weltwärts

2023

Partner conference 2023

Conference documentation
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Deutsch-Indische Zusammenarbeit e. V.

Deutsch-Indische Zusammenarbeit e.V. 1996 gegründet

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1 Introduction and background information

1.1 Welcoming address by Berthold Hoffmann, Policy Officer at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Representatives of the Partner Organisations,
Representatives of German Implementing Organisations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A warm welcome on behalf of the BMZ to Berlin and to the 2023 weltwärts partner conference! My name is Berthold Hoffmann. I am the Policy Officer at the BMZ and am delivering this speech on behalf of Mr. Jochen Steinhilber who is the Director-General of Policy Issues at the BMZ.

Ladies and gentlemen, guests, this year weltwärts celebrates a double anniversary! We can look back on 15 years of the North-South component and 10 years of the South-North component under the weltwärts development volunteer service. This Partner Conference is the concluding ceremony for the 2023 weltwärts anniversary year. Together with you, the representatives of Partner Organisations, we want to pay tribute in the coming days to the long and successful cooperation.

And so, I am saying a big thank you to the Indo-German Cooperation and its Partner Organisation Dream School Foundation who organised this conference on behalf of weltwärts!

The kick-off of the anniversary year was the Open weltwärts stakeholder conference in late March 2023. At the first in-person conference after the pandemic, around 160 participants discussed the current situation and the future of the programme.

The highlight of the anniversary year, however, was undoubtedly the big weltwärts festival in the Jahn-Stadium in Göttingen, Germany, from 1 to 4 June 2023. More than 1300 active and former volunteers took part and actively contributed to the programme of the event. It was the largest event in the history of the weltwärts programme for exchange and networking!

Since its foundation, more than 50,000 volunteers have gone on or are currently on a weltwärts mission! More than 4,000 of them have been South-North volunteers on mission in Germany. Since its foundation in 2008, weltwärts has successfully become one of the largest international volunteer services.

More than 140 German Organisations and more than 2.000 Partner Organisations are actively implementing the weltwärts programme right now. During the pandemic they all contributed significantly to ensuring that the necessary structures remained intact so that missions could resume quickly after the pandemic. The crisis has shown very clearly that the principle of partnership-based responsibility for the programme and the programme as a joint operation carried by you as civil society organisations, ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL and the BMZ has proven successful and has even been intensified successfully.

Today we can say that weltwärts has finally overcome these challenging times and is going strong again. The numbers of volunteers going north and south have increased significantly in the last couple of years after the pandemic. We, the BMZ, are saying thank you for that to all of you! Thank you for your work and your untiring commitment to our volunteers!

Even if we have left the pandemic and its consequences behind for the time being, the overall situation continues to be challenging for volunteer services. These crises-stricken times are unsettling many young people. They are leaving a mark on how the young people plan their lives and, on their readiness, to engage in a long-term volunteer service. At the same time, we are still searching for ways to ensure more diversity among weltwärts participants. We also want to expand the range of assignments available for weltwärts volunteers so as to take greater account of the wide range of development cooperation topics and the various interests of the young people.

After years in which the funds for weltwärts increased steadily, all ministries and programmes have reached a point where this can no longer be taken for granted! At the recent budget negotiations, weltwärts was one of the few programmes that was NOT affected by cuts. However, we do not yet know what funds the parliament will be making available to us for 2025 and the following years.

We are all aware that current price trends are not leaving weltwärts programmes untouched. We will have to look into the programme and see how the available funds can be best used to send volunteers on missions. We have already set up a good funds monitoring scheme together with German Implementing Organisations. But we need to become much more efficient in using funds and improve our fund monitoring.

I can assure you that the programme has the full support of the BMZ's leadership. However, all ministries and our programmes, too, are competing in the face of all the challenges we are currently grappling with worldwide – the true scale of which even a term

such as a “turning point in history”[1] hardly captures. Climate change and biodiversity loss are jeopardising our very existence. The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia’s war of aggression on Ukraine have stalled a lot of developments or have even reversed some progress. We have reached the halfway mark on our way to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Despite some progress, most of the Sustainable Development Goals are still far off track.

Esteemed guests, this partner conference is above all an opportunity for direct exchange among you and with you all as the ones that bring weltwärts to life through your everyday work. I encourage you to use this opportunity, engage in exchanges with one another, with your German partners, ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL and with us all!

Together, you and we have overcome huge challenges during the pandemic. And we will also meet the current challenges. The weltwärts joint operation approach has proven successful!

On that note, I would like to wish all of us a successful partner conference here in Berlin!

Thank you very much.

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Fig. 2: Berthold Hoffmann, Policy Officer in the BMZ, delivering the speech of Mr. Steinhilber on 16th October 2023.

