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Information for upcoming volunteers

Become a volunteer - in Germany

Would you like to get to know Germany and make new experiences? Social commitment and sustainability matters are important to you? Then become a 'weltwärts' volunteer, with ADRAlive!

Every year we welcome young people from abroad for a year to get involved in various charitable projects. Perhaps you would like to be the next one?

We can testify from our own experience that travelling is life-changing: Not only do you get to know new people, cultures, values and places, but you also experience them for a year. They become a part of your life story.

Together with our partners we accompany and support you in terms of educational, financial, administrative and organizational matters - before, during and after your voluntary service. We look at topics such as global and social inequalities, cultural differences, sustainability and development together from completely new perspectives.

Your voluntary service is largely funded by the BMZ (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development). This means that there are no costs for you, as most of the funding and costs are covered by the BMZ.

If you are interested, take a look to see if our programm and opportunities suit you. If you have any questions, please contact us at any time.

Requirements for Volunteering in Germany

- You are between 18 and 28 years of age, or 35 if you have an impairment or disability.
- You are in good enough health to complete a volunteering assignment abroad. An impairment or disability does not rule out health suitability.
- You have a school-leaving qualification, a vocational qualification or equivalent work experience.
- Your country of residence appears on the DAC list of the OECD.



- You are a team player, open-minded, willing to learn, proactive and have a respectful attitude towards new things.
- You are enthusiastic about social engagement and ecological commitment.

Duration of the volunteer service with ADRAlive!

An ADRAlive! assignment usually lasts around 12 months, starting in August and ending in July of the following year.

Possible areas of assignment in our program include:

- Children's homes/ day care centres
- Kindergarten
- Schools
- Community work, social work
- Agriculture, environmental protection and animal welfare

Funding and costs

The weltwärts programm covers all essential costs for the volunteers. ADRA does not charge any placement fees or expense allowances for the volunteer service, but as the sending organisation it bears at least 25% of the costs incurred. With the support of weltwärts funding, the volunteers receive from ADRA or the partner organisation:

- Adequate, locally customary board and lodging in the host country (or payment of a monthly board and lodging allowance)
- Reimbursement of travel expenses in the host country
- Insurance (liability, health and accident insurance)
- Seminars before, during and after the service
- Reimbursement of costs for visa applications
- Reimbursement of costs for vaccinations and preventive and follow-up health care
- Educational support throughout the year
- Budget for a language course



Your application

Apply now for the 2026-2027 placement year (please check the timetable below)!

Selection criteria and personal requirements

ADRA decides on participation in the volunteer program in a selection process.

Selection criteria and requirements include:

- 18 - 28 years of age at the time of departure
- Completed education (school and/or vocational training)
- Advantageous: Experience in working with children and/or youth work, or ecological projects, farming, sustainability-related work, etc.
- Good health, physical resilience and mental stability
- Desired: Language skills (English/ possibly German), or willingness to learn it

Everything we need from you

We would be delighted if you decide to apply for an assignment abroad with ADRA.

- 2x completed application form
- Letter of motivation in English
- CV in English (in tabular form)
- Your last two school reports/exams
- If available, any internship certificates from the social sector
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher, pastor, church leader or head of department of a non-profit organisation where you volunteer (no family members!)

Dates

Approximate timetable - secondment 2025/2026:

Timeline for the Application Process - weltwärts South-North Program

October-November 2025:

- **Application Submissions**
Applications for the program starting in 2026 are received.



November-December 2025:

- **Feedback and Initial Interviews**

Applicants will receive feedback on their application status, and the first interviews will be conducted.

December 2025:

- **Start of visa applications**

Selected candidates will be provided with all information necessary for their visa applications and start their processes with the embassy.

Mid-July 2026:

- **Preparation Seminar in the Home Country**

Selected Volunteers will attend a preparation seminar in their home country.

July 2026:

- **Arrival in Germany**

Volunteers will travel to Germany for the start of their voluntary service.

July-August 2026:

- **Preparation Seminar in Germany and start of the voluntary year**

Volunteers will continue the preparation seminar upon their arrival in Germany and begin with their work at their work sites.

