Dear readers,

In February 2014 I visited Jordan – an important journey for me and one that led me to see many things in a new light. What impressed me most was my trip to the city of Mafraq, close to the Syrian border. Mafraq, which itself has a population of 100,000, has taken in around 100,000 Syrian refugees over the past two years, thereby doubling the number of inhabitants – an almost inconceivable scenario for us. While I was there, I paid a visit to a farming family. They were poor people, living a modest life. The farmer had cleared out the goats’ stall and cleaned it, and it is now home to a Syrian refugee family with five children.

That is the situation on the ground in Jordan and I have to say that the people there deserve our utter respect. Their willingness to share what little they have sets an example for us all. To my mind, it is an impressive illustration of our moral obligation to help those in dire need.

I feel that our work to promote sustainable development around the globe is predominantly a matter of ethics and commitment to human rights. Having said that, it is also a matter of self-interest, since a responsible, far-sighted and effective development policy benefits us here in Germany as well as helping people in other parts of the world.

The work done by my staff at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and in our partner countries is aimed at ensuring food security and health, peace and self-determination, protection of the environment and the climate, and human rights and dignity. In short, it deals with existential issues, issues that have become vital for the survival of the human race.

I firmly believe that development policy gives us the opportunity to make the world a safer and fairer place and to preserve the integrity of creation for the sake of our children and grandchildren. Germany sees it as its duty – and one it is keen to fulfil – to take on more responsibility for the world. Our development cooperation work provides us with a platform to do that in a multitude of ways.

This brochure explains what motivates us, why our work is so important and how it is organised, who is involved and how you can get involved too. I hope you enjoy finding out more.

Dr. Gerd Müller,
Member of the German „Bundestag“
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development
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Why do we need development cooperation

Because it promotes international relations and friendship.

Because we need a fairer world.

Because we can learn an enormous amount from our partner countries.

Because it advances the cause of gender equality.

Because today’s major problems do not stop at Germany’s or Europe’s borders.

Because we cannot tolerate thousands of young children dying every day.

Because it brings peace.
Because it saves lives. Because everyone has the right to a life free of fear and hardship. Because it helps people help themselves and free themselves from poverty. Because, as justness and solidarity are underlying values of human co-existence, helping others is a dictate of humanity. Because, as justness and solidarity are underlying values of human co-existence, helping others is a dictate of humanity. Because it enables us to secure our children’s future. Because prosperity brings obligation. And because the rich industrialised countries have a duty to help eradicate poverty around the globe. Because we are responsible for what we do and what we do not do.
Living in dignity, preserving the integrity of creation – our goals

Millennium development goals

At the Millennium Summit in 2000, the international community committed to a collaborative effort to tackle pressing global problems such as poverty, hunger, child mortality, inadequate education and infectious diseases. This led to an agreement on eight specific goals to be achieved by 2015 – the “millennium development goals” or “MDGs”.

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 have we achieved so far?

The United Nations produces an annual report on MDG progress and setbacks. Not all of the goals have been reached yet but the figures in the latest report for 2014 illustrate clearly the positive impact of development cooperation. Development cooperation works!

1990 — 2012: The proportion of people worldwide without access to safe drinking water fell by half.

2012, Southeast Asia: For every 100 boys who start primary education, there are 100 girls.

1990 — 2013: Globally, maternal mortality dropped by 45 per cent.

1990 — 2012: Worldwide, the mortality rate for under-five-year-olds decreased by half.
2010: The proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell to half the 1990 figure.

In 2013: At $134 billion, funding for development cooperation reached a record high.

2001 - 2012: The rate of new HIV infections among 15 to 49-year-olds dropped by 44% worldwide.

2012: 90 per cent of children in developing countries attend a primary school – 87 million more children than in 1990.
What about the post-2015 agenda?

Across the globe, there is considerable debate as to the direction that development policy should take once the MDG deadline expires at the end of 2015. The “Post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development” is much more than a mere extension of the MDGs.

Global partnership: Binding sustainability goals for everyone – industrialised, newly industrialised and developing countries.

Human rights are the foundation and guiding principle of the post-2015 agenda.

