

## **Managing the crisis through creativity – International volunteering during the pandemic**

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### **Abstract**

International volunteering placements are brought to life through human interaction and dialogue between young people around the world. The Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions it brought meant that volunteering schemes everywhere came to a halt. International volunteering organisations were presented with almost insurmountable challenges which, however, they have managed to mitigate to some extent thanks to flexible solutions and innovative approaches. In a survey of organisations under the umbrella of Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden e. V. (AGDF), some of these were highlighted and good practices were identified. For instance, some organisations designed online seminars for digital natives; the often already close relationships between organisations and volunteers were intensified; crisis management strategies were adapted and expanded worldwide and on site; and current and former volunteers were encouraged to form networks. All these changes were and still are due to digitalisation, which has had an impact on most aspects of the volunteering field. Some of the changes visible across the field have proven their worth and are there to stay; in some regards, however, volunteers have expressed a wish to return to the status quo.

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