

BMZ



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

German development policy at a glance





Minister Dirk Niebel

”Development cooperation is about giving people the freedom to shape their own lives and to build a bright future for their children, by making their own decisions and taking responsibility for them, without suffering material hardship.

We want to help make globalisation an opportunity for all. “

What's it got to do with me?

We surf the net and travel to distant lands. The clothes we wear may well have been stitched in Asia but made of cotton grown in Africa. German cars and German washing machines are sold all over the world. That is globalisation. It enhances our lives. It opens up opportunities, yet is also fraught with risks. Climate change and environmental problems know no borders. Economic crises in other countries have a knock-on effect on us. Globalisation is drawing us all closer together.

And so we have to join forces with other countries if we want to find solutions to global problems. Most of the world's population live in developing countries. It is our basic human duty, but at the same time in our own interests, that we should help all people live their lives in freedom, security and prosperity.

German development policy is informed by the humanistic principles we hold. We are committed to realising freedom, human rights and solidarity within and between societies. That is similar to Germany's experience following World War II. The Marshall Plan that was drawn up for West Germany laid the foundations for the prosperity we enjoy today.



Cotton picker in Ethiopia

Development cooperation benefits not only the recipients but also the donors. That is particularly true of Germany as a major exporting nation. Our development cooperation creates 140,000 jobs in Germany alone. By far the greatest proportion of Germany's development budget goes into investments. Every euro spent on development in our partner countries adds 1.8 euros to German export revenues. Our partners experience the benefits of German skills and technologies. And that in turn creates new markets for German businesses.

So development cooperation benefits all concerned. It benefits the developing countries because a thriving economy is the key to sustainable development. It benefits businesses because they secure new markets for the future. And it benefits the people in the developing countries because the businesses create jobs and income opportunities, which helps to reduce poverty.

And, not least, development policy helps preserve world peace and stability. So development policy is informed by both our values and our interests.



Energy from water, Brazil

What are our development policy aims?

Modern development cooperation is about more than giving charity to the poor. The aim is to help people to help themselves, enabling them to lift themselves out of poverty on the strength of their own efforts.

The social, ecological and economic problems of developing countries are not challenges that can be overcome by governments alone. All forces in society need to work in tandem - governments, the general public, and business and industry can all take on their share of the responsibility and play their part.

We want to create a world worth living in, a world based on the principles of justice and solidarity - both for ourselves and our children. That is why in 2000, 189 countries, including Germany, adopted the Millennium Declaration and the eight Millennium Development Goals. The international community pledged that it would, by 2015, halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, give all children the opportunity of a primary education, significantly reduce maternal and child mortality, fight infectious diseases and protect the environment.

The eight Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

What has the international community achieved so far?

We have made considerable progress towards the Millennium Development Goals:

- In 1990, 46 per cent of people in developing countries were living in extreme poverty; by 2005, that figure had been reduced to 27 per cent.
- More children are now attending primary school. In 2008, 89 per cent of children in developing countries were registered at school. In 1999, that figure had been just 82 per cent. The greatest progress is being made in sub-Saharan Africa. School enrolment rose there over the same period from 58 per cent to 76 per cent.

But despite these success stories, deficiencies remain. Worldwide, some 69 million children still do not attend school. The food crisis and the financial and economic crisis have reversed progress in a number of developing countries, leaving 1.4 billion people still living in extreme poverty. A major push is therefore needed if the Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved.



Early childhood health care and AIDS education for young people in Kenya

What does the Development Ministry do?

The Federal Republic of Germany has been engaged in development cooperation since 1952. In 1961, an independent development ministry was created and has been in existence ever since. The first Development Minister was Walter Scheel, who later went on to become German President.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is responsible for formulating the principles and strategies of German development policy. These then form the basis of the cooperation projects and programmes developed together with our partner countries and with international organisations.

