At A Glance
Diakonie Deutschland
Diakonie
The social welfare organisation of Germany’s Protestant churches

Diakonie is the social welfare organisation of Germany’s Protestant churches. Our mission is to practise charity in the model of Jesus Christ. We operate independently and across political parties. We respect the dignity and uniqueness of every human being, and work to promote every individual’s right to independence and self-determination.

Diakonie provides aid to people in need of care, to people with disabilities or illness, to children and families, to immigrants and their families, to those struggling with addiction, and to those otherwise disadvantaged. In addition, Diakonie advocates on behalf of the underprivileged in politics and society, leading discussions on the causes of poverty and social injustice.

All of Diakonie’s work is based in the Protestant conviction. We strive to fashion ourselves after God’s unconditional love as embodied by Jesus Christ. Diakonie addresses the wants and needs of others based on the Christian view of mankind. This view includes the belief that every human being is vulnerable, and needs love and forgiveness. Some are in greater need of help than others. Diakonie carries out its mission by offering a wide range of support, including practical aid, legal representation and business ventures.

As the social welfare organisation of Germany’s Protestant churches, Diakonie is the place where our employees and volunteers stand up for those in need.
Where Diakonie Works
What We Offer

Diakonie for adults
Social services, education, continuing education, vocational training, housing, counselling, addiction prevention, self-help, volunteer work, federal volunteer service, community service, spiritual guidance, ecumenism (interfaith cooperation), theology, volunteer organising, information, our mission statement, history, statistics

Diakonie for senior citizens
Housing communities, outpatient assisted living centres, care at home, local services, daily care, short-term care, care in nursing homes, services for people with dementia, counselling, assistance, recreational centres, support for care-giving family members

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

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

Diakonie for people coping with illness
Hospitals, medical and occupational rehab programmes, care at home

Diakonie for terminally ill people
Hospice, palliative care

Diakonie for people in (urgent) need
Aid for the poor, aid for the homeless, railway shelters, counselling for sex workers and victims of human trafficking, counselling for ex-convicts, debt counselling, career counselling and training, support hotlines, counselling via correspondence

Diakonie for people with disabilities
Consultation, early childhood support, pre-schools, schools, employment, integration into the workplace, assistance, support services, assisted living, counselling

Diakonie for people with psychiatric disorders/mental illness
Consultation, therapy, counselling centres, psychiatric clinics, medical and occupational rehab, social and psychiatric services, day clinics, day care centres, assisted living centres, outpatient assisted living, transitional facilities, homes, home care/nursing, integration services

Diakonie for people struggling with addiction
Self-help groups, counselling centres and specialised clinics, therapy, inpatient rehab, detox centres, outpatient follow-up care, recovery homes

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

For more information, visit www.diakonie.de
Diakonie Deutschland is the non-profit social welfare organisation of Germany’s Protestant churches. Its members include the 18 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 69 agencies operating in various fields of social work, public health and child welfare. As a charitable organisation, Diakonie Deutschland represents the interests of those it serves at the government 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.

The Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development

In 2012, the ‘Diakonisches Werk der EKD’ merged with the ‘Evangelisches Entwicklungsdienst’ to form the ‘Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung’ (Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development). The new agency was founded in order to meet the demands of a globalised world. The ‘Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung’ carries out the church’s mission through its aid programmes ‘Brot für die Welt’ (Bread for the World) and ‘Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe’ (Emergency Aid), as well as through the programmes of the ‘Evangelische Entwicklungsdienst’. However, it is clear that our social work at the national level and development work at the international level are becoming ever more intertwined.

The new umbrella organisation consists of the two agencies ‘Brot für die Welt – Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst’ (Protestant Development Services) and ‘Diakonie Deutschland – Evangelischer Bundesverband’ (Protestant Federal Association).

While ‘Brot für die Welt’ supports long-term development projects, ‘Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe’ provides emergency services and disaster relief in crisis situations.

Medical Care

- **462** full-time and part-time inpatient facilities providing medical care and hospice services
- **261** outpatient clinics providing medical and palliative care
Diakonie represents the social projects of all of Germany’s Protestant churches. Diakonie Deutschland is the charitable organisation of the Protestant church in Germany.

