



# Partners in weltwärts Newsletter for partners on the weltwärts programme

Dear weltwärts partners,

We're delighted so many of you have signed up for our newsletter. There is a lot of interest in sharing information and making new contacts so this second newsletter is all about networking.

One of our articles is about an example of a weltwärts partner network. Perhaps there's already a partner network in your region too. If not, perhaps you'd like to form one?

We can also tell you that partner conferences will take place again in 2022 - another great way of networking. In this issue, we explain what you can expect at a partner conference and give you the dates for the next conferences.

In addition, we asked returnees to give us an assessment of their weltwärts voluntary service and we've put together an overview of the findings for you. You'll also find a summary of the Programme Steering Committee's May meeting.

Happy reading! Viel Spaß bei der Lektüre! Bonne lecture ! ; Disfruten de la lectura!

Regards,  
Natalie Tawamba Tessa, Partner Communications Manager at the weltwärts  
Coordination Unit and  
Lourens de Jong, PSC civil society representative responsible for the partner  
newsletter  
on behalf of the weltwärts joint operation

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# Conferences and the Programme Steering Committee

## **There are six partner conferences planned around the world for 2022.**

Following the cancellation of all partner conferences in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, the plan is to provide opportunities on all weltwärts continents for partners to meet and engage again in 2022. Preparations are already underway in Rwanda, Mexico, Colombia, Bosnia and the Philippines for large-scale meetings to bring regional partner organisations and their German partners together along with the Programme Steering Committee. All weltwärts organisations will be invited to the partner conference in Germany.

Since 2012, there have been 34 partner conferences on all weltwärts continents. At each conference, around 50 representatives of organisations from Germany and the Global South and of the Programme Steering Committee can come together for four to five days to get to know each other, network and find out about various areas of the weltwärts volunteer service. The conferences are an opportunity to take a creative approach to and discuss a range of topics, such as SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), volunteering, inclusion, prevention of sexualised violence and general weltwärts structures. The conferences are organised by at least one German organisation, working closely with its partner organisation(s) in the Global South.

They are open to all Global South organisations from the region holding the conference. For example, all organisations from Eastern Africa and their German partners are invited to the partner conference in Rwanda and the Central American organisations are invited to the conference in Mexico. At least two members of the Programme Steering Committee are always present to answer any cross-cutting questions about the weltwärts programme.

 **More information**

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**Networks: Partner organisations in Ecuador support each other**

**Our newsletter gives weltwärts networks the opportunity to introduce themselves. We spoke to Carola Flor from “Red weltwaerts Ecuador”.**

Being in a network is all about keeping up to date with what’s happening, learning from each other and giving each other support. With this in mind, weltwärts partner organisations have formed regional networks in recent years. They bring together weltwärts organisations from one country or region to further their knowledge on specific topics and update each other on the latest developments on the programme.



**weltwärts: When and why was your network set up?**

**Carola Flor:** The “Red weltwaerts Ecuador” network was set up in 2012 with the aim of improving the flow of information between all Ecuadorian partner organisations on the weltwärts programme. They felt a major need to discuss the education and mentoring activities for volunteers and safety, health and other practical issues with their counterparts in other organisations. The network provides a way to meet that need.

**weltwärts: What does the network offer its members?**

**Carola Flor:** “Red weltwaerts Ecuador” organises monthly meetings and workshops on topics related to weltwärts, such as safety, health and (sexualised) violence. The network members provide the facilities for these events. One partner organisation supplies the room, another supplies the accommodation and another one supplies the food and drink. The speakers receive no payment. Once a year, we put on a “Día weltwärts” (weltwärts Day) in cooperation with the German Embassy, to which all partners and weltwärts volunteers in Ecuador come. At this event, cultural activities can be offered, all participants have a chance to share ideas and knowledge with each other and specific issues concerning the programme can be covered. This year we have arranged a cooperation with the German Embassy in Ecuador, which now finances the rent and maintenance for this day. The network is responsible for organising the day.