[1] The German Chancellor, Mr. Olaf Scholz, coined used the term "Zeitenwende" (turning point in history) during the Government Statement on 27th February 2022 in the German Parliament three days after the Russian attack on Ukraine.

1.2 Welcoming address by Lourens de Jong, member of the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) of the civil society, director of the Association weltwärts Exchange Organisations in Development Cooperation e.V.

Dear representatives of BMZ (Mr. Hoffmann),
dear colleagues of weltwärts coordination unit,
dear colleagues of DIZ (Jona, Sybille and all the others of the organising team),
dear colleagues from partner organisations from the Global South,
dear colleagues from german organisations,
dear translators (without you we would be lost),

In the name of the Programme Steering Committee (don´t forget this abbreviation: PSC) of the weltwärts programme I have the honour to welcome you to this fourth weltwaerts conference in Berlin. Last time we met, was in November 2022 in Berlin and you may ask: why again in Berlin? Why not in Accra or Quito or Bangalore?? We are here again because it is a special year for weltwärts: we are celebrating 10 years South-North and 15 years North-South and this is the reason for being back in the capital of Germany.

My name is Lourens de Jong, and I have been working for more than 27 years in international voluntary services in Africa, Asia, and Latin America for an organisation called *ijgd*, there I coordinated the weltwärts-North-South and South-North components. Since March 2020 I am the director of the quality and interest association *ventao* (my start in ventao was three days before Corona hit the weltwaerts-programme). Since the very beginning of the weltwaerts programme in 2008 I have also been a member of the Programme Steering Committee, representing the German civil society organisations.

Some of you may ask: what is this Programme Steering Committee? The Steering Committee is responsible for the management and the development of the weltwärts programme, in which civil society and government representatives advise jointly on the programme's structure. This is why we are standing here together today to welcome you to this conference. The implementing organisations (you!!) are represented in the PSC by members of four networks (Protestant Church, Catholic Church and two non-confessional networks: "weltoffen" and "ventao"). Another member of PSC is a network called PFIF, they are the voice of the returned volunteers. By the way: since last year the PFIF-representation in the PSC is done by two former South-North-volunteers. Representing the government is the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which is funding the weltwaerts programme and has the overall responsibility for the programme, as well as the weltwärts Coordination Unit (Kww), which works on behalf of the Ministry and is responsible for the administration of weltwaerts.

As you could see, the structure of the weltwaerts programme is very complex and not always comprehensible at first glance. Therefore, during this conference we will offer a short workshop about the programme's structure and framework and some history for those who are interested.

My role as a PSC-representative of implementing organisations is, to bring the everyday challenges of the daily work with volunteers on a political level. The practice and experience of the organisations in the field ALWAYS have to be considered in taking decisions on the weltwaerts programme. The next PSC meeting is on December 7th. As you will certainly be curious about the results of the next PSC, I can tell you a secret: please sign up to the Partner newsletter, we will inform you, where to find it on the weltwaerts website. It keeps you informed about the latest news, what is going on in the weltwaerts cosmos. In the newsletters you will also find interviews with the several weltwaerts networks, that exist around the world, like in South Africa and several Latin-American countries.

Now comparing with the last Berlin conference in 2022 I think we can conclude: we have gone a long way and the weltwaerts programme has survived Corona, WE ARE STILL HERE as the great number of you shows! And we are gathering speed again, especially in the South-North-Component!!

In the name of Civil Society I would like to express here our deep gratitude and respect to the colleagues of BMZ and Coordination unit weltwärts, who have showed, that in times of crisis they have supported and strengthened all the weltwaerts organisations in the field, and this is also a reason, why we are all still here, they deserve a great applause.

Let me close my speech in wishing you a very fruitful conference with a lot of exchange, boostering you with a lot of fresh energy for the future of weltwaerts in your country. We sing a song in my jazz-choir saying: WE´RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!!

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Fig. 3: Lourens de Jong, Member of the PSC, on 16th October 2023.

1.3 Welcoming address by Dr. Jona Aravind Dohrmann, head of the organisation Deutsch-Indischen Zusammenarbeit (DIZ), host organisation

Dear representatives of the Partner Organisations,
Dear representatives of the German Implementing Organisations,
Dear Mr. Steinhilber, Mr. Hoffmann and Mr. de Jong,
I welcome you very warmly to this very special Partner Conference during we will also celebrate the weltwärts Jubilee as integral part of this conference. This conference is also special for the fact, that it is the first one in Germany after the Corona Pandemic. Nevertheless, we are sailing in difficult times as was already mentioned by my predecessors. In this conference, we have also incorporated the DEval evaluation on the impact of Partnerships in the Global South. Last but least: the conference is of course also meant and designed for you, the representatives of the various stakeholders, to interact with each other, to exchange ideas and experiences with each other and to feel that we are all sharing one Partnership for the (sustainable development) Goals!