**Our affiliates are**
- The 18 charities of the churches belonging to the Protestant church in Germany (EKD)
- 69 agencies operating in various fields of social work, public health and child welfare
- The charities of nine other denominations integrated into the Diakonie Working Group of Protestant Churches (DDeK)

**Our work includes**
- Approximately 30,000 inpatient and outpatient care centres – from nursing homes and hospitals to community outreach and welfare centres
- Approximately 610,349 places in child care services, 165,431 places in elderly care and 151,646 places in disabled care services
- Approximately 465,000 full- or part-time employees
- The work of 700,000 volunteers
- Approximately 3,500 self-help groups organised by the agency
- The charity work of approximately 18,000 parishes belonging to both member and independent churches

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**Diakonie – Facts and Figures**

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**3,058** nursing homes with full-time and part-time facilities

**1,692** counselling centres and outpatient services

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**Diakonie Deutschland’s headquarters in Berlin**

*Source: Diakonie Einrichtungsstatistik 2014*
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. 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.

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 to combat the nation’s hunger crisis, to facilitate the transition of displaced persons and refugees into 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’. In March 1991, the corresponding member organisations of the ‘Protestant church’ in East Germany joined the ‘Diakonisches Werk’.

In 2012, the ‘Diakonisches Werk der EKD’ merged with the ‘Evangelische Entwicklungsdienst’ to form the ‘Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung’ (Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development).

For more information about the history of Diakonie, visit www.diakonie-geschichte.de
Contact your local Diakonie

Baden
Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Landeskirche in Baden e. V.
www.diakonie-baden.de

Bavaria (Lutheran Church)
Diakonisches Werk der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche in Bayern e. V.
www.diakonie-bayern.de

Berlin, Brandenburg & Upper Lusatia
Diakonisches Werk Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz e. V.
www.diakonie-portal.de

Bremen
Diakonisches Werk Bremen e. V.
www.diakonie-bremen.de

Hesse
Diakonisches Werk in Hessen und Nassau und Kurhessen-Waldeck e. V.
www.diakonie-hessen.de

Lower Saxony
Diakonisches Werk in Niedersachsen e. V.
www.diakonie-in-niedersachsen.de

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
Diakonisches Werk Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e. V.
www.diakonie-mv.de

Oldenburg
Diakonisches Werk der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche in Oldenburg e. V.
www.diakonie-ol.de

Palatinate
Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche der Pfalz e. V.
www.diakonie-pfalz.de

Rhineland-Westphalia-Lippe
Diakonie Rheinland-Westfalen-Lippe e. V.
www.diakonie-rwl.de

Saxony
Diakonisches Werk der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Landeskirche Sachsens e. V.
www.diakonie-sachsen.de

Saxony, Thuringia & Saxony-Anhalt
Diakonisches Werk Evangelischer Kirchen in Mitteldeutschland e. V.
www.diakonie-mitteldeutschland.de

Schleswig-Holstein
Diakonisches Werk Schleswig-Holstein Landesverband der Inneren Mission e. V.
www.diakonie-sh.de

Württemberg
Diakonisches Werk der evangelischen Kirche in Württemberg e. V.
www.diakonie-wuerttemberg.de

Additional Contacts

Regional Associations
The addresses for all of Diakonie’s regional associations can be found here:
www.diakonie.de/landesverbaende

Specialist Agencies
The addresses for all of Diakonie’s specialist agencies can be found here:
www.diakonie.de/fachverbaende

Diakonie Working Group of Protestant Churches (DÄK)
The addresses of the members of the Diakonie Working Group of Protestant Churches (DÄK) can be found here:
www.diakonie.de/diakonische-arbeitsgemeinschaft
The crown and cross
The symbol of Diakonie

The crown and cross is the symbol of Diakonie and the basis for its modern logo. Designed in 1925 by Professor Richard Boeland at the Berlin School of Art, it was originally the symbol of the ‘Innere Mission’. With this in mind, Boeland sought to simultaneously represent the letters ‘I’ and ‘M’.

In 1925, the organisation’s member associations were requested to use the symbol and to display it in all of their facilities.

In 1930, it was also adopted by the International Association for the ‘Innere Mission’ and by Diakonie. The ‘Innere Mission’ thus became one of the first church organisations to adopt a corporate logo.

In 1975, the ‘Diakonisches Werk der EKD’ was formed from the merger of the ‘Innere Mission’ with the ‘Hilfswerk’, and adopted the symbol as its own. Our employees and volunteers draw inspiration from the crown and cross as they work to provide aid to those in need.

1925 design of the crown and cross by Professor Richard Boeland

Diakonie’s logo today
Diakonie is a registered trademark

Family Aid

1,102
counselling centres and outpatient clinics

259
homes and other inpatient facilities, including day-care centres