



A world facing radical change

Our development policy priorities

The world is facing radical change. **Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine** marks a **turning point**. The multilateral system is fragile, power structures have shifted, and things which we had taken for granted are being called into question. At the same time, the **COVID-19 pandemic** continues to maintain its grip on the world, and the **climate crisis**, too, is continuing relentlessly. Today, we are faced with a vast number of challenges. They are massive and affect the entire world. But their effects are particularly severe in the world's **developing countries and emerging economies** – be it with regard to food security, energy transition, decent work, or social protection against risks such as disease and poverty.

This means that the tasks to be addressed by **development policy** are also growing significantly. In the coming years, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) will be placing a special focus on the following **four priority areas**, which it will address **at the multilateral level and in cooperation with its partner countries** to develop adequate responses to the most **pressing challenges**:

1. Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences and preventing new pandemics

COVID-19 has demonstrated to the world just how important it is to prevent pandemics and to have robust health systems. The pandemic has reversed development gains. This must be avoided in the future.

In particular, the BMZ will

- assist in building a **pandemic-resilient global health architecture** in order to ensure that the world is better prepared for health crises in the future;
- work toward **global access to vaccines** and other **vital medical supplies**; this includes, for example, supporting African countries in manufacturing vaccines locally to meet their own needs;
- build the capacity of its partner countries in the field of pandemic prevention in line with the interdisciplinary **One Health approach**, which views human, animal and environmental health as being closely related and interdependent;
- cooperate with its partner countries in establishing **inclusive, digital, resilient health systems** and providing **basic health care**; and
- increase its support for **sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)**. This includes access to education, contraceptives, menstrual hygiene, and medical care during pregnancy and childbirth.

2. Pushing back poverty and hunger

"Leave no one behind" (LNOB) is the key thrust of the 2030 Agenda. Preserving livelihoods and stepping up efforts to address the twin problems of poverty and hunger are, yet again, more pressing challenges than ever.

In particular, the BMZ will

- **address acute hunger crises** (for example through the Global Alliance for Food Security) and protect **children** in particular by stepping up school feeding programs;

- support the transformation toward **sustainable, resilient agri-food systems** that facilitate a good mix of locally produced and imported food, conserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change;
- continue its efforts to reduce **inequality** within and among countries by tackling the inequitable distribution of assets, resources and rights;
- develop and expand **social protection systems**, as they are key to effective poverty reduction and food security; and
- **actively foster decent work, living wages, and fair and sustainable supply chains** and support **training and employment** for young people in particular.

3. Forging ahead with a Just Transition

Transitioning to a climate-compatible economy while energy demand continues to grow will require a massive effort on the part of developing countries and emerging economies. Just Transition refers to efforts to make this transition socially equitable.

In particular, the BMZ will

- increase its support for **clean and safe energy sources** in order to create a more livable and independent future for all people;
- cooperate with its partner countries in creating **decent and climate-smart jobs** and strengthening **effective social protection systems**;
- advance a socially and environmentally sound transformation of the economy and a sustainable transformation of the financial sector;
- assist poor countries in better adapting to **climate change** and conserving **biodiversity and vital natural resources**; and
- work to make **cities** climate-smart, livable places.

4. Embracing a feminist development policy

In the 21st century, the world is still dominated by structural inequality and unequal treatment. By pursuing a feminist development policy, the BMZ wants to lead the way on achieving equal opportunities for all people, overcoming discriminatory power structures and role models, and empowering women and girls as well as LGBTIQ+ people.

In particular, the BMZ will

- strengthen the **rights** of women and girls and of LGBTIQ+ people, which includes sexual and reproductive rights as well as equality before the law regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- work for equal **political, social and economic representation** of women and girls and LGBTIQ+ people;
- improve access to, and control over, **resources** for women and girls and LGBTIQ+ people, which includes, among other things, means of production, land, employment, and financial services;
- put a focus on **children's rights and child protection**, especially in contexts of conflict and displacement; this includes protection against child trafficking, child abuse, forced prostitution, and child marriage; and
- help to prevent **gender-based violence** against women and girls and against people with diverse gender identities.