The Development Ministry plays an active role in international negotiations and second members of staff to work in international organisations and in partner countries. Within Germany, the BMZ supports the general public, non-governmental organisations, churches, foundations and businesses in their efforts in the development field. The Ministry's work is scrutinised by the Bundestag, the Lower House of the German parliament. The Bundestag Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development has special responsibility for this particular area of policy.



The debating chamber of the Bundestag, Berlin

What does German development policy focus on?

Germany concentrates its development cooperation on education, health, rural development, good governance, climate protection and sustainable economic development. The guiding principle in all efforts is the protection of human rights.

Based on the Coalition Agreement between the parties in Germany's governing coalition, which forms the basis for all actions taken by the German government, six priority areas for German development cooperation can be identified:

- 1. Sustainable poverty reduction.** The aim of international and also German development policy is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the foremost goal being reduction of poverty. For the German government, tackling educational poverty is particularly important.
- 2. Reducing structural deficits.** The German government fosters good governance in the partner countries with which it is engaged in development cooperation and also in international structures. One focus of its efforts is the phasing out of agricultural export subsidies. Another focus of German development policy is to achieve greater policy coherence for development within the German government, the European Union and international organisations.
- 3. Strengthening civil society.** Development can only take place as an organic process, stemming from the heart of society. That is why we want to encourage more civil society engagement both in our partner countries and in Germany and harness it in the interests of development.

4. Harnessing business and industry. There can be no sustainable development without sustainable economic development. Business and the economy play a key role in development cooperation. The German government promotes corporate social responsibility and development partnerships with the private sector.

5. Enhancing effectiveness. Germany is working on making development cooperation even more effective. Every euro of taxpayers' money should be made to work as hard as possible to fight poverty. The first step towards greater effectiveness and a joined-up system of development cooperation is the merger of three of Germany's government-owned implementing organisations, the GTZ, the DED and InWEnt, to form a new organisation, the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

6. Improving visibility. To be successful, development policy needs public support. Through our efforts in the field of awareness raising and development education, we create greater general awareness and acceptance of the aims and issues concerned.

Demonstration by medica mondiale, Germany |
Supervisor of a team of tea pickers, Kenya



In what countries does the Development Ministry work?

The BMZ works with over 50 partner countries: with poor, well-governed developing countries, with fragile states embroiled in conflict and also with emerging economies. When deciding what countries to work with, the BMZ applies the following criteria:

- How poor is the country?
- Could our development cooperation help to protect global public goods, for example the climate, world health, peace?
- Is government policy focused on development and is the government endeavouring to implement reforms?
- What added value can Germany offer compared with other donors?
- Are there long-standing historical and political links with the country?



What form does cooperation take?

Every two years, the BMZ meets for negotiations with the government of each partner country. We sit down together as partners and discuss our cooperation. At these negotiations, we also address sensitive subjects such as reforms, civil society activity and observance of human rights. The aim of the negotiations is to agree on the priority areas of our cooperation and on the volume of Financial Cooperation, which can take the form of loans for development projects, and Technical Cooperation, for example practical support from German experts. The BMZ then commissions Germany's government-owned implementing organisations to carry out the projects and programmes. These organisations in turn work together with partners in the country concerned, which are selected by the government of that country.

Signing of a government agreement between Minister Dirk Niebel and Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation, Fayza Abounaga, 2010 |
Minister Dirk Niebel visiting a bakery in Mozambique, 2010



How is the BMZ engaged at international and European level?

Global challenges need to be tackled globally. We are doing that by working together with international organisations such as the United Nations and also with the European Union and the World Bank Group.

International organisations and the European Union are funded by their member countries. Through Germany's membership of such organisations as the United Nations, the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the regional development banks, the BMZ is able to influence their policies. One focus of the BMZ's work is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of international organisations.



General Assembly Hall of the United Nations, New York

The EU and its 27 member states are responsible for around 60 per cent of international development cooperation; combined, they are the world's largest donor. Because the EU combines financial, economic and political influence, it is a major trading partner for many developing countries and also a major player in international development policy.

The EU shares responsibility in the development field with its member states and complements their policies.



European Parliament, Brussels

How does the BMZ support non-governmental organisations?

