



Mural in the town of Mindo, Ecuador. „SALEM for Peace“

SALEM means peace

SALEM International is a non-denominational Christian non-profit welfare organisation. At present, SALEM employs about 130 people in Germany as well as some 250 others engaged on different projects worldwide. It was founded in 1957 by Gottfried Müller and a circle of friends.

What makes SALEM especial?

All of the SALEM projects are affiliated through the shared values of peace and helping those in need. In this sense SALEM is actively working in global hotspots to help people in difficult situations regardless of their beliefs or nationality. Our support ranges from social, environmental and health issues to nutrition, education and development assistance. At SALEM our experience has taught us the importance of committing to a project for the long term – even when all other organisations have already left because there are new trouble spots elsewhere. That is why all of our projects are permanent and receive continuous support.

SALEM is probably the oldest Western vegetarian welfare organisation. From the beginning all establishments have offered only vegetarian cuisine. We believe that no living creature shall be harmed.

“Every living being, as ‘little’ as it may be, even every worm, and every ‘little’ action is important. By saving ‘only’ a few people in need, the idea is brought to the world and spreads.”

GOTTFRIED MÜLLER



Experience SALEM

We offer visitors the chance to personally get to know our project. Contact us if you want to know more. Would you like to contribute to the success of our work? Get informations about volunteering opportunities on our website.

SALEM depends on donations

As a charitable organisation with low administrative costs we are mindful of giving maximum transparency to our donors and the general public. We guarantee that all donations go to our projects where they are really needed.

Donate online via our website www.saleminernational.org

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“Our roots are in Germany, our heart belongs to the whole world.”



artwork: queens-design.de illustrations: Stefan Hage



working for peace around the world
christian, charitable, social

SALEM- ECUADOR



Germany | **ECUADOR** | Russia | Togo | Uganda

saleminernational.org

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK: [FACEBOOK.COM/FAMILIASALEM](https://www.facebook.com/familiasalem)

“Children are guests who ask the way”

MARIA MONTESSORI



SALEM in Ecuador

The SALEM Child and Youth Centre is located in the small town of Mindo, in the cloud forest on the western side of the Ecuadorian Andes. It is a place to enjoy being a kid – to learn, to play, to discover oneself, to be accepted and loved and to grow up in a community.

Because of the rich flora and fauna, the tourism sector is steadily growing. This raises hope for better living standards and employment opportunities, which attracts poor families from other parts of the country. As many expectations do not come true, the social dislocation – in addition to poverty – leads to further conflict.

When poverty and lack of perspective determine the family situation and lead to alcoholism and violence, it's the children, the weakest link of the family, who suffer the most. Girls often get pregnant at an early age and are abandoned by the children's fathers. Often it's the grandparents who then have to take care of many grandchildren.

Since 1999, SALEM Mindo has been working on breaking the vicious circle of low standards of living and lack of opportunities by giving children and young adults the opportunity to receive education and a loving environment.

By now, SALEM has become an important and well-recognised provider of help for children and families in the community.

Focus of our work

Childcare

SALEM offers day care with a variety of activities for socially privileged children. We are there for them to listen, to comfort and to help. Our goal is to strengthen self-confidence and independence and promote respectful relations with each other.

Youth work

We support our adolescents with the planning of their future, workshops on sex education and contraception, as well as weekly meetings for young parents.

Homework support

In small groups, we help the children and teenagers with their homework. And we offer more: We have Montessori and alternative learning material for all ages for the children to work with and develop further abilities.



Would you like to help the children and teenagers in Ecuador? Become a project sponsor!

Donate online via our website www.saleminernational.org

Education

A world full of new challenges is waiting for our youth. We continue to support them in their vocational and academic education with preparatory courses and stipends. These efforts will be developed further in the future.

Family counselling

Speaking with the families of our children is highly important to us. Our qualified staff are there to talk about all kinds of problems and actively seek dialogue with parents and guardians.

Healthy food, healthy nutrition

We provide our children with varied vegetarian meals and offer cooking classes for our adolescents. By regularly helping in the kitchen, they experience that tasty food and a healthy diet can be fun. In our small ecological garden we grow fruits and vegetables and experiment with self-sufficiency to awaken the children's interest for this topic.

Music and culture

Music and dance classes, as well as other cultural activities are an important part of our institution. We thereby promote creativity and musical talent which contribute to personal development.