**weltwärts: What do you aim to achieve with the network in the next two years?**

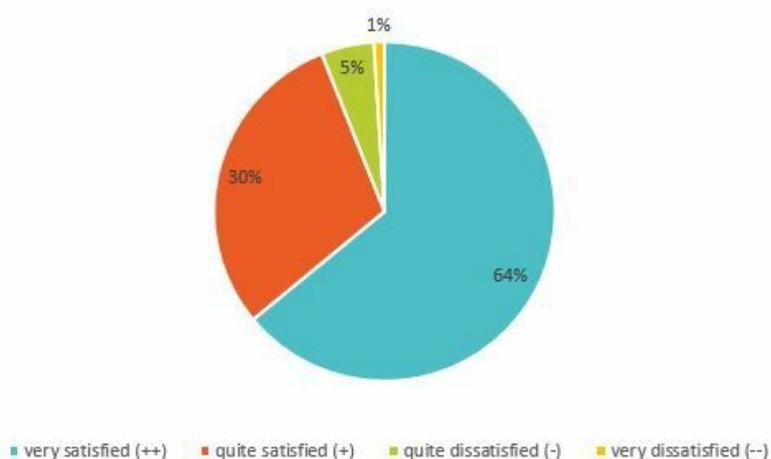
**Carola Flor:** Once the pandemic situation has improved a little, we want to work on making our structures more effective. For example, one aim is to improve how our members agree who is responsible for what and to provide formal definitions of those responsibilities so everyone knows who does what. Another thing we want to do is reactivate our Facebook page to make it easier for people to contact us. We also intend to start working on our own website as soon as we have the money to do so. Some of the “Red weltwaerts Ecuador” partners are also actively involved in the establishment of an Ecuadorian network for voluntary work. This network is already in consultation with the Ecuadorian government on the subject of a law for volunteer services in Ecuador and possible support for them.

# Post-assignment volunteer survey

**During the pandemic, both the South-North and the North-South 2019/2020 volunteers were very satisfied with their development-related assignment.**

Many 2020 South-North volunteers had to suspend their assignments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 94% of the volunteers were (very) satisfied with their assignment overall. The survey findings are very positive and confirm that the organisations work together extremely well even in difficult times.

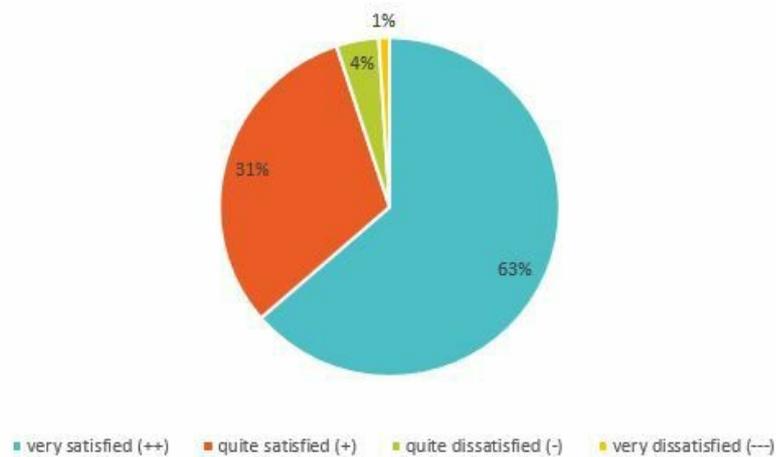
Overall satisfaction, South-North



The annual survey among all volunteers is intended to help evolve the weltwärts programme. In 2020, more than 500 volunteers from the Global South were on assignment in Germany. 41% of them took part in the survey.

Of the approximately 3,300 North-South volunteers, 58% replied. Here too, there was a lot of positive feedback. 94% were (very) satisfied overall. A particularly noteworthy point is that the volunteers were consistently positive in their assessment of crisis and emergency management on the programme, including the management of the repatriation effort. 88% were (very) satisfied with their place of assignment - the best result since the surveys began.