There are several thousand non-governmental development organisations in Germany – church organisations, political foundations, support and fundraising groups, action groups, campaign alliances, solidarity groups and development policy networks. They do important work both at home and abroad. In the developing countries, they generally work closely with local organisations. In this way, they mobilise people's initiative and capacity for self-help. In Germany, they motivate the general public to become actively involved in development. The Development Ministry also values their role as a critical voice in Germany, serving to initiate debate on important issues. The BMZ therefore engages in a regular exchange of experience and opinion with them. It consults non-governmental organisations, for example, when formulating its development policy strategies.

The BMZ gives these NGOs financial support for their development activities, provided those activities are in line with the basic principles governing German development policy. The government exercises no influence over the NGOs' aims or policies. These organisations' independent status enables them to operate in countries and regions where there is limited scope for official development cooperation.



The "Your Voice Against Poverty" campaign in front of the parliament building in Berlin

How does the BMZ measure the success of its policies?

Effective projects are the key to success and so are particularly important to the BMZ. We have to ask how much is getting through to the poorest of the poor? What is the best way of helping people to help themselves?

Although we know what the optimum conditions are for successful development cooperation, we constantly need to re-examine the way we work. In the Paris Declaration of 2005 and the Accra Action Plan of 2008 on enhancing the effectiveness of international development cooperation, the international community established guidelines to make development cooperation more effective.

In order to monitor progress and recognise in good time if things are not going as they should, the BMZ regularly commissions independent experts to evaluate its projects and programmes. The Ministry then publishes these evaluations on its website.

The main ingredient in development, however, is a sense of ownership on the part of the country, its institutions and its people. Lasting development can only be achieved from within our partner countries; the help we provide from outside can merely help set things in motion.

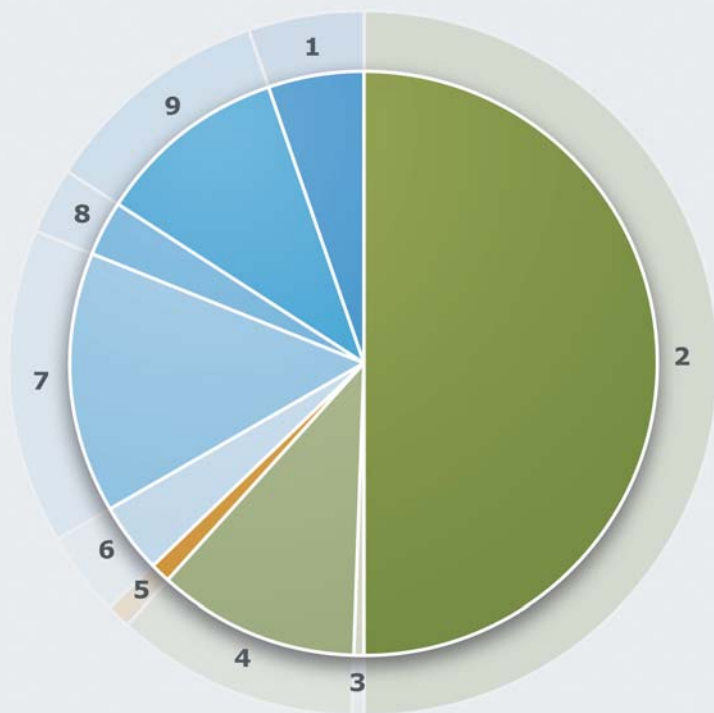
What is the BMZ's budget and what does it use the money for?

In the 2010 financial year, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has a spending envelope of 6.07 billion euros. That is 4.4 per cent more than in 2009. The BMZ's budget makes up 1.9 per cent of the total federal budget in Germany.

The member states of the EU have pledged to increase the proportion of gross national income they spend on development to 0.7 per cent. In Germany, the figure currently stands at a little under 0.4 per cent. The government wishes to further increase its development spending.

