

A world in transition

The priority areas of our development policy

By adopting the **2030 Agenda** in 2015, the United Nations laid down their vision for a more just and sustainable world. We are reaching the halfway mark in 2023 and the world is undergoing the most radical change ever. Development progress that has been achieved, for instance, in the field of hunger, poverty and inequality has been undone by the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences of the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine. The climate and biodiversity crisis doesn't take a break and we still have a long way to go to achieve gender equality. The challenges are huge and concern the whole world – but in particular the countries of the Global South.

This means that the tasks to be addressed by development policy are also growing. In the coming years, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) will be placing a special focus on the following **four priorities**, which it will address in cooperation with its partner countries, civil society and multilateral institutions to find **answers to the most pressing challenges**. The BMZ is thus making a contribution to getting the 2030 Agenda back on track.

1. Providing global health and bodily autonomy

The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly shown us that **pandemic prevention is key for global health**. In addition to the direct consequences of the pandemic there have been **enormous setbacks** in recent years in the fight against other diseases and in sexual and reproductive health services. The BMZ will therefore:

- strengthen **pandemic control, preparedness and prevention** in line with the interdisciplinary **One Health approach**, which views human, animal and environmental health as being closely related and interdependent;
- support the expansion of **vaccine and pharmaceuticals production in Africa**, thus helping to improve worldwide access to health products;
- support efforts to establish **inclusive, digital and resilient health systems** and basic health care;
- increase its support for **feminist health policy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)**.

2. Pushing back poverty, hunger and inequality

“Leave no one behind” is the key objective of the 2030 Agenda. Preserving livelihoods and stepping up efforts to address the interlinked problems of poverty, hunger and inequality are more pressing challenges than ever. The BMZ will in particular:

- **fight acute hunger crises** and continue to engage together with international partners in the Global Alliance for Food Security;
- support the transformation toward **sustainable, resilient agricultural and food systems** that facilitate a good mix of locally produced and imported food, conserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change;
- **reduce inequality** within and among countries by tackling the inequitable distribution of assets, resources and rights within societies;
- develop and expand **social protection systems** together with partners such as the World Bank and the International Labour Organization (ILO). They are an important key to effective poverty reduction and social justice;
- **actively foster decent work, living wages, and fair and sustainable supply chains** and support **training and employment** for young people in particular.

3. Forging ahead with the Just Transition

Transitioning to a climate-compatible economy while the demand for energy and resources continues to grow will require a massive effort on the part of the countries of the Global South. Just Transition refers to efforts to make this transition socially equitable. The BMZ will in particular:

- increase its support for **clean and safe energy sources** in order to create a more liveable and independent future for all people;
- assist its partner countries in creating **decent and climate-smart jobs** and strengthening **adaptable social protection systems**;
- advance the process of realigning economic policies to achieve a **socio-ecological transformation of the economy** and a **sustainable transformation of the financial sector**;
- assist partner countries in better adapting to **climate change**, securing coverage against **climate-related loss and damage** and conserving and restoring **biodiversity and natural resources**;
- provide support for mobilising capital for investments in **green, climate-relevant and resilient infrastructure**.

4. Embracing a feminist development policy

By pursuing a feminist development policy, the BMZ wants to lead the way on achieving equal opportunities for all people, overcoming discriminatory power structures and delivering human rights-based policies for all people. The focus in all that is on gender equality. The BMZ is focusing on the following priority areas:

- Mainstreaming feminist core principles in projects and explicitly promoting gender equality: The BMZ has set itself the goal of increasing the **proportion of projects to promote gender equality to 93 per cent by 2025** (up from 64 per cent in 2021).
- The 3Rs: equal **representation**, strengthening the **rights** and/or eliminating discriminatory laws and norms and improving access to **resources** are critical factors for just, resilient and sustainable peaceful societies that leave no one behind.
- The BMZ is actively seeking **alliances in multilateral fora, development banks, funds and initiatives**. The BMZ is working for the implementation and expansion of relevant strategies and for gender mainstreaming in international organisations.
- Establishing a **continuous process of learning and adapting** as regards the Ministry's **own structures, processes and working methods**.

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