Overall satisfaction, North-South



They safety measures taken by the organisations and the support they gave volunteers in critical situations were given very positive assessments. The volunteers felt that the sending and host organisations' seminars were useful for their assignments. Voluntary service provided valuable learning experiences for all volunteers despite the pandemic. In the survey, they stated that they had developed on a personal level. They learned a new language, improved their global awareness, made contacts and told their families and friends about their experiences. Most of them remained active after their assignment. At the time of the survey, 80% of the South-North respondents were already actively involved in volunteering in their home country or were very likely to be in the future. The plan is to take on 800 South-North volunteers for the current cohort (2021/22) and we can't wait to hear their feedback.

- Findings of the 2020 weltwärts programme volunteer survey (South-North)
- Findings of the 2020 weltwärts programme volunteer survey (North-South)

## Covid-19 on Programme Steering Committee agenda

**The pandemic was a key topic at the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meeting in May 2021.**

The number of outgoing and incoming weltwärts volunteers in the 2021/22 cohort depends on the country-specific situations and official requirements. The number of applications received by German sending organisations for North-South

volunteering assignments differs greatly - from very small to as many as in past years. According to the implementing organisations, volunteer recruiting activities are being affected both by travel uncertainties and by the fact that Covid has resulted in a lack of returnees to help advertise the programme. The situation of the partner organisations in the Global South was also discussed but there is not enough information available about this yet. The German partners and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) have reiterated their desire to make entry possible again soon for incoming and outgoing volunteers.

There's also been a surprising development - for the first time, there are more South-North volunteers in Germany than North-South volunteers in the Global South. The plan is to allow up to 800 volunteers to travel to Germany for the current cohort. The number of planned outgoing volunteer assignments to the Global South is similar, reflecting the weltwärts organisations' continued commitment to sending and hosting volunteers again.

For the first time, the representation group for former volunteers (PFIF) campaigned to allow South-North returnees who are members of the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) to attend the digital meetings from outside of Germany. The reason for this move is that more South-North returnees were interested in running as candidates for the PSC than North-South returnees and that the PSC meetings are now virtual.

For a long time, some partner organisations from the Global South have wanted a seat on the PSC.

Now, the PSC members have decided that this is not possible at the moment because there are currently no elected representatives for the weltwärts partner organisations in the Global South that could represent the interests of all organisations at the steering level. However, the PSC is willing to review this matter if suitable proposals are put forward. A dialogue with interested partner organisations and networks in the Global South is planned on this topic as soon as the programme has stabilised again. We'll be sure to keep you updated!

As always, partner organisations can obtain summary minutes of the meeting (in English, French or Spanish) from their German partners.

 **More information**

**Dates for your diary**

- Next PSC meeting: 8 December 2021
- Partner conference in Rwanda, Kigali, 13 to 18 March 2022, organised by DRK Volunta in Hessen gGmbH with Partnerschaftsverein Rheinland-Pfalz – Ruanda
- Partner conference in Mexico, Guadalajara, 28 March to 1 April 2022, organised by Internationaler Bund e.V. - VAP Franken with Kiekare
- Partner conference in the Philippines, Cebu City, 16 to 20 May 2022, organised by Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie with Internationale Jugend- und Gemeinschaftsdienste, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Pfingstlich Charismatischer Missionen, Global Initiative for Exchange & Development, Vision Help International Care Foundation, Don Bosco, Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation, Bidlisiw Foundation, Quidan Kaisahan
- Partner conference in Colombia, Villa de Leyva, 18 to 23 September 2022, organised by DRK Volunta in Hessen gGmbH with Fundación 180 Ramos de Buitrago and Hostelling International Bolivia
- Partner conference in Bosnia, Sarajevo, October 2022, organised by Initiative Christen für Europa e.V. with Nadbiskupijski centar za pastoral mladih „Ivan Pavao II“
- Partner conference in Germany, Berlin, October or November 2022, organised by Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger e.V. with ANIDE

# Contact

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