The BMZ’s New Africa Policy

From a continent of crises to one of opportunities
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One-page overview of the BMZ’s Africa policy

→ Africa is both a continent of opportunities and one of crises. It is also our neighbour and a continent of growth. Political stability and growing prosperity for the broader African population are in our own political interest.

→ Africa is the BMZ’s priority continent. The BMZ is actively engaged in 32 of Africa’s 54 countries, operating through its implementing partners with a total of over 2,000 experts. More than 1.2 billion euros goes to development programmes each year. The BMZ is thus the number one partner in Germany for building a better future in Africa.

→ In the wake of violent conflicts, if swift civilian support is not forthcoming and no medium-term prospects are created for the people, it is only a matter of time before the next crisis flares up. The BMZ is strengthening civilian crisis prevention and supporting the establishment of civilian structures, such as training centres for civilian staff involved in African peace operations. The BMZ also finances African peace operations through the European Development Fund.

→ Economic cooperation with Africa always involves cooperation with private industry. The jobs that are so urgently needed for young Africans can best be generated by private-sector investment.

→ With its dual vocational training system, which combines school-based theoretical learning with industry-based practical training, Germany has a vocational training system that is in demand around the globe. In Africa in particular, where many young people are looking for work, the German model can make an important contribution to the career prospects of young Africans.

→ The health care situation in many African countries is not only a disaster in human terms, it is also a social and economic catastrophe. The BMZ is supporting global alliances to eradicate specific diseases. At the bilateral level, it is supporting the establishment of solidarity-based health insurance schemes.

→ Africa can feed itself: Africa’s fertile soil offers huge potential not only for food security but also for economic development. The BMZ is supporting the modernisation of African agriculture.

→ The BMZ supports the many different initiatives being undertaken in Africa by German associations and clubs, universities and colleges, municipalities, federal states and church congregations. By providing official funding for private initiatives in this way, support can be provided for the forging of direct contacts and considerable added value achieved.
The BMZ’s Africa policy in detail

1. Africa is a continent of both opportunities and crises

Africa is a continent of opportunities. Its expanding economy, natural resources, huge agricultural potential, its young and growing population, and technological innovations are all factors that offer huge potential for sustainable development in many African states. Yet Africa remains a continent of crises. Economic growth has failed to deliver enough jobs and income. The gap between rich and poor is widening in many countries. And while the revenue generated from raw materials can be used for health care and education, it can also be used to finance civil wars. The young and growing population can deliver a demographic dividend but can – in a worst case scenario – also spawn violent unrest.

Africa is a continent of growth. Africa’s population is currently swelling by 75,000 people every day. Today the continent is home to about one billion people, but this figure is set to rise to 2.4 billion in just the next 35 years. One in every four people on our planet will then be African. Since 2000, the continent has tripled its economic output. Six of the world’s ten fastest-growing economies are in Africa.

This potential must be harnessed for sustainable development and we must work with our African partners to open up prospects for the future. We want to support Africa on its way from a continent of crises to a continent of opportunities.

Africa is our neighbour. A mere 14 kilometres separate Europe from Africa at the Strait of Gibraltar. Thanks to modern technology, the Sahara is no longer an insurmountable obstacle, it is a passage-way to Europe.
2. The BMZ – the number one German partner for building a better future for Africa

We are engaged in 32 African countries and have more than 2,000 members of staff from our implementing organisations working in Africa. The BMZ is supporting projects in Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia. This broad presence in Africa demonstrates that we talk with Africa, not about Africa.

Our main focuses in Africa are good governance, human rights, rural development, water, sustainable economic development, health, energy, education and the establishment of civilian structures for crisis prevention and crisis management.

With commitments worth 1.2 billion euros a year, which is equivalent to 50 per cent of Germany’s bilateral funding, Africa is the BMZ’s priority continent.

About 350 million euros of this sum is earmarked for supraregional projects, including cooperation with the African Union (AU) and the following regional organisations: East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The biggest recipients (average figures for the last four years) are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Mozambique, Kenya and Tanzania.

Our broad-ranging activities are carried out by a wide range of German partners and implementing organisations: Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), KfW Entwicklungsbank, the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB/Germany’s national metrology institute), and numerous civil society organisations including the churches, the political foundations, the German private sector, and the German federal states and municipalities, to name but a few.
3. Preventing violence and displacement – so one crisis doesn’t spawn the next one

Crises and violent conflicts are the greatest threat and the greatest obstacle to successful development. Africa in particular has seen many violent conflicts in recent years. They can frequently wipe out years of work within just a few days. Often whole societies are caught up in a vicious circle of violence: one crisis often spawns the next. We must break out of this vicious circle. Silencing the weapons is the first step when violent hostilities are raging. But the ultimate aim must be to actually have fewer weapons and not more.

