

GUIDELINES



HUMAN RESOURCES

ERRA INTERNS - VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME

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**Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Authority
(ERRA)**



PAKISTAN

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Acronyms

- **D&SCC** **Donors & Sponsors Coordination Cell**
- **DRR** **Disaster Risk Reduction**
- **DRU** **District Reconstruction Unit**
- **EIVP** **ERRA Intern & Volunteer Programme**
- **EQAA** **Earthquake Affected Area**
- **ERRA** **Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Authority**
- **FRC** **Federal Relief Commission**
- **GOP** **Government of Pakistan**
- **IFI** **International Financial Institutions**
- **INGO** **International Non-Governmental Organizations**
- **I-V** **Intern -Volunteer**
- **KMC** **Knowledge Management Cell**
- **MIS** **Management Information System**
- **MOU** **Memorandum of Understanding**
- **NGOs** **Non-Governmental Organizations**
- **NOC** **No Objection Certificate**
- **PERRA** **Provincial Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Agency**
- **PO** **Partner Organization**
- **SERRA** **State Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Agency**
- **TOR** **Terms of Reference**
- **TRC** **Transitional Relief Cell**
- **UN** **United Nations**

Message - Deputy Chairman, ERRA

Present reconstruction and rehabilitation experience has no parallel in Pakistan. The occasional floods, earthquake and other natural/ man-made disasters were handled by the Pakistan Army, but other than that there were no other organizations that had the adequate potential and the capacity to deal with disaster on the scale as that of the earthquake of 2005. Federal Relief Commission (FRC) followed by Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) were created as a necessity for dealing with the disaster of the magnitude. This necessitated a massive collaborative effort, spearheaded by the Government of Pakistan and ably complimented by the people of Pakistan and international community.



The relief phase was targeted at providing immediate relief to the affected population with special focus on the vulnerable population; in the shape of medical assistance, food items, shelters in the form of tents and transitional houses. Islamabad was the central hub from where the relief effort was coordinated and managed in the most effective and efficient manner. This period ended on the 31st of March 2006, and a phase of early recovery was initiated, before the reconstruction work could begin. Early recovery is mostly centred on providing interim relief to the affectees; such as school and hospital built in transitional facilities to avoid gap in the service delivery. No child lost a school year and every affectee was provided health care, while all the essential services were restored in quick time.

ERRA became operational on ground on 1st April 2006. Planning and strategy formulation was completed and the reconstruction and rehabilitation effort commenced in full swing. A total of twelve programmes are been undertaken. All this activity is supported by efficient Management Information Systems, Knowledge Management Cell, a Media, Procurement, Finance and Monitoring and Evaluation Wings.

ERRA is a unique and dynamic organization, evolving with the needs on a regular basis. It is a whole new world for the school/college/university students, who are exposed to a variety of professionals approaching with different backgrounds. No where else can one find an opportunity to work closely with multiple stake holders like government bureaucracy, the army, the development world, International Financial Institutions (IFI), United Nations (UN), International Agencies, INGOs, local NGOs, Line Department of the District Government etcetera. Any person who is exposed to this kind of environment will develop a good understanding of the working of the government, the army and the international organizations. This experience will prove to be a stepping stone for the professionals in their expertise and the young upcoming individuals who are interested in making a career in the developmental field. They will be exposed to varied experiences of the office as well as the field work and that of the policy planning processes as well as implementation. Additionally, this is the wide spectrum of the programme and supporting systems, where one can choose a field of one's own liking, depending on the interest and qualifications of the candidate will make it a most rewarding professional experience.

There are tremendous opportunities to learn from the donors, the INGOs, line departments and develop long lasting associations and linkages. The Interns and volunteers will get an opportunity to receive such an experience and at the same time chance for service to humanity, which is unprecedented.

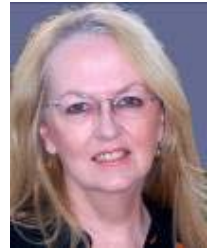
I am very optimistic about ERRA Interns- Volunteers Programme (EIVP) and realize the potential ERRA has in imparting knowledge to the younger generation and acquiring wisdom and latest skills from the professional/skilled volunteers, for the overall good of the affected population.