Sustainable solutions for global challenges.

The new agenda will have to focus more on climate change and the economic, energy and food crises.

Everyone needs to change the way they think and act. We need a shift in paradigm – everyone has to share the responsibility.

The aim is a world without poverty or hunger and a life in dignity for future generations.
What kind of world do we want to live in?
Join the debate!

All around the world, in Germany too, the public, the scientific community and businesses have been invited to help draw up a post-2015 agenda. Everyone involved has the same aim: a better and fairer world for our generation and those of the future.

Germany is very much involved in the drafting of the post-2015 agenda. In addition, to expert input, the BMZ has called on the public to help frame a charter for the future, in which the key priorities of future development cooperation will be set out. We asked, “What small and large steps can we take to assume more responsibility for our ONE WORLD?”

To date, representatives of civil society, churches, business, foundations, media, the Länder (federal states), municipalities and many other areas have contributed to our charter for the future. To find out more, please visit www.zukunftscharta.de or go direct to the PDF file in English at https://www.zukunftscharta.de/ecm-politik/zukunftscharta/de/home/file/fileId/2954
Working together – our partner countries

We collaborate to differing degrees with 79 partner countries. They are supported by highly specialised implementing organisations working on behalf of the government (see page 32), which help them implement jointly agreed programmes and projects.

In addition, we provide assistance for numerous international projects run by non-governmental organisations and institutions from Germany and other countries. These range from modest development initiatives to large foundations and church organisations.

We also advise individuals seeking to play an active part in sustainable development. In fact, we have set up a service called “Engagement Global” especially for this purpose. Together, we can find suitable opportunities for anyone who wants to get involved.

Through our information and education work on development policy, we are continuously increasing the German public’s awareness of the importance of sustainable development.

We also play an important role at the international level, sharing the responsibility for (and cost of) development programmes run by the European Union, the United Nations, the World Bank and countless other global-scale organisations.
Countries with which we cooperate in bilateral programmes

Countries with which we cooperate in specific fields or through regional programmes
The world faces huge challenges, challenges that concern us all. Development policy is an investment in the future and in peace.

250,000 babies are born every day, boosting the world’s population by 80 million per year. In the next few years Africa will see its population double in size, while Europe’s population figures stagnate. There are those who say Europe is “going grey”. In Asia, on the other hand, the population is set to grow to four or five billion.

These trends pose tremendous challenges: 30 per cent more and better drinking water, 40 per cent more energy and 50 per cent more food will be needed by 2030. Yet, despite the daily increase in the global population, poverty and hunger have been halved and mother and child mortality has decreased by 45 per cent worldwide since 1990. The HIV infection rate has also fallen by 22 per cent and the polio infection rate is now virtually zero thanks to extensive vaccination.

The number of wars, conflicts and disasters (and, as a result, the number of fatalities) has dropped – even if it sometimes does not seem that way when we switch on the radio or television.

Development cooperation also promotes peace and reconciliation. The following pages present a selection of the areas our work focuses on.
One World
No hunger
Food security and agriculture

More than 840 million people around the world are afflicted by hunger and a further billion are chronically malnourished. Yet, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), we could actually feed 12 billion people with the help of today’s technology.

The BMZ works vigorously to ensure that all human beings have access to a sufficient supply of affordable and healthy food. Since most of the world’s poor and hungry live in rural areas, one of our priorities is rural development.

“Every human, every child who dies of hunger (...) is an individual, singular, totally unacceptable tragedy.”
Jean Ziegler, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

In spring 2014 we launched the special “ONE WORLD – No Hunger” initiative, for which we have earmarked a minimum of one billion euros per year. The idea behind it is to pool our activities in this area even more effectively, to expand them and to strengthen our partner countries’ self-help capacity.