What also makes preventing violence and creating hope for the future important is that violence is one of the main causes of displacement, most of which takes place within Africa itself. But refugee movements do not end at the borders of Africa; Europe, Africa’s neighbour, is also affected. Neither the Sahara nor the Mediterranean are a deterrent for refugees. Europe is a continent that is all too familiar with displacement from its own past, and the countries of Europe must act together to address this issue.

We should not overestimate our military influence in Africa. Our tried and tested diplomatic and development-policy tools must take precedence. Without swift civilian support and medium-term prospects for the people, it will not be possible to consolidate peace and thus prevent any further violence. This is why crisis prevention and peacebuilding are an important focus of the BMZ’s work in Africa.

To this end, the BMZ supports the African Union (AU) and African regional economic organisations (RECs) in developing and using their African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), for instance by supporting the establishment of training centres for peace experts. It also finances African peace operations through the European Development Fund. With German support, the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa has been established along the lines of the Munich Security Conference. The BMZ also supports river basin commissions, which bring together the riparian states of Africa’s major rivers so that water, rather than being a cause of conflict, can bring countries together. Employment promotion measures following the end of violent hostilities (road construction, water supplies, building health facilities) help provide people with a living wage swiftly, so as to give them better prospects and help them break through the vicious circle of violence.

WHAT EXACTLY DO WE WANT TO DO?

- Further build the capacity of the AU and the RECs for civilian activities to prevent crises, end violent conflict and consolidate peace on a sustained basis
- Further strengthen the African Peace Facility by providing 750 million euros (2014–2016) from the European Development Fund to support African peace operations while strengthening the civilian components
- Set up a fund under the auspices of the African Union to finance education programmes that specifically address Africa’s fragile states
- Place the issue of refugees at the centre of European debate
- Improve the coordination of refugee aid
- Provide additional funding to improve the living conditions of refugees in Mali and South Sudan, and help them reintegrate
PEACE AND SECURITY – DEVELOPING THE AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

Regional communities play an important part in peacebuilding in Africa. One important partner is the African Union (AU). Working with the regional economic communities (RECs), the AU is increasingly setting up and using its own instruments for conflict prevention and management in the form of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). Germany has supported APSA from the beginning based on interministerial cooperation within the German government, in keeping with the Comprehensive Approach concept. The support provided by the BMZ focuses on civilian elements. Here are some examples of the ways in which Germany addresses this field.

- The BMZ is providing analytical input and financial support to aid the establishment of early warning systems for conflict at the AU and at several RECs.

- The BMZ is supporting the development of mediation bodies at the AU and at RECs, and also the Pan-African Network of the Wise (PanWise), which is geared towards creating networks among mediators all across Africa and build capacity for preventive diplomacy.

- The establishment of an African peace force is the most ambitious endeavour under APSA. The BMZ is contributing towards capacity building efforts for the civilian component and towards strengthening the multidimensional character of the African Standby Force (ASF). The focus is on analytical and financial support to build an Africa-wide human resource management roster for civilian personnel for peace operations.

- Germany is also involved in developing and teaching civilian components at various African training facilities including the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Ghana, which prepares civilian and military personnel to take part in peace operations.
Africa is the world’s youngest continent; its population currently has an average age of only 19 years. Economic growth and population growth present major opportunities, if the economic growth is able to offer these young people gainful employment. Yet in the past, this has often not been the case.

We support the private sector and local business start-ups. A particular focus is encouraging cooperation between private industry and the state to ensure sound vocational training geared to the needs of the labour market, along the lines of the German system of vocational training, which combines school-based theoretical learning and practical instruction in companies.

New jobs and good future prospects for Africa’s youth can only be created in conjunction with the private sector. The BMZ is thus working to ensure a secure and reliable business environment for private-sector initiatives and investors. Revenue generated from raw materials must increasingly be used by African governments to promote development.

Thanks, among other things, to the internet, many young Africans are more and more closely linked to young people on other continents. This generates enormous potential for innovation.

