



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Mid-term report on the action plan Agents of Change

Children and youth rights in German development cooperation activities
(2017–2019)

BMZ PAPER 03 | 2019
ACTION PLAN



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Foreword

Children are our future. Their innovativeness and energy make them critical agents of change. At the same time they also mould our present. That is particularly true for developing and emerging countries: young people under the age of 25 already constitute the majority of the population in those countries. Around the world there are about 3.1 billion people who are younger than 25; 90 per cent of them live in developing countries. The only way we can achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda is if we empower young people to live their own lives and get them involved in societal processes at an early age.

It is a huge challenge: the youth generation is an especially vulnerable segment of humanity. One in every two refugees or displaced persons around the world is a child or youth. They need our special protection. The obligations that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child places upon nation states must be observed and realised everywhere in the world. With that aim in mind, we have set ourselves ambitious targets in the BMZ's action plan “Agents of Change – Children and youth rights in German development cooperation activities”. This mid-term report documents the progress that has been made in implementing the plan.

Since launching the action plan we have already seen considerable progress. We have been able to significantly expand our projects to strengthen the rights of children and youth, thus creating more awareness for this topic.

Our support is mainly targeted towards improving access to education, both in times of peace and in times of conflict and humanitarian crises. We have put a special emphasis on vocational education and training. Germany is not only the world's biggest donor in the field of vocational training, we are also in demand as a partner for improving and designing national dual vocational training systems. Another important element of the implementation of our action plan is a



significantly expanded partnership with UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. We are supporting UNICEF activities in numerous crisis and conflict regions; in recent years we have repeatedly increased our funding for UNICEF.

However, this does not mean we can rest on our laurels and nor do we intend to do so.

Children's rights are still not ensured everywhere in the world. There are still more than 70 million children who are being exploited as cheap labour instead of being able to go to school. In our partnerships with the private sector, civil society and policymakers, such as the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles or the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, we are working together to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in various sectors of the economy. We want to take these activities to the next level, protecting children in all international supply chains. Global child protection starts with each and every one of us.

The 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2019 is a good opportunity for us to take the implementation of our action plan a step further, putting the pledge of the 2030 Agenda – “leave no one behind” – into practice. Children and youth have an active role to play in creating a safe and peaceful future. We want to enable their voices to be heard and help make lasting improvements in their lives.

Only then will a fairer and more just world emerge, a world where the global future is a life worth living for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerd Müller', written in a cursive style.

Dr Gerd Müller
Member of the German Parliament
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation
and Development

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Summary and future outlook

Child and youth rights have a high priority for the German government. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was ratified by the Federal Republic of Germany in 1992 and has the rank of a federal law. For German development policy, too, the governing principle is that there can be no sustainable development and no fair opportunities for people in developing countries unless children and youth are taken into account. The Coalition Agreement between the CDU, CSU and SPD, the Marshall Plan with Africa launched by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the BMZ’s strategy paper Development Policy 2030 all call therefore for children’s rights to be strengthened within the framework of development cooperation. In April 2017, the BMZ adopted its action plan Agents of Change – Children and youth rights in German development cooperation activities (2017-2019).¹ The action plan lists three strategic goals and 42 interventions to strengthen the rights of children and youth in German bilateral and multilateral development cooperation. The interventions are being carried out in five regions: Africa, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Asia and Central Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, and also in Germany and through global initiatives.

The present mid-term report documents the implementation status and the goal achievement of the action plan up to the end of 2018. It contains data on relevant German development cooperation projects/programmes and international BMZ initiatives in the context of child and youth rights carried out or supported by KfW, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Engagement

Global, the Deutsche Welle Akademie and by private or church agencies on behalf of the BMZ.²

The three strategic goals of the action plan had already been achieved or had been partially achieved by the time the mid-term report was drafted:

- **Goal 1:** “To expand and improve the projects we carry out to implement child and youth rights.”
- **Goal 2:** “To play a leading role in international dialogue to ensure children and youth rights are respected, protected and guaranteed.”
- **Goal 3:** “To make the risks facing and the potential of children’s rights a strategic aspect in the design of our support activities and to ensure those activities are aligned with the interests and needs of our partner governments.”

The report paints a mid-term picture that is overwhelmingly positive. In a broad range of sectors a current total of 285 projects and programmes under official development cooperation, about 60 projects being carried out by the central church agencies and by agencies engaged in social structural programmes, plus more than 200 projects by private executing agencies are contributing worldwide towards strengthening the rights of children and youth. The regional focus of the interventions is on Africa and the MENA region. Almost half of all the projects/programmes have a focus on vocational training and health. The BMZ has responded to new challenges with a significant increase in the number of projects/programmes being supported and has clearly stepped

1 BMZ (2017): Agents of Change – Children and youth rights in German development cooperation activities (2017-2019), http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human_rights/Strategiepapier410_04_2017.pdf

2 There are also activities that are funded via international organisations (such as UNICEF, UNDP, regional development banks and IFAD). The most extensive of these are described in the section on international partnerships. Other German ministries also contribute to activities in the context of children’s rights, however these contributions are outside the remit of the present report.

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up activities aimed at protecting children in the context of displacement, crises and conflicts. Furthermore, the BMZ has also clearly scaled up its support for UNICEF. At the regional level there are several initiatives, e.g. with the African Union (AU). Other relevant partnerships include cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles launched by the BMZ.

The official implementing organisations of German development cooperation are required to develop tools that can be used to incorporate human rights, including child and youth rights, into overall project management. The BMZ has therefore developed binding guidelines and tools³ for all projects/programmes and modules under official German

development cooperation. With the help of these guidelines and tools the implementing organisations can check that their work on the ground will not have any unintended negative impacts on human and children’s rights.

Despite the positive findings, the report also identifies areas where action is needed for the remaining duration of the action plan. These areas include examining the introduction of a child protection policy for official German development cooperation, expanding and focusing the portfolio, and positioning Germany internationally in the field of children’s rights. The BMZ will decide before it comes to an end (12/2019) about possible formats for continuing the action plan.



The participants in the Youth Consultation Forum will continue to be included.

3 For example: (i) Guidelines on incorporating human rights standards and principles, including gender, into programme proposals for bilateral German Technical and Financial Cooperation (BMZ, 2013); (ii) GIZ Safeguards+ Gender Management System, with an integrated “human rights” safeguard; (iii) KfW’s binding environmental and social impact assessment.

1 Introduction

1.1 BACKGROUND

Roughly 3.1 billion people worldwide are younger than 25 years of age, the majority of them live in developing countries. In many cases their potential development is blighted by poverty, malnutrition, violence and exploitative child labour. At the same time, however, children and youth are critical agents of change, as emphasised in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Child and youth rights have a high priority for the German government. The Coalition Agreement⁴ envisages that children's rights will be explicitly enshrined in Germany's Basic Law. The Agreement advocates strengthening children's rights within German development cooperation activities and ensuring their consistent protection. The Marshall Plan with Africa launched by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)⁵ sees in children and youth huge potential for Africa's future. Protecting and promoting this target group is an important element of the partnership between Africa and Europe.

In April 2017, the BMZ adopted its action plan Agents of Change – Children and youth rights in German development cooperation activities (2017-2019). The interventions listed in the action plan to strengthen the rights of children and youth in bilateral and multilateral development cooperation solidify the intentions set out in the BMZ strategy paper Human Rights in German Development Policy (2011)⁶ and in the position paper Young People in German Development Policy (2011).⁷ The plan is also contributing to

the implementation of the Marshall Plan with Africa and of the strategy paper Development Policy 2030⁸ published by the BMZ at the end of 2018, in which prominent status is given to children and youth.

