



Center for International Voluntary Service (CIVS)

Development by People

Introduction

CIVS provides innovative and competent support to needy communities and organisations aimed at stimulating local development initiatives, especially among the disadvantaged, as well as developing harmonious relations among people of different backgrounds and cultures. This is achieved by boosting the people's pride, dignity and self-confidence.

Through our IVS (International Voluntary Service) department we support numerous projects in Kenya with international volunteers.

International Voluntary Service (IVS)

Every year the IVS department of CIVS deploys over 500 technical and non technical volunteers from all over the world to work with local communities on a variety of projects where they assist in capacity enhancement through specialist and non specialist tasks. This to enable them to share knowledge and skills, offer service, learn, gain exposure and experience in general or in specific fields of interest.

Our projects greatly contribute towards individual, community and organizational exposure strengthened capacities and fulfillment of mission. The voluntary programs provide valuable opportunities for human resources development; presently being enjoyed by a wide variety of community projects and organizations. Volunteers work to support community based initiatives in facilitating the realization of sustainable community development.



Our Projects:

CIVS offers three different kinds of voluntary projects:

1. Workcamps
2. Medium and long term IVS projects
3. IVS Projects for professionals

1. Workcamps

Every month CIVS organizes a workcamp of three weeks with youth participating from all over the world. These workcamps take place at local communities in rural Kenya and combine developmental activities with cultural exchange and recreational activities. Living conditions will be in Kenya style and enable participants to experience the uniqueness and mystique of local life. Detailed information about every workcamp can be found on our website.



2. Medium and Long Term IVS Projects

CIVS offers various voluntary positions at projects and organizations all around Kenya. These projects can last between a few months and two years. Examples of these voluntary projects are:

- teaching at primary or secondary schools;
- taking care of orphans in orphanages;
- environmental conservation activities;
- organizing sports and recreational activities for youth;
- technical assistance and training of local communities;
- supporting microfinance institutions and community banks;



- HIV/AIDS awareness;
- Construction and housing projects;
- and much more...

Detailed information about these and other projects can be found on our website.

3. Weltwaerts

This is a program coordinated by the government of Germany that enables young people to attain plenty of different skills such as responsibility, learning skills and the ability to travel around the world to developing countries. The program provides an opportunity to young people to participate in the achievement of millennium development goals especially in the developing world. Some of the millennium development goals that we are highly focusing on include: poverty reduction, environmental conservation, promotion of universal education, HIV/AIDS awareness. It also gives the participants an opportunity to understand the local people and the enormous work that still has to be done in the host communities. Details about these and other projects can be found on our website.

4. Special Workcamps

Starting in 2009 CIVS is offering bi- and trilateral workcamps of three weeks to fundraise for a project CIVS is starting from May 2009: CIVS Community Development Program-Ahero. These workcamps take place at local communities in rural Kenya and combine developmental activities with cultural exchange and recreational activities. Living conditions will be in Kenya style and enable participants to experience the uniqueness and mystique of local life. Detailed information about every workcamp can be found on our website.

5. IVS Professionals

CIVS also offers voluntary projects for professionals who are willing to share their skills and knowledge in order to contribute to the developments of others. We are, among others, looking for volunteers who can train

local youth in subjects as carpeting, barbering, tailoring, performance arts and swimming. We also have several projects attachments for medical personnel, enterprise developers and counselors. Details about these and other projects can be found on our website.



Enhanced Benefits of IVS Projects

The project design helps participants to build a wider perception of the world issues, contribute to the development of others, explore their talents, learn life skills, and develop leadership acumen and management capacity in an ever changing socio-economic and political scenario in addition to practical exposure to community development. The extra-ordinary personal involvement leads to a deep understanding of others, evolving solidarity beyond the frontiers of color, religion, education and gender.

Who Qualifies?

- Male and female persons above the age of 18 years from any part of Kenya and the world regardless of race, religion or education. Those below 18 years of age should obtain written consent from a guardian
- Positive attitude towards independent progress of others
- Willingness to adapt to local conditions
- A desire to interact and understand other people's culture and philosophy of life

- Open-mindedness and willingness to freely exchange ideas, information and experiences without imposing own values on others
- Commitment to translating the ideals of international voluntary service into deeds during and after project season

Costs

Volunteers make a monthly contribution for participating in our projects. This contribution is very minimal and used to arrange airport-pickup, an orientation session about volunteering in Kenya of five days, host accommodation including two meals a day and coordination & guidance during the project. The precise costs of our different projects can be found on our website.

Reception of Volunteers

CIVS personnel meet volunteers on arrival at the airport and direct them to suitable accommodation. The first week after arrival volunteers get a comprehensive introduction which comprises most necessary information about volunteering in Kenya

Application

Those wishing to participate in CIVS projects may apply directly or through their schools, volunteer organisations or volunteer sending agencies. An application form can be found on our website.



Contact

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