Ato Gebremichael, Ethiopia:
“We transformed a desert into an oasis”

For a long time the 5,000 inhabitants of Abraha Atsbeha were dependent on food aid. Deforestation and over-grazing had made farming virtually impossible in this village in the barren highlands of Northern Ethiopia. “All that remained was sand. We couldn’t grow anything”, recalls the village chief, Ato Gebremichael. A German development cooperation programme helped the farmers of Abraha Atsbeha to return their land to a fertile state through sustainable farming. One of the measures, for instance, involved building terraces and digging trenches on the mountain slopes to stop the soil erosion. Today, even in the dry season, the villagers grow fruit, vegetables and maize. Often, their harvest is so good that they have more than they need for themselves, enabling them to sell the surplus at the market.
It is impossible for a politically and economically stable state to evolve if its people are faced with oppression, discrimination and restriction of their liberties. Democracy and the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights are essential to ensuring fair development opportunities for all.

Promotion of good governance plays a pivotal role in German development cooperation work. Part of our efforts in this area involves supporting our partners as they strive to guarantee, respect and protect human rights. The BMZ also works to foster the development of civil society – a vital element of any state seeking to be governed by the rule of law.

In particular, we are working to help stabilise and to secure peace in the Middle East and North Africa, which is why we have set up a special initiative for that region. One of its aims is to help ease the burden on those countries that have taken in significant numbers of refugees from Syria.

Fathima Fahraman, Afghanistan: „Now we’re going to reclaim Sharia law”

“The Taliban have abused and misused Islamic law. Now we’re going to reclaim it”, says Fatima Fahraman. The 22-year-old is studying law at Balkh University in Afghanistan. To help young people like Fatima establish rule of law, German development cooperation programmes are providing support to the law and Sharia faculties in the north of the country in the form of specialist literature and legislative texts and advice for young legal experts taking their first steps in their profession. Fatima Fahraman, for example, would like one day to serve her country as a diplomat.
Strengthening human rights
Tackling the root causes of displacement, reintegrating refugees
Peace and security

War, other forms of violent conflict and natural disasters have a hugely damaging effect on a country’s ability to develop. They cause immeasurable suffering, devastate business and social infrastructure and weaken governmental institutions. So it is essential that development policy promotes peace, prevents crisis and helps overcome conflict and develop non-violent solutions.

Worldwide, there are more than 50 million displaced people. Most of them seek refuge in safe regions within their home countries or in neighbouring countries in an attempt to escape violence, oppression or natural disaster. In a special initiative entitled “Tackling the root causes of displacement, reintegrating refugees”, we work with countries such as South Sudan and the countries that border Syria to reduce the root causes of displacement, support refugees and help them reintegrate into society once they return home.

Fathia Ahmed, Syria:
“We just wanted to get out”

43 bullets and grenades rained down on the house. “We just wanted to get out”, Fathia Ahmed recalls. She and her family fled from the civil war in Syria in December 2012. They found refuge in the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan. Faced with similar situations, more than 2.9 million people have now fled to bordering countries, while another 6.4 million have sought refuge inside Syria. The German government stopped its development cooperation with Syria in May 2011. Since then the main thrust of the BMZ’s assistance for those displaced by the conflict has been in the neighbouring countries. Since the outbreak of the crisis in 2012, the ministry has provided 88.89 million euros for special programmes for Jordan, plus 150.5 million euros for measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

As Jordan was one of the world’s four most arid countries even before the crisis (a situation significantly exacerbated by the influx of refugees), part of that money has been used to improve the water supply.

Peace is one of humanity’s most precious needs. It is also the United Nation’s highest calling.”
Ban Kin-moon, UN Secretary-General
Energy and climate protection

Climate experts fear that the annual average temperature will rise by as much as 4°C if we fail to change the way we live our lives and do business and if we do not cut CO2 emissions. An increase on that scale would trigger coastal flooding, poorer harvests, droughts and downpours, more storms and less biodiversity.

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing the future. It seems likely that it will be the world’s poorest regions that will be hit hardest by the repercussions. Our support for these countries is based on a twofold approach. The first aim is to help our partner countries reduce their emissions (referred to as “mitigation”) by, for example, generating energy from renewable sources such as wind, sun and water. The second is to help them adjust to the inevitable consequences of climate change (referred to as “adaptation”).

Some of the adjustments we assist them with are new cultivation methods, improved water supply, protection of biodiversity and the introduction of weather insurance.