The BMZ spends two thirds of its budget on direct cooperation with its partner countries, whilst one third is spent through the EU and multilateral organisations. The Ministry spends 11 per cent of its budget on supporting civil society organisations. And 1.3 per cent is required for the running of the Ministry itself. In 2010, the spending breakdown is as follows:

BMZ budget 2010



1	311.286.000 € (5,1%) United Nations and international institutions	6	235.852.000 € (3,9%) Food Security and Global Environmental Protection
2	3.040.879.000 € (50,1%) Bilateral Official Development Cooperation	7	875.000.000 € (14,4%) European Development Fund
3	35.000.000 € (0,6%) Special Measures	8	191.088.000 € (3,1%) Regional Banks
4	668.520.000 € (11,0%) Civil Society and Business Groups and Institutions	9	635.817.000 € (10,5%) World Bank / IWF
5	76.678.000 € (1,3%) Federal Ministry	TOTAL	€ 6.070.120.000

Who works at the BMZ?

The BMZ employs some 600 people. Three quarters of them work at the Ministry's Bonn office and one quarter at its Berlin office. Some ten per cent of staff work at German missions abroad, for international organisations, at development banks or in development projects.

The Ministry is headed by the Minister, Dirk Niebel, the Parliamentary State Secretary, Gudrun Kopp, and the State Secretary, Hans-Jürgen Beerfeltz.

Dirk Niebel

Minister



Gudrun Kopp

Parliamentary State
Secretary



Hans-Jürgen Beerfeltz

State Secretary



What does the BMZ do for people in Germany?

The Development Ministry has a wide-ranging development education programme in Germany. We want to show people what globalisation means for us all. We stage special events, workshops and exhibitions and produce teaching materials so that people can learn about developing countries and the inter-linkages between global issues.

Together with the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education from Germany's constituent states, we have developed a cross-curricular framework for integrating global issues into schools. We have a range of tailor-made educational offerings directed at the general public, particularly young people, multipliers working in schools and informal education, local authorities and the media. The BMZ collaborates on this with German state governments, local authorities and non-governmental organisations.

Yet knowledge on its own does not bring about change. That is why the focus of our development education programme is empowering and enabling individuals to get involved. Each and every individual in Germany can play their part in sustainable global development. We want to mobilise the public, because the global challenges we face cannot be tackled by governments alone.



How can I get involved?

Change starts with ourselves. It's about what we in Germany buy, what we eat, what clothes we wear, how we get to work and how we choose to travel. All those things have an impact on the lives of people in developing countries.

Through our everyday choices, we can tangibly improve the situation of people living in poverty and deprivation. We can, for example, make a conscious effort to conserve natural resources like water and energy or buy fair trade products.

You can get involved, too, by volunteering for one of the many exciting initiatives organised by churches, schools, local communities and associations. Or you can make a donation to an organisation engaged in development.



Are you aged between 18 and 28, keen to learn about the world and interested in development? Why not help to promote sustainable development by volunteering for weltwärts. The weltwärts development volunteers programme, organised by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation, provides funding for young people wishing to do voluntary work in developing countries.

www.weltwärts.de

Young adults can join the *weltwärts* development volunteer service. Retirees can volunteer for the Senior Expert Service. Or you can decide to work abroad as a development worker.

Children and young people can enter the schools competition organised by the German President or take part in the schools exchange programme for development education ENSA. The website *Chat der Welten* (world chat) is a portal providing information on environmental and development topics that can be used in schools and for teaching purposes. School pupils can use the portal to chat to their peers in developing countries about subjects in which they share an interest.

Local authorities can compete for the title of fair trade capital or resolve to observe fair trade principles in their procurement policies. Businesses can display their global responsibility by adopting voluntary codes of conduct or using fair trade products.

You can get involved too! Help us move a little bit closer to our vision of One World where all people live in peace and freedom.



Guaranteeing your donation gets there: The German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) awards a seal of approval to organisations that manage donations responsibly. You can check on your chosen organisation at www.dzi.de (click on "Spenden-Siegel-Bulletin").

