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European Union

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

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Strengthening resilience capacities of vulnerable communities through the deployment of European Solidarity Corps volunteers supporting Action against Hunger climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in the Humanitarian context.

## Humanitarian Volunteer in WASH Sector, COLOMBIA

1 position

**Deployment dates:** 15/02/24 - 15/02/25

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

About 5,177,711 people in Colombia have humanitarian assistance needs that require attention and intersectoral response due to the persistence of emergencies caused by the armed conflict, the new dynamics of violence, the effects of cyclical and anthropogenic natural events and the flow of mixed migrants from Venezuela.

The impact of these actions translates into an increase in internal displacement, confinement and mobility restrictions, and continuous threats and assassinations of former combatants, community leaders and human rights defenders, among others. Rural ethnic communities, some urban areas and BGAY and women are the most vulnerable population groups, thus becoming a focus for the response to their needs avoiding the rupture in the social fabric. These communities end up being vulnerable due to the actions of the different armed groups through confrontations, attacks and aggressions against civilians, social control and other factors that expose these population groups to protection risks and human rights violations.

On the other hand, natural and anthropogenic events are another factor that aggravates the humanitarian panorama. Due to its geographical location, Colombia faces cyclical phenomena of intense rainfall and drought seasons of great magnitude. Between 2016 and 2018, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) recorded approximately 1,830,353 people affected by different events of natural origin. 10.

Between July and August 2018, at least six departments of the Colombian Orinoco region (and approximately 20 municipalities) stand out, with around 55,000 people affected by river flooding, where the livelihoods of indigenous communities were particularly affected. In addition, between April and May 2018, the department of Antioquia (in the northwest) was affected and had a prolonged alert associated with infrastructure failures and climatic factors that impacted the Hidroituango Project and generated evacuations of more than 15,000 people with multi-sectoral needs in several municipalities around influence of the Cauca River. In addition, anthropogenic events, such as the exploitation and exploration of natural resources, some of which are associated with illicit economies, also deteriorate environmental conditions (water, air, soil, etc.), generating impacts and risk situations for rural, ethnic, and urban communities.

In different regions, the contamination of water sources with mercury caused by mining activity and attacks on oil pipelines cause major consequences that deteriorate minimum living conditions due to limited access to drinking water, livelihoods and cultivated food. The impact of these phenomena is exacerbated in regions where there is armed violence, resulting in situations of double impact and weakening of capacities due to the decrease in humanitarian funding for many organizations.

Action Against Hunger is celebrating 25 years of uninterrupted work in Colombia. Year after year, we renew our commitment to the fight against hunger, prioritizing our work with migrant and refugee populations at risk of exclusion. Also, displaced, confined and access restricted populations with specific protection needs, in areas of difficult access, affected by conflict and armed violence, with priority attention to women, girls and boys. In November 2023, Action Against Hunger benefited 113,231 people in the sectors of Food Security and Livelihoods, Health and Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Disaster Risk Management and Protection in the different regions of the country.

## SECURITY CONDITIONS

Colombia is a country with risks caused by armed conflicts, which place Colombia at a medium security level, taking precautions in areas of permanent conflict, mainly in rural and peri-urban areas, for which Action Against Hunger has security protocols and knowledge of national dynamics to mitigate risks associated with security. Floods and droughts are another of the problems that increasingly affect Colombia, not only because of the material and personal damage caused by these natural disasters, but also because they pose a serious risk to food health. For security reasons, volunteers deployed under the European Solidarity Corps initiative are not allowed access to the following regions: Catatumbo, Southern Cordoba/Northern Antioquia, Pacific coast (Choco to Nariño), Northern Arauca, Southern Putumayo, Central (Caquetá, Guaviare, Meta South).

## COVID SITUATION AND PROTOCOLS

As of December 2023, there are no requirements for travel to Colombia related to the pandemic. Regarding sanitary issues, it is advisable to have been vaccinated against yellow fever in case you are going to visit certain places such as jungle areas, tropical areas of the Amazon, Catatumbo, Guaviare, Meta, Vaupés, Apaporis, Orinoco, and Magdalena River basins.

## 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: Support to the systematization of WASH project implementation experiences.**

- Support for the systematization of experiences in the creation and strengthening of community water and sanitation committees, and the subsequent technical analysis of experiences to generate procedures and tools to strengthen the technical development of activities.

### **Objective 2: Support the generation of technical tools for the development of WASH projects.**

Support tools generation to strengthen technical analysis of WASH activities.

- Strategies for community management and operation of water, sanitation and hygiene access systems.
- Support in the creation of SoP for Water Quality Access Monitoring

- Support for the inclusion of the environmental approach in WASH actions.
- Risk analysis and management.

**Objective 3: Participate in knowledge generation methodologies.**

- Research spaces for the generation of knowledge of the Colombia mission, related to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector, such as the development of the El Niño phenomenon or research processes such as Hunger and Conflict, Water and Conflict, etc.

**Objective 4: 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 and/or experience:** professional with experience and knowledge in the area of humanitarian WASH implementation, experience related to (public health, hygiene promotion, behavior change, community participation... etc...).

**Languages:** Spanish (Written/Spoken)

**Skills:** Motivation, teamwork, orientation to results, innovation and creativity.

**Experience:** 2-3 years of experience in the water and sanitation and hygiene sector, desirable with community emphasis.

**Required competences:** basic OFFICE package.

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**BENEFITS AND CONDITONS FOR THE VOLUNTEER**

The volunteer will be deployed to Action Against Hunger Colombia

**Duty station:** Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

**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 (only 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, enter the section and follow instructions in [Volunteering in humanitarian Aid | European Youth Portal \(europa.eu\)](#)
  - 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.**