Since this conference is taking place in Berlin, I also went to the Berlin Brandenburg Airport to pick up some of you. While I was waiting for the participants in the arrival hall, I could see a quote of the name-giver of this airport, the former Governing Mayor of the former West-Berlin, later the Federal Chancellor of West-Germany and Noble Peace Laureate Willy Brandt who said: “If I were asked to say what, apart from peace was most important to me, then my answer would be: freedom.”

In times like this, we all who are assembled here together are very fortunate that we have to freedom to interact with each other, working together and exchanging views and opinions with each other very freely. This is not self-understood everywhere in the world.

We are conducting this Partner Conference in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially No. 4 (Quality Education) and No. 17 (Partnership for the Goals). The execution of the weltwärts programme then spreads to many more SDGs, namely to the ones, towards which you are working.

The conference here is also special and historic because it is being held in close vicinity to the place where the weltwärts programme was kicked. You will be passing it or have already passed it while proceeding towards the location where you have your meals. On the other side of the road, only a few hundred metres away from here, you will find the “Hamburger Bahnhof”. This was the place where the weltwärts programme was kicked off in January 2008 under the leadership of the then Development Minister, Mrs. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul. Since then, we have all come a long way and weltwärts has become a Global Platform for Global Exchange and Networking.

We are very grateful to all those who enabled this conference to happen, especially the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL, especially the weltwärts Coordination Unit, the Moderation Team, the Interpretors, the VKU Forum and my team of DIZ.

Who are we? Just a little about us …

The Deutsch-Indische Zusammenarbeit was founded in 1996 and is an independent, non-denominational and non-partisan association in Germany domiciled in Frankfurt. The NGO has three pillars on which its work is founded:

(1) Promoting and supporting developmental projects in India through the collection of donations and raising of public and private funds with the focus on education, gender, agriculture and focus on India.
(2) Deploying and receiving volunteers within the framework of the weltwärts programme since 2008 and participating in all ancillary programmes (Partner Conference, accompanying measures) with the focus on India and Vietnam.
(3) Conducting development awareness programmes in Germany with focus on India and Vietnam.

At this point many thanks for the trust placed in us!

For a successful implementation of the Berlin Partner Conference 2023., we will be supported by the representatives of the weltwärts Coordination Unit in the Service Center Engagement Global and the members of the weltwärts programme steering committee.

I wish us all a successful conference!

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Fig. 4: Dr. Jona Dohrmann, head of DIZ, on October 18, 2023, with participants of the Partner Conference 2023 in Berlin.

1.4 Conference programme

1.4.1 Day 1, 16. October 2023 - Welcome, Opening and Introduction

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Fig. 5: Listening very carefully on the first day of the partner conference and Fig. 6: Getting used to the simultaneous interpreting team for the languages German, English, Spanish and French.

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Fig. 7: Partner Conference participants listen to the opening speech by Dr. Jona Dohrmann, head of host organization DIZ.

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Fig. 8, 9, 10: Inauguration ceremony: „Lighting of the Lamp“.

Programme on the first day

Day	***Time***	***Agenda***
Monday, 16th Oct. 2023	12.30 hours	Start with a common lunch and registration of participants
	13.30 hours	**Official beginning of the Partner Conference** • Welcome and introduction of the weltwärts-stakeholders and the weltwärts joint operation; explanation of their roles followed by a general introduction of the participants • Inauguration ceremony: „Lighting of the Lamp“ • Coordinated opportunity to getting to know each other • Organizational information and conference rules
	15.30 hours	Tea & Coffee Break (30 minutes)
	16.00 hours	Keynote Address by Mr. Jochen Steinhilber (Director-General of Policy Issues, BMZ)
	16.10 hours	weltwärts „Basic Facts“ and Latest Developments in the weltwärts
	17.00 hours	Mirroring of expectations of the Partner Conference and exploration of additional subjects
	18.00 hours	End of Day 1
	19:15 hours	Dinner in the Caféteria of Martas Gästehaus am Hauptbahnhof Berlin, Lehrter Str. 68 in 10557 Berlin

1.4.2 Day 2, 17. October 2023

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Fig. 11: First individual discussions.

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Fig. 12: Learn more about weltwärts.

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Fig. 13 and 14: Our conference moderators Malathi and Maitreyee from India in action.

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Fig. 15 and 16: Impressions of the "Marketplace", where a lot of information was exchanged, and typical local specialities were offered for tasting.