The regulatory frame of reference is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The action plan bases itself on the guiding principles of the CRC, namely taking children's well-being into account (Art. 3), ensuring their protection against discrimination (Art. 2), giving them the right to live and develop (Art. 6) and giving them the right and chance to be heard (Art. 12). It also takes into account the three legal categories of the CRC: the **rights to promotion, protection and participation**.

The action plan references the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda describes young people as critical agents of change and deals with the rights of children and youth as a cross-cutting issue. In signing up to the 2030 Agenda, Germany has given an undertaking to "leave no one behind" (LNOB). The LNOB principle includes children and youth, a group that is particularly disadvantaged.

1.2 STRUCTURE OF THE ACTION PLAN

In keeping with the United Nations (UN) definition, the action plan describes girls and boys between the ages of 0 and 18 years as children and young people aged between 14 and 24 years as youths. The action plan endeavours to do justice to the needs of children

4 <https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/656734/847984/5b8bc23590d4cb2892b31c987ad672b7/2018-03-14-koalitionsvertrag-data.pdf?download=1> [in German] cf. p. 21

5 http://www.bmz.de/en/countries_regions/marshall_plan_with_africa/index.html

6 https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/archiv/type_of_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier305_04_2011.pdf

7 https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/archiv/type_of_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier312_12_2011.pdf

8 https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/development_policy/Strategiepapier452_10_2018.PDF, p. 14-16

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and youth in all the different phases of their lives and in all social contexts. With its action plan the BMZ has set itself three strategic goals:

Goal 1: “To expand and improve the projects we carry out to implement child and youth rights.”

Goal 2: “To play a leading role in international dialogue to ensure children and youth rights are respected, protected and guaranteed.”

Goal 3: “To make the risks facing and the potential of children’s rights a strategic aspect in the design of our support activities and to ensure those activities are aligned with the interests and needs of our partner governments.”

In order to achieve these goals, 42 interventions⁹ were defined in the action plan, which are being carried out in five regions (Africa, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Asia and Central Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus), as well as in Germany and via global initiatives. In the action plan, the interventions in each of the regions are categorised under different action areas.

1.3 AIM OF THE REPORT AND REVIEW METHODS

The aim of the present mid-term report on the action plan is to document the status of implementation so far and to identify where action is still needed. Guiding questions for the review were:

Implementation status: To what extent have the interventions in the action plan been implemented?

Goal achievement: How is the implementation of the interventions contributing towards achieving the strategic goals of the action plan?

Going forward: What action is needed for the remaining duration of the action plan (up to the end of 2019) and beyond?

To provide data for the mid-term review, in early 2018 the BMZ carried out an in-house survey in all sector divisions and country divisions of ongoing and planned projects/programmes aimed at empowering children and youth. The answers to this survey furnished data on relevant bilateral development cooperation activities and on international BMZ initiatives carried out by KfW, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Engagement Global, the Deutsche Welle Akademie and by private or church agencies on behalf of the BMZ in the context of child and youth rights.

The data cover both projects/programmes with promoting child and youth rights as an explicit goal and projects/programmes that address children and youth as part of their target group. In order to get more in-depth information about promising examples and approaches, 18 telephone interviews were conducted with points of contact for German development cooperation in the respective regions and in Germany.

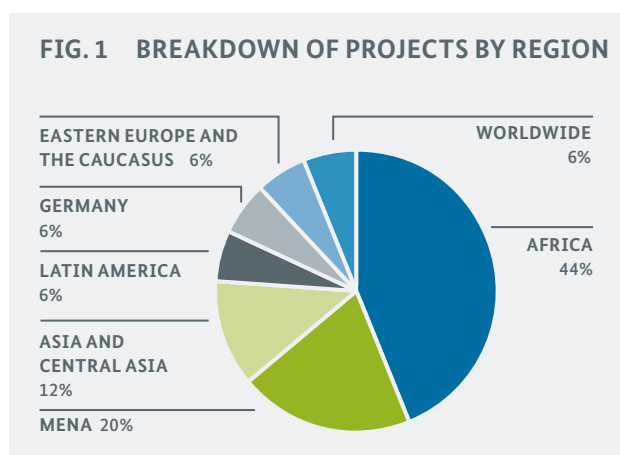
However, the survey faced challenges: there were no set indicators for achieving the goals and outcomes and no baseline data had been recorded that could have been used to measure the status of implementation. It is not possible to monitor the funding provided by the BMZ for child and youth rights since, in many projects/programmes, the pertinent share of the contributions cannot be tracked because of a lack of markers or CRS codes. Finally, it was not possible to carry out a detailed evaluation of the projects by non-governmental agencies supported by the BMZ since, at the time of the survey, not all data were available and a detailed presentation might have distorted the findings

⁹ In the present report the term “intervention” is used to refer to measures that are part of the action plan. The term “project/programme” is used to refer to development cooperation programmes from the data set that served as the basis for the review.

2 Implementation status and analysis of trends

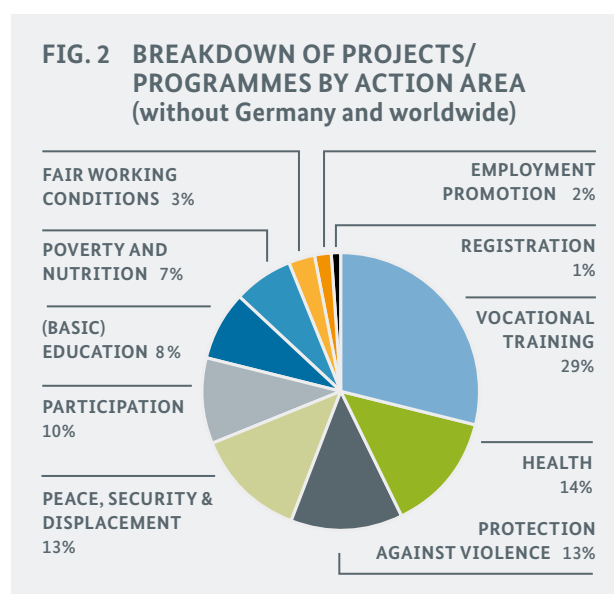
This chapter lays out the focal areas and trends in the implementation of the action plan. They are presented by region, by action area and with reference to the 2030 Agenda. For each region, examples from actual practice illustrate promising approaches for strengthening the rights of children and youth.

The assessed data set covers a total of 285 projects/programmes supported by the BMZ. They include bilateral and regional projects/programmes under official development cooperation, collaborative projects/programmes with other partners and individual initiatives (e.g. studies or conferences). These projects/programmes are distributed across the different regions of the action plan as follows:



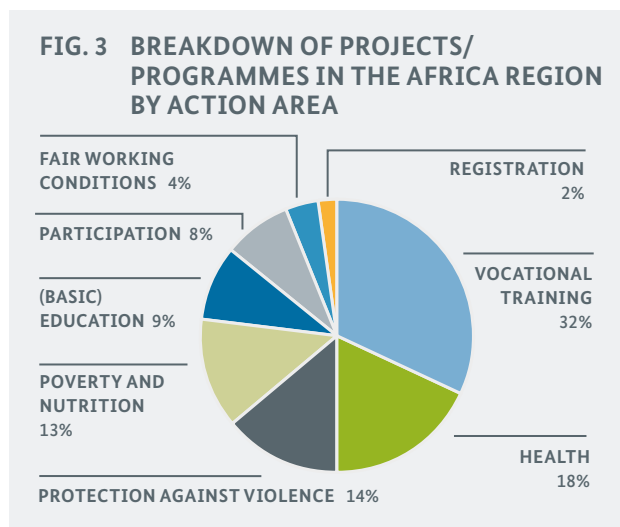
The action plan puts an emphasis on the Africa and MENA regions and on the topic of vocational training. So far, sectors that are not usually associated at first sight with children and youth are less strongly represented. These include, for example, the environment/climate, the economy and employment, urban development, digital technology, governance, energy, rural development. The same applies to an increasing

number of projects/programmes to address current challenges, in particular protecting children in the context of displacement, crises and conflicts. There are good approaches that successfully put the principles of children’s rights (giving priority to their well-being, a ban on discrimination, right to life and development, participation) and the principle of “leave no one behind” into practice.



