

Mission and guiding principle

Who we are:

The Association of German Development Services (AGdD) is the umbrella association for the seven state-approved development service providers in Germany. These are the Association for Development Cooperation (AGEH), Christian Services International (CFI), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Dienste in Übersee (DÜ – Services Overseas) as part of Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service (BfdW), the International Christian Service for Peace (EIRENE), Forum Civil Peace Service (forumZFD) and Weltfriedensdienst (WFD – World Peace Service). We are a point of contact for the parliament, government and political parties and engage in in-depth discussions on issues relating to development service. The Development Workers Act (EhFG) provides the basis for our work.

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 and to garner social recognition for this commitment.
- We deal with all contractual and practical issues relating to implementation of the Development Workers Act and shape any necessary changes.
- We help returning professionals by offering careers advice and support and provide a variety of opportunities to obtain guidance, get information and exchange experiences.

How we work:

- We engage in continuous dialogue on development service with policymakers and other organisations 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.