EU Aid Volunteers

DG ECHO FACTSHEET

EU Aid Volunteers
We Care, We Act

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Facts & Figures

Key figures (July 2017):

- **206 volunteers** deployed to 28 third countries by end of 2017
- **more than 300** volunteers trained by end of 2017
- **101 organisations certified** (25 sending organisations, 76 hosting organisations)
- **44** project partners participate in technical assistance projects
- **85** project partners participate in capacity building projects

* For all latest ECHO factsheets: **bit.ly/echo-fs**

Key messages

- The EU Aid Volunteers initiative (EUAV) provides **opportunities for citizens from the EU** to engage in humanitarian aid and support projects worldwide. Volunteers are deployed by consortia of EU-based sending organisations and third country based hosting organisations. Opportunities for online volunteering will be created in the coming months (please see http://ec.europa.eu/echo/who/jobs-and-opportunities/eu-aid-volunteers_en).

- The initiative also funds projects submitted by consortia of EU-based and non-EU based organisations that are aimed at **strengthening the capacity of non-EU based organisations** to prepare and respond to humanitarian crises and to improve their volunteer management.

- It also provides funding for actions aimed at **strengthening the technical capacity of EU-based organisations** to comply with the standards and procedures that are required to participate in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative.

- **The 2017 calls are closed now** (the capacity building and technical assistance call closed on 3 July 2017 and the deployment call on 6 June 2017). If you are interested in future calls and want to consult the 2017 reference documents please see: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers/funding_en.

- Organisations that wish to deploy European volunteers need to **comply with standards on the management of volunteers** established for the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and go through a certification process. Organisations can apply for certification anytime. Please certify your organisation before you submit a proposal for the deployment of volunteers.

- A **training programme for volunteers** was set up to make sure that candidate volunteers are thoroughly prepared before their departure to a third country. The training course, online training and face-to-face training, are mandatory for all EU Aid Volunteers. Successfully trained volunteers get a certificate after the training.

- The EU Aid Volunteers initiative aims at complementing the delivery of humanitarian aid and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities in third countries that are affected by disaster. The EU Aid Volunteers initiative contributes to the disaster risk management activities agreed under the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**.

About the initiative

Humanitarian organisations need **more well-trained people** to carry out practical action helping communities affected by disaster. The EU Aid Volunteers initiative enables European citizens to contribute to humanitarian assistance in countries where help is needed.

The majority of existing volunteering schemes in Europe have a domestic focus and few provide opportunities to support humanitarian aid and disaster risk management. The EU Aid Volunteers initiative will bring volunteers and organisations from different countries to work together in joint projects in areas such as **resilience-building**, **disaster risk management and linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD)**, as a practical expression of solidarity with communities vulnerable to humanitarian crises.

Investing in capacity building of humanitarian organisations, local communities and first responders in disaster-affected countries is an essential pre-requisite for **creating a more effective, principled humanitarian response** and is further supported under the EU Aid Volunteers initiative.

EU Aid Volunteers will **not** be deployed to emergency response operations in areas of armed conflict.

Who can apply to be an EU Aid volunteer and when?

EU Aid Volunteers candidates must be **over 18 years of age** and be **citizens of EU Member States or long-term residents in the EU**. Citizens from countries such as EU candidate countries, potential candidate countries, countries from the EEA or the European Neighbourhood Policy may apply when bilateral agreements on their participation with those countries have been concluded.

The initiative is **open to a variety of profiles**: candidates can be junior volunteers seeking to gain experience in the humanitarian sector; senior experts with over 5 years of relevant professional experience, who want to help out with their acquired knowledge. Interested candidates need to apply to specific vacancies that are published on http://ec.europa.eu/echo/who/jobs-and-opportunities/eu-aid-volunteers_en. The selection of volunteers is done by the project partners. Volunteering Opportunities will depend on the level of skills and competences of candidates.

Training is provided online and face-to-face to groups of selected candidate volunteers. The training curriculum is competency based and comprises courses about the EU's crisis response system, humanitarian action, managing safety, security and health, project management, intercultural awareness, advocacy, communication, first aid, training of multipliers, volunteer management and organisational development.

The recruitment process for the **deployment of new EU Aid Volunteers in the year 2017** will run from spring to summer. **Online volunteering assignments** will be available from autumn 2017.

How can organisations participate in the initiative?

