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Volresdr: Nurturing Humanitarian Aid Corps Volunteers solidarity and competences by empowering Resilient Communities: A Multisectoral Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction and Gender-Responsive Actions.

ESC HUMANITARIAN VOLUNTEER IN GRANT & REPORTING IN MAURITANIA

1 position

Deployment dates: November 2025-September 2026

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.

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

Action Against Hunger

Action against Hunger is an international politically and religiously neutral and non-profit non-governmental organisation that 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>.

Action Against Hunger is an equal opportunity employer.

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 2021.¹ 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 of 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 on a daily basis. 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 assessments are regularly conducted.

In Nouakchott region, 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 in order to make a close monitoring of the contextual and security situation in these areas in particular. 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 travel is not allowed countrywide, except within urban areas.

SECTORS

- **Disaster risk reduction**
- **Livelihoods (Employment & Entrepreneurship)**
- **Refugees and IDPs**

TASKS

Objective 1: Ensure the coordination, monitoring and regular support of the Mauritania ACF mission portfolio:

- Drafting proposals and monitoring the submission of funding requests to donors, following the validation processes and quality standards of Action against Hunger and ensuring their alignment to donor directives.
- In collaboration with the various technical coordinators supporting the Program Development Coordinator, project managers and field staff as required, in the preparation and submission of reports of ongoing interventions.
- Managing the process of writing final and interim reports to ensure

that they are prepared in a timely manner. He/she consolidates contributions from technical and other staff in external reports, ensures validation at mission level and the upload of the final documents on the GESPRO/NHF platform.

- Sending project documentation to donors, ensuring compliance with their formats and standards, deadlines and final product quality.
- Supporting the preparation and review of capitalization documents and evaluation reports, in close collaboration with the monitoring-evaluation and partnership-gender-advocacy departments.

Objective 2: Contribute to strengthening the institutional and editorial capacities of the teams:

- Assisting the Program Development Coordinator in building team skills in the knowledge of donor schedules and their funding procedures and report writing process.
- Establishing a database on donor funding procedures and mechanisms to ensure compliance with donor formats and standards.

Objective 3: Communication and Awareness on ESC Volunteers Initiative

- Drafting and publishing articles describing volunteer's experience in the field.
- Gathering audiovisual materials to be used in public awareness activities in on voluntarism.

REQUIRED COMPETENCES

Studies: University degree (bachelor's degree minimum, Master 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:** Excellent French and English are compulsory. Knowledge of Arabic is an asset. **Skills:** You also have a good knowledge of communication tool design and information management techniques. Knowledge of Office Package and of writing techniques for the general public, analysis and synthesis skills, and a good capacity for organization, planning, and teamwork. You are adaptable and creative. Prior experience in planning reports, drafting, donor rules and regulations, coordination and Project Cycle Management are a strong asset. Knowledge of gender equality principles and practices, including case management of SGBV and preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) will be an asset.

BENEFITS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE VOLUNTEER

The volunteer will be deployed to Mauritania

Duty station: Nouakchott, with missions in the field

Length of Deployment: 10 months, 38 hours/weekly. Weekends off.

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.

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.