2.1 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS BY REGION

2.1.1 Africa



In the Africa region, the BMZ puts an emphasis on the rights of children and youth to be supported in their development, with almost two thirds of the projects/programmes working towards those goals

(right to education and right to health see below). The rights to participation, to protection from economic exploitation and to have a name and identity and be registered are only addressed by a few projects/programmes.

More than half of the projects/programmes in the action area **Health** have a focus on reproductive health and rights. In the action area **Education** the emphasis is on basic education and on education in crisis situations and psychosocial support. In the case of **Vocational training** the aim is to promote the dual system of vocational training¹⁰ and to assist youth in getting work by offering short training courses. The aim of the Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation launched in 2018 is in particular to create jobs for the rapidly growing young population in Africa. For 2018, 65 million euros was made available for this purpose; in the budget for 2019, another 230 million euros has been earmarked.

Box 1: Vocational training for impoverished and disadvantaged youth in Kenya¹¹

Kenya's economy is characterised by extremely high youth unemployment. At the same time there is a lack of skilled workers. In 2017, the BMZ launched the Kenyan-German Vocational Training Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to improve the employment situation in Kenya, especially for young people.

The funding KfW is providing in this connection includes funds for the scholarship programme Wings to Fly, which gives talented young people from poor and extremely poor backgrounds the chance to attend school. Just recently the scholarship programme was expanded to cover vocational training courses. Young people are taught a trade so that they will later be able to earn an independent living. They are supported in their development via mentors and careers events. The intention is that impoverished youth from the slums will become beacons of hope for the youth of tomorrow.

The success stories of young people who have graduated from the programme show that it has a high level of impact. Today these young people are responsible members of society in well-paid jobs who are helping to shape Kenya's future. Since the first cohort took part in the programme in 2013 more than 4,500 youths have benefited from its support.

¹⁰ It is not possible to transfer the German vocational training system lock, stock and barrel to cooperation countries. The needs of each country must first be analysed and strategies and their implementation must build on existing structures and capacities.

¹¹ The scholarships programme Wings to Fly is being carried out by KfW on behalf of the BMZ (duration: 2017-2021; volume: 4 million euros).

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The projects/programmes in the action area
Fair working conditions include two projects/

programmes in Burkina Faso that are explicitly contributing towards fighting the worst forms of child labour.

Box 2: Fighting child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour in Burkina Faso¹²

In Burkina Faso, poverty, people’s lack of knowledge about children’s rights and inadequate laws to protect children mean that children and youths end up working under exploitative conditions that are also hazardous to their health. Child labour is above all widespread in artisanal mines, in cotton growing and in private households. Children are often the victims of physical and sexual violence.

In the joint development cooperation programme Human Rights / Protecting Children and Promoting their Rights in Burkina Faso, KfW and GIZ are supporting Burkina Faso partners in providing better protection for boys and girls against child trafficking, the worst forms of child labour and gender-specific violence. The focus of the programme is on 65 communities in the eastern and south-western regions.

Communities can apply for funding provided by KfW via the Children’s Fund of the Ecobank Burkina for standalone projects for disadvantaged children and for children at risk from child labour and child trafficking. In the last three years, 8,568 scholarships have been granted via the Fund. Training has been provided for 365 youths. Each year about 64,000 schoolchildren have benefited from school meals.

GIZ has supported the establishment and development of child protection networks in two communities. They bring together representatives from different groups, such as the town and municipal authorities, the police, social workers, schools, health centres, religious groups, local NGOs and parents associations. Cotton producers, transport companies and operators of gold mines are also part of the network. The members of the child protection networks have been made more aware of children’s rights so that they are able to provide coordinated help for children at risk more quickly.

GIZ is assisting the Ministry for Women, National Solidarity and Family in setting up a child helpline and in drawing up the National Strategy for Child Protection (2018-2027) and the National Strategy for Fighting the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

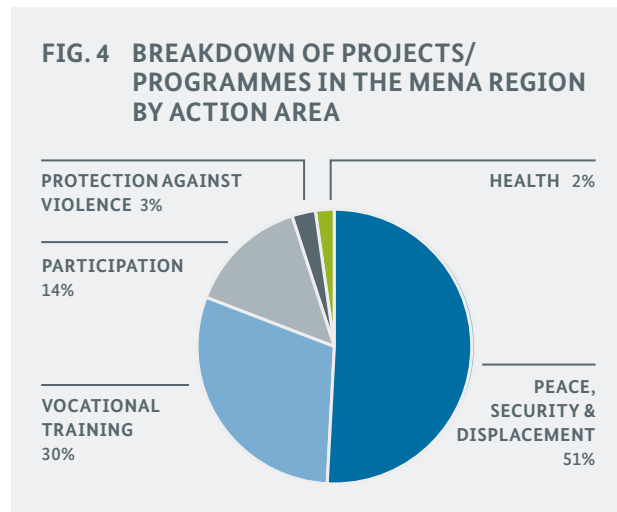
¹² The programme Human Rights / Protecting Children and Promoting their Rights in Burkina Faso is being carried out by KfW and GIZ on behalf of the BMZ (KfW: Children’s Funds V and VI; duration: 2017-2021; volume: 8 million euros), (GIZ: PRO Enfant; duration: 2016-2018; volume: 4 million euros; the follow-on measure begins in 2019 with a duration up to 2021).

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2.1.2 Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

In the MENA region the BMZ’s focus is on the rights of children and youth in conflict and crisis situations. Half of the total of 57 projects/programmes are in the action area **Peace, security and displacement**. Beyond that the focus is on vocational training.



The 17 projects/programmes in the MENA region in the action area **Vocational training** cover both projects/programmes concerned with formal vocational training and projects/programmes to promote employment. The projects/programmes to promote employment target specific groups of youth (young women and men in rural areas seeking work, migrants and returnees, girls and young women) with offers for training courses. In the action area **Peace, security and displacement** many of the projects/programmes aim to strengthen the right of displaced children and youth to have access to basic education and training. Eleven projects/programmes are collaborative efforts with UNICEF where the focus is on education, infrastructure for water and sanitation, and psychosocial care.¹³

The “sport for development” approach is applied by Technical Cooperation projects/programmes in several regions and countries with a view to developing the life skills of children and youth. The sports programmes that are designed and rolled out reinforce children’s right to leisure and age-appropriate recreational activities (Article 31, CRC).

Box 3: Sport for development in the context of crises and displacement¹⁴

War and terror have displaced millions of people in Syria and Iraq since 2011, including many children and youths. Most of them are not living in reception camps; instead they have found shelter with local communities in neighbouring countries. However, the tolerance of the local people in the host communities is beginning to falter and the propensity for violence is increasing.