Follow these steps:

A] Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

1. **Build a consortium of European organisations (Technical Assistance) or of European organisations and third country organisations (Capacity Building)**
    Transnational partnerships are at the core of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative, valued as a means of transferring knowledge, sharing best practice and increasing expertise. Only consortia composed of organisations/entities from EU countries can apply for technical assistance and consortia composed of organisations/entities (EU-based and based in third countries) can apply for capacity building.

2. **Submit a project proposal for technical assistance or capacity building activities**
    Consortia can apply for funding to, for example, conduct seminars and workshops, provide training to multipliers, to organise exchange of good practice or to foster partnership building in support of disaster risk reduction/preparedness/emergency response activities and activities related to resilience and linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD).

    Technical Assistance and Capacity Building shall help organisations to **comply with the standards and procedures regarding the management of volunteers** required to submit a proposal for the deployment of EU Aid Volunteers. Please check the website http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers_en for upcoming calls in 2018.

B] Deployment of EU Aid Volunteers

1. ***Become a certified sending or hosting organisation***
   All organisations wishing to send or host volunteers under the EUAV initiative **must be certified**. The certification process verifies that the high standards and procedures of volunteer management set to protect and manage volunteers during their deployment under the EUAV initiative can be fully realised and met by all participating organisations. Further details on the application process for certification can be found at https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers/funding/certification-mechanism-for-sending-and-hosting-organisations_en.
   If you need help to become certified, grants are available to strengthen the capacities of sending and hosting organisations intending to participate in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative (see above, capacity building and technical assistance).

2. ***Build a consortium of European and third country organisations***
   Transnational partnerships are at the core of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative, valued as a means of transferring knowledge, sharing best practice and increasing expertise. Only consortia of EU-based (sending) and non-EU-based (hosting) organisations can submit projects for the deployment of EU Aid Volunteers.

3. ***Submit a project proposal for deployment of EUAVs***
   Consortia of certified sending and hosting organisations can apply for funding to deploy volunteers from EU countries to non-EU countries. Please check the website http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers_en for upcoming calls in 2018.

EU-based organisations participating in EU Aid Volunteers deployment / capacity building / technical assistance projects / or are certified.

More information on the EU Aid Volunteers initiative:
http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/eu-aid-volunteers_en

Annual report 2016 on the EU Aid Volunteers initiative:
http://ec.europa.eu/echo/who/accountability/annual-reports_en

More information on available funding and procedures for participating organisations:
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers_en

EU Aid Volunteers Forum / Platform:
https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/echo/eu-aid-volunteers_en/

Questions? Contact us at: EU-AID-VOLUNTEERS@ec.europa.eu

Deployment of EU Aid Volunteers 2016/2017

Created with mapchart.net ©

Total: 206 volunteers
(8 placements to be confirmed)
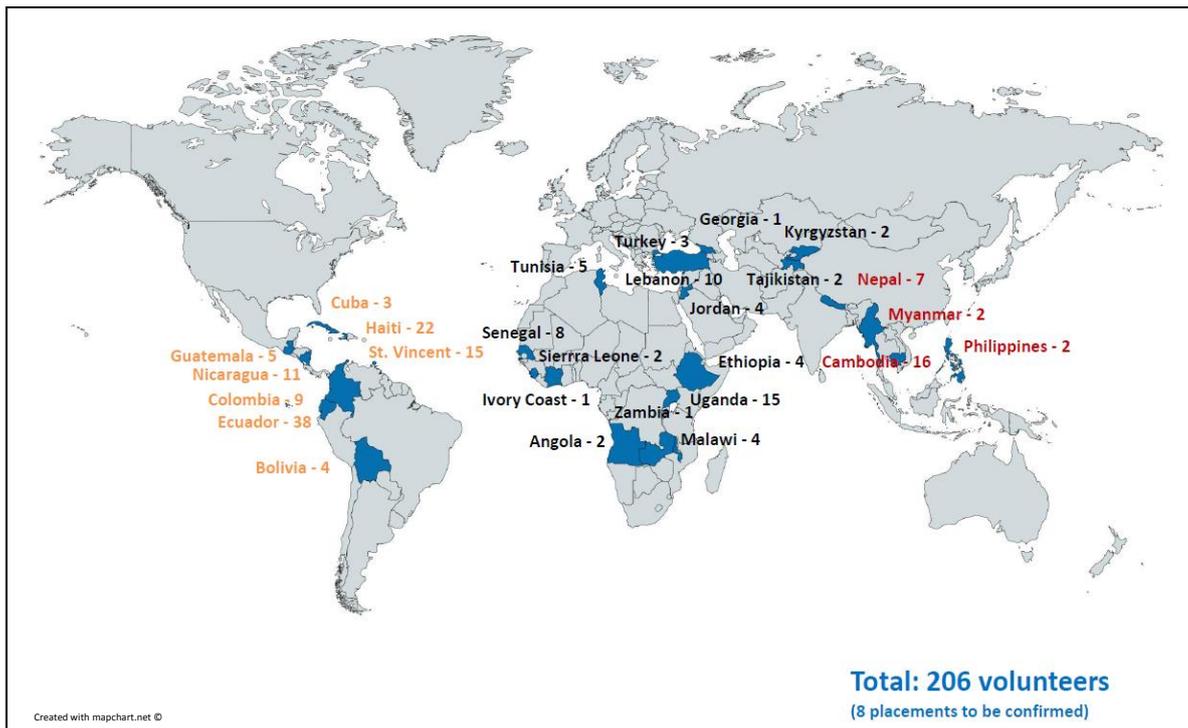
Technical assistance and capacity building projects (July 2017)

