Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Shaping the future with Africa

The Africa Strategy of the BMZ



bmz.de

Partner countries of German development cooperation in Africa



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I. Strategic partnership: Cooperation in a world in transition

The world is undergoing a dramatic transition, as demographic, political and economic forces shift. Global crises are mutually reinforcing and are throwing up urgent questions: how to overcome hunger, poverty and inequality and find a path towards socially and environmentally responsible, shared prosperity; how to address the climate crisis and the water crisis, stem species loss, and tackle pandemics; how to ensure rules-based global cooperation and equal rights in the future – and thus lay the foundations for a peaceful, secure, more equitable world. Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine has marked a turning point. Violations of international law, growing rivalry between major powers, and rising nationalism are putting the law-based international order under pressure.

African states have been particularly hard hit by the multiple crises, but they are also pivotal in finding answers to the challenges set out above. As neighbouring continents with close historical, geographical and cultural ties, Africa and Europe are predestined to work as partners. Both have every interest in a rules-based world order founded on international law and the UN Charter and in peaceful, just, and sustainable development. The African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) are committed to championing democratic principles and also security and stability.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) works for a close economic and political partnership between Europe and Africa, based on shared values and interests. Within the framework of German and European policy on Africa, it will thus pursue the following overarching goals with its Africa Strategy:

1. to lend structural support to the achievement of the development goals set by the AU and its member states, to enable the continent to unlock its huge potential and become more resilient;

2. to work with African partners for a global transformation to ensure that everyone can live in dignity and security in an intact environment;

3. to address crises jointly and visibly with Europe's neighbouring continent in a spirit of solidarity.

The BMZ aligns its Africa Strategy with the Federal Government Policy Guidelines for Africa and cooperates closely with other federal ministries.

For the BMZ, the Africa Strategy is part of the mandate to drive forward the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) signed by the UN member states, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Cooperation with African states also makes a significant contribution to a policy of integrated security. It creates networks and alliances and reinforces multilateral cooperation at a time of worsening conflicts over values and spheres of influence. It offers a positive alternative to the narrative of global divisions – an alternative that rests not on threats and exclusion, but on integration and the powers of persuasion.

Moreover, this cooperation supports the AU's Agenda 2063 ("The Africa we Want"), setting out the AU's vision for the continent. It also supports the Africa-EU Partnership and the achievement of the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change. In addition to this, it helps realise the German government's voluntary commitment to targeted support to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), since Africa is home to 33 of the world's 46 LDCs. Achieving the target of 0.2 per cent of gross national income for LDCs is an important international objective for the German government.

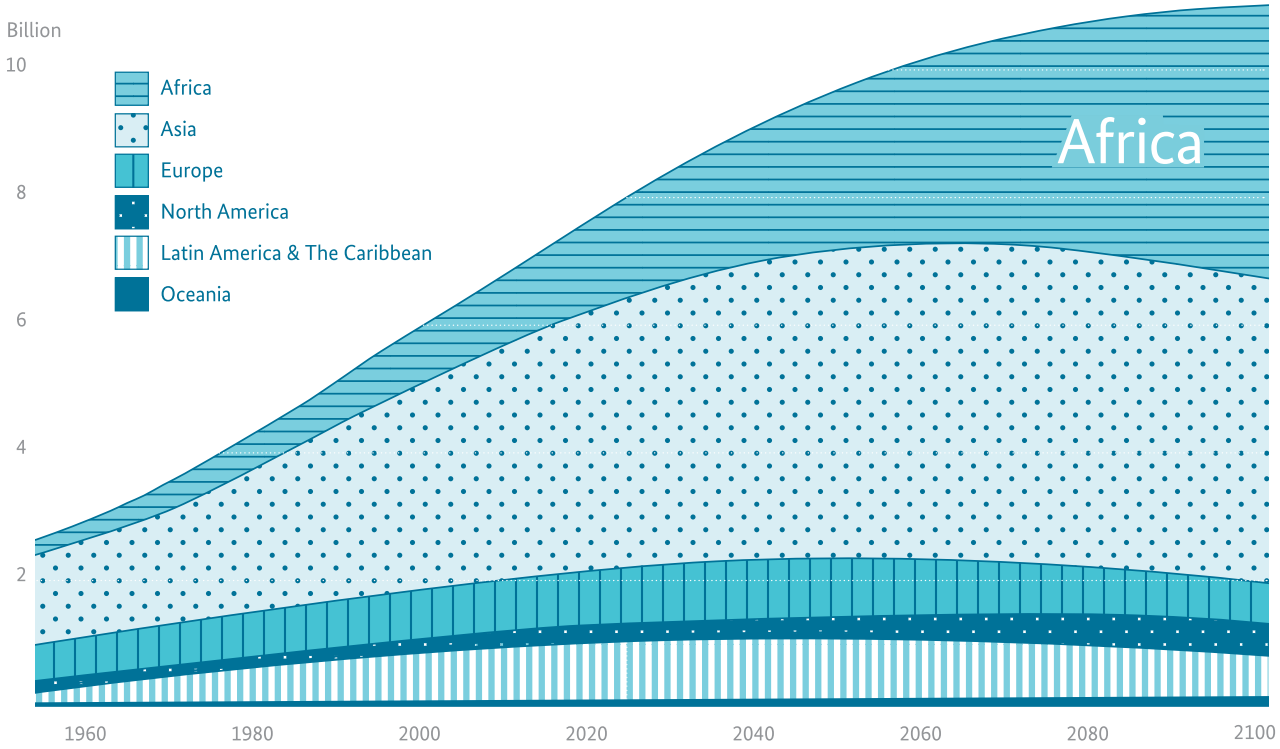
The context: Africa's growing weight in the world

In geographical, cultural, political, economic and historical terms, Africa is an extraordinarily diverse continent. What all African states share, however, is their sheer dynamic force. By the middle of this century, Africa's population could number around two and a half billion, making it home to one quarter of the world's people. The urban population alone is set to triple by the middle of the century, when the continent is expected to boast five times as many mega-cities as it does today. The middle classes are expanding, and with them expectations of economic growth and political participation. The continent is also rich in natural resources. Its renewable energy potential is remarkable, as is its potential for agricultural production. It has vast reserves of strategically important resources and offers growing sales markets. The African Union and other African institutions have become increasingly important in recent years, and have done much to foster increased integration on the African continent. And with this, Africa's geopolitical weight in the world is growing.

Africa will put its stamp on the 21st century. What prospects are open to the largest young generation of all time will be one important factor in determining how these young people can develop their strengths for the better good. The question of how climate friendly growth on the continent is will be a factor determining the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events around the globe in the future. 54 of the 193 UN member states are African. The alliances they enter into, and the way they are governed, will influence the future of democracy and global cooperation.

It is thus in the interests of both Germany and the EU that the continent experiences good development and that partnerships based on mutual trust be established and maintained. These partnerships require not only financial, but also strong political investments. The European states are by no means Africa's only partners, nor have they been for some time. Besides the G7 states, China is most active, but Turkey and the Gulf states are also engaging in Africa. They are building infrastructure and striving to gain access to natural resources and markets, as well as exerting political influence. Russia is increasingly supplying weapons and mercenaries. These constitute further options for African governments. German development policy faces the challenge of finding differentiated and flexible responses that take account of the fact that African states have their own interests, and that each state has its own view of the world and its own vision of the best economic, political and social order. At the same time, the German government expects partners to respect and protect human rights and international law. The overall goal should be to offer an attractive development policy and honour pledges already made.

Population growth in Africa compared to other regions



Source: UN DESA, World Population Prospects

Attitudes: Respect and reciprocity, values and interests, feminist development policy

Respect and reciprocity

A partnership based on respect and reciprocity presupposes a readiness on both sides to embrace structural change, and the will to recognise the priorities of the other side and to champion them. The BMZ thus advocates that the voices of African states and the AU are heard appropriately within multilateral fora.

African priorities, initiatives and institutions form the foundations for cooperation. The BMZ would like African voices and positions to be accorded more attention in Germany and in Europe. It will be investing even more in discussion and exchange, and in political dialogue. Beyond the sphere of political and economic aspects, it is driving forward opportunities for encounter between members of the youth in particular. It is fostering municipal and civil society partnerships and twinning arrangements, and exchanges of experts, junior managers and volunteers.

The BMZ sees an in-depth reflection on the consequences of the colonial era as a foundation on which to build an open and honest dialogue. It wants to avoid patronising partner states and engages critically with its own understanding of what constitutes good development. It strives to ensure a culture that values diversity within the ministry itself, as well as within its implementing organisations and partners, and champions diversity among the workforce. As part of the German government, the BMZ intends to help overcome

existing asymmetries (in trade and agricultural policy, and in the form of regulations for fair, pro-development migration). The BMZ is working to cultivate an image of Africa in Germany as a continent that offers extraordinary diversity and vast potential to resolve global challenges. Containing the climate crisis, conserving biodiversity and securing food and nutrition for the world's growing population can only be achieved together with Africa.

Values and interests

In its cooperation with Africa, the BMZ stands by shared values and interests. Human rights, the rule of law, democracy, sustainability and social standards, and gender equality are firmly established in both the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The majority of Africans share the conviction that democracy offers the best framework to achieve social progress – although not every government predicates its policy on this. A growing number of the BMZ's African partner countries are now considered to be moderate autocracies. The BMZ must thus clearly formulate its own values-based political interests, and also continuously support the institutional and societal foundations for democratic participation. It will accord special support to partners' efforts to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Parallel to this it will closely monitor the development of governance in partner countries, so that it can modify country portfolios as necessary. This also means weighing up overarching interests, such as protecting global public goods and fostering stability, and openly naming any conflicting goals. On a case by case basis, it must be explained why and how engagement is continuing, despite a deteriorating situation. One reason might be to support pro-democracy forces.