### WHAT EXACTLY DO WE WANT TO DO?

- Institute 10 new training partnerships with private German businesses and the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) in Africa
- Set up a German-African youth exchange organisation similar to the German-French youth exchange organisation
- Significantly raise funding for new education measures in Africa
- Establish an employment fund for Africa
- Offer more German scholarships to provide young people from Africa with highly-skilled training in technical professions
- Offer more export credit guarantees: gradual expansion of the export credit guarantees available to German businesses trading with Africa
- Support resource-rich states in negotiating fair contracts with (global) mining corporations by providing teams of experts
- Establish partnerships for innovation in the field of information and communications technology
VOCATIONAL TRAINING – PROMOTING VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN ETHIOPIA

The BMZ is supporting Ethiopia in making its vocational training – including agricultural training –, university courses and research more practice-oriented. Technical training in vocational and technical schools is being improved by providing better equipment and adjusting the training to reflect the needs of industry and the potential of the formal and informal sectors to provide jobs. Measures are also helping to improve higher education for engineers and vocational school teachers. Other measures are being carried out at pilot institutions to improve management, introduce practice-relevant subject matter and give teaching staff in-service training.

German experts are also advising the Ministry of Education and its downstream agencies on the implementation of reforms. That includes the integration of labour market data in education planning and pilot projects for the promotion of employment in various regions. The BMZ is also supporting the establishment of technology and business start-up centres and international research partnerships at institutions of higher education.

These activities are proving successful: more than 40 Ethiopian vocational and technical schools, three universities and four examination centres are now offering education and training in new areas, in conjunction with improved practical training. More than 500 lecturers have been trained in higher education teaching methods. In 2014, some 240,000 trainees were enrolled at over 800 vocational and technical schools, benefiting from investment in the vocational training sector.
Health is a prerequisite for a self-determined life in dignity. Although the situation has improved markedly, almost seven million infants still die every year from preventable diseases, a disproportionately high number of them in the poorest countries of Africa, where one child in nine dies before its fifth birthday. Of the 35 million people living with HIV around the globe, 25 million live in sub-Saharan Africa.

The standard of health in many African countries is not only a disaster in human terms; it is also a social and economic catastrophe which destroys families and limits people’s economic opportunities. The BMZ is thus working closely with international alliances in the health sector, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. In its bilateral projects, the BMZ concentrates on reforming health systems. In the health sector, as in other sectors, the advice offered is inspired by the German model. Our support for establishing and reforming health systems is aimed at establishing systems based on the principle of solidarity. In many African partner countries, health insurance is rudimentary at best. The BMZ supports partner countries in establishing and expanding innovative social and community-based health insurance and micro-insurance schemes.

### WHAT EXACTLY DO WE WANT TO DO?

- Train more health experts in Africa: rehabilitate and expand three training centres for health professionals
- Provide 10 million euros a year to help eradicate polio in Africa (especially in Nigeria) via the Global Polio Eradication Initiative

5. Improving health – not only a moral imperative, but an economic necessity
HEALTH – SAFE CHILDBIRTH THANKS TO HEALTH VOUCHERS

In Kenya, many people have no access to adequate health care. We are therefore supporting Kenya in setting up a social health insurance system that is funded through contributions among other things. Most children are born at home and fewer than 44 per cent of all births are medically attended. Targeted measures, such as the introduction of subsidised health vouchers, are now giving women from poor sections of the population easier access to high-quality health services from private and public providers. While hospitals charge a fee of 50 to 300 euros to deliver a baby, pregnant women can buy a voucher for the equivalent of one euro. Vouchers are also available for family planning counselling and advice on contraceptives, as well as for treatment for those who have experienced sexual violence. To date, almost 450,000 vouchers have been issued. More than 250,000 children have been born safely, with medical attendance, and every month more than 3,000 are added to their numbers. However, improved access to health services only benefits people if the services are of good quality. We therefore also support quality management activities at health care facilities.
6. **Africa can feed itself: “One World – No Hunger”**

One of Africa's huge unexploited assets is its fertile soil. It gives Africa the potential to feed itself. Stepping up agricultural development is key to sustainable development in Africa and to overcoming hunger, which is still widespread. That is why we launched the BMZ special initiative *One World – No Hunger*, investing well over 1 billion euros a year in rural development and food and nutrition security. Our activities are geared to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in line with our watchword "African solutions to African problems". We will continue to be actively involved in the G8's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in partner countries like Benin.

Sustainable food security can only be achieved if we reinforce natural resource protection and climate action. The African rainforest is not only the green lung of the continent. It is home to an incredible wealth of species and biological diversity, which must be protected. Forest protection is one way of mitigating climate change and both must go hand in hand with efforts to achieve food security.

