



picture: KOLPING INTERNATIONAL/ich.tv

Uganda: By taking up a small loan this saleswoman was able to set up a little shop.



picture: dvv international

Women participating in a course on tailoring. An opportunity for advanced training offered by the Centre for Integrated Adult Education in Bolivia.

Member organizations of AGS



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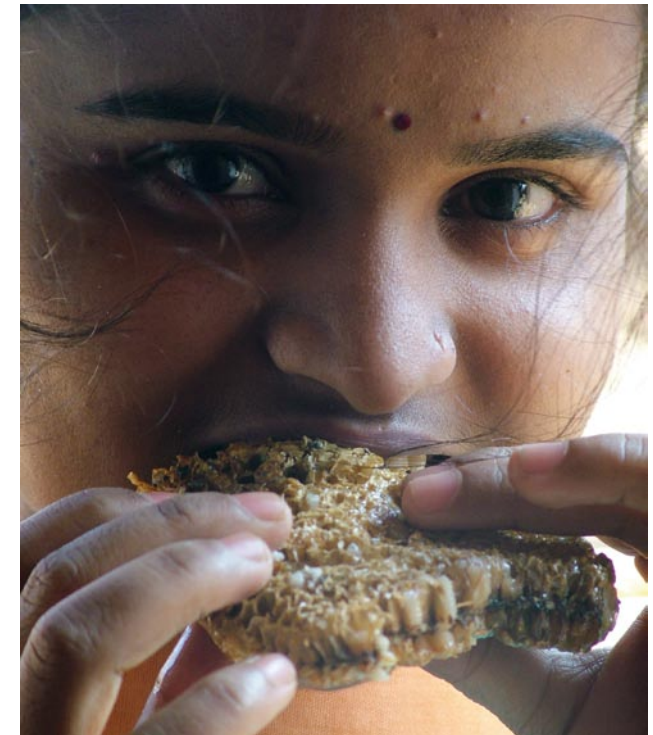


picture: AWO International/Thiel



www.sozialstruktur.org

The Social Improvement Network (AGS) brings together seven German specialist organizations working to promote sustainable social institutions and to combat poverty in developing countries and countries in transition. They make use of their wide expertise at home as the basis for their work abroad.



picture: AWO International/IMAM

Strengthening Social Institutions

A major element of German development policy since the 1960s has been to strengthen social institutions. With this in mind, the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) provides support for projects conducted worldwide by the organizations that belong to the Social Improvement Network, which represents significant sections of the civil society.

Combating Poverty

AGS combats poverty by tackling structures that hinder development. People's economic and social circumstances are crucially affected not only by lack of resources, but also by absence of equal access to them. It is therefore vital for AGS to get broad groups of the population involved in change, and to strengthen their capacity for self-help and accepting responsibility.

Sharing Experience

The member organizations have extensive specialist expertise in the areas of adult education, community development, management of cooperatives, trade union education and training, micro credit, organizational development and social work. Together with their partners, they build up locally organized self-help institutions and structures to nurture and represent the interests of disadvantaged groups. The solutions proposed range from cooperative systems and employment-oriented training, via education for peace and human rights, out-of-school youth and adult education and enforcement of workers' rights, to appropriate technologies and ecological agriculture. AGS strengthens its partner institutions locally and helps them to network.

Providing for the Future

Globalization and technological development can exacerbate social exclusion and disadvantage. In order to limit their harmful consequences, and to open up access to opportunities, AGS members promote economic and social participation, and the development of local powers and institutions. Increased networking is intended to achieve as broad and sustainable an impact as possible.

Small-scale beekeeping maintains the income of Indian families.



picture: Borda

Residents construct sewage works and a biogas plant in Lesotho.