One strength of German cooperation is that it involves civil society and municipal institutions, which often act as a critical counterbalance to the national government in their countries. The BMZ builds relationships with innovative decision-makers and aims to foster the potential of African youth. Cooperation with the private sector remains an important pillar in efforts to drive innovation and social change. Partnerships and twinning arrangements between towns, cities and municipalities strengthen pro-reform actors at local level.

The BMZ endeavours to ensure that its work does not inadvertently stabilise authoritarian forces, or exacerbate or even trigger conflicts (in line with the principle of doing no harm). Where cooperation with authoritarian forces is unavoidable and necessary in individual cases, it is vital to weigh up carefully how to cooperate, with whom and for how long. This might, for instance, be expedient to support particularly vulnerable groups or address pivotal global concerns such as climate change mitigation and conservation of vital natural resources or to stem the spread of infectious diseases.

Feminist development policy

Feminist development policy is the guiding principle for the entire spectrum of German development cooperation, including cooperation with Africa. This is the principle under which the BMZ consistently gears its policy to overcoming structural gender inequality and inequality in society in line with the imperatives of the UN 2030 Agenda. The BMZ intends to work with African partner countries to elevate women's and girls' political, social and economic participation to a policy goal in cooperation. The BMZ's feminist development policy aims to overcome in the long term structural inequalities, unequal treatment and discrimination. This also involves avoiding racist structures and colonial continuities, as well as championing marginalised groups such as people with disabilities, members of indige-nous communities and LGBTQI+ individuals and their rights.

II. A sustainable future: The focus areas of development cooperation with Africa

The BMZ provides structural support for the development goals that the African Union and its member states have set themselves. In addition, it aims to strenghten Europe's neighbouring continent visibly and in spirit of solidarity during crises, and work with African partners to achieve the global transformation that will bring a life in dignity and security for all, in an intact environment.

The BMZ will focus on the following six main areas of cooperation:

→ Sustainable economic development, employment and prosperity

- Just transition: social and environmental transformation of the economy, conservation of vital natural resources, energy, and infrastructure
- Trade, employment, migration and digital transformation

→ Overcoming poverty and hunger and building social protection

→ Health and pandemic prevention

→ Feminist development policy and gender equality

→ Rule of law, democracy, human rights and good governance

→ Peace and security

Sustainable economic development, employment and prosperity

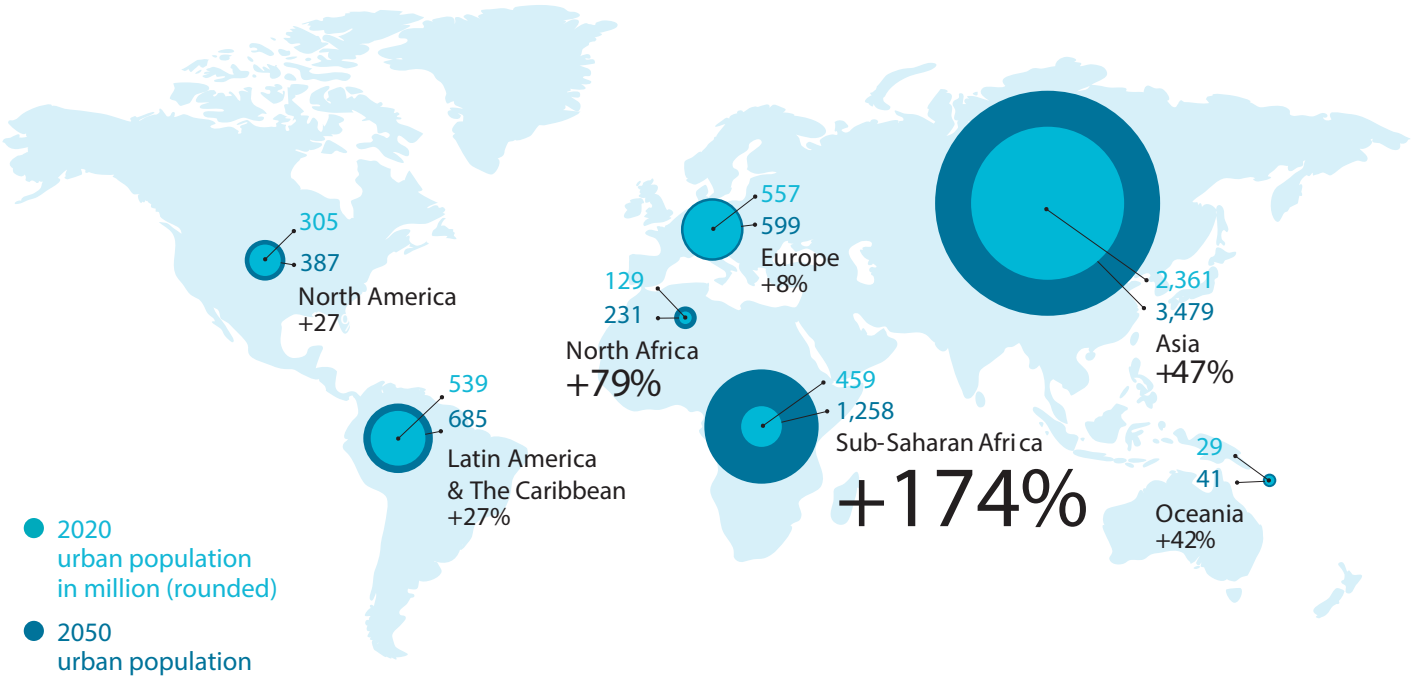
African states are facing the major challenge of giving their populations prospects of a better future as they grow at an unprecedented rate. All of this comes against the backdrop of a worsening climate and biodiversity crisis that is hitting Africa with particular severity, although its greenhouse gas emissions are low on a global scale. African states need to create an additional 25 million jobs every year, while undertaking a massive restructuring of existing sectors of their economy and establishing new ones.

In the past, the development of infrastructure, power generation, mobility, industry, agriculture, and not least social services has always pushed up greenhouse gas emissions and fuelled environmental destruction. With its wealth of natural resources and the technologies available today, Africa is well placed to become the first region of the world to make a "just transition", i.e., to achieve economic prosperity in conjunction with environmental sustainability and social justice, and the creation of decent jobs.

The precondition for a just transition is that the economic, environmental and social dimensions are always viewed together. New forms of cooperation between industrialised countries and developing nations must champion an accelerated transformation of national economies that is both just and environmentally sound. Structural policies are needed that boost local value added and enable the continent to grow together faster politically and economically, while integrating it fairly into global trading relations and making global supply chains responsible.

Urban population change worldwide

Percentage growth from 2020 to 2050



Source:
UN DESA, World Urbanisation Prospects

In sub-Saharan Africa alone the number of people living in cities will almost triple in a few decades – in industrial countries, this scale of urban growth has taken several centuries.

Just transition: social and environmental transformation of the economy, conservation of vital natural resources, energy and infrastructure

In comparison with other parts of the world, Africa has to date produced only a tiny percentage of global greenhouse gas emissions and has benefitted very little from the advantages of the carbon economy. Many countries lack the resources needed to adapt to the extremes of climate that are already being seen today.

By 2050, Africa's urban population alone is expected to triple to just under 1.5 billion. Yet much of the infrastructure that will be needed is not yet in place. About half of all Africans still have no electric power. If Africa were to take the same fossil-fuel-based road to development as today's industrialised countries once did, the environmental consequences would be calamitous not only for Africa but for the entire world. Supporting a just transition in Africa is thus a question of fairness and is very much in Europe's own interest. The BMZ is pursuing these goals with efforts to protect, utilise and restore ecosystems, to create sustainable, inclusive cities, and to develop energy systems that leverage Africa's vast potential as the continent of renewables. It is simultaneously moving forward at global level with effective mechanisms to tackle climate and environmental damage. To do so, it promotes broad alliances.

The BMZ will in particular:

Drive forward a just transition within new climate and development partnerships

The BMZ is working within new alliances, such as the bilateral climate and development partnerships P+ and Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs), and in coordination with other responsible ministries to help states pursuing ambitious climate agendas to achieve climate-resilient, climate-neutral and socially just development in, for example, the fields of energy, urban development, the circular economy, water and sanitation.

Support social and environmental transformation of the private sector and sustainable growth

The BMZ assists partner countries in making their economic and financial policy socially and environmentally sustainable. This support addresses a range of issues including diversification, the local processing of raw materials, adaptation to climate change, improvement of political frameworks and sustainable finance.

Make cities and energy systems climate-friendly and socially equitable

The BMZ is championing investment in the development of sustainable urban infrastructure, for example through facilities like the City Climate Finance GAP Fund (Gap Fund), the C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF) and through municipal partnerships. To foster the development of renewable energies and increase their share in the energy mix, it is engaging for example with multi-donor partnerships such as Energising Development (EnDev), and the Global Energy Transformation Programme (GET.Pro). It is contributing financially to the African Development Bank's (AfDB) Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) and strengthening the strategic energy partnership between Africa and Europe. Through the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative, it is contributing to the goal of 100 per cent energy access by 2030 and 100 per cent decarbonisation by 2050. The BMZ also supports the development of pilot plants in Africa to produce green hydrogen.

Make responsible use of resources and support sustainable supply chains

The BMZ supports partner countries in Africa, helping to put in place regulatory frameworks for the responsible use of natural resources. It strives to ensure compliance with human rights and social and environmental standards along the entire supply chain in the extraction and processing of critical minerals such as tantalum and cobalt. With broad alliances with the private sector and civil society, the BMZ is engaged in fostering resource-conserving, deforestation-free agricultural production (e.g. in the cultivation of cocoa, rubber and palm oil). At EU level, the BMZ is pushing for stricter regulation of exports of electric, electronic and textile waste, and is promoting the circular economy.