Programme on the second day

Tuesday, 17th Oct. 2023	09.00 hours	Recap of the previous day and agenda setting for the day
	09.15 hours	Moderated Working Groups on subjects requested by the participants
	12.00 hours	Plenum: Presentation of the findings and discussions
	13.00 hours	Lunch and setting up of "Market Place"
	14.00 hours	Opportunity for Networking: A "Market Place" to display of products, pedagogical tools and project information by the partners
	15.00 hours	Exchange regarding hosting and mentoring of volunteers – trends, best practices, challenges and solutions
	16.00 hours	Tea & Coffee (30 minutes)
	16.30 hours	Part 2 of Exchange
	18.00 hours	End of Day 2 and
	19.15 hours	Dinner for partners in the Caféteria of Martas Gästehaus
	thereafter	Cultural Evening and Networking Time

1.4.3 Day 3, 18. October 2023 - The day with the anniversary event

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Fig. 17: Our one-hour tour on the river Spree through the city centre of Berlin with many historical sights was enthusiastically received by the participants of the partner conference.

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Fig. 18: Ingrid Arenz, Managing Director of ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL gGmbH welcomes the guests to the anniversary evening of 15 years of weltwärts.

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Fig. 19: In his speech at the weltwärts anniversary evening, South African Ambassador Phumelele Stone Sizani (pictured here with Astrid Neumann, Head of the weltwärts Coordination Unit at Engagement Global) emphasised the importance of NGOs. These are the "oxygen for society".

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Fig. 20: exuberant atmosphere on the anniversary evening.

Programme of the third day

Wednesday, 18th Oct. 2023	09.00 hours	Recap of the previous day and agenda setting for the day
	09.30 hours	Work of and with returnee volunteers in the Global South / Impact of the South-North component on the Global South
	10.00 hours	Regional Discussions to collect good practices of involvement of South-North volunteers in the Global South
	11.00 hours	Plenum
	12.00 hours	Future of South-North Volunteering - Ideas and suggestions
	13.00 hours	Lunch
	14.00 hours	Workshops on further exchange on subjects identified during the Partner Conference
	15.00 hours	Explore Historical City of Berlin - Boat Tour
	18.00 hours	Jubilee Evening incl. Dinner – 15 Years weltwärts Venue: Villa Elisabeth, Invalidenstraße 3, 10115 Berlin https://maps.app.goo.gl/UWcBc67FkFBvB8j18

1.4.4 Day 4, 19. October 2023

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Fig. 21: Exchange on the weltwärts programme in the workshop.

Programme of the fourth day

Thursday, 19th Oct. 2023	09.00 hours	Recap of the previous day and agenda setting for the day
	09.30 hours	Workshop on Survey amongst the weltwärts Partners in the framework of the **DEval-Follow-up process** regarding the impact of partnerships
	13.00 hours	Lunch
	14.00 hours	Reference Framework for weltwärts: SDGs
	16.30 hours	Tea & Coffee (30 minutes)
	17.00 hours	weltwärts and climate issues – handprints and footprints
	18.00 hours	End of Day 4
	19.15 hours	Dinner in the Caféteria of Martas Gästehaus

1.4.5 Day 5, 20. October 2023

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Fig. 22, 23, 24 and 25: On the fifth day of the conference, the participants of the ww Partner Conference received their certificates. Ms Natalie Tawamba Tessa from ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL gGmbH, Ms Astrid Neumann, Mr Lourens de Jong and Dr Jona Aravind Dohrmann bid farewell to the participants from the partner and implementing organisations and thanked the team of moderators, organisers and interpreters for a successful weltwärts Partner Conference 2023 in Berlin.

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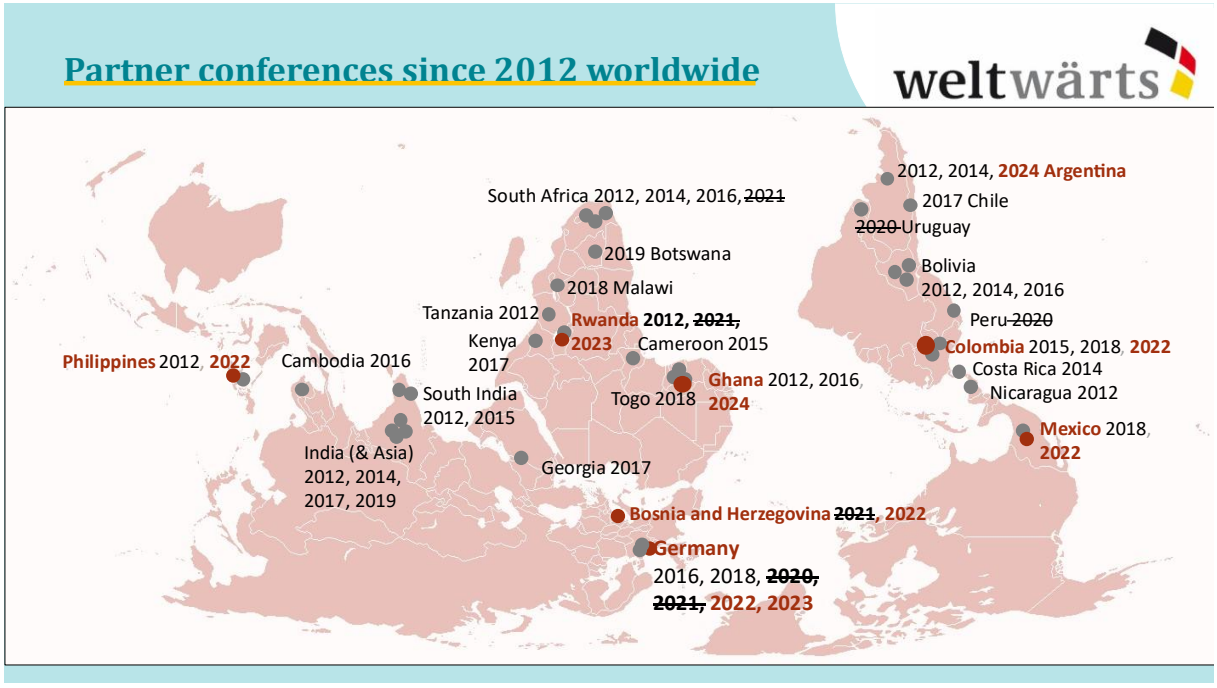
Programme of the fifth day

