

What We Stand For

The Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS) is an association of 30 churches and mission societies in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. The members of this international ecumenical EMS Fellowship are united by faith in Jesus Christ and hope for God's Kingdom.

As equal partners, they have agreed on common principles. The close relation between common Christian witness and service to our neighbour is always at the centre. Unity and solidarity within the international community are to be strengthened and expanded through opportunities for encounters.

The Ecumenical Youth Volunteers Programme (EYVP) offers young adults between the ages of 18 and 28 the opportunity to volunteer internationally for ten to twelve months in institutions of the EMS Fellowship. The EYVP is designed as a learning service and aims to sensitise committed and interested young people to global contexts and issues of justice.

By participating in the programme, the volunteers learn about EMS and the different ways and realities of life in their host countries. Ecumenical and global learning takes place in a very practical way through solidarity-based activities.

The EMS Fellowship hopes that the intercultural, ecumenical, and developmental experiences that volunteers gain during their assignment will leave a lasting impression in them and awaken the desire to stay involved beyond their service, both at a community level and within the EMS Fellowship.

The participants are supported and accompanied by a team of full-time staff and volunteers as well as through workshops and training programs. EMS is a recognised sending organisation for the developmental volunteer service "weltwaerts" - a funding programme of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The EYVP offers assignments for volunteers in three "directions": North-South, South-North, and South-South. Whenever possible, the volunteers attend workshops together, support each other and learn with and from each other. These encounters shape the EYVP into what it wants to be – motivating, inspiring, enriching.