Combine ecosystem protection with economic development

The BMZ champions participatory approaches that bring together economic development, nature and biodiversity conservation, human rights and long-term financing. It supports African initiatives on forest protection and restoration, such as the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and aims to better dovetail international environmental funds and initiatives and generate synergies with bilateral engagement. Major initiatives include the Legacy Landscapes Fund to finance valuable protected areas, the Blue Action Fund for marine and coastal protection, the Global Fund for Coral Reefs and the Green Value Initiative to take better account of the economic value of Africa's natural environment. The BMZ also supports the aims of the Great Green Wall initiative in the Sahel region, particularly through its bilateral development cooperation.

Step up protection against climate-related risks, enhance adaptation and resilience

The BMZ is a supporter of the Global Shield against Climate Risks, first initiated with 58 particularly climate vulnerable economies (V20) during Germany's G7 presidency. When disasters hit, the Shield is intended to provide assistance and improve social protection. It will bring together existing disaster risk preparedness and risk coverage (African Risk Capacity) and mobilise additional funding. Adaptation to climate change is the focus of a TEI to promote adaptation and resilience in Africa. The BMZ also supports initiatives such as the AU's African Adaptation Initiative, the new pillar on climate change of the AfDB's African Development Fund, and the targeted use of nature-based solutions.

Bilateral climate and development partnerships (P+) and Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs)

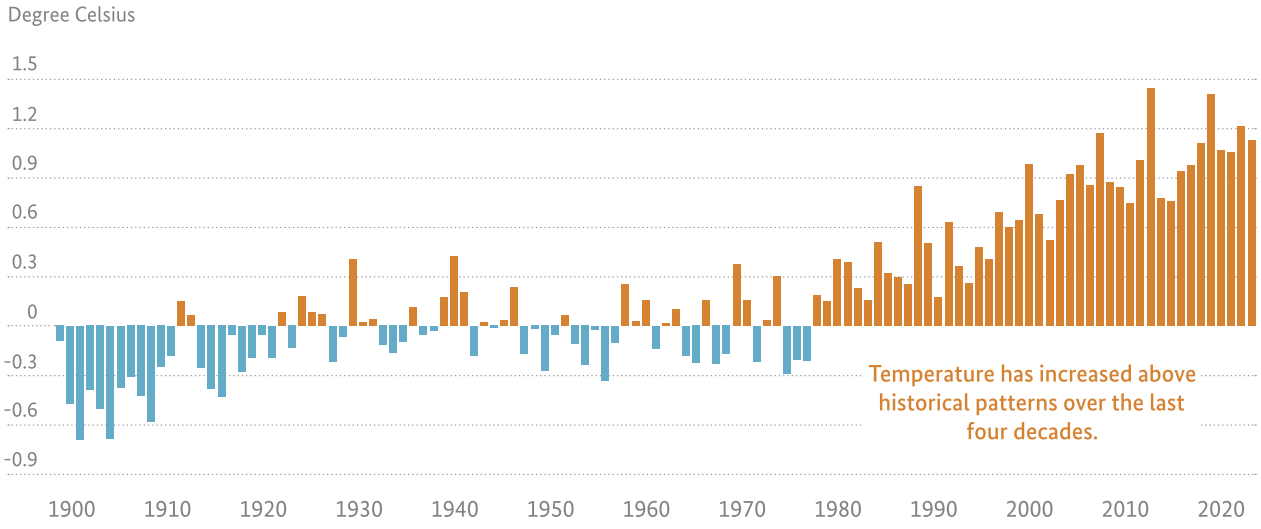
Bilateral climate and development partnerships (P+) support states with ambitious climate agendas, including Rwanda and Kenya, as they transition to climate-resilient and climate-neutral economies. Alongside bilateral donors and multilateral development banks, the private sector is also very much involved. There is a focus on innovative, sustainable financing instruments and policy advisory services, as well as developing institutional capacities and technology cooperation.

Multilateral JETPs aim to cushion the social risks posed by moves to achieve greater environmental sustainability, thus raising social acceptance. Germany, the EU, France, the United Kingdom and the USA have now agreed a JETP with South Africa, which currently still uses coal to meet a high percentage of its energy needs. The JETP champions the development of renewable energy and works with the private sector to support workers adversely affected by the phasing out of coal mining.

Promoting green hydrogen production

Along with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, the BMZ has established a platform for the development of a green hydrogen sector. The production of green hydrogen in Africa and the development of local hydrogen economies is to be fostered in conjunction with the PtX Development Fund. Local people should benefit from this engagement and social and environmental aspects be taken into account. At the same time the BMZ is helping translate the German government's National Hydrogen Strategy into practice. Green hydrogen is the basis for climate-neutral fuels. It facilitates the decarbonisation of industries like the steel and chemical industries, and can be used to store energy. In Africa, the BMZ is already working with Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa and Algeria in the hydrogen sector, where it is supporting the construction of pilot and reference plants. Hydrogen alliances have also been signed with Morocco and Tunisia, and preparations are underway for cooperation in this field with Kenya.

Warmer climate: Africa's temperature anomalies, 1901-2020



Source: Berkeley Earth Africa's Temperature Anomalies

Preserving the Congo Basin Forest – the world's largest carbon sink

To curb global warming, it is vitally important to preserve the Congo Basin Forest, the planet's last intact tropical forest. The BMZ is supporting measures of the ten riparian states to preserve the forest and is engaging to mobilise greater political and financial support from the international community. It used Germany's presidencies of the two most important regional initiatives, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), to help shape the political agenda, negotiate reform agendas with riparian states and attract additional funding. A fundamental principle of all the BMZ's support for biodiversity and forest conservation is observance of human rights. Protecting and respecting the collective rights of indigenous people is particularly important.

Employment, fair trade, migration and digital transformation

Currently, an average of four out of every five gainfully employed individuals in Africa still work in the informal sector, particularly women and young people. They often face unregulated working conditions and have no social protection. Most of Africa's exports are still unprocessed, but there is an enormous potential to drive forward economic diversification and strengthen local markets, while reducing critical dependencies. Digital transformation and new technologies such as renewable energy offer scope for new business models and leapfrogging. The realisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is an incredible opportunity to dismantle barriers to trade inside Africa, as well as creating more African value and millions of new jobs. In addition, pro-development cooperation on migration is to be moved forward, facilitating greater regional mobility within Africa and opening up legal channels for regular migration. Across all sectors massive public- and private-sector investment will be needed, for example in low-emission infrastructure or effective, climate-appropriate agricultural systems that create decent jobs.

The BMZ will in particular:

Support the AfCFTA and ensure trade agreements are pro-development

The BMZ is supporting the work of the Secretariat of the AfCFTA, the elaboration of trade regulations and strategies and the development of infrastructure to inspect product quality and standards and accelerate customs procedures. The BMZ is also pushing for the trade and investment agreements between the EU and African states (Economic Partnership Agreements or EPAs) to be geared to development and to be compatible with the AfCFTA. The BMZ aims, in particular, to support more value creation in Africa. It advocates authorising the import of semi-finished African products to the EU. The long-term goal is an EU-Africa free trade agreement.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) – a catalyst for growth and jobs

According to World Bank forecasts, the AfCFTA, potentially the world's largest continental free trade area, could boost intra-African trade by up to 81 per cent by 2035, create larger and more lucrative markets, and foster the establishment of local manufacturing industries. Germany is currently one of the largest international donors supporting the AfCFTA, having contributed 79 million euros to date. Under a Team Europe Initiative, Germany is working with the EU, France, Sweden and Spain to realise the implementation of the free trade area at continental level, in the regional economic communities and in ten pilot countries.

Drive forward public- and private-sector investment in infrastructure

To enable African partners to close the enormous investment gaps in the fields of sustainable transport, energy, digital infrastructure and health infrastructure, the BMZ aims to mobilise investment – in consultation and coordination with the AU Commission, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and European and multilateral partners. Within the framework of the G20 Compact with Africa (CwA), it is engaging to ensure positive investment conditions.

Create decent jobs, support promising industries of the future

The BMZ plays an active role in European initiatives such as the Team Europe Initiative Invest in Young Businesses in Africa, which is improving the conditions for launching and growing small and medium enterprises. Under the BMZ Special Initiative Decent Work for a Just Transition and the AfricaConnect Initiative and together with the private sector, the BMZ is stimulating the creation of jobs offering decent working conditions. It focuses in particular on the promising industries of the future, such as information and communication technologies (ICT), renewable energy, culture and creative industries, and the start-up sector. Important initiatives to foster innovation include the Strategic Partnership Technology in Africa (SPTA), the "lab of tomorrow" programme, the develoPPP programme and scaling-up activities. The BMZ is driving forward technical and vocational education and training (TVET), in part in cooperation with German industry, and supports partnerships at association level and in TVET.

Support digitalisation of the African economy

The BMZ aims to effectively support the rapidly developing digital economy, for example through the Make-IT in Africa initiative, the establishment of digicentres and activities to assist African initiatives including the Smart Africa Alliance. It helps African partner countries to enhance the economic and political framework for digital transformation, to create digital markets, provide secure, universal internet access and bridge the "digital divide" within the population. It is also fostering legal standards and data privacy regulations, for example through Team Europe Initiatives such as the African European Digital Innovation Bridge Network and the EU-AU Data Flagship.

Make migration fair and pro-development

The BMZ is committed to close cooperation, including with the AU, as the best means of making migration beneficial and fair for countries of origin, destination countries and the migrants themselves. Advisory centres in African partner countries are therefore being transformed into migration and development centres. The focus will be on regular labour migration to Germany and Europe, regional mobility within Africa, support for voluntary return and reintegration, and better dovetailing with TVET. Building on the pilot project on regular labour migration from the North African states (THAMM – Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa), the BMZ will help shape the planned EU Talent Partnerships to foster legal migration pathways to the EU with African partner states. The relevant authorities are to receive support to enable them to actively place skilled workers in third states, while still protecting their own countries from a brain drain. The African diaspora in Germany is also receiving support as a development actor and bridge builder. In this way, the BMZ is making a pro-development contribution to the implementation of the German Skilled Immigration Act and the Global Compact for Migration.

