



European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps PILOT PROJECTS 2011/2012



Facts & figures

- Project Leader
Save the Children UK
- Project Start: June 2011 (15 months total duration)
- Call for candidates: Deadline July 3rd 2011
- 30 volunteers deployed for periods of 8-10 months as of October 2011
- More info on
http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/evhac_en.htm

THE PROJECT

Save the children UK runs this project in collaboration with the NOHA University Network of Humanitarian Assistance and the Institut Bioforce Développement (Bioforce) France with as associated organisations Caritas Czech Republic, Save the Children Denmark and Johanniter. The focus of the project **is on building humanitarian talent and professionalization of future humanitarian aid professionals including a comprehensive learning and development programme for the volunteers.**

Links to the main partners websites:

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/>

<http://www.nohanet.org/>

<http://www.bioforce.asso.fr/>

THE VOLUNTEERS

- 30 Volunteers will be deployed
- 20 at 'Level 1': Volunteers with limited overseas experience; 10 at 'Level 2': Volunteers who have completed NOHA Masters or Bioforce accredited training
- Deployments of volunteers: Level 1: 2 placements of 4-5 months; Level 2: 1 placement of 9-10 months
- 15 Volunteers will be deployed with general project management tasks; 15 with specialized logistical tasks.
- All volunteers are deployed alongside an experienced humanitarian professional who acts as a coach
- First deployment expected: Approximately October 2011
- Place of deployment are countries with ECHO operations to be defined during the process of recruitment
- Focus of deployments: Preparedness and recovery activities

Step 1:

Development of training curricula as part of a European Humanitarian Volunteer Programme with a European dimension

Partners to review their training tools and materials and, where needed, tailor them to the project; establishment of a 12-month training programme based on 'Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies' (CBHA) core humanitarian competencies; volunteers will be trained either as Generalist Project Officers (15 volunteers) or Specialized Logistics Officers (15 volunteers).

Step 3

Deployment of European Humanitarian Volunteers to humanitarian contexts

- Placements within Save the Children UK programmes and programmes implemented by the associated organisations. Focus of deployments: Preparedness and recovery activities
- Local support provided during placements by coaches who are humanitarian professionals (see step 4). Each volunteer will have a personal development plan to track their development and assignments against the CBHA core humanitarian competencies
- Preparation and follow-up of volunteers according to Save the Children UK standards (including medical checks, criminal record checks, etc)
- Assignments depending on type of volunteer - can include developing a proposal, conducting research, writing donor reports, conducting evaluations, running training, supporting distributions, procurement, etc.

Step 2

Selection and training of 30 European Humanitarian Volunteers

- Partners will establish guidelines for selection and ensure wide spread of candidates (including from new EU Member States); Target: Volunteers from at least 7 Member States.
- Two levels of volunteers selected:
 - Level 1 (20 volunteers): Volunteers with limited overseas experience; 1-year programme split into 2 placements of 4-5 months; 3 training modules (pre-departure / mid-term / post-return)
 - Level 2 (10 volunteers): Volunteers who have completed NOHA Masters or Bioforce accredited training; 1-year-programme with 1 placement of 9-10 months; 2 training modules (pre & post deployment)
- Volunteers will be trained against curricula that are a blend of the modules developed by the partners such as Save the Children inter-agency 3 part Emergency Operations Programme; a number of the 40 Bioforce courses for international development and NOHA's 5 credit Humanitarian Studies. Trainings will focus amongst others on humanitarian studies; the Emergencies Foundation Course (a simulation-based training that includes hostile environment security & first aid training), project management applications, logistics applications; people management & leadership skills; 'money management'; technical logistics and supply chain. During the first deployment a number of distance learning modules are offered (health, nutrition, food security & livelihoods, protection, monitoring & evaluation

Step 4

Coaching of volunteers during the field deployment, involvement and capacity building of local organisations

At least **20 coaches** recruited who are humanitarian aid professionals working with the host agencies; they will be trained online by the Programme Manager and Coaching Advisor and will receive support; volunteer assignments will include capacity building with local organisations and volunteers, e.g. through workshops or 'buddy' schemes. At least 10 local organisations are involved in the preparation and implementation of the coaches.

Step 5

Lessons learnt and recommendations to provide inputs for the launch of the full programme in 2012

Lessons collected through evaluations at different stages of training; particular focus will be on post-deployment de-briefings and trainings; mid-term evaluation by project team; and the end-of-project evaluation through an external consultant.