“It’s cheaper to protect the planet now than to repair it later.”
José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, 2004-2014

Cussara José Chicamba, Mozambique: “We’re ready for the floods”

In the spring of 2000 Mozambique’s River Búzi burst its banks, causing extensive flooding and drowning 700 people. Since then an early warning system has been put in place. Disaster risk manager Cussara José Chicamba trains volunteer flood workers and committees. They regularly measure the water level at gauges located along the River Búzi and radio the readings to an analysis centre in the district capital. If flooding is imminent, the local disaster protection committees are alerted. They then warn the public and evacuate any critical areas. German development cooperation activities support Mozambique’s work on projects like this one, designed to adapt to climate change. As a result, around 670 volunteer committees with more than 8,000 trained volunteers have been set up across the country in the past ten years.
Protecting the climate
Ensuring decent work
Sustainable economic development – standards for human rights, social welfare and the environment

Imagine what it would be like to have to work in a factory 60 hours a week, with no contract, constantly on standby and perhaps even in a harmful environment. Imagine what it would be like if you had to send your children to work instead of them going to school because your wages were not enough to feed your family. It may be impossible for us to imagine but these scenarios and other similar situations are all too real for many people in developing countries.

Our development policies help foster economic growth in developing countries. But it is crucial that such growth does not have a detrimental effect on humans or the environment. We are therefore committed to ensuring decent working and living conditions in our partner countries, along with a business mentality that caters for social and ecological needs. For example, we are active in various international organisations through which we campaign for the abolition of child labour and a form of globalisation that has a social dimension to it. In addition, we support private-sector initiatives designed to improve working and production conditions through such measures as voluntary codes of conduct. As part of our development education work, we also promote the concept of fair trade in Germany.

Nazma Akter, Bangladesh:
“When a woman garment worker knows her rights, she can demand them.”

At the age of 11, Nazma Akter was already working 14 hours a day as a seamstress in a Bangladeshi garment factory. When she was 16, she began campaigning for better working conditions in the factories. Today she is the country’s best-known labour leader and has set up a foundation, AWAJ (“voice”), to fight for the rights of women workers. Although recent years have seen labour and environmental legislation in Bangladesh increasingly brought into line with international standards, the owners of the garment factories do not yet comply with the laws adequately. German development cooperation programmes support organisations such as AWAJ in their public information and education work. “In our women’s cafés we encourage the workers to learn new skills and find out more about their rights”, Nazma explains. Over 45 of these cafés have already been set up, regularly reaching around 10,000 women workers.

“We cannot continue to consume cheaply at the expense of others.”
Dr Gerd Müller, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development
Our cooperation work – the face of German development policy

Germany granting a cheap loan to a developing country, German experts advising a national government on school reform or a German organisation supporting small farmers in Africa are all direct forms of development cooperation. This type of collaboration between two partners is clear for all to see, making it the “face” of German development policy. As a result, it also plays a crucial role in the good reputation Germany enjoys in its partner countries.

Official development cooperation

Our cooperation activities rest on several pillars. One important pillar is bilateral development cooperation based on an agreement between the German government and the government of the partner country in question. This official development cooperation work includes such activities as consulting (Technical Cooperation) and financing through grants or loans (Financial Cooperation). It is performed on behalf of the BMZ by the German government’s implementing organisations, among them the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and KfW Development Bank (see page 32).

Cooperation with non-governmental executing agencies

A second pillar of our cooperation work concerns projects proposed and executed by non-governmental organisations, such as churches, political and private foundations and a number of other NGOs and private-sector players. This form of development cooperation also benefits from BMZ funding though responsibility for the projects lies with the non-governmental agencies.

Besides the projects conducted or (co-)financed by the German government, there are a wide range of development activities carried out by private individuals, organisations, schools and local communities. In 2012 the German government founded Engagement Global – Service for Development Initiatives to support their work by providing information, advice, financial assistance and training.