This is where the regional GIZ programme Exchange, Education and Conflict Management through Sport for Development comes in. Since July 2016, the programme has been promoting the equal participation of children and youth in sports lessons and free-time activities. It is helping to create a safe place for children and protect them from violence. Together with the education ministry, sports associations and civil society organisations, GIZ is training sports teachers and youth trainers in Jordan and northern Iraq. The trainees learn about new participatory methods and are made more aware of the special needs of traumatised refugee children.

¹³ Cf. 2.1.7 for cooperation with UNICEF.

¹⁴ The GIZ project/programme Exchange, Education and Conflict Management through Sport for Development carried out by GIZ on behalf of the BMZ is part of the BMZ’s special initiative on Tackling the root causes of displacement, reintegrating refugees (duration: 2016-2019; volume: 4 million euros).

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Since local and displaced children are taught separately in Jordan, the project/programme offers shared sports activities outside of school hours. Children and youth experience through play how to resolve conflicts non-violently and learn values such as respect, fairness and self-confidence. Youths take on responsibility as trainers and serve as role models for the children in their community. So far, 340 teachers and trainers have completed the programme. The sports activities are benefiting 45,000 children. Almost two thirds of them are girls.

“Before the war I was very outgoing and open-minded, but that changed. Here in Jordan, I became angry very quickly and was very serious. When I started coming to the football club, I reacted aggressively when other girls joked around. After I had been playing for a while, I became more patient and made friends with some of the other girls. Now I can joke around with them. Now I have friends in the club and football has become a big part of my life. I am a lot happier.”

Heba, 15, a displaced girl from Syria.

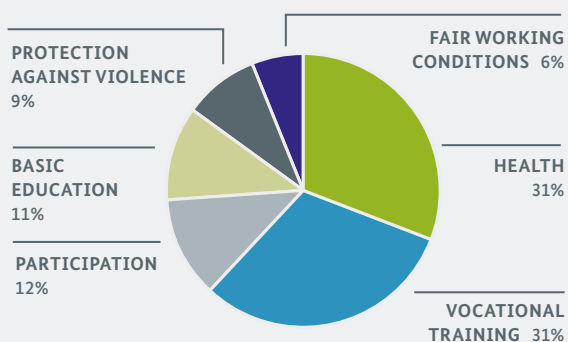
With the mobile sports bus Yalla Riada this promising approach is being rolled out across the country; the bus carries a range of sports and games equipment. Together with youths from the local communities, parties are organised with and for the children. The parties turn into lively “get togethers” for the whole community.

2.1.3 Asia and Central Asia

In the Asia and Central Asia region, the BMZ puts an emphasis on the rights to personal development: almost three quarters of the total of 35 projects/programmes are concerned with promoting children’s rights to education and health. Twelve per cent of the projects/programmes are concerned with participation rights in particular. Another important action area for the region is **Protection against economic exploitation and against any form of violence**. This area is explicitly promoted in five of the projects/programmes.

Four of the projects/programmes here can be categorised under **Basic education** and ten are concerned with **Vocational training**. The ten vocational training projects/programmes are promoting youth training in technical professions. The eleven projects/programmes in the action area **Health** are promoting the right of newborn babies and infants to health care and food, along with the right of children to an appropriate school environment. Two of the three projects/programmes in the action area **Protection against violence** are explicitly concerned with cooperating with youth to prevent violence.

FIG. 5 BREAKDOWN OF PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES IN THE ASIA AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION BY ACTION AREA



In the action area **Fair working conditions** there is a project/programme aimed at improving working and social standards in the textiles industry in Pakistan.¹⁵ Furthermore, within the framework of a cooperation programme with the ILO, the BMZ is funding measures designed to tackle the problem of child labour in rural parts of Central Asia, especially in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

There are four projects/programmes in the action area **Education** that are being carried out by the Deutsche Welle Akademie in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. The core focus of all these projects/programmes is on strengthening the media skills of youth.

¹⁵ The project/programme Improvement of labour and social standards in the Pakistani textile industry is being carried out by GIZ on behalf of the BMZ (duration: 2016-2019; volume: 4 million euros).

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Box 4: Strengthening the media skills and participation of young people in Cambodia¹⁶

Cambodia has a very young population. Nevertheless, it is difficult for the youth to get their voices heard, since society and politics are dominated by the older generation. Youths communicate via social networks and get their information from the internet, but they often do not know how they can use these media in a responsible and critical manner.

That is why the Deutsche Welle Akademie has been strengthening the media skills of youth in Cambodia since 2015. Using social media in a conscious and critical way is meant to open up more opportunities for youth to participate. To achieve this, the project/programme, which is working with the education ministry and with the NGOs Open Institute and Cambodian Center for Independent Media, has developed various textbooks and handbooks, and trainers have been trained. So far 600 young people have taken part in various training events.

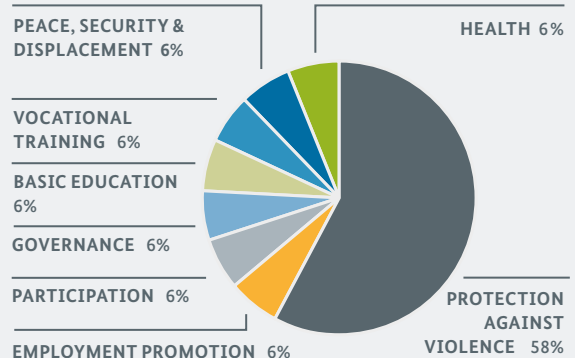
The young people are eager to learn how they can communicate with one another better and how they can make better photos or videos. At the same time, they learn in the training events how to recognise fake news and how to distinguish between factual information and propaganda. They learn to express their concerns and exercise criticism. This shows them that they can express their opinions freely and spark changes – e.g. when they publicise the fact that the sanitation facilities in their school are broken. The programme has helped increase young people’s self-confidence. They have seen that their voices count and that they have a right to freedom of opinion.

2.1.4 Latin America

In Latin America the focus is on children’s rights to protection against violence and abuse (10 out of a total of 17 projects/programmes). The rights to personal development (right to basic education and vocational training, employment promotion activities) and participation rights are addressed individually rather than systematically, so that it is not possible to discern any trends in this regard. The ten projects/programmes in the action area **Protection against violence** are very different from one another. They include some projects/programmes that support careers advice, vocational training and employment programmes for youth, a project/programme that supports peacebuilding in Colombia and two projects/programmes that promote Sport for Development in Brazil and Colombia.

In the GIZ regional programme PREVENIR, a holistic approach to preventing youth violence is being applied.

FIG. 6 BREAKDOWN OF PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES IN THE LATIN AMERICA REGION BY ACTION AREA



¹⁶ The programme on freedom of opinion and media development in Cambodia is being carried out by the Deutsche Welle Akademie on behalf of the BMZ (Phase 1: duration: 2015-2017; volume: 1.2 million euros; Phase 2: duration: 2018-2020; volume: 1.2 million euros).

Box 5: Prevention of Youth Violence in Central America¹⁷

El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have some of the highest murder rates in the world. Violence and crime are part of everyday life in Central America – especially for children and youth. Youths seek a substitute family in gangs or they are forcibly recruited by them. Although the gangs offer them the firm rules and cohesiveness that are missing from their home lives, they offer them as part of structures that are shaped by extreme violence and crime. The young gang members are both the victims and the perpetrators of threats, extortion, rape and murder.