Support indebted countries

Many African states have seen their debt situation worsen significantly as a result of both multiple crises and policies adopted at national level. This stands in the way of the investment that is urgently needed. The BMZ is thus supporting capacity development for African states in the area of debt management (including negotiations), and working for greater debt transparency.

The BMZ also helps poor countries reduce their indebtedness to a sustainable level. It supports the Common Framework for Debt Treatments established by the G20 and the Paris Club to encourage efficient internationally coordinated and inclusive debt restructuring, and is pushing for equal involvement of all bilateral public-sector and private-sector creditors.

EU-Africa investment package and G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment

One BMZ focus area for promoting investment in Africa is the realisation of the EU's 150 billion euro Africa investment package, announced at the EU-AU summit in February 2022 as part of the Global Gateway initiative. The BMZ is combining its engagement with that of other European partners (the private sector, EU member states and European development banks including the European Investment Bank, EIB and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, EBRD). Engagement is translated into practice in the form of Team Europe Initiatives in areas including renewable energy, establishing medical markets and vaccine production, and sustainable data economies.

The EU Global Gateway initiative is Europe's contribution to implementing the G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), which is intended to mobilise up to 600 billion US dollars in public- and private-sector investment in sustainable infrastructure in partner countries over the next five years. In this context, the BMZ is also engaged in mobilising resources from the World Bank Group to enhance private sector involvement in investments in sustainable infrastructure.

G20 COMPACT WITH AFRICA

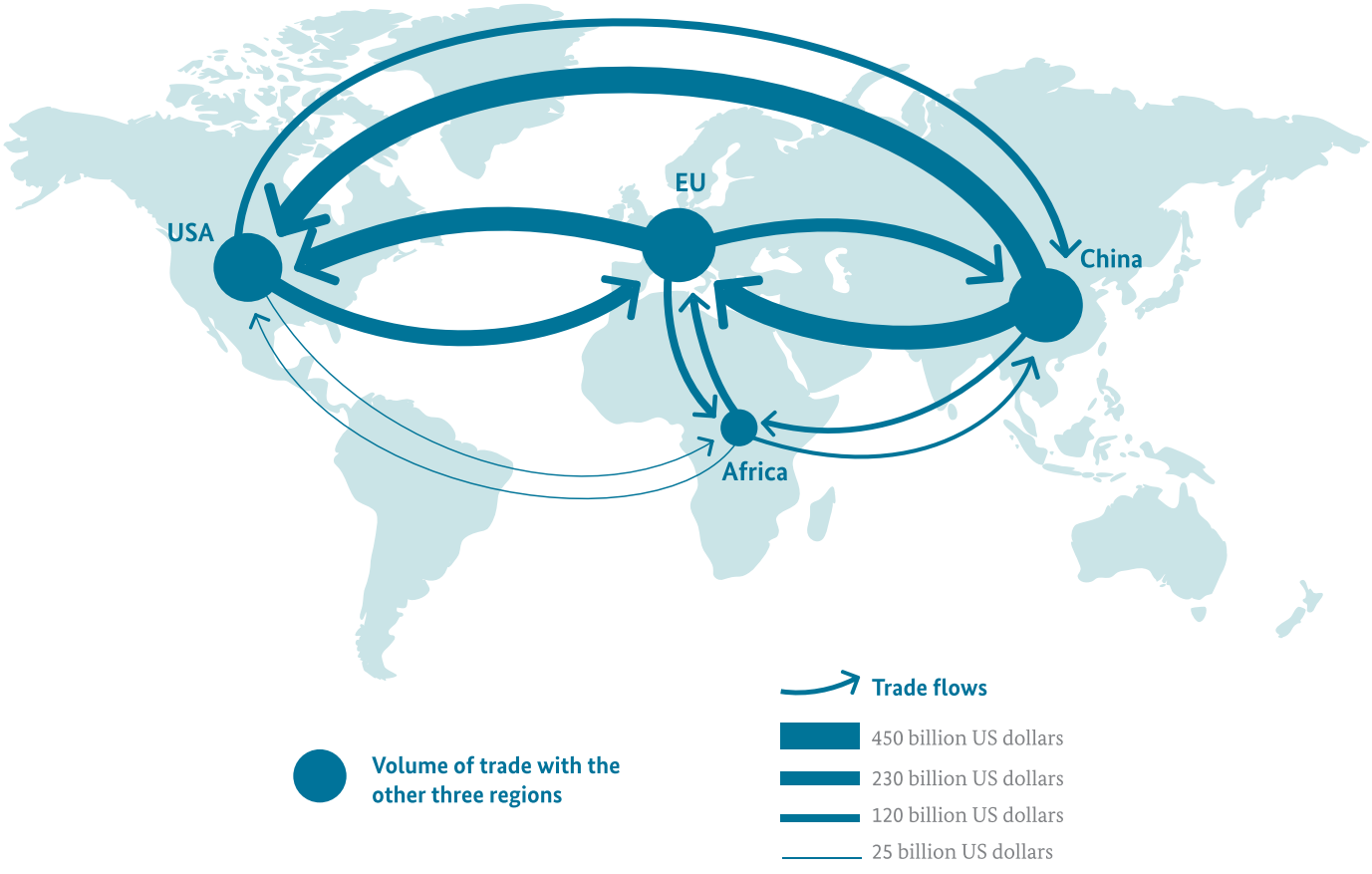
The Compact with Africa (CwA), founded in 2017 under Germany's G20 Presidency, aims to support pro-reform African states in their efforts to enhance the framework for private investment in their countries. A forum for dialogue and cooperation between G20 states and African nations, the CwA is a valuable political platform with scope for peer learning. The BMZ supports efforts to take the CwA to the next level, and is increasingly directing its contribution towards structural policy. Instruments such as reform financing, which is disbursed successively to pro-reform governments as predetermined reform steps are achieved, are intended to provide incentives to undertake structural reforms, invest in jobs, and improve working conditions in Africa. Examples include the development investment fund, with its pillars AfricaConnect and AfricaGrow, and the Special Initiative Decent Work for a Just Transition.

Team Europe Initiative (TEI) for decent jobs through trade and investment

In North Africa, only one in five women has a job, and one third of all young people are unemployed. The BMZ has thus launched a TEI for decent jobs. The trade and investment policies of Mediterranean states and the EU are to be rendered fairer and geared more to job creation. Innovative development approaches for more decent jobs for women and young people are being tested in the green economy and in the digital sector, and then being realised jointly by North African and European partners.

For a more in-depth explanation of the Team Europe approach, see p. 31.

Trade flows between Africa, the EU, China and the USA in 2021



Source: IWF, Direction of Trade Statistics

There still is considerable potential for interregional trade between Africa, the EU, China and the USA. In 2021, Africa's total volume of trade with the three other regions amounted to only 450 billion euros, hence only a third of the EU's volume of trade with the other three regions.

Overcoming poverty and hunger and building social protection

Closely interlinked with the vision of economic development that combines prosperity, conservation and social justice are the goals of overcoming poverty and hunger and fighting inequality. Achieving these goals requires social protection for all, and the transformation of (both global and local) food systems. The agricultural potential of African states is great. Almost 60 per cent of uncultivated global farmland can be found in Africa, but productivity is still too low in many places. Comparatively low world market prices for products from highly industrialised and subsidised agriculture, combined with a lack of state support for the local agricultural sector, have led to a dependence on imported food in many African countries. Food crises in the wake of Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine have illustrated this. On average, African households spend more than half of their disposable income on food. Parallel to this, climate change is posing new challenges for agriculture. The BMZ is engaging to bring about a profound transformation of agricultural and food systems in order to step up food and nutrition security in the long term and enhance resilience. The aim is also to strengthen social protection systems. Eighty per cent of people living in Africa have no access to basic social protection services, making them extremely vulnerable to rising prices, natural disasters, illness and job loss. Social protection is a key instrument in reducing poverty and inequality, thus making societies more resilient when crises strike.

The BMZ will in particular:

Drive forward the development of sustainable, resilient agriculture and food systems

The BMZ is engaged in boosting value creation, increasing income and achieving greater sustainability in the agriculture sector, as well as ensuring a decent life in rural areas and providing the population with sufficient and nutritious food supplies. To this end it supports knowledge sharing and cooperation with multilateral organisations including the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank. The BMZ advocates innovations in agriculture, climate-resilient production, the use of appropriate, sustainable varieties, crop diversification, digitalisation, climate change mitigation and biodiversity preservation, the management of drinking water, irrigation and wastewater, and the rehabilitation of natural resources, as well as agroecological approaches. It supports close cooperation between African and international agricultural research institutes. The BMZ works closely with the private sector, including agricultural innovation funds, and is pushing for greater food and nutrition security.

Step up sustainable consumption and sustainable supply chains

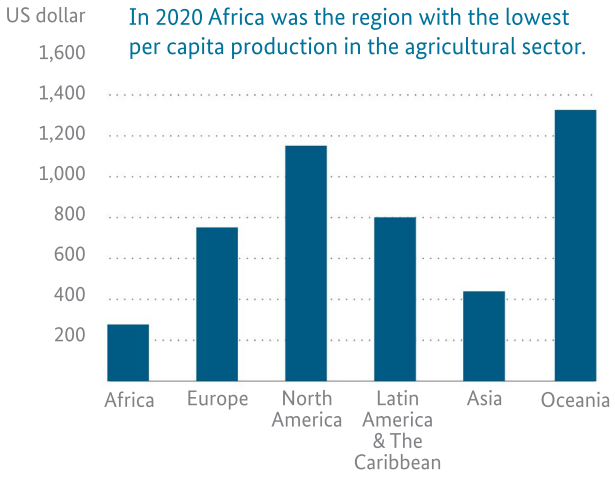
The BMZ is striving to ensure the smooth implementation of Germany's Supply Chain Due Diligence Act and the swift adoption of a comparable EU directive. It supports the introduction of and compliance with human rights standards and social and environmental standards in global supply chains, particularly those that are relevant for its African partners, including supply chains in the agricultural and extractive sectors. The focus is on the effectiveness of regulations for the people on the ground. The BMZ offers relevant support measures and coordinates them with European and international partners.