To find out more, visit:
→ www.bmz.de/players
→ www.bmz.de/mitmachen
   (in German only)
→ www.bmz.de/bilateral-cooperation
Multilateral and European cooperation – working together around the globe to make more of a difference

Germany is also part of the international drive to promote global development. Important partners in this work are the European Union (EU) and international organisations such as the United Nations, the World Bank and other development banks, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Germany’s membership of these organisations opens up numerous channels through which the country can contribute – on a “multilateral” basis – to international policymaking, based on its standpoints and experience.

Cooperation with international organisations

The United Nations and its specialised agencies, funds and programmes, incorporate almost all of the world’s countries. Their political neutrality, clear vision, financial resources and the vast expertise of their staff make these international institutions key players in development cooperation. They offer platforms for discussing fundamental principles of development policy and they draw up international standards for the major issues facing humanity – from health and nutrition to urban development and refugee aid.

Germany plays a role in all of the top international organisations – a role that goes beyond mere financial support. Representatives of the German government (many of them from the BMZ) work for these organisations and are actively involved in helping to achieve their goals. For the most part, this happens away from public view and often requires considerable perseverance and patience. The German government is also represented on the supervisory and decision-making boards of financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and various regional banks.

Other important forums in which Germany campaigns for its development policy goals include informal alliances such as the Group of Seven/Eight/Twenty (G7/G8/G20) major economies.

As Chair of the G7 from June 2014 until December 2015, Germany will be hosting the G7 Summit of Heads of State and Government in 2015 – a landmark year in terms of development policy. It will therefore have a particular responsibility for the topics and resolutions discussed there.
Cooperation with the European Union

No other regional organisation in the world supplies as much development cooperation funding as the EU and its member states. In 2013, the total came to 53 billion euros, accounting for 52 per cent (more than half) of all funding from industrialised countries. The EU, a major political force, is also a key trading partner for developing and newly industrialised countries. EU development cooperation work is carried out almost everywhere on the planet. Its agencies enjoy a reputation as “honest brokers” and have long-standing, good relations with other parts of the world, especially our neighbouring continent, Africa.

Donor networking for more effective cooperation

If international cooperation activities are to be effective, communication between all the donor countries and institutions has to be effective too. The best results can be achieved by working “hand in hand”. With this in mind, the BMZ invests considerable effort in ensuring effective donor networking.

To find out more, visit:

↗ www.bmz.de/multilateral-cooperation
↗ www.bmz.de/european
↗ www.bmz.de/effectiveness
↗ www.bmz.de/organizations
Specialists in action – the implementing organisations

The BMZ defines the principles that guide German development policy. It specifies priority areas, signs agreements with partner countries and secures financing for development cooperation. The practical work on the ground (such as advising governmental institutions in the partner countries, processing loans and grants or advising private individuals, foundations, organisations and businesses seeking to get involved in development work) is not part of the ministry’s remit. Instead, we commission specialised institutions, which we call “implementing organisations”, to carry out this work. Their experts support our partners’ projects on the ground.

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**
- Responsible for the Technical Cooperation programme with our partner countries
- Advises governments and institutions on the ground
- Provides funding for executing agencies in the partner country
- Produces studies and expert opinions
- Posts experts and aid workers
⇒ www.bmz.de/giz-en

**KfW Development Bank**
- Responsible for the Financial Cooperation programme with our partner countries
- Awards grants, subsidised loans, soft loans and subsidies
- Finances private-sector investment in developing and newly industrialised countries through its subsidiary DEG
⇒ www.bmz.de/kfw-en
⇒ www.bmz.de/deg-en

**Engagement Global – Service for Development Initiatives**
- Responsible for promoting active involvement by civil society and communities in Germany and for education in the field of development policy
- Provides advice and financial assistance to institutions, local authorities, associations and private individuals looking to get actively involved in worldwide development
⇒ www.bmz.de/engagement-global
(This link to the German page will lead you to an English page describing the service and what it does)

**Other implementing organisations:**
- Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR)
⇒ www.bmz.de/bgr-en
- National Metrology Institute (PTB)
⇒ www.bmz.de/ptb-en
Working on the ground – two examples of cooperation development in action

Teaching teaching
Teaching in Afghanistan is no easy job. More than 30 years of war have left their mark: there are no books on teaching, no public libraries, just a few internet connections and often there is not even any electricity. “The quality of tuition is alarmingly low”, says development advisor Christiane Althoff.