The GIZ regional programme PREVENIR is assisting the labour, security and education ministries in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador in implementing interventions to prevent violence. At the community level PREVENIR works with schools and with health and youth centres that have joined together to form local violence prevention committees. The active involvement of youth in these committees is especially important. Already existing youth organisations are brought together and informed about ways to prevent violence and about how they can participate in the committee. The youths decide about the mechanisms for participating in the committee themselves. Together all stakeholders identify the different forms of youth violence that are found in their local context and develop tailor-made interventions. For example, awareness-raising activities are carried out or youth employment opportunities are created. Since 2012, more than 500 prevention counsellors have been trained and 68 violence prevention committees have received support.

The underlying reasons for violence are often to be found in patriarchal and authoritarian parenting and family systems. PREVENIR has developed the “Miles de Manos” method (in English: thousands of hands), via which teachers and parents learn non-violent teaching and parenting methods. Miles de Manos has now become a fixed part of national education and violence prevention programmes in all three countries. More than 8,500 teaching staff and 17,300 parents have so far been trained using this method.

“The first thing I understood was that I had experienced violence and was repeating the same pattern with my daughter. Today I try to do things differently,” says one mother from El Salvador who has been trained using the Miles de Manos method.

Around 200,000 schoolchildren in 1,314 schools in the Central American region have benefited from the positive impacts of this method. *“I have seen a change in my mother,”* says one pupil whose mother took part in the Miles de Manos training programme. *“Before, when I came home from school she would often tell me off and she didn’t stop until I went to my room. Now she tries to find a moment to talk calmly with me about things.”*

In the action area **Education**, GIZ’s Programme to Support the Decentralisation Process in the Sector of Education in Honduras links the right to education with the principle of participation from the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

¹⁷ The regional programme Prevention of Youth Violence in Central America (PREVENIR III) is being carried out by GIZ on behalf of the BMZ (duration: 2016-2018; volume: 6 million euros).

Box 6: The right of participation for students in Honduras¹⁸

In Honduras the right of children to participate is hardly taken into account at all in the authoritarian education system. Although every school has a student council, its function is largely symbolic. Children and youth have scant opportunity to have their say about day-to-day school matters.

The GIZ Programme to Support the Decentralisation Process in the Sector of Education (APRODE) sought to change that. To that end APRODE first raised awareness among key actors in the Education Ministry and trained them in methods based on children’s rights. This led the Ministry to establish the round table Children’s Rights in the Education Sector. Besides APRODE, other organisations involved in the round table are UNICEF, the Pestalozzi Children’s Village Foundation and the Honduran children’s rights network COIPRODEN; in 2016 they jointly launched a pilot project with the Ministry. In a two-year participatory process, children were invited to themselves draft the national regulation for student co-administration.

A total of more than 400 students aged between four and 22 years living in seven of the country’s 18 counties were involved in this process. Following the principles of participatory research, the participating students conducted video interviews with other children and carried out surveys. In role play and with collages they demonstrated how they envisaged student participation. They also filmed and directed the video documentary *The School of our Dreams*, which was presented to the Education Minister. Based on their findings, the children formulated in their own words the national regulation for student co-administration and laid down the goals, principles, functions, structure, election process and way of working for student co-administration. The final document was examined by the legal department of the Education Ministry and presented by the children to the Education Minister, the First Lady and the Vice President at a big event. The Education Minister officially acknowledged the Regulation with his signature in June 2018.

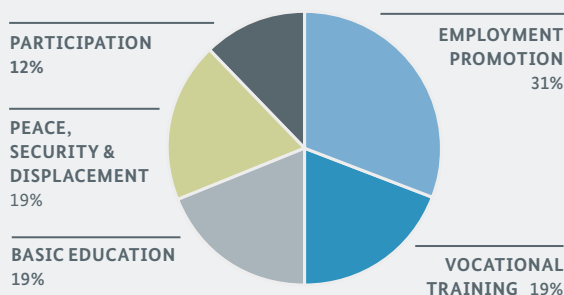
The Regulation has since been implemented in the country’s 23,000 schools. With this pledge, children in Honduras now have for the first time a binding framework for claiming their right to participation in schools. One thing that they repeatedly emphasised and laid down in their regulation: “Children and youth have a voice and something to say. Our opinion is a valuable treasure!”

According to Melvin, an eleven-year-old boy who took part in the project, the first impacts can already be felt: *“We have the feeling that the adults now listen to us when we express our opinion and support us in realising our initiatives. Together we want to work on realising the school of our dreams!”*

18 The Programme to Support the Decentralisation Process in the Sector of Education in Honduras is being carried out by GIZ on behalf of the BMZ (Phase I: duration: 2015-2018; volume: 8 million euros; Phase II: duration: 2019-2021; volume: 5 million euros).

2.1.5 Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

FIG. 7 BREAKDOWN OF PROJECTS/ PROGRAMMES IN THE EASTERN EUROPE AND CAUCASUS REGION BY ACTION AREA



In this region, too, the BMZ puts an emphasis on basic education for children and youth, and on vocational training and youth employment, with eight out of 16 projects/programmes focusing on these aspects. Three projects/programmes are in the action area **Peace, security and displacement**.

In the action areas **Employment promotion** and **Vocational training** there are two Technical Co-operation projects/programmes in Kosovo and Serbia that have youth and young adults between the ages of 15 and 35 as the target group. The careers advice, training courses, short-term upskilling formats and help finding work placements are meant to improve their employability.

Box 7: The right of disadvantaged children in Kosovo to education and social participation¹⁹

In Kosovo the rights of children to education and non-discrimination are in the foreground. The GIZ programme Capacity Development in the Basic Education Sector in Kosovo (CDBE) is helping to improve the quality of basic education for children aged between six and 15 years. At the same time, by pursuing an approach that focuses on children’s well-being, the project/programme is striving to realise core principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, such as prevention, protection and participation.

CDBE is strengthening the inclusion of disadvantaged children in the formal education system, e.g. children from ethnic minorities (Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians) or from returnee families. Under the programme, 647 teachers have received training from psychologists to give them the tools they need to deal with diverse groups in the classroom and offer disadvantaged children specific assistance. Furthermore, CDBE is cooperating with five non-governmental organisations in order to create additional programmes for disadvantaged children. Terre des Hommes Albania and Kosovo has set up learning centres in several communities, offering extra tuition for schoolchildren and promoting joint learning.

Equal participation in social life is critical for the successful inclusion of children. That is why CDBE has trained 100 youths, who have then set up and run recreational activities in their communities on their own initiative, for example: theatre clubs, painting and music groups, and sport for children aged between six and 15 years. These activities have helped strengthen the interactions between children and youths from different social backgrounds.

So far, 7,053 children have participated in the coaching sessions, extra tuition and intercultural leisure activities. Furthermore, 618 parents have taken part in support programmes concerned with how they deal with the challenges around educating their children. A total of 3,218 children, parents and other members of these local communities have taken part in activities to raise awareness and boost intercultural understanding.

¹⁹ The programme Capacity Development in the Basic Education Sector in Kosovo is being carried out by GIZ on behalf of the BMZ (duration: 2015-2019; volume: 9.75 million euros).

In the action area **Peace, security and displacement**, projects/programmes are strengthening the social infrastructure for children and youth in Ukraine. Three

projects/programmes promote the right of children and youth from disadvantaged population groups to participate in schools and in the community.

2.1.6 Germany

There are 17 projects/programmes implementing the interventions of the action plan in three action areas. These include comprehensive programmes such as youth exchange programmes, strategic initiatives, e.g. looking at a child protection policy for German development cooperation, and individual products (e.g. children’s books for development policy education).