Friday, 20th Oct. 2023	09.00 hours	Recap of the previous day and agenda setting for the day
	09.30 hours	15 Years of weltwärts: The way forward – Opportunities and Perspectives
	11.00 hours	Evaluation, Certification and Farewell
	13.00 hours	End of Conference and Lunch
	14.00 hours	Departure of participants

1.5 The conference in a nutshell

- **Date of the conference: October 16-20, 2023**
- **Conference venue: Berlin, VKU Forum, Invalidenstraße**
- **Host organization: Indo-German Cooperation e. V.**
- **This is the 41st PC since 2012. In 2020 and 2021, all PCs were cancelled or postponed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic: Uruguay, Germany, South Africa, Peru, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda. Bold and orange: PCs in 2022 and 2023: Already took place: Mexico, Colombia, Bosnia, Philippines, 2 x Germany and Rwanda. The large majority of the weltwärts countries could already be reached through the partner conferences taking place up to now.**
- **Partner conferences are funded 100% by the BMZ.**



1.6 Participants of the partner conference

German implementing organisations and their representatives.
(19 participants from 16 organisations):

Name of organisation	Name of participant
Deutsche Youth for Understanding e.V.	Marie Bullan
Bolivianisches Kinderhilfswerk e.V.	Lukas Diehlmann
ICJA-Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit e.V.	Hai Vu Doan
Kindermission 'Die Sternsinger' e.V.	Marina Eckert de Villanueva
World Horizon e.V.	Silvia Gallegos*
Pro Regenwald e.V.	Martin Glöckle
Evangelische Freiwilligendienste Diakonie Hessen	Thomas Knierim*
KJSH e.V.	Verena Leicht
Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger e.V.	Felipe López
ADRA Deutschland e.V.	Natalie Luetjens
IB Südwest gGmbH für Bildung und soziale Dienste, IB VAB Kassel	Bernhard Marien*
Brot für die Welt	Caecilie Raiser*
Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners e.V.	Marie Roche
Ecuador Connection e.V.	Enrique Sturz
APCM e.V.	Johanna Warkentin
World Horizon e.V.	Idliko Wendt*
IB Südwest gGmbH für Bildung und soziale Dienste, IB VAB Kassel	Daizy Shekhawat*
Brot für die Welt	Oliver Cerda*
Evangelische Freiwilligendienste Diakonie Hessen	Christina Wilcke*

*** Presence of persons on different days of the PC**

Participants from BMZ, PSC and Engagement Global (EG)

Name of Organisation	Participant	Function
BMZ/ Programme Steering Committee (PSC) governmental	Berthold Hoffmann	Policy Officer BMZ
Programme Steering Committee (PSC) of the civil society	Lourens de Jong	Head of ventao
EG	Anita Reddy	Head of department, EG
EG, PSC governmental	Astrid Neumann	Head of the weltwärts Coordination Unit (wwCU)
EG	Natalie Tawamba Tessa	Project coordination wwCU
EG	Isabel Schug	Project coordination wwCU
EG	Christian Wochele	Project leader wwCU
EG	Karina Heinz	Project coordination wwCU
EG	Vanessa Ross	Assistant wwCU

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Fig. 26: Natalie Tawamba Tessa, Astrid Neumann and Lourens de Jong as representatives of Engagement Global and the Programme Steering Committee (PSC).

Partner organisations and their representatives (52 participants from 37 countries)

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Fig. 27: All participants of the Berlin Partner Conference 2023 in front of the VKU Forum building at Invalidenstraße 91.