Expand social protection systems and access to education

The BMZ is working increasingly with African states on social protection. In the short term this involves approaches such as cash transfers for

highly vulnerable sections of the population and in the long term will include support to establish state social protection systems in partner countries. Gender equality and enhanced social protection for women and children are the priorities. The BMZ will work with international partners to build social protection systems, including the United Nations (within the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions initiative), UNICEF, the WFP, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank. The BMZ will continue to support basic education, especially through the EU and multilateral development programmes such as Education Cannot Wait and the Global Partnership for Education, and in collaboration with UNICEF and civil society partners.

Value of annual per capita production in the agricultural sector



Source: FAO, Gross Agriculture Production Value

Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

Social protection systems are pivotal in dealing with the socioeconomic consequences of crises. With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations agreed that nationally appropriate social protection systems should be put in place for all (SDG 1.3). In Africa, however, fewer than 20 per cent of the population are covered by social protection systems. The UN's Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions aims to provide another 4 billion people with access to social protection by 2030, while creating 400 million new decent jobs. The German government supports the initiative with its G7 partners. The BMZ is working with African partner countries to establish and develop inclusive, adaptive social protection systems and create decent jobs. Programmes like the Sahel Adaptive Social Protection Program, financed by a multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank with contributions from Germany, the United Kingdom, Denmark and France, are helping to ensure swift needs-driven responses to poverty and recurrent shocks and crises, such as those resulting from climate change or pandemics.

Global Alliance for Food Security

As a result of the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine, the BMZ initiated the Global Alliance for Food Security with the World Bank, under Germany's G7 Presidency. This global platform has three focuses: Advice (provide regular knowledge sharing on latest food security crisis developments and inform swift, decisive action), Action (coordinate global support) and Advance (forward-looking research to better respond to future food crises). One key element is the Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard, which is to provide decision-makers with all the latest relevant information on the global food security situation in one place, enabling them to take swift, coordinated action.

Health and pandemic prevention

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the importance of pandemic prevention and robust health systems abundantly clear to the world. African states and pan-African institutions have demonstrated strength and innovative force. Since 2000, life expectancy in African states has risen by almost 10 years to 62. Over the same period the incidence of HIV has dropped significantly. However, more action and more investment in health infrastructure is still needed. Four out of every five people in Africa do not have access to affordable primary health care of an appropriate quality. Ill health remains the single largest factor forcing people into poverty, because of the lack of social protection systems. Nowhere else in the world is life expectancy as low as in sub-Saharan Africa, and nowhere is maternal mortality so high. These are major obstacles to individual wellbeing and to equal opportunities, as well as to economic and social development. On the African continent, the BMZ engages financially and strategically through central organisations such as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The BMZ will in particular:

Support the establishment of medical production capacities

With European partners and the private sector, the BMZ is supporting the AU's goal of manufacturing 60 per cent of all vaccines used in Africa on the continent by 2040. Support takes the form of technical and financial assistance to build local vaccine manufacturing capacities, assistance to develop sustainable vaccine markets, advisory services to state institutions and regulatory authorities, and targeted training support.

Strengthen African health organisations and prevent pandemics

The BMZ works with relevant African organisations, including the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the African Medicines Agency (AMA) as well as regional organisations like the West African Health Organization (WAHO). Cooperation focuses on monitoring outbreaks of infectious diseases, data management and analysis, harmonisation of legislation and research into neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), along with activities to control NTDs. The BMZ is actively involved in efforts to control diseases and infections such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and supports immunisation against other infectious diseases.

Strengthen the interdisciplinary One Health approach

Under the Team Europe Initiative Sustainable Health Security using a One Health approach, the BMZ is fostering an understanding that human, animal and environmental health are closely interconnected and that zoonoses (diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans) can only be prevented by adopting an overarching approach.

Improve and digitalise primary health care

In future the BMZ will be focusing even more on promoting access to primary health care, training health professionals and ensuring water supply and sanitation as well as hygiene. The focus is to be increasingly on software solutions (digital health), which can make an important contribution to health care in rural areas too, as well as facilitating the early detection of outbreaks of infectious diseases and strengthening health insurance schemes.

Vaccines “made in Africa”

Since 2021, the BMZ has helped enhance the framework for private-sector investment in vaccine development in Africa, with an input that tops half a billion euros. In Rwanda the BMZ is supporting training for vaccine production specialists. In South Africa it is furthering the establishment of vaccine logistics and the WHO’s mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub. In Ghana, Germany’s development cooperation is advising the regulatory authorities responsible for vaccines and therapeutics, while in Senegal there are plans to establish vaccine production with German support.

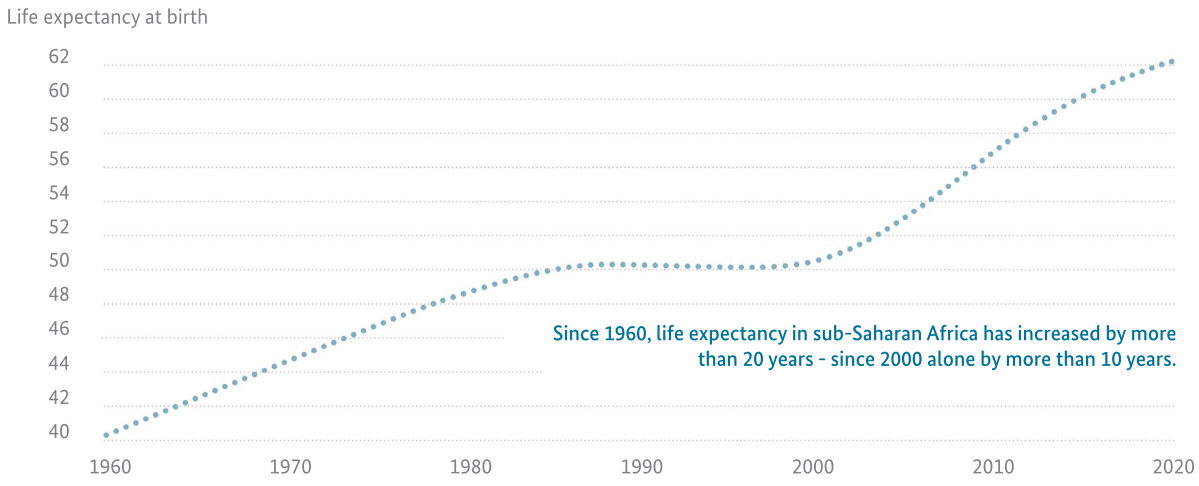
This engagement means that Germany is playing a leading role among EU member states, which are joining forces under the Team Europe Initiative Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technology Products.

Improve women’s health and strengthen their rights

The BMZ is promoting access to family planning and modern contraceptive methods, sex education and menstrual hygiene, and is helping to establish resilient maternal and child health care, in part through the Team Europe Initiative Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Africa.

Implementation of the bilateral initiative Rights-based Family Planning and Reproductive Health for All will be scaled up with a greater focus on young people, vulnerable groups, and access to sexual and reproductive rights. In future the BMZ will increasingly involve influential civil society actors in its work, including religious actors, who often have decades of experience in this field.

Life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa is increasing



Source: World Bank Open Data

Feminist development policy and gender equality

In Africa, as in other parts of the world, girls and women have a weaker position than men in many aspects of social, economic and political life. They have fewer chances of obtaining good schooling and training, and disproportionately often they find work only in the informal sector. In many African countries, girls are subjected to forced marriage and have limited access to health care and contraceptives. These inequalities violate the human rights of girls and women and have consequences for their wellbeing, their educational opportunities and their scope for development. They impact adversely on economic power and social progress. The BMZ thus systematically fosters political, social and economic participation for African women in line with the vision of feminist development policy, and strengthens women's rights, representation and resources. In dialogue with partners, the BMZ addresses the root causes of inequality, unequal treatment and also discrimination, which may be present in a number of mutually reinforcing forms. In its programmes, the BMZ is, for the first time, setting ambitious, measurable targets to ensure greater gender equality.

The BMZ will in particular:

Support gender equality through structural transformation

The BMZ will gradually raise the percentage of funding with a direct or indirect link to gender equality from 64 to 93 per cent by 2025. This voluntary commitment is intended to have a transformative impact across all sectors, from adaptation to climate change to cooperation with the private sector. In multilateral institutions, the BMZ is also pushing for an increase in the number and volume of gender equality projects. The BMZ actively supports LGBTQI+ individuals. It often works with non-state actors and also seeks political dialogue with partners with more traditional views to achieve progress in the field of gender equality.

Strengthen women's rights

The BMZ is engaging in close cooperation with state and non-state partners to improve legal frameworks for girls and women. This includes sexual and reproductive rights and health just as it does equality before the law, political participation and access to resources like land, water, education, free choice of occupation, financial capital and property.

Establish and develop alliances for gender equality

The BMZ brings concerns of feminist development policy into both the strategic dialogue and the work of international and African multilateral fora such as the AU, the UN, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the AfDB. It will support multilateral initiatives like the Global Partnership for Education and increase its financial contributions to important facilities including UN Women and UNFPA. Within the framework of the G7, G20 and the EU, the BMZ advances gender equality. To trigger long-term change processes, it will cooperate with civil society organisations, involve religious facilities and strengthen women's networks like the AU African Women Leaders Network and the Action Network on Forced Displacement – Women as Agents of Change.