FAQ – frequently asked questions

- **Is it difficult to get a visa?**

That depends on the country of origin. The visa process in Tanzania and Mozambique, for example, can be complicated and takes time. However, we will assist you with this process, your application, and generally in advance and during your voluntary service year.

- **Can I do voluntary service at the age of 17?**

Unfortunately, you cannot do voluntary service abroad at the age of 17. However, you can apply at 17, as long as you will be 18 years old when you leave your home country (by July 2025).



- **Do I need to know the local language beforehand?**

Language skills in German are an advantage, but not a prerequisite for your application. However, it is important that you are willing to learn the language and attend a language course. Doing first steps to learn the language before you leave the country is something we would recommend and like to see. We will also support you financially with a language course in Germany.

However, English skills are necessarily required.

- **Do I need to have experience in the field of work of my chosen project?**

No. Previous experience in the various areas of work is an advantage but is not a prerequisite for an assignment.

Costs, benefits and insurance cover

- **What will the voluntary service cost me?**

All essential costs for visa, accommodation, meals, travel, language course and insurance in Germany are covered.

How to apply

- **How can I apply?**

To apply, we need various documents from you, such as your CV and letter of motivation. You can find out more information on all required documents here.

- **Until when can I apply?**

As long as we still have places available, you can still apply. However, it is generally an advantage if you apply by October, as the visa process can take a long time and effort. Also, we are planning to allocate most of the places by November. So, if you apply late, your chances of getting placed might decrease.

- **I have an illness/impairment. Can I still apply?**

That depends on the individual case and, above all, the project you want to work in. Just send us an email if you're not sure. We will be happy to look for a suitable solution with you.



Commitment on site

- **Will I be the only volunteer?**

No. We are always welcoming several volunteers from the same country, and you will have lots of opportunities to get to know each other. In your project, you will find an experienced tutor who remains available and responsible of providing you guidance, personal feedback and useful information throughout your volunteer service year.

- **Who is my contact person?**

Here in Germany, our experienced ADRAlive! team will be available for you. We will support you during the preparation phase, throughout your voluntary year and after your return to your home country, together with our partner organization on site.

At your work place, you will be guided by a tutor. In addition to this, a personal mentor will be available to assist you regarding various matters of everyday life in Germany, if needed and upon request.

- **Will I be accommodated in a host family?**

This is one possible option of accommodation, especially when your project is in a rural area. Another option could be to live in a shared flat together with other volunteers.

- **Do I have to organise my own accommodation?**

No, we will organize your accommodation. We will make sure that your accommodation is safe and furnished according to local standards.

- **Will I be able to attend a language course?**

Yes, we are providing language course opportunities right from the start of your volunteer service. Each volunteer is to attend a language course permanently throughout the voluntary year, to make sure that you will get along well at your work place and also in your everyday life here in Germany. These courses of a few hours per week will be held at professional language schools with many years of experience.

- **What does my everyday life look like?**

The answer depends partly on your project and in which field you would like to contribute as a volunteer. Your workload is a maximum of 40 hours per week – language course hours included. You are free to organize your leisure time as you wish.

- **Do I have holiday entitlement?**

Yes, you are entitled to 2 days' holiday per month of assignment, which equals 24 days in total.



Information on possible places of assignment:

We have different deployment sites where you can work, here in Germany, and we will choose the right one in accordance with you, suiting your abilities, skills and preferences the best way possible.

The possible work sites include:

- Children's homes/ day care centres
- Kindergarten
- Schools
- Community work, social work
- Agriculture, environmental protection and animal welfare

We will provide you more detailed insight on our work sites during our personal selection interviews with you, which will be carried out online via MS Teams.

Possible tasks for volunteers include:

- Social/educational work with kids, youths and elderly people
- Leisure time activities with social work target groups (as described above)
- Assisting kids, youths or elderly people with daily and personal matters
- Helping to set up and carry out informational and educational campaigns on sustainability/ecological or international development cooperation matters (in case of work sites being active in those fields)
- Optional: social media work
- Administrative support as required

What all work sites can offer their volunteers:

- An open and welcoming atmosphere
- A meaningful and important work
- Professional guidance and availability for you

Are you interested? Then we look forward to receiving your application and welcoming you to our team from August 2026!



Your contact persons:

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