What is more, a “children’s and youth rights” toolbox is currently being devised with the aim of making application-oriented materials, methods, instruments and guidelines available for development cooperation officers. The toolbox will also be integrated in a user-friendly format into the GIZ web portal “Kinder- und Jugendrechte” [child and youth rights].²⁰

In the action area **Integration of children and youth rights** the GIZ sector programme Realising Human Rights including Children and Youth Rights in Development Cooperation is supporting the BMZ and the implementing organisations of German development cooperation in systematically incorporating the rights of children and youth into German development cooperation projects/programmes and in increasing the number and the quality of relevant interventions. In cooperation with the German Institute for Human Rights, several options for designing a child protection policy for official German development cooperation have been identified. They are currently being assessed.

The GIZ web portal [in German] gives an overview of the ways that child and youth rights are promoted in German development cooperation; it provides up-to-date information about promising examples of actual official and non-governmental development cooperation, and offers tips about relevant publications, training courses and events.

In 2018, acting on behalf of the BMZ, GIZ launched an industry-wide competition against the backdrop of the action plan, with a view to promoting the development of promising innovative approaches for strengthening children’s rights in various sectors of Technical Cooperation.

Box 8: “Agents of Change – Innovation for Children’s and Youth Rights” competition

Innovation needs children and children’s rights need innovation! This was the slogan for a competition launched in March 2018 and entitled “Agents of Change – Innovation for Children’s and Youth Rights”. Its aim was to find new and innovative ways of implementing children’s rights in ongoing GIZ programmes in all different sectors. Before the competition began, webinars on the approach based on children’s rights were held in which more than 120 staff members from GIZ partner countries participated.

The response to the competition surpassed all expectations. By the time of the deadline for entries in May 2018, a total of 77 proposals from 45 countries and almost all sector priority areas had been submitted. A jury – composed of the BMZ, GIZ, the German Institute for Human Rights and the organisation SOS Children’s Vil-

20 <https://www.kinder-und-jugendrechte.de> [in German]

21 <https://www.engagement-global.de/schulwettbewerb-eine-welt-fuer-alle-alle-fuer-eine-welt.html> [in German]

22 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6rvHxE_obw [in German]

23 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgSIG_OcZ9M [in German]

24 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq_7RIh-0mNkLmZVlyHF4zA

25 <https://www.checkdeinewelt.de/> [in German] (“check out your (one) world”)

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lages – assessed the project ideas based on the following criteria: children’s rights approach, innovation, and sustainability & cooperation. In July 2018, eight winners were announced. They received funding of up to 100,000 euros and expert advice to help them realise their pilot projects between August 2018 and August 2019.

One example is an app that can be used to register children born in Madagascar quickly and simply. In rural areas in particular, many women give birth at home and do not register their babies. Children who do not have a birth certificate are not recognised as legal persons. This means that they have no access to education, social protection or health care. The project is also training young mothers so that they can then raise awareness among other mothers and families about the importance of registering births. The project hopes to register 7,000 children from 14 rural communities in Diana, a region in the north of Madagascar.

The focus of other projects is on the rights to protection, participation, a healthy environment, education, non-discrimination, child-appropriate justice, and sexual and reproductive rights. Besides the eight winners, another three entries were chosen to receive funding via other sector projects/programmes. For the eleven chosen to receive funding a total of about 1 million euros was allocated.

The aim is that, after the funding comes to an end, the measures will be integrated into ongoing GIZ programmes or will be developed into proposals for new bilateral, regional and global projects/programmes. The outcomes of the competition will be documented and presented at a concluding event for the BMZ’s Action Plan for Children’s Rights, which will mark the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in November 2019.

In the action area **Partnership** the “topic team child and youth rights” is the forum for the cooperation between the BMZ and the official implementing organisations and non-governmental partners. Since 2010, the team members have been conducting exchanges roughly twice a year on current challenges, conceptual approaches and expert debates. They pool their technical expertise, and knowledge of methods and instruments, develop joint products (e.g. publications, events, promising practices, the web portal “Kinder- und Jugendrechte” [child and youth rights], see above) and network based on global agendas.

The twelve projects/programmes in the action area **Participation** include development policy education interventions in Germany and programmes for exchanges between youth from Germany and youth from developing countries. These exchange programmes include, for example, ASA and weltwärts and also the African-German Youth Initiative, via which the BMZ and the Commission of the African Union have been supporting the development of measures for exchanges between youth in Africa and youth in Germany since 2017. Furthermore, within the

framework of the GIZ competition Agents of Change, projects are being supported that aim to develop promising approaches for the active participation and involvement of children and youth.

The website Check (D)eine Welt²⁵ was set up by the BMZ. Here children can find out more about development policy topics and German development cooperation by doing a quiz. Furthermore, the BMZ has published three children’s books on development policy topics. A very promising approach is the schools competition on development policy.

Box 9: Schools competition “alle für EINE WELT für alle”

The Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Culture of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany and the BMZ have created an orientation framework for learning about global development in order to firmly establish the topic of education for sustainable development with a global outlook in schools. Every two years, as an instrument for implementing this educational policy, the schools competition on development policy “alle für EINE WELT für alle” [all for ONE WORLD for all] is held.²¹ The competition is open to all schools and vocational training establishments in Germany and to German schools located abroad. The NGO Engagement Global runs the competition on behalf of the BMZ and in cooperation with partners from the education sector, civil society, the media and the private sector. The motto of the eighth iteration of the competition in 2017/2018 was “Sei weltbewegend! – Verantwortungsvoll handeln. Miteinander gestalten!” [Be global movers and shakers! – Act responsibly. Create together!]. Children and young people from every age group were invited to develop concrete ideas for how the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals can be implemented.

The schools were provided with appropriate teaching materials. The students were able to choose for themselves what topic they wanted to take for their contributions and either work on the topic in their school or work with partner schools in countries of the Global South. Roughly 32,000 students from around the country took part in the 2017/2018 competition and 516 contributions were submitted. One out of every four contributions had to do with children’s rights. An expert jury assessed the contributions and selected the prize winners.

For example, children at the community primary school Am Nützenberg in Wuppertal designed an e-book with the title “Frag uns Kinder!” [Ask us children!].²² It offers age-appropriate suggestions for ways that children can explore themes like food and nutrition, clothing, games and play, and wishes for the future. The children worked with a partner school in Conakry, Guinea, to gather ideas for the book. In their project “Welt in Bewegung” [A world on the move], 100 students at the Erich Klausener Schule in Herten developed an exhibition on the topic of human rights, integration, exchange and encounter.²³

The schools competition is accompanied by a song contest “Dein Song für EINE WELT” [Your song for ONE WORLD], which invites children and youths to give musical expression to their messages for living together in

an equitable and sustainable way in our One World. For the 2017/2018 competition more than 2,600 children and youths between the ages of 10 and 25 submitted about 500 original songs. These songs were presented on a website that was visited by more than 53,600 users and the 23 best songs were compiled into a ONE WORLD album. A selection of songs can be heard on YouTube.²⁴

2.1.7 Global initiatives

There are 18 projects/programmes that implement the interventions of the action plan in the three action areas “International partnerships”, “Partnerships with non-governmental organisations” and “Partnerships with the private sector”.

In the action area **International partnerships** the focus is on cooperation with UNICEF in the area of

transitional development assistance in the context of crises and displacement.

Since 2013, financial support for UNICEF has risen significantly. In 2013, the BMZ disbursed approximately 40 million euros to UNICEF. In 2017, the multi-year new commitments were about 410 million euros. Besides a core contribution, the BMZ especially

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supports the work of UNICEF in countries affected by crises, war and displacement. These project funds are generally channelled into cooperation projects where UNICEF and KfW are working together.