Improving employment opportunities for women in Africa

With its new transnational project, Employment Promotion for Women for the Green Transformation in Africa, the BMZ hopes to increase women's participation in economic life. The project is enhancing the employability of women with the help of training measures, as well as advising women entrepreneurs, especially on sustainable, climate-appropriate and environmentally sound business practices. The BMZ is also engaging in numerous other projects that advance women. The WoMENA initiative is promoting women's participation in North Africa, where only one woman in five currently has a job. EconoWin advises companies on HR policy and is putting in place family-friendly working conditions in, for example, the telecommunications and IT sectors. The BMZ is working with UN Women to transform unpaid care work in Rwanda and Senegal. And the World Bank initiative Invest in Childcare is helping African states in particular to systematically expand and improve childcare.

Support women's economic participation

In close cooperation with the private sector, the BMZ is fostering decent jobs in the formal sector along with better working conditions. It is also engaging to achieve gender-responsive economic conditions. It supports business start-ups and women entrepreneurs by providing easier access to loans for women and training for women, with a special focus on digital expertise. The BMZ also advises African partner countries on labour market and social policies so as to mainstream gender equality at institutional level, and advance childcare, maternity leave and parental leave.

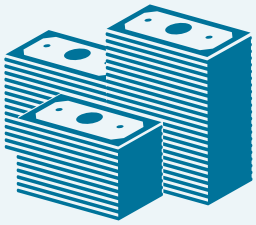
Combat gender-based violence

The BMZ is helping to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls. It also works with non-state and private-sector actors and advocates critical reflection on social norms and role models (also as part of the regional programme Partnerships for Prevention of Gender-based Violence in Southern Africa). In political dialogue with African partners, the BMZ is spotlighting the importance of this issue as a human rights violation and an obstacle to development. The BMZ is also drawing attention to the particular impact on LGBTQI+ individuals.

Strengthening women's bodily autonomy and rights

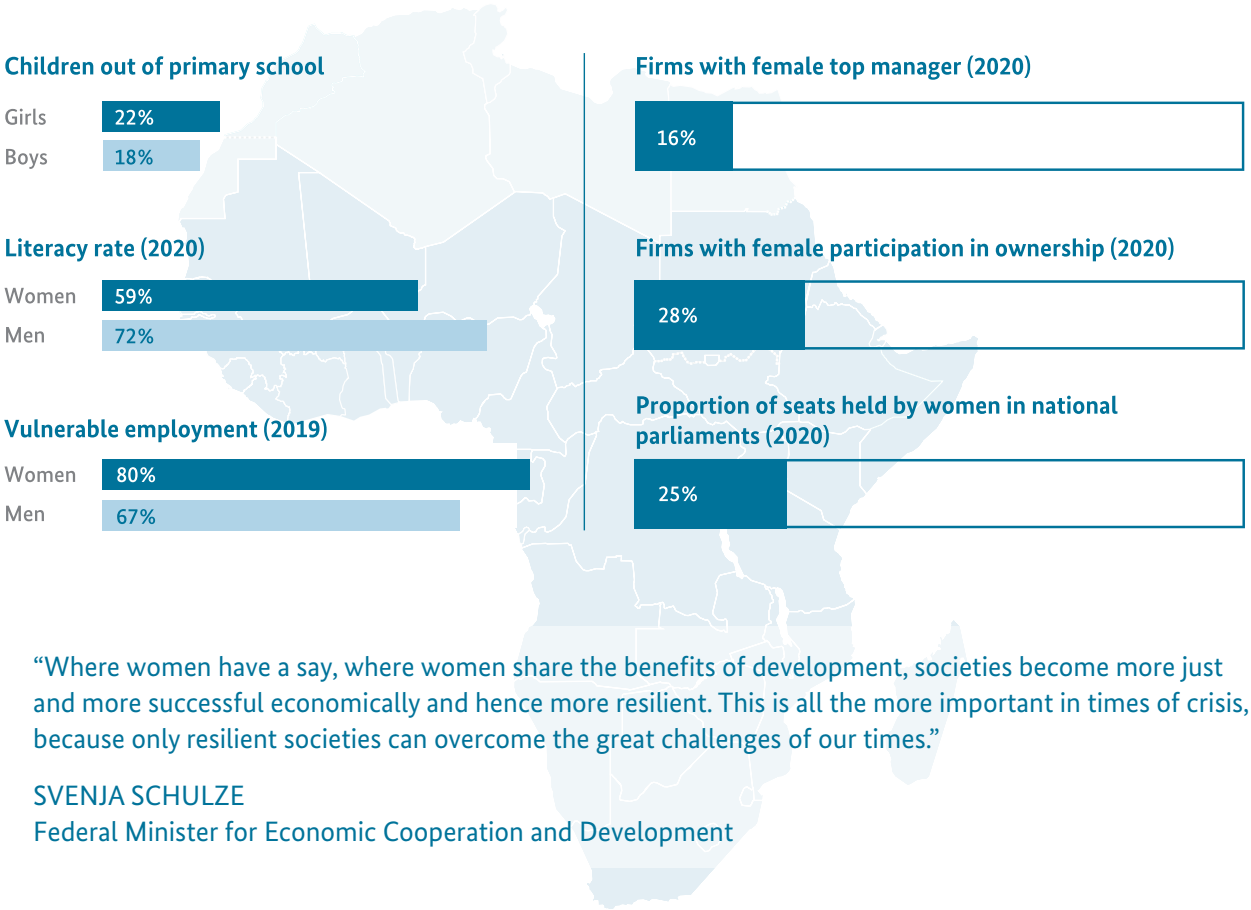
One third of all women in Africa do not have the access they want to contraceptives. Yet sexual and reproductive health and rights are indispensable from a human rights stance. When a woman can decide whether to have children, when, and how many, her chances of obtaining a good education and adequately paid work are significantly better. Women's health is thus an important economic factor and a goal of feminist development policy. The BMZ is working intensively with African partners. In Togo, for example, health professionals are being trained as midwives and work is being done to give teenage mothers more rights. Bilateral efforts are closely dovetailed with multilateral work (for instance with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Global Financing Facility, GFF). During international negotiations and within women's rights movements such as SheDecides, the BMZ pushes for sexual and reproductive self-determination for women and girls, and networks with like-minded partners.

Improved access to finance for women entrepreneurs in Africa



25 per cent of African women are active in business, where they encounter a wide variety of gender-specific obstacles. The BMZ thus supports African women entrepreneurs in various areas. It is engaging to enhance their access to finance, for example by supporting Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA). This AfDB initiative provides credit lines for women, offers advisory and capacity development services, and supports reforms aimed at improving political and legal frameworks.

Limited gender equality in sub-Saharan Africa



"Where women have a say, where women share the benefits of development, societies become more just and more successful economically and hence more resilient. This is all the more important in times of crisis, because only resilient societies can overcome the great challenges of our times."

SVENJA SCHULZE
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

Source: World Bank Open Data (chart), IPG-Journal (quote by Svenja Schulze)

Rule of law, democracy, human rights and good governance

In the AU's Agenda 2063, African states have committed to good governance, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The vast majority of Africans prefer democracy to any other form of government. Many African states are actively fighting corruption and illicit financial flows and are strengthening their democratic institutions. But in Africa, as elsewhere in the world, authoritarian forces too are gaining strength. Those in government are increasingly restricting the rights of their citizens and the judiciary, and lining their own pockets rather than investing in education, health and social protection systems. This is undermining trust in the state, especially among young people, encouraging conflict, and deterring investors. The BMZ is thus working with partners to strengthen the foundations on which to build equal political participation, rule-of-law and democratic institutions, effective public authorities, a free press – and thus the basis for a resilient society. It specifically supports partner countries that pursue a convincing reform agenda of their own that promotes democracy, human rights and the rule of law. In countries that move away from this agenda, a critical dialogue will be conducted, in coordination with the Federal Foreign Office, and cooperation increasingly shifted to non-state actors. Cooperation with political foundations, churches, the media and independent scientific and research actors is particularly important, as it is with local pro-democracy forces.

The BMZ will in particular:

Respect, protect and support human rights

In dialogue with African partners, the BMZ addresses the issue of human rights, in particular children's and women's rights, sexual and reproductive rights and the rights of people with disabilities and LGBTQI+ individuals, and implements projects to drive forward this agenda. The BMZ supports efforts to realise human rights (through the Promotion of Human Rights/Empowerment of Women in Africa project with the AU, to give one example) and promotes the activities of non-state actors like political foundations, civil society actors and church organisations in the field of human rights.

Strengthen an independent judiciary and access to the law

The BMZ and its partners are working to strengthen the separation of powers and an independent judiciary in African partner countries, guaranteeing the population, the political opposition, civil society and the media the space to operate. Additionally, the BMZ is helping to improve access to the law, especially for women and marginalised groups.

Support authorities in their efforts to become more effective and transparent

The BMZ is helping to modernise and improve administrative processes in African partner countries. Public services are improved, for instance, by fostering digitalisation, civic participation, and sustainable procurement systems. The BMZ supports authorities as they build expertise and introduce transparent processes as well as renewing key infrastructure. It draws on the potential offered by over 160 municipal level twinning schemes with Africa.



Promoting civil society engagement and youth

The BMZ secondment and exchange programmes foster civic engagement and international civil society cooperation, as an important basis for a vibrant democracy. Since 2021, for instance, the BMZ has been strengthening German and African civil society in the youth sector through the AGYO. Youth encounters allow young people in Germany and in African states to engage together to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Fight corruption, improve transparency, broaden the tax base

The BMZ strengthens good financial management and consistent efforts to stamp out corruption in the state and private sectors. It helps African partner countries to put their tax systems on an equitable footing (through the transnational Addis Tax Initiative for instance), ensure transparent public budget management (with the help of the Equity Budgeting Tool (EBT) for sharing budget funds fairly) and manage debt sustainably. The BMZ strengthens supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption authorities and supports investigative journalism (such as the Journalists for Transparency collective).