Country	Name of Organisation	Given Name of participant	Surname of participant
Albania	The House of Prayer	Festim	Qelemeni
Argentinia	Luz Esperanza Pureza	Mechtild Josefine	Everinghoff-Libarona
Benin	Initiative pour la Recherche et les Actions du Développement Mondial (IRADM) IRADM-ONG	Richard Arnaud Patrick	Sottin
Bolivia	Fundacion BKHW	Lizeth Sandra	Cervantes Saavedra
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Svitac/Firefly Bosnia	Milos	Popic
Botswana	Thari E Ntsho Storytellers	Bontekanye	Botumile
Botswana	Food Bank Botswana	Kingston	Mmolawa
Brazil	Associação Beneficente Guainumbi	Guilhermina	Monteiro de Souza
Brazil	Associacao Comunitaria Monte Azul	Vanusa	Dos Santos Coutinho
Cambodia	Bread for the world Cambodia	Brak	Limheang
Cambodia	Sorya for Cambodia Development Organisation	Sreytouch	Soung

Colombia	Samaritoanos de la Calle	Beatriz Eugenia	Consuegra Caiaffa
Costa Rica	Seprojoven A.C.	Alonso Jose	Chaves Vargas
Costa Rica	Arbofilia	Jahel Eugenia	Quiros Soto
Dominican Republic	Fundación Manos Amigas de la Niñez (FUNMANI)	Colasina	Marte de Alberto
Ecuador	Fundación Campamento Cristiano Esperanza	Rita Elvira	Tobar Cortez
Ecuador	Fundación VASE	Doménica Alejandra	Yanez Cevallos
Georgia	Association for People in Need of Special Care (APNSC)	Tamar	Dvalishvili
Ghana	Ghana Red Cross Society	Patrick	Brenya
India	Prarambha	Banakar	Hampanna
India	Karl Kübel Foundation for Child & Family	Malathi Kattampatti	Santhanam
India	Young Men's Christian Association Ranchi (YMCA)	Ashish	Topno
India	Dream School Foundation	Maitreyee	S. Kumar
Indonesia	Doulos Foundation	Ferry Budhyantorro	Regar

Ivory Coast	ONG AREBO (Les Amis de Reutlingen à Bouaké)	Dramane	Koné
Kenya	River Jordan Medical Center	Eunice Wanjira Muriuki	Wahome
Kyrgyzstan	Public Fund "Institute for Youth Development"	Aksana	Seiitova
Madagascar	Ong Manda	Miarintsoa Tahinjanahary	Razanakiniaina
Malawi	NDIMOYO PALLIATIVE CARE TRUST	Bisani Kanakabene	Mphongolo
Mexico	Ñepi Behña A.C	Laura Maria	Hernandez Guzman
Mexico	Flora Fauna y Cultura de México A. C.	Mario Alberto	Gomez Avila
Mosambique	ADRA Mosambique	Joao Lucas Jangaia	Junior
Namibia	Waldorf School Windhoek	Nicola Margot Hilde	Brodie
Nicaragua	Siervas Misioneras de Cristo Rey	Ligia del Carmen	Rodríguez Estrada
Nigeria	Voluntary Workcamps Association of Nigeria (VWAN)	Kolawole Sunday	Aganran
Paraguay	Youth for understanding Paraguay	Sandra Raquel	Fischer Moreno
Peru	Betesda School	Teresa Fransisca	Fröschle

Peru	Institución Educativa "Inca Huiracocha"	Victor Hugo	Yarleque Dioses
Philippines	Bahay Tuluyan Foundation Inc.	Catherine Elizabeth	Scerri
Senegal	Centre Social Sekar Wangi	Abdoulaye	Seck
South Africa	iKhaya LikaBaba Children's Home	Loressa	Kritzinger
South Africa	CIVICUS	Nicole Lungile	Nkuna
South Africa	Kliptown Youth Programme	Thulani Goodman	Madondo
South Africa	ALEXANDRIA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	Margarethe	Olivier
Tanzania	Kilacha Production and Training Center	Jerome Rufini	Silayo
Tanzania	ADRA Tanzania	Samuel Tetteh	Oyortey
Thailand	Siratthaya Learning Center	Chuthamanee	Mitreechit
Togo	Centre Kekeli	Gabrielle Mundongo	Muntukwaku
Uganda	CHILD PROTECTION AND MOBILE ORGANISATION (CPAM Uganda)	Juliet	Nakafeero

Uganda	Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM)	Edith	Kazimba
Vietnam	Coins for Change Vietnam	Thi Duyen Hong	Tang
Zambia	Mentor in Zambia	Julia Leonie	Mackay

