



## International/Humanitarian Relief/Aid and Development Work

“The primary objective for international aid/development workers is to provide aid and assistance to people in locations around the globe...” (All About Careers 2015). This is a particularly broad area of work and professionals in this area can perform a range of different functions including:

- **Policy and Research:** undertaking research on areas the organisation focuses on, analysing findings and then using this to set and write the organisation’s policy on what they set out to do and how they will do it.
- **Programme and Operations:** using the research and policies set to design and deliver programmes to meet the needs/gaps highlighted from the research. Also delivering emergency programmes.
- **Fundraising:** Raising money to fund the programmes.
- **Advocacy and Lobbying:** taking results from research and policies and lobbying in parliament to try and change legislation.
- **Media and Communications:** responsible for communication the messages to audiences
- **Support Functions:** HR, Finance, Admin etc.

There are two main areas of work within the international work remit: humanitarian and development.

### Humanitarian Work

International aid/relief work is classed within the humanitarian remit. International aid/ relief work covers areas including governance, healthcare, education, gender equality, disaster preparedness, infrastructure, economics, livelihoods, human rights, forced migration, security, conflict and the environment. It consists of responding to emergencies and natural disasters. Working in these areas tend to need specific skills such as medicine, engineering, logistics etc. and are usually short term 3-6 months (WSE). However, roles can be found in support functions. It is important to develop and demonstrate skills in building relationships, managing yourself, achieving results, leadership, operating safely and commitment.

### Development Work

International development work refers to working towards meeting the needs of people and communities in the developing world and work with developing countries to implement long-term and sustainable solutions to problems. Many work on development projects in fields such as education, sanitation, health and agriculture. They also work in urban, rural and small business development.

### Resources for Further Information

- All About Careers: [www.allaboutcareers.com/careers/job-profile/international-aid-development-worker](http://www.allaboutcareers.com/careers/job-profile/international-aid-development-worker)
- Guardian: [www.theguardian.com/careers/best-of-international-development](http://www.theguardian.com/careers/best-of-international-development)
- Prospects: [www.prospects.ac.uk/international\\_aid\\_development\\_worker\\_job\\_description.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/international_aid_development_worker_job_description.htm)
- The road to the horizon: [www.theroadtothehorizon.org/2006/04/rumble-so-you-want-to-be-aidworker-hey.html](http://www.theroadtothehorizon.org/2006/04/rumble-so-you-want-to-be-aidworker-hey.html)
- Thomson Reuters Foundation: [www.trust.org/humanitarian/](http://www.trust.org/humanitarian/)
- University of Oxford: [www.careers.ox.ac.uk/international-development/](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/international-development/)
- World Association of Non- Governmental Organisations: [www.wango.org/](http://www.wango.org/)
- World Service Enquiry (WSE): [www.wse.org.uk/work/job.htm](http://www.wse.org.uk/work/job.htm)

## Entry Routes

### Qualifications

Many people who work in international aid have a specialism of some sort through their undergraduate/postgraduate degree (e.g. planning, engineering, medicine) coupled with real transferable skills and experience.)

However, there are also many opportunities available in more generalist areas such as camp management, logistics, finance, project management, administration etc. Here having some sort of relevant experience and/or skills set would be good and having an International Relations, Politics or welfare/social care related degree could help.

Doing a tailored master's degree programme related to international aid may improve your chances although it is not mandatory. Go to [www.devstud.org.uk](http://www.devstud.org.uk) for more information and course titles.

For more information on entry requirements please go to:

[www.prospects.ac.uk/international\\_aid\\_development\\_worker\\_entry\\_requirements.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/international_aid_development_worker_entry_requirements.htm)

### Entry Level Roles

Administration level roles and fundraising are the most common entry level roles that graduates often start in to gain a basic but thorough understanding of the charity or organisation they are working for. They then are able to sometimes move to different departments and functions based on their experience.

### Building Your Network and Knowledge

Many organisations have free events and lectures that you could attend and network at, e.g. ODI, Amnesty International, report launches, free lectures and The Institute of Fundraising. You could also enrol onto a training course (RedR, BOND) and connect with people on LinkedIn.

It is also important for you to build your knowledge in the sector. Join relevant associations (UN, BOND, Association for Women's Rights in Development, Children's Rights International Network, ALNAP) LinkedIn groups, and other websites to keep up to date with information.