Strengthen political participation on the part of civil society

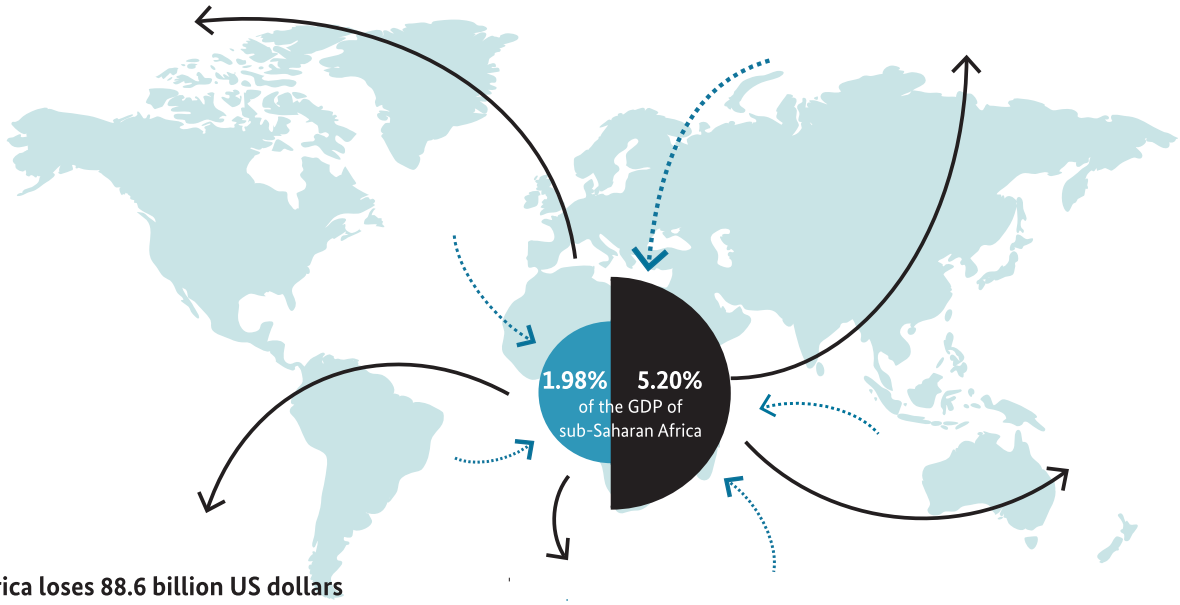
The BMZ supports decentralisation and better governance at subnational and local levels. At this level, the active participation of the population in political consensus building and decision-making is pivotal. It is also important to protect the space for action open to civil society, which is shrinking progressively in many African states. The BMZ uses the benefits of digitalisation

Promoting political participation and access to justice – the EnAct initiative in Zambia

Within the framework of the EnAct project in Zambia, the BMZ is working jointly with African partners and the European Commission to improve the Zambian people's access to accountable institutions, to justice and to transparent government decision-making processes. To date this has enabled over 340,000 people to participate in policy-making and decision-making processes, from municipal to national level. Participants, for instance, organise open meetings at which the key needs of the people can be voiced and incorporated in municipal planning and budget processes. Round tables, citizen dialogues and radio discussions are strengthening public dialogue between the state and civil society. Training more than 300 legal assistants and establishing help desks has given over 95,000 people access to legal advice.

to foster more participation, dialogue and transparency in public life. It specifically supports young people, with the African-German Youth Office (AGYO). The BMZ also opposes online disinformation and violence, as well as the misuse of personal data by the state. In the areas already mentioned, political foundations, church organisations, municipalities, media organisations and private agencies are key partners.

Estimated volume of illicit financial flows in Africa in 2020



- **Africa loses 88.6 billion US dollars** because of illicit financial flows.
- **Africa receives 33.7 billion US dollars** in official development assistance (ODA).

Sources: OECD Stat, UNCTAD, World Bank Open Data

Curbing illicit financial flows and tax avoidance

The United Nations estimates that illicit financial flows cost Africa about 88 billion US dollars every year – about twice what the continent receives in development cooperation funding. It also surmises that these illicit financial flows are rising unchecked. The BMZ supports the efforts of the AU, regional organisations and other partners to combat illicit financial flows. The BMZ pursues a holistic approach that combines prevention, financial intelligence and asset recovery. It cooperates with European partners and the European Commission under the Team Europe Initiative Combating Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Financial Flows on the African continent, and is helping to realise the G7 pledge to establish 15 additional transparency registers in African states to identify dummy companies. It supports the implementation of the AU's Common African Position on Asset Recovery. In the field of tax-based illicit financial flows, the BMZ is working with three OECD trust funds and has launched a G7 agreement to assist partner countries in their efforts to tax international corporations.

Peace and security

Achieving a peaceful, safe and secure Africa is one of the overriding political priorities of the African Union and its Agenda 2063. The AU has established the African Peace and Security Architecture and is stemming violent conflict in Africa through its Peace and Security Council, a Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), and by mandating and deploying African peace missions. Currently, however, almost one third of sub-Saharan African states is suffering from armed conflicts. The number of terrorist and other attacks has quadrupled, while new flashpoints have joined the existing problems. The root causes are many, varied and complex, and are often interlinked. Conflicts over resources, land use and borders are compounded by poor economic prospects, food and water crises, a lack of political participation, human rights violations and extremism, all of which bring with them the risk of conflicts. The consequences of climate change represent yet another catalyst. Africa is the continent with the largest number of displaced people – almost one third of all displaced people live in Africa. The vast majority of them remain within the borders of their own country. They are termed internally displaced people or IDPs. Conflicts are still the primary root causes of displacement, but climate change is an increasing trigger. The consequences for the individuals affected are dramatic, while host communities and regions inside and outside Africa face massive challenges. The BMZ adopts an integrated approach in its work with African partners, combining humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and peace building (the humanitarian-development-peace nexus or HDP nexus).

The BMZ will in particular:

Target the structural root causes of conflicts, strengthen resilience, and prevent new conflicts

Sustainable development policy is also security policy. It makes a direct or indirect contribution to preventing conflicts. In particularly fragile regions, the BMZ is working to overcome the structural causes of conflicts, partly by offering support to put in place fairer land, water and natural resource management regimes, supporting measures that help the population adapt to climate change, facilitating access to water, land and basic social services, education and jobs (with labour-intensive infrastructure measures for instance), and overall by strengthening social, economic and political participation.

Foster inclusive conflict resolutions

Peace processes are more successful if they incorporate feminist viewpoints (as set out in the UN Security Council Resolution 1325). In Africa, the BMZ will thus in future do even more to promote dialogue fora and get women involved, in line with the vision of feminist development policy. One avenue is offered by the AU's Africa-wide FemWise network. Another aim is to involve young people and actors who enjoy a high level of credibility within civil society, such as traditional and religious leaders in crisis-affected areas.

Support refugees, internally displaced people and host communities

In line with the burden sharing set out in the Global Compact for Migration, the BMZ supports refugees, internally displaced people and African host countries and communities. The BMZ Special Initiative on Forced Displacement aims to promote access to education, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, employment and social protection and other services for refugees and IDPs. In line with feminist development policy, there is a special focus on highly vulnerable groups like women and girls. The BMZ fosters their potential to act as change agents for sustainable development.

Fine-tune flexible crisis management instruments that have a swift impact

With the concept of transitional development assistance, the BMZ has created a unique instrument that it can use, in cooperation with African actors, to specifically strengthen the resilience of vulnerable population groups and local structures to crises, enable them to master crises independently, and prevent new crises. As a crisis transformation instrument, transitional development assistance builds a bridge between emergency humanitarian relief and long-term development cooperation and peace building. Multisectoral programmes reflect the specific nature of each individual crisis and offer support in the fields of food security, rebuilding essential infrastructure, disaster risk management and building peaceful and inclusive societies. In future the BMZ intends to dovetail its work even more closely with the toolboxes of the EU and other German federal ministries.

Further strengthen African institutions that promote peace and security

The BMZ has long been a reliable partner in strengthening the AU's peace and security institutions as well as those of African regional organisations. In future it will also closely monitor and support the establishment of civilian crisis prevention mechanisms in the region, including early warning systems and crisis analysis instruments. In this, the BMZ focuses especially on ways of addressing recurring conflicts.

