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European Union

[European Solidarity Corps Humanitarian Aid Initiative](#),  
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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 Gender, Safeguarding and Environment, MAURITANIA

1 position

**Deployment dates:** June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 - May 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> This difficult economic context, impacted by the war, has led to a significant increase in the price of foodstuffs.

This difficult economic context, impacted by the war in Ukraine, 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 the November 2022, 440,765 people, or 10% of the population, were estimated to be food insecure. The situation is likely to worsen during the lean season (June to September 2023) if no assistance is 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 coordinator Logistics, under the responsibility of the Country Director. Security watches are regularly conducted.

- In Nouakchott region, the security conditions are relatively safe.

- In the area of the country bordering with Mali (Hodh El Chargui region): this area 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's not possible to spent 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 organization 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: Ensure the integration of the GENDER transformative approach of Action Against Hunger throughout the Mission and its programs.**

- Implement the activities of the Missions Gender Action Plan in line with Action Against Hunger's Gender Equality Strategy and monitor and report its progress in coordination with the HQ Gender and Protection Referent.
- Provide capacity building and technical advice on Gender to Action Against Hunger teams and partners in the field and assure its transversal integration into the organization's culture, sectors, and programs.
- Ensure the representation of Action Against Hunger Mauritania in internal and external forums on Gender for exchange and learning on the theme of gender.

#### **Objective 2: Support the Mission in the development of a Safeguarding culture, through the implementation and monitoring of the Safeguarding plan with the support of the Safeguarding leads.**

- Follow up on the Mission Safeguard plan (planning, and retro-planning of selected activities).
- Ensure the implementation of selected and scheduled activities.
- Impact assessment of the activities implemented.
- Popularization of our complaint mechanisms.
- Provide support for animation activities on the bases.

- Reporting on Safeguarding activities.

**Objective 3: Support writing and project management on environmental protection.**

- Support the Mission in the development of projects related to environmental management and protection but also climate change which are new themes for the Mauritania Mission and sometimes sources of financing opportunities.

**Objective 4: Communication and Awareness on ESC Aid Volunteers Initiative**

- Promote local volunteerism in disaster risk reduction, prevention, and response.
- Train local volunteers on organization and implementation of volunteer-based activities, when applicable.
- Promote partnerships and collaboration between local and European organizations.
- Draft and publish articles describing volunteer's experience in the field.
- Gather audiovisual materials to be used in a public awareness activity in the volunteer's local community in Europe.
- In coordination with the NGOs partner of the project, organize and execute a public awareness activity once back in Europe.

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**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 asset.

**Skills:** Communication and information management techniques. Communication tool design with software. 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. Know the office automation tools (Word, Excel, Power point...), messaging, Internet and new information and communication techniques. Know the 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, analyze, synthesize information. Know how to interact with the media and write press releases. Know how to write thematic articles and any other communication supports. Know how to update a website and feed with texts and photos. Have a good capacity for organization, planning, teamwork. Capacity to understand, analyze, synthesize information. Good organizational, planning, teamwork skills. Good knowledge of the sub-region. Adaptability and creativity.

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## **BENEFITS AND CONDITONS FOR THE VOLUNTEER**

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 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.

For each month of voluntary activity two days of rest are foreseen, in addition to public holidays. It is highly recommended not to use the rest days during the first and the last month of deployment.

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.

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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.**