objective 5: 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 public awareness activities.

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#### **REQUIRED COMPETENCES**

**Studies:** Communications, public relations, journalism, development communications, social science, marketing, or related fields.

**Languages:** English C1

**Skills:** Strong communication and interpersonal skills, adept at simplifying complex information, proficient in photography, social media, content creation, story-telling, and basic graphic design, with a proactive and innovative approach to enhancing communication strategies.

**Experience:** Previous experience in communications, public relations, or journalism, especially within a humanitarian or non-profit context; demonstrated proficiency in crafting compelling narratives, utilizing multimedia tools, and managing social media platforms; a track record of collaborative work with diverse teams; and a passion for addressing humanitarian issues and contributing to impactful storytelling of cross-cutting themes.

**Required competences:** Microsoft Office applications, adequate knowledge in using social media management platforms (i.e. Hootsuite, Meta Business Suite); and adequate proficiency in design platforms such as Adobe Creative Suite and Canva are preferred.

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#### **BENEFITS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE VOLUNTEER**

The volunteer will be deployed to Action Against Hunger Philippines.

**Duty station:** Makati City, Philippines

**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 similar to 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.

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 + vaccinations (if mandatory for the country), allowance will be covered. In case of need, a Fewer Opportunities Support will also be covered.

**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.

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## **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.
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## **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.**