**WHAT EXACTLY DO WE WANT TO DO?**

- Establish 10 green centres for sustainable value addition and vocational education in agriculture
- Improve the food and nutrition security of infants and women and build resilience against hunger crises
- Restore the fertility of impoverished and degraded soil to ensure food security for small farmers
- Create secure and fair access to land, especially for women
- Establish an early warning system for rising food prices
- Help African agriculture adjust to climate change
- Support the establishment of additional protected areas and combat poaching
AGRICULTURE – HOW CASHEW FARMERS ARE BOOSTING THEIR EARNINGS

Many small African farmers only make the equivalent of between 90 and 330 euros from their cashew crops – and that’s per year! About 1.5 million small African farmers in the cashew sector struggle to make ends meet. They are currently just not competitive. Very few of them are members of cooperatives or associations, making it difficult for them to negotiate good prices with purchasers. The quality of their products, too, often leaves much to be desired, making their harvests unsuitable for export. And African producer countries still have very few facilities for the lucrative processing of cashews for the international market.

The African Cashew Initiative (ACi) has changed this. The associations, organisations and businesses that got together in 2009 with the support of the BMZ to set up this initiative aim to improve the international competitive standing of African cashew farmers and give them better access to world markets.

Well-known food companies like Kraft Foods and Intersnack are involved in the ACi; they are very much interested in securing reliable supplies of cashew nuts.

The initiative is being supported by the BMZ and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The ACi concentrates on the major producer countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Benin and Mozambique). It targets every level of the value chain, from production, to processing and marketing, to export.

Modern communications technologies are used. The German software manufacturer SAP has designed software and successfully further developed it in conjunction with an agricultural cooperative in Ghana. The farmers in the cooperative are informed by text message or smartphone about cropping methods. They are better able to provide and receive information on harvests, quality and market prices, and they can establish links to traders and processors.

Since 2009, more than 333,000 small farmers have been trained by the ACi. More than 2,000 trainers have been trained so that they can instruct and advise small farmers. The income of the cashew farmers involved has already risen by the equivalent of five million US dollars. Some of the processing companies have seen productivity gains of over one hundred per cent. But at least as important are the new jobs created in cashew processing, more than 5,000 in number.
7. A diversity of partnerships for a diverse continent

Africa is a continent of diversity: 54 countries, 2,000 languages, 1 billion inhabitants. In order to make a difference in Africa, our partnerships must be as diverse as the continent itself. Civil society, churches, private industry, the academic community and many other groups are greatly involved in improving Africa’s prospects for the future. Through investments in modern energy and environmental technology, Germany’s private sector can make an important contribution to ensuring sustainable energy supplies in Africa, and enable a transfer of knowledge. The African diaspora in Germany is an important partner and can help us in gaining a better understanding of Africa and in forging closer links with Africa.

WHAT EXACTLY DO WE WANT TO DO?

→ Establish 100 new German-African twinning arrangements involving schools, universities and colleges, associations and clubs, sports organisations, church congregations and municipalities

→ Award a prize for exceptional achievements by municipalities in the field of migration and development through the competition “Kommune bewegt Welt” (municipalities move the world)

→ Launch a new initiative, “Knowledge transfer from Germany to Africa”, whereby people leaving Germany and returning to their countries of origin can use their skills to foster innovation
Our cooperation with African states, organisations and people is based on the principle of ownership. Africa is able and willing to help itself. We can and want to support it. That is why the BMZ encourages African ownership and efforts wherever possible, such as the above-mentioned African peace operations and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The BMZ also supports initiatives being undertaken by the African Union and regional organisations to foster pan-African and regional cooperation. In order to boost effectiveness and put a focus on results, the BMZ will in future tie financial support more closely to the achievement of previously agreed results.
9. Our partnership is based on values and interests

We believe that Article 1 of the German Basic Law (the German constitution), which stipulates that human dignity is inviolable, is a universal principle. In our cooperation we seek to ensure human rights and democratic participation. Without political stability there can be no economic development.

The BMZ will continue to push for democracy and human rights, equal opportunities and women’s rights, protection of minorities and freedom of religion, and we will systematically incorporate the realisation of these principles and values in our cooperation. Women’s rights in particular must be strengthened so as to put an end to discrimination and violence against women. The German political foundations are a unique instrument. We aim to make greater use of this instrument, and we will be working to ensure that the foundations have all the freedom they need to do their job. Sustainability must be the principle underlying all our actions and all development and so we are involved in efforts to implement international aid effectiveness and sustainability initiatives.
10. Africa is the continent of unexploited assets, potential and opportunities – with our African partners we want to develop and shape the future

Africa’s youth, its resources, its fertile soil, its diversity of languages and cultures, its biodiversity and its unique natural heritage, ecosystems and fauna – these are the continent’s assets, potential and opportunities. We want to develop and shape them with our African partners. That is why we will be holding an Africa Summit, so we can talk with our African partners, not about them.