A senior grammar school teacher herself, Christiane gave seminars for teachers while on placement in Afghanistan. As well as covering maths and English, she often had to deal with basic teaching principles such as how to structure a lesson and how to motivate children to think for themselves instead of learning things off by heart. Her courses were extremely popular but progress was slow.

“You can’t transform a teaching system in just a few weeks. But I always keep an Afghani proverb in mind: ‘Even the sea is only made up of drops.’”
Christiane Althoff, development advisor

Practical tips for prospective automotive mechatronics engineers
Students at the SENATI vocational college in Peru can choose between 58 technical training courses, including automotive mechatronics. In June 2013, German automotive electrician Dieter Siebert visited the private college as a senior expert. His work involved reviewing the syllabus and inspecting the workshop equipment as well as other tasks. Although impressed by the quality of the training, Dieter was still able to make some positive suggestions as to what could be improved. One point he made was, “More emphasis should be placed on English language skills, since there are not many repair guides in Spanish.” He also felt it was important to expand the practical side of the training: “SENATI could involve local enterprises. They are all very keen to train automotive mechatronics engineers in their own workshops.”

Dieter Siebert was a Senior Expert Service (SES) volunteer in Peru.

To find out more, visit:
↗ www.entwicklungsdienst.de
Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (the “BMZ”) is one of six of the country’s national ministries to have its head office in Bonn. Our building there previously served as the Federal Chancellery (from 1976, when construction was completed, under Federal Chancellor Schmidt and throughout the Kohl and Schröder eras) and now houses around three quarters of our staff.

After the German government relocated to Berlin, Bonn became a major centre for national and international development institutions.

Over 150 such organisations are now based in Bonn – many of them just a stone’s throw from the BMZ. This set-up greatly enhances communication between all of the players as they work towards common development policy objectives.

The other BMZ office is located in yet another historic building, the “Europahaus”, near Potsdamer Platz, next to the “Anhalter Bahnhof” station. An architectural sensation in the 1930s, its construction is based on a steel frame and its huge neon signs and 15 metre tall “light tower” became synonymous with Berlin at night.

But the BMZ’s staff are not just located in Germany. Some of them are regularly posted to other parts of the world for several years on development policy assignments, as economic cooperation officers at German embassies, for instance.

To find out more, visit:

⇒ www.bmz.de/bonn-en
⇒ www.bmz.de/berlin-en
⇒ www.bmz.de/ministry
**Who is in charge of the ministry?**

The BMZ is headed by the minister, Dr Gerd Müller, the two parliamentary state secretaries, Mr Hans-Joachim Fuchtel and Mr Thomas Silberhorn, and the state secretary, Dr Friedrich Kitschelt.

The parliamentary state secretaries are members of the German Bundestag and assist the minister with his political duties. They are responsible for specific topics and divisions within the ministry, and for representing the BMZ in, for example, dealings with parliament and the parliamentary parties.

The state secretary is the highest-ranking civil servant and therefore the administrative head of the ministry. He represents the minister both internally and externally.

In 2010, Günter Nooke took up his post as the German Chancellor’s Personal Representative for Africa, supporting the heads of the BMZ in all matters concerning policy on Africa.
Our budget

The BMZ budget is decided by the German Bundestag on an annual basis. In 2014 we had a budget of approximately 6.4 billion euros. We only needed around two per cent of that for the running of the ministry.

The money that the BMZ receives for its work comes from the federal budget – in other words, from the taxpayers of Germany. We see it as our duty to work efficiently and use the funds entrusted to us responsibly.

We invest that money in worldwide development. If we do our job well, our investments bring benefit not only to people in developing countries but also to us here in Germany in the form, for example, of a wide variety of interpersonal, cultural and business ties between Germany and its partner countries. So each euro we invest in development can pay off several times over.

To find out more, visit:
† www.bmz.de/budget-en
† www.bmz.de/figures
The 2014 budget of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is 6.4 billion Euro.