During the period of the action plan the BMZ has supported in the action area **Partnerships with non-governmental agencies** a total of 59 projects carried out by central church agencies and agencies engaged in social structure programmes; these projects are concerned with supporting children and young people and promoting their rights. The total volume of this support is 19.1 million euros. Furthermore, in 2017 the BMZ supported 233 projects aimed

at strengthening the rights of children and youth which were carried out by private German executing agencies;²⁶ the total volume of funding provided by the BMZ for these projects was 29 million euros.

In the action area **Partnerships with the private sector** the projects implemented include the project/programme Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience, the GIZ sector project/programme Rural Employment with a Focus on Youth, the G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment and the Global Inclusion Awards (an event held in Berlin on 3 May 2017).

Box 10: KfW/UNICEF cooperation in crisis contexts²⁷

Many Rohingya have sought refuge in Bangladesh – including many children. The conditions in the refugee camps are precarious. Rohingya children have no access to Bangladeshi schools. The Bangladesh government says that they may only be taught in their own language in informal centres. The KfW/UNICEF collaborative project to provide learning centres for children affected by the Rohingya crisis is helping to make it possible for displaced children to have access to a minimum of education.

The focus is on infrastructure and encompasses the building of learning centres, including water connections and sanitation facilities. The learning centres are built from stable locally sourced materials. UNICEF is responsible for quality control, KfW is contributing its expertise. The schools serve as child-friendly living spaces and protected areas and strive to give the children a degree of normality and everyday life. The project/programme envisages a total of 35,000 children being taught in 350 learning centres. So far, 139 learning centres with room for more than 10,200 children have been built. The construction of another 288 centres is under preparation. UNICEF is financing both training for teachers and their salaries, and is offering psychosocial counselling for children and their parents.

The learning centres are managed by committees each made up of parents, imams, respected members of the community and at least three women. Each month teachers are given training in providing children and families with psychosocial support. So far more than 4,000 parents and community leaders have been reached.

Particular mention must also be made of the **Partnership for Sustainable Textiles** initiated by the BMZ. Besides the German government, the partners are drawn from various areas of activity: businesses, associations, non-governmental organisations, trade

unions and standards organisations. They came together in 2014 with a view to pushing jointly for improvements all along the textiles supply chain. Since 2018, members of the Textiles Partnership are required to carry out an annual analysis of the

26 Since there is no marker for such projects, this figure is just an estimate of the number of projects aimed at promoting the rights of children and youth that were approved in 2017.

27 KfW is supporting on behalf of the BMZ the implementation via UNICEF of a collaborative project to provide learning centres for children affected by the Rohingya crisis (duration: 2017-2018; volume of the BMZ grant: 4 million euros).

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social and environmental risks and impacts of their business activities. With regard to the issue of child labour, in 2018 the Partnership members set themselves the following binding goal: establishing a process or procedure for dealing with cases of child and/or forced labour, including access to remedial action (binding for brands and traders, manufac-

turers and the German government). The other groups concerned must provide the requisite support for interventions and procedures aimed at dealing with cases of child and forced labour (binding for non-governmental organisations, associations, standards organisations and trade unions).

2.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN AND THE 2030 AGENDA

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs spell out the actions that need to be taken by the international community, including with regard to realising children’s rights. The projects/programmes to strengthen the rights of children and youth supported by the BMZ contribute to achieving the SDGs in a variety of ways. For example, numerous projects/programmes support the rights of children to adequate food (SDG 2), health care (SDG 3) and education, including education for sustainable development and vocational training (SDG 4), and their right to have access to clean drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (SDG 6). Many projects/programmes, especially in the context of crises and displacement, promote the right of children and youth to be protected against violence (SDG 5 and SDG 16).

So far, however, there are only a few BMZ-financed projects/programmes that promote the registering of

births (SDG 16.9) or help to improve the access of children and youth to justice (SDG 16.3). The same goes for projects/programmes with the explicit goals of eradicating the worst forms of child labour (SDG 8.7) and ending harmful practices such as child marriage or female genital mutilation (SDG 5.3).

In the action area **Peace, security and displacement** and also in projects/programmes to prevent youth violence it is not possible in most cases to discern the extent to which gender-based violence is addressed (SDG 5.2). It is not possible to always discern whether disadvantaged children and children with disabilities are included in the education sector (SDG 4.5). Early childhood education (SDG 4.2) is rarely promoted, with most projects/programmes targeting other age groups.

3 Conclusions and future outlook

3.1 SUMMARISED ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Almost all the interventions set out in the action plan are already being implemented in the current period through German development cooperation projects/programmes – albeit to varying degrees. In all five regions²⁸ child and youth rights are being supported. The regional focus here is on Africa and the MENA region – in accordance with the development policy priorities set out by the BMZ. This means that a substantial contribution is also being made towards implementing the Marshall Plan with Africa and towards securing peace in the Middle East through development cooperation.

The sector focus of German activities aimed at strengthening child and youth rights is **vocational training** for youth. This includes projects concerned with formal vocational training and also scholarship programmes for disadvantaged youth.²⁹

Promoting the rights of children and youth to **education and health** plays an important role in two of the five regions, namely Africa, and Asia and Central Asia. Health projects/programmes target babies and infants and also, in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, adolescents. One education project/programme is exclusively promoting early childhood education. A growing number of projects/programmes in the education sector are not only promoting the right of all children to education, they are also

promoting their right to social participation, which corresponds to the child-rights-based approach.³⁰

In the action area **Peace, security and displacement** the focus is mostly on children’s and youth’s access to a minimum of education and health care, along with psychosocial counselling for those who have experienced violence.³¹ Sport for Development is an approach that enables children and youths from different backgrounds to experience violence-free co-existence through sport and recreational activities.³²

The broad range of projects/programmes that explicitly seek to protect children and youth against violence stretches from projects/programmes to protect them from sexual abuse to projects/programmes to prevent violent extremism. From the perspective of children’s rights, projects that actively involve youth in identifying and implementing concrete measures for preventing violence are particularly deserving of a positive mention.³³

Although participation is an important principle of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, so far only ten per cent of projects/programmes are in the action area **Participation**. They include, in particular, projects/programmes concerned with freedom of opinion and media skills that are carried out with youth by the Deutsche Welle Akademie. Given that

28 The five regions are Africa, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Asia and Central Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

29 Cf. Box 1, p. 7, an example from Kenya.

30 Cf. Box 6, p. 13, an example from Honduras, and Box 7, p. 14, an example from Kosovo.

31 Cf. Box 10, p. 18, an example from Bangladesh.

32 Cf. Box 3, p. 9f, an example of Sport for Development from the MENA region.

33 Cf. Box 5, p. 12, the example of PREVENIR.

digital technology is spreading in developing countries, these examples are of particular relevance.³⁴

So far, only a few projects/programmes have been carried out in the field of fair working conditions or child labour, e.g. the Technical Cooperation/ Financial Cooperation programme in Burkina Faso, which is contributing towards overcoming the worst forms of child labour.³⁵ Deserving of special mention is, however, the new global project/programme on sustainability and increasing value added in the cotton industry, which was launched in 2019 and is being implemented in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, India and Uzbekistan.³⁶ By promoting social sustainability standards in global value chains that are based on the ILO core labour standards, the project/programme is contributing among other things towards eliminating the worst forms of child labour in all four of these countries. For example, in India the project/programme will focus on the seeds sector, where child labour is widespread. Furthermore, the activities of the project/programme in Burkina Faso and Cameroon are aimed at increasing the incomes of small farmers. An increased income from growing sustainable cotton will mean that smallholder families are no longer forced to rely on the labour of their children and can afford to send them to school.

