

Transfer of weltwärts exchange projects to the German-African Youth Office

Dear implementing organizations and partners of the weltwärts exchange projects grant programme,

Since the beginning of the grant programme four years ago, *weltwärts-Begegnungen* (wwB) has developed positively as a popular extracurricular exchange format and has grown continually.

The results of the evaluation at the end of the pilot phase of the wwB grant programme clearly show that *weltwärts-Begegnungen* was able to close a funding gap in the field of international extracurricular youth exchanges. The grant programme is characterised in particular by the principle of partnership, a format based on reciprocity and the focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

This positive development was possible due to the successful planning and implementation of a range of wwB projects by you, our partner organisations. In recognition of this, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has decided to transfer the wwB grant programme, a key supporting pillar of international youth exchanges more broadly, into a new German-African Youth Office (*Deutsch-Afrikanisches Jugendwerk*). The Youth Office is currently being set up and will sit under the Engagement Global (EG) umbrella.

At the request of Minister Dr. Müller, the BMZ aims to strengthen further international development youth exchanges between Germany and African countries. The partnership with the neighbouring continent of Africa is to be further deepened and made tangible for young people in particular. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030 will continue to be the focus of the programme. A further pillar of the planned German-African Youth Office, in addition to youth exchange projects, is the planned expansion of the exchange of trainees and young professionals between Africa and Germany. This second pillar will be implemented in partnership with the Senior Experts Service (SES).

What do the **current changes** in the **wwB grant programme** mean for you as a project partner?

- First and foremost, it is important to note that for you as an wwB partner, hardly anything will change.
- Your wwB projects that are already approved, whether in Africa or outside Africa, can be continued as usual - as far as possible due to the pandemic.
- The requirements of the wwB funding guidelines with which you are familiar will remain in place.
- At Engagement Global, your familiar contact persons within the wwB team will continue to be available to you with advice and support.

We would like to inform you early of one specific change so that you can adapt your project planning: from the second half of 2021, applications will only be accepted for projects with project partners on the African continent. As a result, the wwB will become increasingly centred on Africa, the continent the programme had originally intended to focus on.

Aware of your existing plans, the BMZ and EG have established a long-term transition period for planned weltwärts projects with project partnerships **outside Africa**:

- Applications for new projects can still be submitted **until 30 June 2021**.
- Projects with partnerships outside Africa can only be funded under the wwB grant programme if the project ends on or before 31 December 2023.
- In addition, for all applications for planned wwB projects with partners outside Africa submitted by 30 June 2021, the previous limit of up to € 50,000 will be suspended.

If you have any queries or questions about new project proposals, please contact us at ww-begegnung@engagement-global.de. If you need concrete advice on your current wwB project, please contact your designated contact person directly, as usual. We will keep you informed of new developments concerning the development of the German-African Youth Office.

We look forward to continuing to advise you on the planning and implementation of your wwB projects!

Best regards

Your wwB team