



What is SCD (Service de Coopération au Développement)?

SCD is the 3rd French NGO sending around 100 volunteers per year to Southern countries. 250 volunteers are every year in over 50 countries in Africa, South America and the Caribbean, Asia, the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe. Its purpose is to build solidarity between the South and the North, to increase mutual understanding and contribute to the development of a more human world.

What is a Volunteer of International Solidarity (VSI, "Volontaire de Solidarité Internationale")?

SCD is officially recognised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send "VSI". The VSI is a full status, the framework is set by the Act of February 23rd, 2005. As stated in the act it is different to an employment contract, the volunteer receives no wage, but a subsistence allowance. This law specifies the rights and duties of the volunteer, the partner organisation and the SCD as sending organisation. It specifies also the support provided by the French state.

The voluntary service takes form in an agreement signed by the volunteer, the partner organisation and the SCD. It specifies the contractual elements, commitments and responsibilities of each party.

The commitment of SCD towards the volunteer

SCD guarantees the application of the specificity of the VSI status: pension contributions, 100% health insurance, mondial assistance, medical care, medical repatriation. In case of security crisis SCD is in close contact to the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Concerning the follow up of the volunteers, the aim is to support the volunteers during their mission on professional level to succeed their mission but also for the local integration. SCD provides training to the volunteers before departure, monitors them during the voluntary mission and facilitate social and professional integration back to France.

Moreover all the members of SCD have decided to put a special attention to testimony and advocacy. Thus it promotes and encourages the volunteers to provide testimony and/or advocacy when they are back home in order to continue their mission after the field experience. In the Southern countries SCD supports the volunteers to create networks among the volunteers in the same country or region.

Relation between the partner organisation and the SCD

The aim: develop lasting relations and a real partnership based on shared values in terms of development practices

The proposals:

- support its partner organisation in identifying needs and setting up the voluntary projects
- support certain partners in drafting projects and grant applications
- give the partner organisations the opportunity to benefit from SCD's institutional network in France and/or the hosting countries
- to enhance the actions of its partner organisation in SCD's communication tools (SCD m@g, website, newsletter...)

Two solutions to find suitable volunteers:

- SCD can present candidates to the partner organisation who have followed the initial training of SCD and will be selected by the partner organisation. Every year SCD trains about 180 selected candidates with confirmed professional skills and committed to development issues (health sector, urban and rural development, education and training, management and accounting, social action, organizational strengthening, peace and human rights, engineering)
- partner organisations suggest an applicant from his network to SCD who then gets into the voluntary process of SCD

The costs of a volunteer

Costs supported by the partner organisations	Costs supported by the SCD (via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Social Security Return ticket to the place of voluntary service Monthly allowance If the volunteer is recruited by the partner organisation, co-financing of the training Management costs for partner organisation	Social Security Follow up during the voluntary mission Return grants for volunteers who have done a voluntary service for 24 consecutive months Co-financing of the training