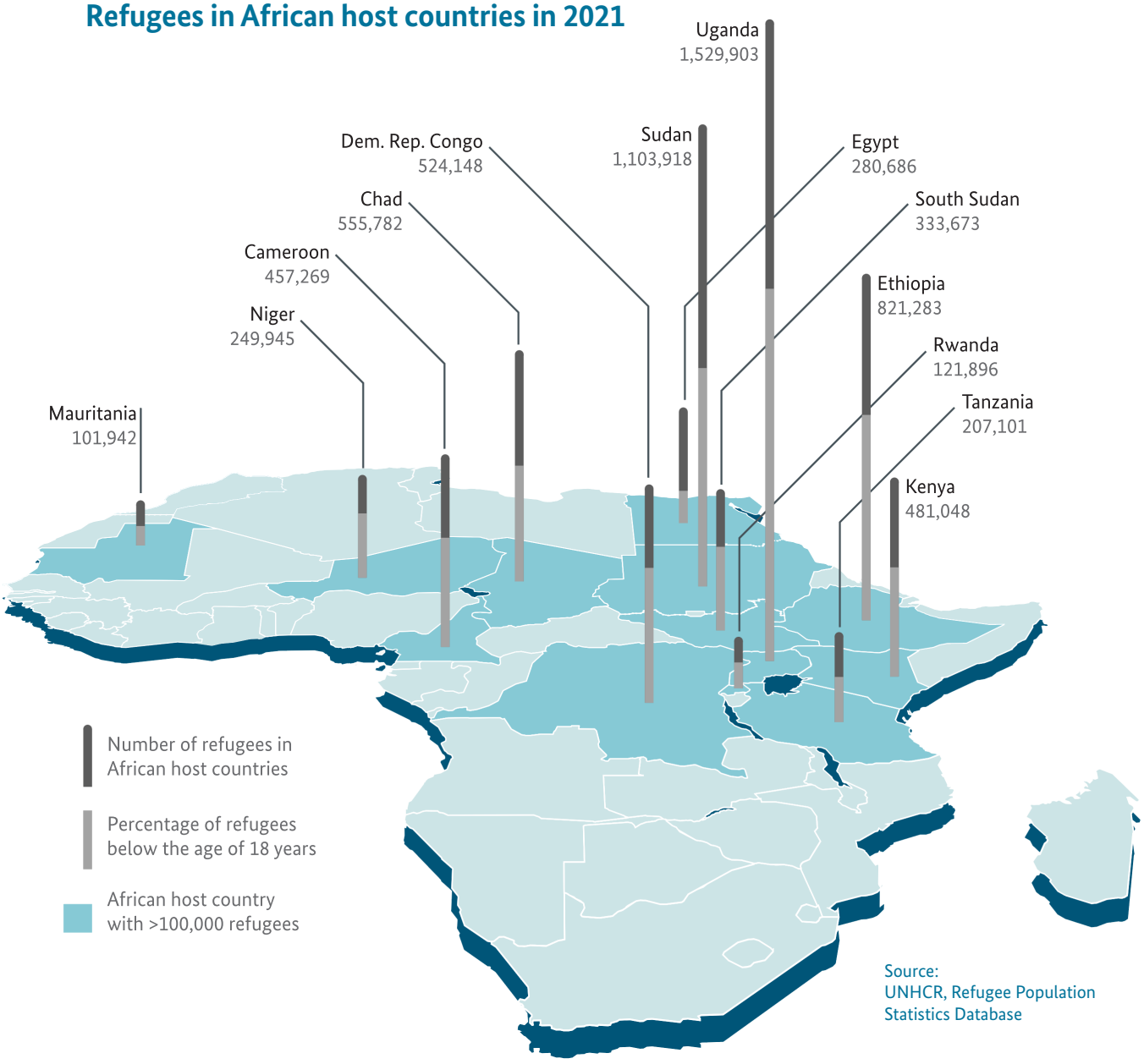
Getting all actors on board to strengthen peace and security – a case example from Niger

In Diffa, a region in Niger's Chad Basin that is badly affected by violence, the BMZ is promoting a UNICEF/WFP programme that is striving to ensure equal access to natural resources and social services. The programme specifically supports the involvement of the key actors (local authorities, multi-generational members of all communities, with a special focus on women, young people, refugees, returnees and IDPs) and brings these diverse groups together. The complementarity between humanitarian relief, development cooperation and peace building (HDP nexus) also receives institutional support at the level of the Government of Niger and the regional nexus committees. The programme is helping to empower the African partners, and encourages young people in particular to play a leading role and thus become change agents.

African solutions for peace and security

Together with the Federal Foreign Office, the BMZ supports the African Union and African regional organisations in peace and security missions. The common goal is to develop the capacities of the AU in the fields of preventive diplomacy, mediation and political dialogue. Thus, the BMZ is supporting the development of an AU network of mediators for conflict prevention and mediation (FemWise) as well as the establishment of the AU's Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) so that conflict resolution and political dialogue instruments can be used at an early stage. Additionally, the BMZ cooperates, for example, with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Ghana, which trains experts for peace missions under the auspices of the AU or the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Training includes participation in peace missions, conflict management and peace and security studies.

Refugees in African host countries in 2021



Source:
UNHCR, Refugee Population Statistics Database

III. Strong together: Partners and instruments in cooperation with Africa

The BMZ's work is based on decades of cooperation with African partner countries, currently 33 in number, and on strong partnerships with state and non-state actors and with multilateral institutions. This constitutes massive political capital in the form of trust, particularly at a time of worsening instability. The BMZ builds on its tried and trusted implementing organisations – first and foremost the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). It also works closely with actors from the private sector, the science and research community and civil society. The BMZ uses its instruments flexibly, allowing it to respond swiftly to multiple requirements, and preparing it for volatile political conditions. To enable it to address acute and urgent challenges, the BMZ uses crisis response instruments including transitional development assistance.

The BMZ will also:

Step up cooperation with African institutions and initiatives

The BMZ intends to extend its cooperation with continental and regional organisations in Africa. The African Union, the "voice of Africa", is the key strategic partner. Cooperation is also to be stepped up with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the AfDB, the four largest regional economic communities and with North Africa through the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

Incorporate bilateral approaches into multilateral processes

The BMZ will link its bilateral approaches to multilateral processes so as to achieve a transformative impact. A local project, for instance, to eradicate child labour or end deforestation will be flanked by efforts at European and/or international level to ensure that value chains are socially and environmentally acceptable.

Forge new strategic alliances and involve African states to a greater extent

The BMZ aims to forge new strategic alliances and step up cooperation with multilateral organisations and partners. It advocates multilateralism based on solidarity, involving African states and the AU in multilateral processes and in decision-making. The BMZ intends to extend its strategic dialogue with the AfDB and the World Bank. It is working to take the G20 Compact with Africa (CwA), a platform for dialogue and cooperation between the G20 states and African nations, to the next level. It wants to focus more on socially and environmentally sound growth in its future support for the CwA.

Expand European cooperation (European by default)

Coordinated European development policy is more effective and more visible than 27 separate national efforts. The BMZ is thus consistently expanding development cooperation with European partners in Africa. It is engaged in joint strategy development and political dialogue within the framework of joint programming and pursues common donor initiatives, particularly through the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package and TEIs. When mobilising additional private-sector funding through the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package, an important part is played by the guarantees and blending under the new European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+). The BMZ also intends to flank its engagement in European development policy with co-financing arrangements, joint consultations and secondments. The BMZ is pushing to ensure that European processes and projects in policy fields that are important for African partners have beneficial impacts for these partners. It is, for instance, supporting moves to take greater account of African interests in norms and standards as well as in agricultural, trade, migration, financial and climate policies.

Develop innovative financing instruments – foster private-sector engagement

The volume of investment needed on the African continent cannot be raised without the private sector. The BMZ is thus driving forward new forms of cooperation between industrialised states and partner countries in Africa, involving not only bilateral donors and multilateral development banks but also the private sector. Examples include guarantees and structured funds to mobilise private-sector capital, with budget funds used to minimise risks. The capital raised is then invested in African companies. The Just Energy Transition Partnerships described above are another example. With its national, bilateral and multilateral partners, the BMZ will also increasingly work to identify more effective ways of mobilising private-sector funding to achieve development and climate goals. African states above all are to benefit from easier access to sustainable investment. The BMZ advocates the use

The Team Europe approach

The BMZ is expanding cooperation with its European partners in Africa. In addition to joint programming, support focuses on the Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) under which the EU, its member states, and in some cases other donors, combine activities in one sector or on cross-cutting issues. This approach is designed to make the EU's external action more effective and more visible. The BMZ is actively involved in TEIs for example on supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area, on illicit financial flows (IFF), and the initiatives Invest in Young Businesses in Africa (IYBA) and Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technology Products (MAV+). It initiated the TEI Jobs through Trade and Investment in the Southern Neighbourhood. In Togo, the BMZ is engaged in three major TEIs and one joint programming strategy, which replace both the EU country strategy and the BMZ country strategy. Discussions and negotiations with the Togolese government are generally conducted jointly, and a joint secretariat has been put in place.

of instruments that support African states' efforts to put in place structures for debt sustainability and to raise finance on capital markets.

Fine-tune structural policy approaches of the reform partnership model

The existing "reform partnership" model is to transition to more flexible approaches. The BMZ would like to fine-tune tried and tested structural policy elements of the model (partner orientation, intensive political dialogue and incentives in the form of significant financial commitments linked to reform steps agreed by both sides). The aim is to address a wider range of reform issues with partners and enable the BMZ to respond more flexibly to political changes. Development priorities such as the social and environmental transformation, climate, sustainable infrastructure, strengthening the rule of law, human rights and good governance, and social protection are some of the key areas to tackle. Budget and reform financing and the tried and tested co-financing and parallel financing arrangements with other donors should be expanded.

Build and expand multi-stakeholder partnerships, empower civil society actors

Development processes are sustainable if a wide section of the population helps shape them. The BMZ aims to step up cooperation with African civil society organisations and networks, especially women's rights organisations, trade unions, churches, political foundations and the African diaspora in Germany. These actors have access to individuals that it is very difficult for official development cooperation to reach, and are often critical counterbalances to the work of the respective governments. The BMZ aims to empower feminist civil society actors in partner countries. To bring civil society, the science and research community and the private sector together around a table with politicians in a constructive search for solutions, the BMZ aims to expand multi-stakeholder partnerships and triangular cooperation arrangements. One good example of this is the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, an alliance that brings together the BMZ, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the German confectionery industry, German food retailers and civil society. Additionally, the BMZ will be championing the priorities of the young generation. In many African countries, young people are actively involved in promoting political and environmental change and will play a key part in democratisation processes. The BMZ considers involving young people to be an important cross-cutting issue for all sectors in line with the African Youth Charter. The BMZ is also stepping up its dialogue with the science and research community, and is involving African academics and incorporating their findings in its work.

Support the mainstreaming of Africa policy across the German government

To ensure a coherent policy approach on the part of the German government, the BMZ is helping to more effectively dovetail foreign, development and security policy. It supports closer consultation and coordination on and with economic, trade, migration, agriculture, climate, health, education and cultural policy as these relate to Africa. Alongside concrete cooperation with individual states and international organisations, this relates for example to shared concerns such as strengthening the Africa-EU Partnership and the African Peace and Security Architecture, cooperation with the AU, investment and economic promotion, and the new European Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). The successful practice of coordinating Germany's Africa policy at the state secretary level within the Interministerial Steering Group on Africa, which is chaired by the Federal Foreign Office and the BMZ, is to be continued.

The BMZ will review the implementation of its Africa Strategy and actively involve external partners in the next stages of the process.

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