You can find suggestions on how to get involved (in German only) and useful addresses at: www.bmz.de/Engagement

You can find further information and links to all the Development Ministry's publications at the BMZ website www.bmz.de

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



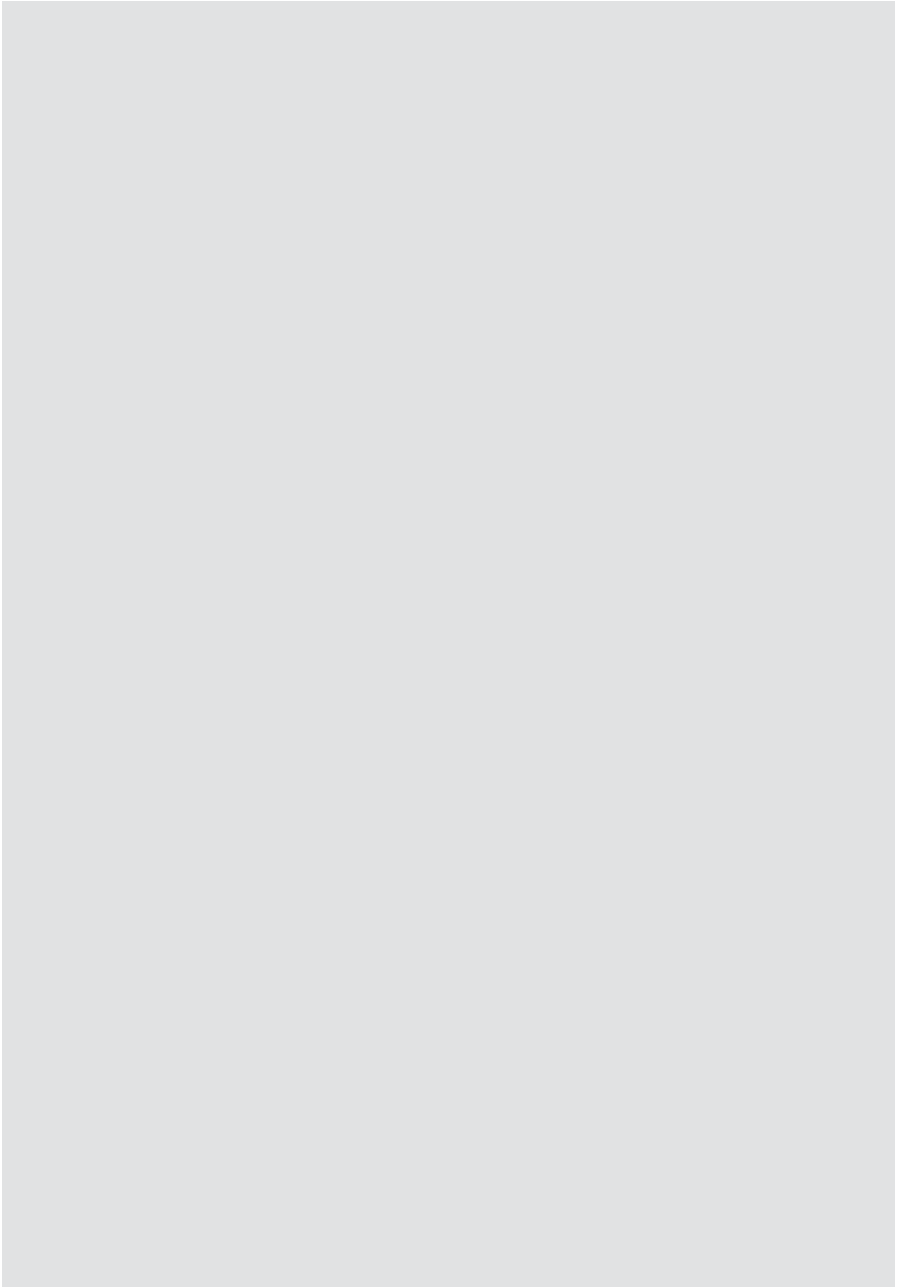
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