Lt Gen Nadeem Ahmed
Deputy Chairman, ERRA

Foreword

Making a Difference

The mountains of northern Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir are one among the world's most beautiful places. The breathtaking Himalayan scenery is unforgettable. But it is not only the physical beauty of the region that leaves lasting memories; it is the warmth and extraordinary hospitality of the people and the diversity of their culture. Living in towns and villages in often extremely remote locations, life in mountains for these hardy people was mostly peaceful but rarely easy.



Their lives were changed forever when the earthquake struck. In minutes many lost all they had – family, possessions and their livelihood. The region's infrastructure was mostly destroyed and the country was faced with an immense catastrophe. With the onset of a fierce Himalayan winter fast approaching, and in the most difficult terrain imaginable, the Government of Pakistan, the military, international agencies and humanitarian organizations, the people of Pakistan and foreign volunteers joined together in an impressive and inspiring display of cooperation for a massive and ultimately hugely effective relief operation – operation life line.

The story of recovery from this tragedy and finding opportunity in adversity is a tribute to the resilience of the people of this beautiful region and the extraordinary efforts of the people of Pakistan and the international community, and the outstanding work of the ERRA and its many Partner Organizations (POs).

It has often been described as one of Pakistan's finest moments yet the scale of the disaster and extraordinary achievements in a time of crisis and, subsequently, in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the region, are mostly unheralded and little understood. Although the level of destruction was greater than the Asian tsunami, the Pakistan earthquake never received the same level of international coverage or support. Perhaps this was because although terrifyingly high, the death toll was less than the tsunami, or because less is known about the region itself. Whatever the reason, it is one of the truly great stories of achievement and of which the country can and should be immensely proud.

As the relief phase came to a close and the massive reconstruction and rehabilitation phase commenced, the tragedy started to fade from memory and volunteers mostly drifted away, perhaps believing there was no longer a need for their contributions. Nothing could be further from the truth and there are many roles volunteers can play in assisting organisations such as ERRA and its partners in the process.

Millions of people around the world from all walks of life volunteer their time, money, knowledge and energy to contribute to the wellbeing of others in their own communities or abroad, particularly in developing countries. Each has their own reason – to better understand and learn from other cultures, to share knowledge and skills, to acquire further knowledge and experience for academic studies or to enhance career prospects - but the overwhelming reason is simply to contribute to humanity. Most volunteers are self-funded, raising the costs of participation through working or seeking sponsorships from family, friends and their local communities. Age is not a barrier to volunteering. What matters is ability and commitment. The experience is often challenging but frequently deeply rewarding.

As someone who has worked in many volunteer roles over the years, using skills from my career as an international corporate adviser, I find it among the most fulfilling work imaginable. I've gained in knowledge as much, perhaps even more, than I've given. I've travelled to places that others rarely have the opportunity to visit and met people whose courage in the face of adversity is truly humbling. I've worked with extraordinary people of vision and leadership and teams from many countries. One of the countries I've most enjoyed working in is Pakistan, particularly on projects related to the EQAAs. The scale and diversity of the work being done to help the communities rebuild their lives, particularly by ERRA, is an exciting and satisfying challenge. It is a privilege to serve others and contribute to the wellbeing of fellow citizens of our planet and I encourage others to follow this path when the opportunity permits.

ERRA is once again encouraging participation of Interns-Volunteers (I-V) in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process and is launching an EIVP. The I-Vs will have the opportunity to work alongside a dedicated and committed team of people to improve the lives of communities in the EQAAs.

While it is true that opportunity arises out of adversity much work is yet to be done to complete the journey to recovery. Projects which are improving education and healthcare, ensuring buildings are constructed to earthquake resistant standards to prevent future loss of life, improving access to clean water and sanitation, rebuilding roads and infrastructure, social protection for the most vulnerable members of the communities, livelihood projects, disaster risk reduction and information systems are just some of the areas in which I-Vs can contribute.

Gap year/ Break Period and university students, and mature, skilled professionals are encouraged to apply for places in the programme which will be based in Islamabad or in the field. Some specialized assignments may also be available for 'online volunteering' for those who are unable to travel to Pakistan yet want to make a contribution. It is an extraordinary opportunity to participate in one of the largest reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in Asia working with a very professional organization with high standards of governance and transparency. There is much one can contribute but also much that can be learned.

Everyone *can* make a difference.

Jennifer McKay

Consultant (Honorary), ERRA Interns - Volunteers Programme (EIVP)