



First cohort, 2009

856+ alumni*

176 fellows**
currently in
classrooms for
their initial 2-year
commitment



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Teach First Deutschland

Energizing the German NGO sector

Founded in 2009, **Teach First Deutschland** will soon place its 15th cohort. From the start, the organization faced particular challenges given regulatory constraints that prevented participants from assuming full-time teaching positions and alumni from remaining within classrooms. While these constraints have limited the possibilities of sustainable impact from within schools, Teach First Deutschland's leadership effects are playing out within the non-profit and philanthropic sectors that impact education.

Sonja Köpke, who has been with Teach First Germany for over 11 years and CEO since 2022, has deep insights into the Fellows' work. She is convinced that we can keep Fellows in the school system beyond the two years because "their deep personal experience changes the way they look at things, and at the potential they see in their students who are part of marginalized minorities and mostly grow up in high-poverty communities. Our participants are driven by the conviction that we need fundamental change, a revolution in the way the system works." Sonja stresses that we've only begun to see the impact of how this foundational experience of participating in Teach First Deutschland will influence the system,



given these alumni are progressing in their careers and gaining the experience to have real influence.

Nearly 30% of alumni have moved into NGOs and foundations, and Teach First Deutschland is the leading source of talent in these sectors. The MUT academy in Hamburg is just one NGO founded and led by TFD alumni, and it is having huge success in supporting the transition from school into further technical education. Alumnus Umut Savac is putting educational equity at the forefront of Barclays' agenda through his work leading their corporate social responsibility program. Alumna Caroline von St. Ange—a very successful social media influencer with more than 275,000 followers on Instagram—supports parents



Alumni-founded Quinoa school has graduated more students, and at a higher level, than the Berlin city average for each of the past five years.

as well as teachers on how to find best ways to learn. Alumni Fiona El Kehal and Stefan Döring built a low-income private school, which has graduated more students, and at a higher level, than the Berlin city average for each of the past five years.¹ Other alumni have built a system that offers supplementary enrichment for

low-income students during the summer and other school breaks, while others are providing support for students at the end of high school to help them pursue either vocational or university education.

Looking ahead, Teach First Deutschland is working to grow its collective impact through finding pathways to placing fellows as teachers, thus enabling these leaders to remain in schools and have an even greater impact from within as well as outside the system. ●●●

¹ <https://www.quinoa-bildung.de/wirkung>