- Capacity Building and Technical Assistance projects
- Technical Assistance projects
- Capacity Building projects

Created with mapchart.net ©
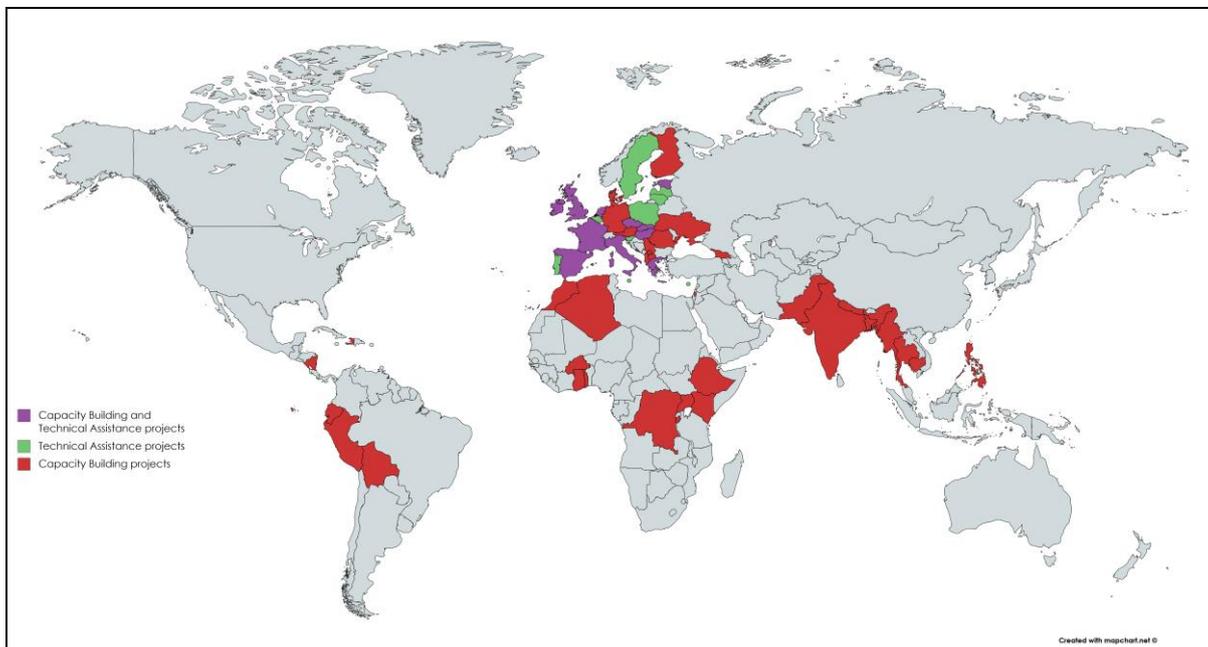
Under the EU Aid Volunteers initiative, local organisations benefit from dedicated capacity building activities to strengthen and enhance their organisational, technical and operational capacity. Funding is provided to prospective hosting organisations to prepare and respond to humanitarian crises, to build resilience and to enhance volunteer management systems. In addition, actions are supported aimed at strengthening the technical capacity of prospective EU-based sending organisations to be able to participate in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and to get certified.