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... for life to continue

Diakonie
Katastrophenhilfe

Humanitarian aid worldwide **Diakonie**
Katastrophenhilfe

Who we are



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Front cover photo: Emergency accommodation in Haiti

▶ **We need your help**

Part of our project financing comes from public funds, for example from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) or the German Federal Foreign Ministry. Most, however, comes from donations. Non-earmarked donations are particularly important for us, since we are able to allocate this money, to where it is most urgently needed. This also includes using it in countries that receive little or no public attention.

▶ **We operate responsibly**

Financial transactions relating to all projects are continuously scrutinised. Both in-house and by external auditors. In addition, since 1993, the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) has awarded us its seal of approval certifying the proper planning and execution of our project work

▶ **We optimise our work**

After a project is wound up, we commission studies to assess its impact. We are thereby able to monitor the success and sustainability of our work. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe regards itself as a “learning” organisation. Our goal is to continually develop and improve our aid programmes.

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How you can help

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Member of
actalliance



Since 1954, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe has been providing aid where the need is greatest. We help people, who have become victims of natural disasters, war and displacement and are unable to cope unaided with their desperate situation.

We help, irrespective of the victims’ political, religious and cultural affiliation. Quickly, reliably and effectively. We work hand in hand with local partners who understand the needs of the local people and speak their language.

Through our membership of the worldwide church network ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), we can also provide aid in countries where we have no direct partners. And 105 organisations together accomplish more than one working single-handedly.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, together with “Brot für die Welt” is part of the Ecumenical Diaconia of the Social Service Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany (Diakonisches Werk der EKD e.V.).

Up to date information at
www.diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de

How we operate



Each year, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe supports around 140 aid projects throughout the world. In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, our local partners are on the spot providing emergency relief to victims. We then go on to help rebuild houses and restore livelihoods. Alongside this, we promote disaster risk reduction measures to improve the population's future protection. We also stay on in crisis and war regions supporting victims, even when public interest dissipates.

Our work adheres strictly to the Code of Conduct for humanitarian aid. Respecting the dignity of each individual is our guiding commitment. Our aid is structured in a way that promotes self-sufficiency and reconciliation. We work in cooperation with the victims and not over their heads. In doing so, we respect strict neutrality and independence.

EMERGENCY AID

Earthquakes, floods, drought, war – irrespective of whether it's a natural disaster or armed conflict, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe is on site, working to secure the survival of those affected. Immediately after a disaster, people primarily need food, water, medicines, blankets and tents.

In most cases, we purchase relief items at local markets. This supports the local economy and, due to shorter transportation routes, reduces costs. Psychological support, especially for children and victims of sexual violence, helps victims to come to terms with traumatic experiences.



Example: Democratic Republic of Congo

In Eastern Congo, a brutal war has been raging for more than ten years between rival rebel groups and the army, inflicting great suffering on the civil population. Millions have been forced to flee the region. Our projects help thousands of families in need. We distribute food, as well as household and hygiene packs. Through providing seeds and simple agricultural tools, we help people achieve self-sufficiency. And we equip health stations with medicines and other medical supplies.

RECONSTRUCTION

A disaster often destroys the entire basis of people's lives. We give them the support they need to get back on their own feet. We help them to reconstruct houses, schools and health stations and ensure a functioning water supply. Through the provision of seeds and tools, together with agricultural and occupational training courses, we enable people to earn a living. Depending on the scale of the disaster, the reconstruction and rehabilitation phase can take several years. In many cases, there are uncertainties about the ownership of land and property, the infrastructure is in ruins and the political situation unstable.



Example: Haiti

The earthquake in January 2010 claimed over 230,000 lives and destroyed or damaged countless numbers of homes. The horror of the disaster is deep-seated. Immediately after the relief phase, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe began building earthquake and storm resistant houses in the south of the country. One year after the disaster, 568 such houses have already been completed. Another 400 are in the process of being built. Three schools were constructed to withstand earthquakes, as well as a hospital and four health stations. Locals were trained to carry out this work.

DISASTER PREVENTION

As a result of climate change, the frequency and severity of such natural disasters as tropical storms, flooding and drought have increased in recent years. That is why it is important to mitigate the impact of future disasters and ensure that the population is better prepared. Together with our partners, we are making houses earthquake and storm resistant, building shelters, planting forests in coastal regions, distributing salt-tolerant seeds and improving irrigation systems. In addition, we are developing early-warning systems and emergency plans and carrying out evacuation drills.



Example: Indonesia

As part of a prevention project on the island of Java, we are working with the inhabitants of two villages to assess potential risks presented by climate change and seek appropriate adjustment measures. Small-holders are developing improved cultivation methods, including the effective use of water and the production of organic fertilisers. Ducks are replacing pesticides in the battle against snails. Seed stores are being jointly constructed to protect rice seeds against storms and rain.