News

**EU Aid Volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic**

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic. As a consequence, repatriations of many EU Aid Volunteers started in March and continued in April. Some volunteers were willing to continue their volunteering work remotely from their home country while other volunteers remained in their host country.

**Andrea**, a EU Aid Volunteer deployed by ADICE with Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association (OSVSWA) had to return to Spain after 7 months in India.

“Being able to keep working with my hosting organization, Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association (OSVSWA), from my home country, has given me some relief during these days of lockdown…”

“… My colleague, EUAV for communication, still deployed, rapidly set up a workplace as India also went under lockdown just after I arrived in Spain. We can chat and easily contact with all the team in the organization through the platform. This has made me feel closer to them…”

**Marta**, a EU Aid Volunteer deployed by Alianza por la Solidaridad to Colombia, also returned home.

“Supporting my Colombian colleagues from Spain in the fight against COVID-19, in the eradication of violence and in the development of the population of Buenaventura. In these strange days (or tough days), solidarity is needed more than ever…”

Andrea working from home.

Marta working from home.
Federica a EU Aid Volunteer deployed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to Georgia, is also working from home.

“Nothing can stop you from working with passion, not even in pyjama!”

“...I am sure that when all this is over, I will carry with me what I learned during this experience working remotely: the comfort to work in pyjama and that if you work with passion, it does not matter the place in which you are. What matters is the spirit through which everyone is capable of carrying on values and the project that lives in oneself....”

“...In the beginning, when I arrived at my new duty station in my hometown Teramo, Italy, everything seemed a paradox. Contrary to Zugdidi, streets were empty, and there were mixed feelings between solidarity and panic for the high risk of the virus contagious. I started to work in self-isolation in a little apartment that belongs to my uncle without internet, shower, hot water...”

EU Aid Volunteers vacancies on hold

Since March, published vacancies were kept on hold due to the impossibility to train and deploy volunteers. All published vacancies were removed from the EU Aid Volunteers platform while new vacancies were also put on hold. We will resume our activities as soon as the situation allows. In the meantime, you can subscribe to our EU Aid Volunteers vacancies.

Stay safe and stay tuned!

Coronavirus: Implications for the implementation of programmes managed by EACEA

Are you a beneficiary or contractor of a project under EU Aid Volunteers Initiative managed by EACEA? If the implementation of your project or contracts are impeded by the spread of Corona Virus COVID-19, you can find information on what steps can be followed under this link. The information is updated on a regular basis, according to the COVID-19 evolution.

EU Aid Volunteers call for proposals 2020

Is your organisation interested in sending or hosting EU Aid Volunteers?

The “Deployment 2020” call for proposals for organisations to deploy EU Aid Volunteers has been published on this page. Interested organisations need to form a project consortium, meet the criteria and be certified as an EU Aid Volunteer sending or hosting organisation or have applied for certification in compliance within the indicated deadline: 11/06/2020.

The deadline for submission of proposals for this call is the 01/07/2020.
Events

EUAV Summer School online webinars

Due to the ongoing lockdown, many of our EUAV activities have had to be cancelled or postponed. That is why Médicos del Mundo is developing this first cycle of online Webinars to provide EU Aid Volunteers all over the world with interesting Development-related content.

Médicos del Mundo headquarters and those in the field, will be sharing their experiences and views on topics, such as: COVID-19 / MENTAL HEALTH / ADVOCACY.

More information can be found here.

EUAV Network Event 2020

Another networking event was planned to be organised with EU Aid Volunteers and participating organisations in April 2020. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak this event had to be cancelled and will not be organised in the course of the year 2020.

Stories from the field

Angus: Disaster Risk Reduction in Mozambique

Angus is an EU Aid Volunteer deployed with WeWorld GVC in Mozambique to work in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction.

“...I estimate that about 80% of my deployment consists of fieldwork. Some of the activities that I am involved in include working with local disaster risk reduction committees to come up with adaptation plans to climate change, emergency food distribution, delivering workshops in WASH, and procurement....”

“...Currently, with Covid-19 I am not sure what I will be doing in the near future, but I know that these last 6 months have contributed to my growth as a humanitarian practitioner in many ways and the knowledge and skills ascertained will be carried into my next adventure! I am thankful to everyone I’ve worked with over the last half a year including my colleagues, partners, communities and of course the other dedicated volunteers...”

Check Angus’ story here.

Read more stories from the field on the EU Aid Volunteers platform and discover the latest news on social media using the hashtag #EUAidVolunteers.
Voluntários da Ajuda da União Europeia na luta contra o coronavírus / EU Aid Volunteers in the fight against coronavirus.

The story of Martino can be found here. Martino is a EU Aid Volunteer deployed to Mozambique by WeWorld GVC in Mozambique who decided to remain in the country. Martino went to Mozambique as a communication officer for WeWorld GVC and now is helping with the fight against Covid-19 informing the local population about prevention measures. Check the video WeWorld GVC has prepared to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in Mozambique.

The story and the video are only available in Portuguese. For the story, any web-based translating tool can be used if you do not understand Portuguese and the video is self-explanatory.

Martino working with WeWorld GVC Mozambique.

Let’s celebrate Europe Day!

Europe Day held on 9 May every year celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historical Schuman declaration. At a speech in Paris in 1950, Robert Schuman, the then French foreign minister, set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe’s nations unthinkable.

On Europe Day 2020, the EU institutions want to pay tribute through numerous online activities to the many Europeans who, in a spirit of solidarity, are helping our Union get through the coronavirus crisis. You will find here an impressive and heart-warming set of testimonials as well as updated information on the EU’s response to the coronavirus crisis.

For any Europe Day activities organised by offices in the EU and across the world, please check out their web pages.

For any question about the European Union, several ways of contact can be found on this website. The Europe Day can be followed on Facebook and other social media (#EuropeDay).

About EU Aid Volunteers:

EU Aid Volunteers brings together volunteers and organisations from different countries, providing practical support to humanitarian aid projects and contributing to strengthening the local capacity and resilience of disaster-affected communities.