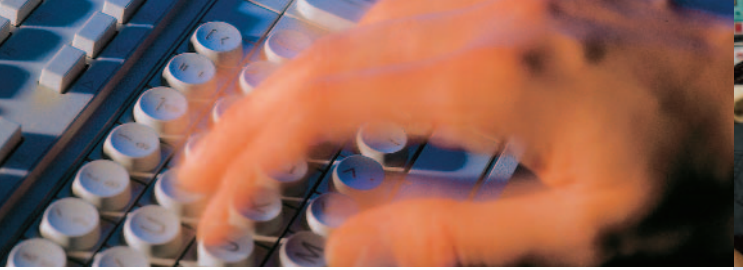

Professional experience and intercultural competence – the essential qualifications for a DED advisor

DED offers German professionals the opportunity to get involved in Africa, Asia or Latin America. Participating in DED activities requires suitable qualifications, professional experience as well as social commitment and tolerance, empathy and the ability to handle conflicts. A good knowledge of foreign languages and medical fitness for service in the tropics are also important prerequisites.

We see to it that the development workers are well trained for their activities for one to three months in Germany and up to two months in the partner country. Knowledge of languages and the partner country, cross-cultural communication, knowledge of development issues and special know-how for the respective tasks are imparted. Specialists for the Civil Peace Service with a focus on civil conflict transformation and crisis prevention are also in constant demand.

In addition, qualified young professionals up to the age of 28 can join DED´s promotion programme for junior experts and spend 12 months in a partner country of DED to familiarise themselves with development work and gather personal and intercultural experience.

For more information please see www.ded.de or get in touch with us directly at:

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Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst

DED | public

Brief information

Global commitment | Local partnership

The DED

Professionals working on a grassroots level

Global commitment – Local partnership

Ever since it was founded in 1963, the German Development Service (DED) has been pursuing the goal of helping people in developing countries to improve their living conditions. Development cooperation is understood as a partnership effort. DED employs professionals as development workers wherever they will be of maximum benefit to the people for the development of their country. In doing so, DED offers professionals from Germany the opportunity to get involved in activities in developing countries for a period of at least two years, improve their skills and know-how and acquire further qualifications. At the moment, around 1,000 specialists are working in more than 40 countries.

DED is a non-profit organisation. Its shareholders are the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and "Lernen und Helfen in Übersee" (Learning and Helping Overseas – AKLHÜ), an association of private organisations. The work of DED is financed with funds from the Federal budget. The Head Office in Bonn as well as the approximately 40 DED offices in the partner countries guide the organisation's activities.

All just rubbish, or what?

Kati, a city in Mali was being suffocated with rubbish – until a DED development worker started supporting an initiative launched by citizens and the city. People joined forces and set up a refuse collection service. Citizens are happy to pay for the new service. The rubbish ends up at a newly constructed composting plant – and this system is already self-supporting. The scheme is an example of successful community initiative.

Democratisation, combating Aids, and the Civil Peace Service – a wide range of activities

In a consultative process, we decide on the secondment of our development workers, taking into consideration our own priorities regarding specialist sectors and regions.

Our focal areas of activity are:

- combating poverty through improved education and training of the people,
- promoting democracy in government and society by strengthening democratic structures, in particular local government, and promoting civil society,
- rural development, especially management of natural resources such as natural and rain forests, and advising the population on diversifying its sources of income,
- economic development and employment promotion by supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, vocational training and upgrading as well as cooperation with business and industry,
- promoting basic healthcare and combating Aids, predominantly in Southern Africa,
- development education and public relations activities in Germany.

A new and important task is the Civil Peace Service as a means of conflict transformation and peace building in crisis-torn countries.

Cooperation to increase efficiency

DED offers its support to the partner organisations if there is a shortage of qualified specialists in the partner country or if local resources are insufficient to cope with development projects.

We cooperate with governmental partners as well as with non-governmental organisations of civil society, e.g. with rural training centres or self-help initiatives.

In many projects, we cooperate with other development organisations, such as Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), German Agro Action (Deutsche Welthungerhilfe/DWHH) or partner organisations from France, the Netherlands or Ireland and with multilateral organisations such as the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) or the European Union.

An end to strife

The peoples of the Laimes and Kakachakas are archenemies. This animosity was smouldering in the Andes Highlands of Bolivia for centuries, and it broke out occasionally in border conflicts, livestock thefts, punch-ups and manslaughter. After many preliminary talks, the opponents now sit together around one table – a first step towards peace and development, which was supported by DED.