Composition of participants from partner organisations:

continent	country	number of participants	female	male	amount of organisations
Africa (east)	Kenya	1	1	0	1
Africa (east)	Madagaskar	1	1	0	1
Africa (east)	Malawi	1	0	1	1
Africa (east)	Tanzania	2	0	2	2
Africa (east)	Uganda	2	2	0	2
Africa (east)	Mosambique	1	0	1	1
Africa (south)	Botswana	2	1	1	2
Africa (south)	Namibia	1	1	0	1
Africa (south)	South Africa	4	3	1	4
Africa (south)	Zambia	1	1	0	1
Africa (west)	Benin	1	0	1	1
Africa (west)	Ghana	1	0	1	1
Africa (west)	Nigeria	1	0	1	1
Africa (west)	Senegal	1	0	1	1
Africa (west)	Ivory Coast	1	0	1	1
Africa (west)	Togo	1	1	0	1
Asia	Cambodia	2	2	0	2
Asia	Georgia	1	1	0	1
Asia	India (2 partipants, 2 moderators)	4	2	2	4
Asia	Indonesia	1	0	1	1
Asia	Kyrgyzstan	1	1	0	1
Asia	Philippines	1	1	0	1
Asia	Thailand	1	1	0	1
Asia	Vietnam	1	1	0	1
Central America	Nicaragua	1	1	0	1
North America	Dominican Republic	1	1	0	1
North America	Mexico	2	1	1	2
South America	Argentina	1	1	0	1

South America	Bolivia	1	1	0	1
South America	Brazil	2	2	0	2
South America	Colombia	1	1	0	1
South America	Costa Rica	2	1	1	2
South America	Ecuador	2	2	0	2
South America	Paraguay	1	1	0	1
South America	Peru	2	1	1	2
Europe	Albania	1	0	1	1
Europe	Bosnia and Herze-govina	1	0	1	1
Total	**37**	**52**	**33**	**19**	**52**

Organisation team of DIZ:

Dr. Jona Aravind Dohrmann	Coordinator of the partner conference in Berlin 2023
Sybille Franck	Coordinator of the partner conference in Berlin 2023
Vincent Vinit Dohrmann	Coordination participants PC
Paul Führlein	Member of the organisation team
Daniela Brunnert	Local assistance organisation team
Ankita Chaudhary	South-North volunteer, support organisation team

2 Results of the partner conference in Berlin 2023

2.1 News from the weltwärts programme

In advance, the participants expressed the wish to be informed about the latest developments in the weltwärts programme. Representatives of the civil society side of the PSC informed the participants about "basic facts, structure and latest developments" and "the South-North component in the weltwärts programme"- (see attachments for presentations). Even if this information was not new to all participants, everyone was brought to the same information level.

2.2 15 years of weltwärts

To mark the 15th anniversary of the programme, the Jubilee evening on 18th October 2023 with guests from federal politics and representatives from embassies of various nations provided a platform to honour and consolidate the valuable weltwärts partnerships.

In his speech at the weltwärts Jubilee evening, the South African Ambassador Phumelele Stone Sizani emphasised the importance of NGOs. According to him, NGOs are "oxygen of society". It is therefore important that the German government continues to strengthen them and support them financially. South Africa is one of the most popular countries for

German volunteers. Berthold Hoffmann from the Department for Civic Engagement, Exchange and Volunteer Programmes at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) confirmed the full support of the ministry: "We will ensure that weltwärts remains a strong programme in the future in view of the current challenges." It is a good signal that young people are committed to this planet, and the network of committed former volunteers gives hope, especially in these times. It is a "wonderful programme" for changing young people's perspectives.

Malathi Kattampatti Santhanam from the Karl Kübel Foundation (India) has been looking after volunteers from Germany in India since the start of the weltwärts programme in 2008. She is also involved in the selection of Indian volunteers who are doing their South-North volunteer service in Germany as part of the South-North component of the programme. At the Jubilee evening, she expressed her thanks to the German government for this "wonderful programme". It not only changes the young people themselves, but also their environment and society. The South-North component is of particular importance to the NGO. The young people return to their home countries with a different perspective, rich in cultural experiences and a changed understanding of humanity. Lourens de Jong, representative of civil society, confirmed the influence of the programme on young people and their environment. He pointed out that weltwärts also enables young people who would not otherwise have done voluntary service to get involved internationally.

The programme, whose name translates as “worldwards”, was launched in 2008 by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support young people looking to take action for the good of our One World. Since then, going “worldwards” has been possible through the programme’s development volunteer service.

Since 2012, weltwärts has been organised as a joint venture between the state and civil society. Engagement Global gGmbH is responsible for the administrative coordination of the programme on behalf of the BMZ.

In 2013, the South-North component of the weltwärts volunteer service was introduced in order to promote interaction on an equal footing. As a result, young people from the weltwärts partner countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania and Eastern Europe can now go on assignment to Germany.

