



Active on a worldwide basis

Internationally THW plays an active role in order to supply rapid and reliable relief to those in need. Its spectrum of services ranges from emergency relief aid, after an earthquake for example, through to mid-term commitment for reconstruction work. The THW is Germany's humanitarian ambassador to the world.

Immediate humanitarian aid

- Urban Search and Rescue (SEEBA)
- Water/Sanitation (SEEWA)
- Emergency power supply
- Erection of refugee camps including water/sanitation and infrastructure
- Logistic support for humanitarian aid

Development-oriented emergency aid

- Restoration of technical infrastructure
- Erection of refugee camps
- Repair of wells

Reconstruction projects

- Rehabilitation of hospitals and kindergartens
- Repair and construction of dwellings
- Operation of building yards, repair shops and training institutions

Learning to help in a playful way: THW Youth

For some 15,000 boys and girls, volunteering with THW Youth e.V. is an interesting and exciting hobby. Pedagogically trained experts teach them team spirit and a sense of responsibility as well as the handling of technical equipment. THW Youth e.V. is an independent organisation of young persons within THW. Girls and boys between the age of 10 and 17 can benefit from this offer.

Disaster prevention network

- At national level: Intensive co-operation with fire brigades, rescue and aid organisations as well as security authorities
- Assignments to support disaster prevention in neighbouring countries
- Participation in the European Community Mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection interventions both inside and outside the European Union
- Close contact to various United Nations organisations, including UNHCR, UNJLC
- Member of the international platform for USAR units "International Search and Rescue Advisory Group" (INSARAG) within the United Nations

THW: Structure and organisation

More than 80,000 THW volunteer members in the local associations, of whom 42,000 are operative volunteers, more than 15,000 youth members and about 8,000 women and girls.

800 full time employees at THW headquarters and in THW offices all over Germany.

Structure:

Represented throughout the Federal Republic of Germany

- 668 local associations
- 66 branch offices
- 8 regional offices
- Two training centers for volunteers and staff

Intervention units:

- 730 technical platoons
- 1,000 technical units and 1,440 rescue groups
- 8,400 vehicles and special technical equipment

Contact and Information:

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Teamwork

for people in need



Deployment options

THW focuses on a combination of universal basic components and specialized units in order to meet the manifold demands of civil protection. The specialized units are structured in a modular way and possess a wide range of competences:

- Illumination
- Bridge construction (temporary bridges)
- Emergency power supply
- Radio communication
- Command & Control
- Logistic support
- Combatting oil pollution
- Debris Clearing
- Search and rescue
- Blasting
- Water purification
- Mobile high capacity pumps

Furthermore, two rapid deployment units are ready for international missions within a few hours:

- Rapid Deployment Unit Urban Search and Rescue Abroad (SEEBA): Search and rescue after earthquakes, landslides and explosions
- Rapid Deployment Unit Water and Sanitation Abroad (SEEWA): provides water purification, water supply, water analysis and well cleaning



Aid which reaches its destination

THW volunteers are committed in worldwide deployments. In 2008 they provided more than 390,000 hours of service. Some major international THW missions in recent years:

- Elbe floods (2002)
- Flooding in Arles, Southern France (2003)
- Earthquake in Bam, Iran (2003)
- Tsunami in South-East Asia (2004/2005)
- Floods in Romania (May 2005)
- Hurricane "Katrina" in New Orleans (August/September 2005)
- Earthquake in Pakistan (September 2005)
- Flooding in Lome, Togo (June 2006)
- Flooding in Africa (October-December 2007)
- Earthquakes in China (May/June 2008)
- Cyclone "Nargis" in Myanmar (May/June 2008)



Thunderstorms, floods, power cuts, major fires, collapse of buildings, explosions, train accidents, lorry accidents and plane crashes – just to mention a few reasons for deployments carried out by Technisches Hilfswerk (THW). With several thousand missions each year, it is an essential part of Germany's civil protection system.

"As a civil protection agency based to 99% on voluntary commitment, the THW is a partner for people in need."

A statutory partnership

THW is a federal agency within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. The legal mandate of THW is:

- Technical relief in civil protection
- Technical assistance abroad on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Technical assistance as part of local hazard prevention when called in by the responsible partners (fire department, police and public security authorities)