

**Diakonie** 

Deutschland

# At a Glance

**Presentation  
of Diakonie  
Deutschland**

# DIAKONIE

The social welfare organisation  
of Germany's Protestant churches

**Diakonie is the social welfare organisation of the Protestant churches. We understand our mission as living charitably and we are committed to helping people who are on the margins of society, who are reliant on help from others or who are disadvantaged. In addition to this help we see ourselves as an advocate of the weak and publicly state the causes of social distress in relation to politics and society. This self-image is also reflected in the word "Diakonie": In ancient Greek diakonia means all aspects of serving one's neighbour.**

**Being close to the people who need help and support is a key concern for Diakonie. For this to succeed, more than one million people are involved, for example in diaconal institutions, in committees and member associations, or in church congregations.**

Amongst others, Diakonie provides support, assistance and aid to people in need of care, people with illnesses or disabilities, to children, young people and families, to people with a migrant background and to people struggling with addiction.

The basis of all the work done by Diakonie is the Protestant faith. The self-image of Diakonie has its origins in the accepting love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Diakonie shares the Christian image of humanity. This includes the conviction that every person is vulnerable and lives from reconciliation and affection. In certain situations, people are particularly dependent on the support of others. The diaconal mission is realised through practical help, advocating for the interests of those affected and entrepreneurial organisation.



**ULRICH  
LILIE**  
President  
Diakonie Deutschland



**MARIA  
LOHEIDE**  
Executive Director  
Social Policy



**DR. JÖRG  
KRUTTSCHNITT**  
Executive Director  
Law and Finance

**700,000**

volunteers at Diakonie

**10** M

people are reached  
by the work  
of Diakonie

**525,707**

full-time employees

# FACTS AND FIGURES

## of Diakonie

Diakonie represents the social projects of all of Germany's Protestant churches. Diakonie Deutschland is the social welfare organisation of the Protestant church in Germany.

### Our affiliates are

- The 17 charities of the churches belonging to the Protestant church in Germany (EKD)
- 67 agencies operating in various fields of social work, public health and child welfare
- The charities of nine other denominations integrated into the Working Group of Protestant Churches for Diakonie and Development

### Our work includes

- Approximately 31,500 inpatient and outpatient care centres – from nursing homes and hospitals to community outreach and welfare centres
- Approximately 629,546 places in child care services, 183,065 places in elderly care and 169,124 places in disabled care services
- Approximately 525,000 full- and part-time employees
- The work of 700,000 volunteers
- Approximately 2,760 self-help groups organised by the agency
- The charity work of approximately 18,000 parishes belonging to both member and independent churches

# STRUCTURE

## Cooperation

Diakonie Deutschland is the non-profit social welfare organisation of Germany's Protestant churches. Its members include the 17 charities of the churches belonging to the Protestant church in Germany (EKD), the charities of nine other independent churches integrated into the Diakonie Working Group, and 67 agencies operating in various fields of social work, public health and child welfare.

Diakonie Deutschland is part of the "Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung" (Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development). Under this umbrella, it works closely with "Brot für die Welt" and "Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe".

As a charitable organisation, Diakonie Deutschland represents the interests of those it serves at the governmental and societal level. It also advocates on their behalf within various national and international organisations, and in the European Union.

Together with the nation's other leading charitable organisations, Diakonie Deutschland works to protect the social safety net of the German Constitution and to ensure that the state fulfils its duty to serve the public. Diakonie Deutschland works to represent those in need and to be a catalyst for social work and policy.

# 1,380

medical assistance  
facilities





**2,755**

residential homes  
(for the elderly)



# WHERE DIAKONIE WORKS AND WHAT WE OFFER

## HOW WE HELP

### Support for people with illnesses

Hospitals, medical and occupational rehabilitation programmes, home care / domestic care

### Support for people with mental illnesses and addictions

#### Psychiatric disorders / mental illnesses

Consultation, therapy, counselling centres, psychiatric clinics, medical and occupational rehabilitation, social and psychiatric services, day clinics, day care centres, assisted living centres, outpatient assisted living, transitional facilities, residential homes, home care / nursing, integration services

#### Struggling with addiction

Self-help groups, counselling centres and specialised clinics, therapy, inpatient rehabilitation, detox centres, outpatient follow-up care, recovery homes

### Help for children and adolescents

Support and social work, day care centres, schools, youth centres, career counselling, volunteer community service year

### Support for people with disabilities

Consultation, early childhood support, pre-schools, schools, employment, integration into the workplace, assistance, support services, assisted living, counselling