2.3 Various topics

No other topics were raised by the PSC, but the following topics were raised by the conference participants in the run-up to the conference, which were then also taken into account in the presentations by the PSC representatives in special workshops (**see attachments** for photos of the workshop results).

South-North Visa Workshop (Lourens De Jong, PSC Civil Society) - **see attachment**

- Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Exchange regarding hosting and mentoring of volunteers – trends, best practices, challenges and solutions
- Future of South-North Volunteering - Ideas and suggestions
- Survey amongst the weltwärts Partners in the framework of the DEval-Follow-up process regarding the impact of partnerships

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all UN member states in September 2015. It sets out the belief that the challenges facing our globalised world can only be solved in a concerted effort, which is why it applies to all countries in our One World. The core of the Agenda 2030 are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), **see attachment**. The goals cover areas in which all people and countries need to take action. The aim is to achieve them jointly by 2030.

The responsible organisations in Germany and the partner countries benefit from the transfer of experience and knowledge and strengthen their partnerships through networking with former volunteers. In this way, weltwärts contributes to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Weltwärts is also committed to continuous development and improvement. In recent years, quality requirements have been formulated for the voluntary service to ensure that all participants receive the same high-quality service. Compliance with the requirements is regularly checked by external certification institutes and Engagement Global. The sponsoring organisations also have their own quality improvement procedures.

Here is the **link** to the catalogue:

Catalogue of quality standards - weltwärts volunteer service (weltwaerts.de)

2.4 What expectations did the partners have of the volunteer programme?

This time, the focus of the conferences was entirely on the topics and interests of the participants from the partner organisations and on the exchange between them. There were no topics suggested by the PSC. In general, all topics presented were very well received. There were always questions and additional contributions from the audience.

Throughout the conference, there were repeated requests for more support for implementation and increased funding. There were also requests not only for more transparency in financial matters, but also for transparency and clarity in decision-making processes. The limits of these possibilities were sometimes explained directly by representatives of BMZ, PSC or Engagement Global.

The Partner Organisations expect well-prepared volunteers from Germany who actively support the assignment locations. In the context of the partner conference, there was also a strong desire to network with each other. This desire for networking was met during the conference: A "marketplace" for the presentation of products, educational tools and project information from the partners was inaugurated by the Convenor of the Partner Conference, Dr. Jona Aravind Dohrmann, and Ms Anita Reddy (Head of Department, Engagement Global gGmbH) on Tuesday, 17th October 2023 which met with a huge interest from all the participants of the Partner Conference.

Maitreyee Kumar, Executive Director of our partner organisation Dream School Foundation India and one of the moderators of the weltwärts event, assessed the results as follows:

“The Partner Conference 2023 in Berlin was a vibrant and collaborative event, bringing together participants from diverse geographies and backgrounds, with perspectives on several global development issues and the various aspects of the weltwärts development service. The participation from 38 countries (including Germany) across 4 continents provided a tremendous opportunity for a rich exchange of ideas on the weltwärts programme and volunteer engagement.

Throughout the five conference days, we found the atmosphere to be friendly and truly inclusive with all stakeholders given a platform for uninhibited dialogue and sharing of views. The representatives from the BMZ, the members of the Programme Steering Committee (PSC), the weltwärts coordination unit, Engagement Global, the German implementing organisations, partners from the Global South, the past and current volunteers, all participated actively and wholeheartedly in the conference making it an inclusive and enriching experience for all.

It was inspiring to witness the possibility of having free and open discussions with members of the BMZ and the PSC, which fostered trust and collaboration between the various stakeholders of the programme. We truly appreciated this valuable opportunity for the partners to interact with the decision makers of the programme enabling transparency in the affairs of weltwärts and a feedback mechanism for all to contribute towards the development of the programme.

As in most weltwärts Partner Conferences, we had a diverse group of participants with varied years of experience in the programme, spread across a spectrum of 1 to 15 years. While this made it challenging to design the conference content, that can enable the understanding and participation of all members, it also brought diverse perspectives and novel ideas to the floor for insightful exchange of thoughts.

We tried to design the content to address the various experience levels of the participants as well as the interest areas specified and proposed by the participants in the application forms. It was ensured through the concurrent sessions that most topics recommended by the participants had been covered.

As moderators, we found it intriguing to note that the conversations in the experienced groups have evolved over the years and revolved around matters of global concern like climate change, SDGs, and program quality rather than focusing on mundane day-to-day operational matters."

3 Evaluation

In general, the feedback on the partner conference was very positive. This was shown both by the evaluation of the results of the questionnaires and the individual personal feedback. 61 out of 75 participants took part in the evaluation digitally.

Here is the link to the evaluation of the partner conference in the different languages.

4 Imprint

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weltwärts