## Work Experience

It is important to do voluntary work and/or get some work experience to get a foot in the door; please note that much of this will be unpaid.

### Types of Employers

- Charities (in the UK and abroad)
- NGOs (non-governmental organisations often focussing on international issues)
- Consultancies, foundations and international financial institutions
- Voluntary non-for-profit organisations
- Government local, national and international (United Nations) ([www.dfid.gov.uk/work-with-us/working-for-dfid/jobs](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/work-with-us/working-for-dfid/jobs))

### Consultancies

- Crown Agents: <https://www.crownagents.com/>
- CTG Global: <https://ctg.org/>
- DAIR: <http://dai.com/>
- Dalberg: [www.dalberg.com/](http://www.dalberg.com/)
- GSDRC: <https://gsdrc.org/>
- OECD Young Professionals Programme and Internship Programme: <http://www.oecd.org/careers/>
- Oxford HR: <http://oxfordhr.co.uk/>

## Government and UN

- Department for International Development (DFID) : [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development)
- Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme: [www.una.org.uk/get-involved/un-careers/routes-un](http://www.una.org.uk/get-involved/un-careers/routes-un)
- UN Careers Portal <http://careers.un.org>
- United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme [www.unvolunteers.org](http://www.unvolunteers.org)

## Job Search Portals

- BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development): [www.bond.org.uk/](http://www.bond.org.uk/)
- Charity People: [www.charitypeople.co.uk/](http://www.charitypeople.co.uk/)
- CharityJob: <https://www.charityjob.co.uk/?source=nav>
- Devex: [www.devex.com/](http://www.devex.com/) you will need to register to use this website (however it is free)
- Eldis: [www.eldis.org/](http://www.eldis.org/)
- Globalcorps: <http://globalcorps.com/>
- Guardian: <http://careers.theguardian.com/humanitarian-agency-jobs>
- Idealist: [www.idealists.org/](http://www.idealists.org/)
- ReliefWeb: <https://reliefweb.int/> also lists organisations working on humanitarian projects.
- Third Sector Jobs: <http://jobs.thirdsector.co.uk/>
- World Service Enquiry (WSE): <http://www.wse.org.uk/job-opportunities-in-international-development/>

## Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Charities

- Action Aid: [www.actionaid.org.uk](http://www.actionaid.org.uk)
- Amnesty International [www.amnesty.org/en/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/)
- British Council: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/jobs>
- CARE International UK [www.careinternational.org.uk](http://www.careinternational.org.uk)
- Comic Relief [www.comicrelief.com/jobs](http://www.comicrelief.com/jobs)
- Development in action: [www.developmentinaction.org/](http://www.developmentinaction.org/)
- Doctors without Borders: [www.msf.org.uk/work.aspx](http://www.msf.org.uk/work.aspx)
- Human Rights Watch <http://hrw.org>
- IFRC: <http://ifrc.org/>
- Inter- Cultural Youth Exchange: [www.icye.org.uk/](http://www.icye.org.uk/)
- Mercy Corps: [www.mercycorps.org/careers/internships](http://www.mercycorps.org/careers/internships)
- Oxfam: [www.oxfam.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/working-at-oxfam](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/working-at-oxfam)
- People and Planet: <https://peopleandplanet.org/work-with-us>
- Plan UK [www.plan-uk.org/](http://www.plan-uk.org/)
- Red Cross [www.redcross.org.uk/](http://www.redcross.org.uk/)
- Redr UK: [www.redr.org.uk/en/jobs/current\\_staff\\_vacancies.cfm](http://www.redr.org.uk/en/jobs/current_staff_vacancies.cfm)
- Save the Children: [www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpl4E/b.6226565/k.BA72/Careers.htm](http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpl4E/b.6226565/k.BA72/Careers.htm)
- The Challenge: [www.the-challenge.org/](http://www.the-challenge.org/)
- Voluntary Services Overseas <http://www.vso.org.uk/>
- Water Aid: [www.wateraid.org/policy-practice-and-advocacy](http://www.wateraid.org/policy-practice-and-advocacy) World Bank: [www.worldbank.org/](http://www.worldbank.org/)
- World Vision UK [www.worldvision.org.uk](http://www.worldvision.org.uk)