- International food security: 3.8%
- Ministry: 1.4%
- Centrally budgeted administrative expenditure: 0.5%
- Special initiatives: 2.5%
- Other grants: 2.2%
- Research, evaluation and training/upskilling in development cooperation: 0.7%
- Regional banks: 3.9%
- World Bank: 9.5%
- United Nations and international institutions: 5.9%
- European Development Fund: 10.4%
How you can help

As humans, we all yearn for a world in which we and our families can live in peace and everyone has what they need to survive. Not really that much to ask for. Yet there are many who feel that it is an unrealistic wish and that there is no point in trying to help turn it into reality.

“A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step.”
— Laozi

So are the sceptics right? Should we capitulate in the face of the problems of our time? Just look after ourselves, since we cannot change the world anyway? Our answer is a resounding “no!”.

We all know what it feels like to be confronted with a difficult task and worry about failing. But one thing is for certain – if we fail to take the first step, the task will never get done.

Together, we can improve the living conditions of those people who are currently much worse off than most of us here in Europe. With your help and step by step! It will be a long journey, with many pitfalls along the way, and we need everyone to get involved: government, social institutions, industry and individual members of the public.

Everyone can do something to help. You included!

Taking the first step: what can I do?

It’s simple really – start changing the way you think. Take a long, hard look at your lifestyle and consumption habits. Instead of only thinking about prices next time you go shopping, ask yourself questions like, “Would I want to work in the conditions under which this product was made?” or “Would I consider the standard monthly wage there fair?” Whenever you can, try to buy fair trade products. Doing it occasionally will not hurt your purse too much. Taking the first step is what counts.

To find out more, visit:
⇒ www bmz de/fair-trade
⇒ www forum-fairer-handel de
   (in German only)
⇒ www weltladen de
   (in German only)
⇒ www fairtrade deutschland de/bot/fair-trade-in-english/
What if I want to do more?

You can support aid, human rights or environmental organisations whose mission you identify with. Or get involved in development projects carried out by your council, school or church or join an action group or network. Another possibility, as shown in our examples of development cooperation, is to work on the ground in a developing country as a temporary volunteer or even in a full-time post.

Whether you are still looking for the right choice for you or you already know exactly what you want to do, the BMZ can provide comprehensive information and advice to answer your specific questions about anything from practicalities to financial support.
There are various ways in which you can get involved

Try contacting Engagement Global, a service that the BMZ has set up for development initiatives:

Contact data for Engagement Global
Helpline: 0800 1887188 or +49 228 20717-0 if calling from outside Germany
Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm
Email: info@engagement-global.de
↗ http://www.engagement-global.de/homepage.html

The development NGO associations can also be of help:

Verband Entwicklungspolitik Deutscher Nichtregierungsorganisationen (VENRO):
↗ www.venro.org/english/whoweare/
Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Eine-Welt-Landesnetzwerke in Deutschland:
↗ www.agl-einewelt.de (in German only)

The churches and their relief agencies also offer numerous ways to get involved – both in their own parishes and abroad.

Churches and church-run relief agencies
↗ www.weltkirche.katholisch.de (in German only)
↗ www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/en

For general information on the topic, follow these links:
↗ www.bmz.de/mitmachen (in German only)
↗ www.bmz.de/arbeitsmarkt (in German only)

The website of the Arbeitskreis Lernen und Helfen in Übersee (Learning and Helping Overseas Association, “AKLHÜ”) provides information about volunteer and development services.

AKLHÜ website
↗ www.entwicklungsdienst.de

If you run a business, you can play an active role in development too. If you are planning to invest in a developing or newly industrialised country, there are various BMZ cooperation programmes available to you. The BMZ service point for the private sector will be happy to advise you.

BMZ service point for the private sector
Phone: 0228 – 995 35-31 31
E-Mail: wirtschaft-kontakt@bmz.bund.de
To find out more, visit:
↗ www.bmz.de/economy

Germany’s Länder (federal states) have their own website with information on their development activities and those of local authorities.

Website of the German Federal States in Development Policy
↗ www.entwicklungspolitik-deutsche-laender.de/en