Diakonie
Deutschland

At a Glance

Profile 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.

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 and advocating for the interests of those who are affected.

ULRICH LILIE
President
Diakonie Deutschland

MARIA LOHEIDE
Executive Director
Social Policy

DR. JÖRG KRUTTSCHNITT
Executive Director Finance,
Human Ressources and Law

700,000
volunteers at Diakonie

10 M
**people are reached
by the work
of Diakonie**

599,770
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)
– 66 agencies operating in various fields of social work, public health and child welfare
– The charities of nine other denominations and protestant free churches in Germany.

Our work includes
– Approximately 33,000 inpatient and outpatient care centres – from nursing homes and hospitals to community outreach and welfare centres
– Approximately 643,447 places in child care services, 195,884 places in elderly care and 175,955 places in services for disability inclusion
– Approximately 599,770 full- and part-time employees
– The work of 700,000 volunteers
– Approximately 2,237 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. It 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".
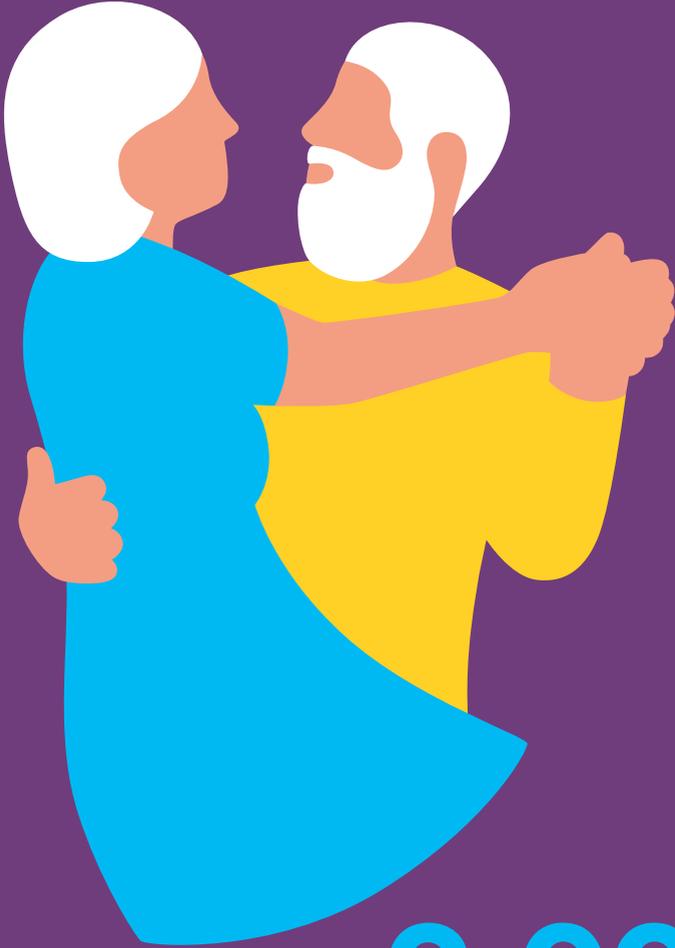
As a charitable organisation, Diakonie Deutschland represents the interests of those it serves at the governmental and societal level. It also advocates on their behalf within various national and international organisations, and in the European Union.

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 politics.

1,435

**medical assistance
facilities**

2,991

**residential homes
(for older people)**

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, addiction treatment 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, primary and secondary 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, counselling centres for domestic and sexualised violence

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 work

Volunteer services
Voluntary Social Year (FSJ)
Federal volunteer service (BFD)

More detailed information can be found at
www.diakonie.de

232

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 ills. 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 the basis of the modern 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 galvanized 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 voice.'

Johann Hinrich Wichern

new homes, and to support young people's education and employment. In 1959, the Protestant church launched in cooperation with the independant 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 Diakonie in 1998, the Crown and Cross in connection with the lettering Diakonie and the color blue was set 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 umbrella organisation includes Diakonie Deutschland as well as Brot für die Welt and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

Rendsburg

Schleswig-Holstein

Greifswald

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Schwerin

Hamburg

Leer

Bremen

Oldenburg

Oldenburg

Niedersachsen

Reformierte Kirche

Schaumburg-Lippe

Hannover

Stadthagen

Braunschweig

Berlin

Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz

Münster

Detmold

Mitteldeutschland

Düsseldorf

Kassel

Halle

Sachsen

Radebeul

Rheinland Westfalen Lippe

Hessen

Frankfurt

Pfalz

Speyer

Nürnberg

Karlsruhe

Bayern

Stuttgart

Württemberg

HELP PROVIDED

by Diakonie on the ground

Diakonie facilities and counselling centres
The Diakonie facilities and counselling centres in your area can be found here:
hilfe.diakonie.de

Regional Associations
The contact information for the regional Diakonie associations can be found here:
www.diakonie.de/landesverbaende

Specialised Associations
The detailed addresses of the specialised associations of Diakonie can be found here:
www.diakonie.de/fachverbaende

Independent and Confessional Members of Diakonie
The contact information for the charities of nine other denominations and protestant free churches in Germany of Diakonie can be found here:
www.diakonie.de/freikirchen