

Mission and guiding principles

Who we are:

The Association of German Development Services e.V. (AGdD) is the umbrella association of seven state-approved organisations that implement 'development service' according to the German Development Workers Act. These are: AGIAMONDO e.V., Coworkers – Christian Services International (CFI) e.V., the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), Dienste in Übersee gGmbH (DÜ – Services Overseas) as part of Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service (BfdW), the International Christian Service for Peace (EIRENE e.V.), Pro Peace (Forum Civil Peace Service e.V.) and Weltfriedensdienst e.V. (WFD – World Peace Service). We are a point of contact for the parliament, government and political parties and engage in a professional exchange on all issues related to the secondment of experts.

What we do:

- As an umbrella association, we work to strengthen the policies underpinning the service provided by professionals in the spirit of solidarity to partner countries in the Global South.
- We deal with all contractual and practical issues relating to implementation of the Development Workers Act and shape any necessary changes.
- We support returning professionals by offering career advisory services and by providing opportunities for the exchange of experiences.
- We provide information and report on personnel cooperation and garner social recognition for this commitment.

How we work:

- We engage in continuous dialogue on development service and partnership-based cooperation with policymakers and other organizations involved in development policy.
- We encourage in-depth exchange and joint action while acknowledging and respecting the different approaches and distinctive features of our members. Our diversity is also our strength.
- We conduct expert discussions, studies and seminars in order to further develop and manage the quality of our services.
- We provide specialist, up-to-date advisory and information services for returnees.
- We maintain close contact with professionals on development and Civil Peace Service assignments and those returning home, and foster exchange on transcultural experiences and reintegration.
- We form and support networks with returnees and other actors connected with our work.

What we want to achieve:

- To ensure that development service remains attractive and fit for the future and takes into account changing global challenges.
- To foster social awareness and recognition of the activities undertaken in the spirit of solidarity by professionals on assignment for the development services and Civil Peace Service.
- To improve the opportunities for returning development workers to draw on their unique international and professional experience in future work contexts too.
- To enhance the sustainable impact of development service in Germany as well and shape this in creative ways.
- To manage our network of returned development workers and strengthen its function as a lively platform for exchanging experience and sharing information.