So far there are only a few projects/programmes that are concerned with the issue of **registering births** and access to justice, one of which is a new Technical Cooperation regional project/programme in Africa.³⁷

There are currently twelve innovative approaches in a range of different sectors being promoted in connection with the **GIZ competition Agents of Change – Innovation for Children’s and Youth Rights (2018)**.³⁸ The aim is to develop proposals for new bilateral,

regional and global projects/programmes that put an emphasis on children and youth. The interventions being supported also cover two topics that have been less spotlighted until now: birth registration and access to justice.

As far as activities in **Germany** are concerned, good progress has been made on incorporating the rights of children and youth into the steering instruments, processes and management tools of official development cooperation and elaborating accompanying training concepts and tools. The regularly occurring schools competition “alle für EINE WELT für alle” (all for One World for all) is an important instrument for promoting education for equal and sustainable development and the participation of children and youth in concrete development policy education projects.³⁹ The African-German Youth Initiative is an interesting approach for strengthening exchange between young Africans and young Germans.

The BMZ is continuously involved in the elaboration of the joint youth strategy that is being drawn up by the German government (to be presented in 2019), contributing to this process a development policy perspective and its experience of elaborating the action plan with young people using a participatory approach.

Looking at **global initiatives**, the cooperation between the BMZ and UNICEF, which has considerably increased in volume since 2013, is particularly noteworthy.⁴⁰ The main focus of this cooperation is on transitional aid in the context of crises and displacement. In the action area “Partnerships with the private sector”, the **Partnership for Sustainable Textiles** launched by the BMZ merits particular mention. In the action area “Partnerships with non-governmental

34 Cf. Box 4, p. 11, an example from Cambodia.

35 Cf. Box 2, p. 8, an example from Burkina Faso.

36 The project/programme Sustainability and Value Added in the Cotton Economy is being carried out by GIZ on behalf of the BMZ (duration: 2018-2023; volume: 17 million euros).

37 The project/programme Promoting the Rule of Law and Justice is being carried out by GIZ on behalf of the BMZ (duration: 2018-2021; volume: 8.9 million euros).

38 Cf. Box 8, p. 15, the example of the GIZ competition.

39 Cf. Box 9, p. 17, the example of a schools competition.

40 Cf. p. 17.

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organisations”, the projects supported by the BMZ cover a broad range of sectors and topics, with many

projects explicitly addressing the situation facing disadvantaged children and youth.

3.2 GOAL ACHIEVEMENT

At the mid-term point of the action plan it seems that the activities being carried out under German development cooperation will lead to the strategic goals of the action plan being achieved by the end of 2019. However, further efforts will be needed for this to happen.

Goal 1: “To expand and improve the projects we carry out to implement child and youth rights.”

Projects/programmes to foster child and youth rights have been expanded. This has been achieved in particular in the case of youth vocational training projects and projects to protect children and youth in the context of wars and conflicts – in the latter area in particular through activities in the MENA region and through financial support for UNICEF in the field of “global initiatives”.

So far, many projects/programmes are aimed at realising individual development rights such as the rights to education, vocational training and health. Others are devoted to protective rights, e.g. the right to be protected from violence in situations of war and crisis. There are many projects/programmes where it is not yet sufficiently clear how much they are strengthening the rights of children and youth to participate and are implementing the LNOB principle so that children and youth who are particularly disadvantaged (e.g. through disabilities) are reached.

Nevertheless, individual examples (especially in the case of education and health) illustrate how the active involvement of children and youth and the elimination of discrimination can be supported successfully. For other sectors, e.g. sustainable economic development or promoting employment, suitable examples

must be implemented in order to mainstream the participation of children and youth.

Goal 2: “To play a leading role in international dialogue to ensure children and youth rights are respected, protected and guaranteed.”

The adoption of the action plan and the intention of significantly expanding contributions to promote child and youth rights in German development cooperation signalled by its adoption have been noted with recognition and interest by the rest of the international community. Germany is one of the few countries in the EU that has adopted a specific action plan on children’s rights for its development cooperation. During the period of the action plan to date the BMZ has expanded its multilateral engagement in the context of its cooperation with UNICEF. There are several initiatives at the regional level, in particular in partnership with the African Union, that are fostering child and youth rights. Other relevant partnerships cover cooperation with the ILO to tackle child labour and child trafficking and the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles launched by the BMZ. This means that Goal 2 has been partially achieved.

Goal 3: “To make the risks facing and the potential of children’s rights a strategic aspect in the design of our support activities and to ensure those activities are aligned with the interests and needs of our partner governments.”

Goal 3 has likewise been partially achieved already. There are now binding guidelines in the BMZ and instruments which the implementing organisations use to assess all projects/programmes with regard to

the risks they pose for human rights and children’s rights and the likelihood of unintended impacts.⁴¹ As envisaged in the action plan, the possibility of introducing a child protection policy to protect children within the sphere of influence of German development cooperation policy and its institutions is currently being examined. The experiences of other donors provide input for this process.

The individual examples in the report demonstrate that numerous overseas projects/programmes specifically foster the potential of children and youth and that they work successfully with both official and non-governmental structures in order to do so. There are, however, only a few projects/programmes to date that support the efforts of regional or national human rights institutions to expand their capacities for monitoring children’s rights or for providing policy advice on children’s rights.⁴²

3.3 FUTURE OUTLOOK

For the remainder of the duration of the action plan and beyond, the following need for action has been identified:

1. The BMZ will undertake to examine, in exchange with civil society and the implementing organisations, the possibility of introducing a child protection policy in German development cooperation.
2. Promising approaches for children’s rights will be elaborated and will flow into the continuation of existing and the planning of future development cooperation interventions.
3. Within the framework of an international conference to mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in November 2019, the BMZ will offer a forum for experts to share and exchange thoughts on child and youth rights.
4. Before the end of the period of the action plan (12/2019) the BMZ will decide about possible formats for its continuation.
5. The BMZ will spotlight the right of children and youth to be protected against all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. This includes in particular protection and participation for children and youths affected by exploitative child labour, harmful practices, sexual violence and imprisonment.
6. Furthermore, the BMZ will examine whether the implementation of a children’s rights approach can also take place in sectors that are not usually directly associated with child and youth rights (e.g. environment and climate, urban development, energy, digitisation).
7. The BMZ will campaign and lobby for children’s rights at the international and the EU level, e.g. within the framework of the German Presidency of the EU Council in 2020.

41 For example: (i) Guidelines on incorporating human rights standards and principles, including gender, into programme proposals for bilateral German Technical and Financial Cooperation (BMZ, 2013); (ii) GIZ Safeguards+ Gender Management System, with an integrated “human rights” safeguard; (iii) KfW’s binding environmental and social impact assessment.

42 The GIZ project/programme Building Institutional Capacity at the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen FIO (duration: 2015-2018, volume: 3.5 million euros) is advising the working group on children’s rights about ways to implement an integrated children’s rights approach in the work of the Latin American national human rights institutions.

4 Annex

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APRODE	Programme to Support Decentralisation Processes in the Education Sector in Honduras
AU	African Union
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CDBE	Capacity Development in the Basic Education sector in Kosovo
CRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ILO	International Labour Organization
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
PREVENIR	Preventing Youth Violence in Central America
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund

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