### Help during pregnancies and for families

Marriage counselling, pregnancy consultation, adoption services, maternity centres, post-natal recovery, support for single parents, mother-child facilities, community support, family counselling and support, parenting courses, life counselling

## Support in old age

Housing communities, outpatient assisted living centres, home care/domestic care, local services, day-care centres, short-term care, care in nursing homes, services for people with dementia, counselling, assistance, recreational centres, support for care-giving family members, educational centres for the elderly (social work, community centres), household-related services

## Support for women

Women's shelters

## Help in special situations

Aid for the poor, aid for the homeless, railway missions, counselling for sex workers and victims of human trafficking, counselling for ex-convicts, debt counselling, career counselling and training, support hotlines, counselling via correspondence

## Support for migrants and refugees

Information and consultation for immigrants, specialised services for asylum seekers and refugees, immigration services for young people, information on emigration

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Volunteering

### Volunteer services

Federal volunteer service, volunteer work

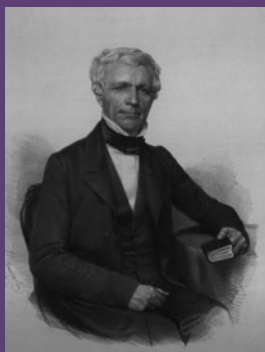


**287**

**counselling  
centres  
for refugees**

# HISTORY

## of Diakonie



**JOHANN HINRICH WICHERN**

(21 April 1808 – 7 April 1881)

Source: Diakonie Deutschland



1925

**LAYOUT KRONENKREUZ**

Professor Richard Boeland

The word “diakonie” evokes service to mankind based on the ideals of Christian charity. The mission to help those in need has always been a core value of the Protestant church. In the middle of the 19th century, the church created an organisation for its social work called the “Innere Mission” (Interior Mission). The project was started in 1848 at the Wittenberg Church Conference by Hamburg theologian Johann Hinrich Wichern, who called for a systematic approach to combating spiritual and material poverty as well as social distress. In 1849, the Central Board for the “Innere Mission” was founded. Soon afterward, organisations led by the “Innere Mission” sprang up across the country, with legally autonomous facilities and institutions offering social services and care. The “Kronenkreuz” (Crown and Cross) has been the signet of Diakonie since 1925 and remains part of today’s logo.

At the end of the Second World War, the Protestant church created an additional aid organisation in order to meet the specific needs of those suffering amidst the destruction of post-war Germany. The new organisation sought to attain aid from abroad and stimulated ecumenical contacts to combat the nation’s hunger crisis, to facilitate the transition of displaced persons and refugees into

# ‘Every work should be done first with the heart, then with the hands or with the tongue.’

Johann Hinrich Wichern

new homes, and to support young people’s education and employment. In 1959, the Protestant church launched in cooperation with the independent churches the initiative “Brot für die Welt” in order to provide aid to people in developing countries. The project was later incorporated into the “Diakonisches Werk” as a full-time agency. An annual donation drive is held specifically for “Brot für die Welt” projects every Christmas.

In 1975, the Innere Mission merged with the Hilfswerk to form the “Diakonisches Werk der EKD”. On 19 March 1991, the corresponding member organisations of the Protestant church in East Germany joined the “Diakonisches Werk”.

For the 150th anniversary of the Diakonie in 1998, the crown and cross in connection with the lettering Diakonie and the color blue was determined in its present form.

In 2012, the “Diakonisches Werk der EKD” merged with the “Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst” to form the “Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung” (Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development). The new umbrella organisation consists of the two agencies “Brot für die Welt” and “Diakonie Deutschland”.



# HELP PROVIDED

## by Diakonie on the ground

The Diakonie facilities and counselling centres in your area can be found here:

[hilfe.diakonie.de](https://hilfe.diakonie.de)

### **Regional Associations**

The detailed addresses of the regional Diakonie associations can be found here:

[www.diakonie.de/landesverbaende](https://www.diakonie.de/landesverbaende)

### **Specialist Associations**

The detailed addresses of the specialised associations of the Diakonie can be found here:

[www.diakonie.de/fachverbaende](https://www.diakonie.de/fachverbaende)

### **Working Group of Protestant Churches for Diakonie and Development**

The detailed addresses of the members of the Working Group of Protestant Churches for Diakonie and Development can be found here:

[www.diakonie.de/diakonische-arbeitsgemeinschaft](https://www.diakonie.de/diakonische-arbeitsgemeinschaft)

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