



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

# A world without hunger is possible

German development action against hunger



[bmz.de](https://www.bmz.de)



**“HUNGER IS OUR WORLD’S GREATEST HUMAN SCANDAL – BECAUSE IT IS PREVENTABLE. WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY AND WE KNOW WHAT TO DO. SO LET’S RISE TO THE CHALLENGE.”**

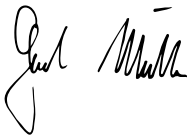
Dr. Gerd Müller, Member of the German Parliament and  
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

## DEAR READERS,

After over 25 years in decline, the number of hungry people in the world is on the rise again. And this despite the fact that we are capable of producing enough to ensure that everyone has adequate amounts of healthy food to eat.

One in nine people are still unable to live a life in dignity because they do not have enough to eat. Hunger stands in the way of development and is often at the root of population displacement, refugee movements and violent conflict. Both humans and the environment are being exploited in the production of many consumer goods. The need to produce more food is stretching our natural resources to the limits – soils are being depleted, forests cleared, oceans overfished. At the same time, climate change is increasingly impacting on agriculture.

We can all help to make this, our one world, a world without hunger. A world worth living in for everyone, where the environment and the climate are protected from harm. So please do get on board – by being a mindful consumer and through your involvement in politics, business, science and research, the churches and civil society!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerd Müller', with a horizontal line above the second name.

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

# How things are now



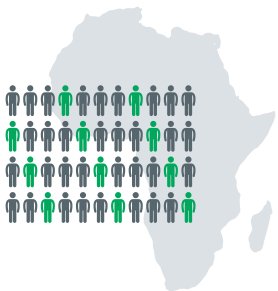
Imagine your fridge was always empty. Or that you had to spend three quarters of your wage just on buying the most vital food supplies. Finding it hard to picture? And yet having too little to eat is a fact of everyday life for many people in developing countries and emerging economies – even though the right to food is a human right.

**821 MILLION PEOPLE** across the world suffer chronic hunger because they cannot get the calories they need. That is a ninth of the world's population.



*Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2018*

**2 BILLION PEOPLE** are not getting the vital nutrients they need. That is nearly a quarter of the world's population.



In sub-Saharan Africa alone, almost **A QUARTER OF PEOPLE** are undernourished.

**70 PER CENT OF ALL PEOPLE SUFFERING CHRONIC HUNGER** live in rural areas, even though that is where most food is produced. Today the world population is 7.7 billion.

By 2030 it will **GROW TO 8.6. BILLION PEOPLE**. That means that more and more food will be needed.



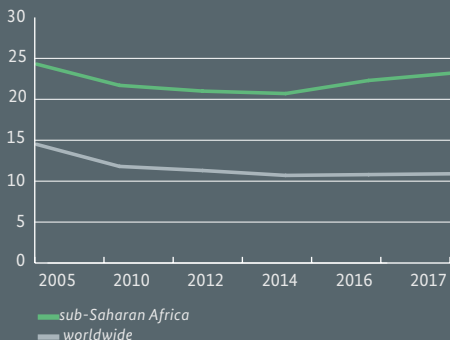
# Crises have caused a spike in hunger



Up until 2015, the number of hungry people in the world had been declining continuously. But now, crises, conflict and the impact of climate change are pushing the numbers up again.

One thing is clear: we can only achieve food security for a growing world population if we join together to invest in sustainable agriculture and in rural areas of developing countries and emerging economies.

PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION SUFFERING CHRONIC HUNGER



Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2018

## A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER IS POSSIBLE!

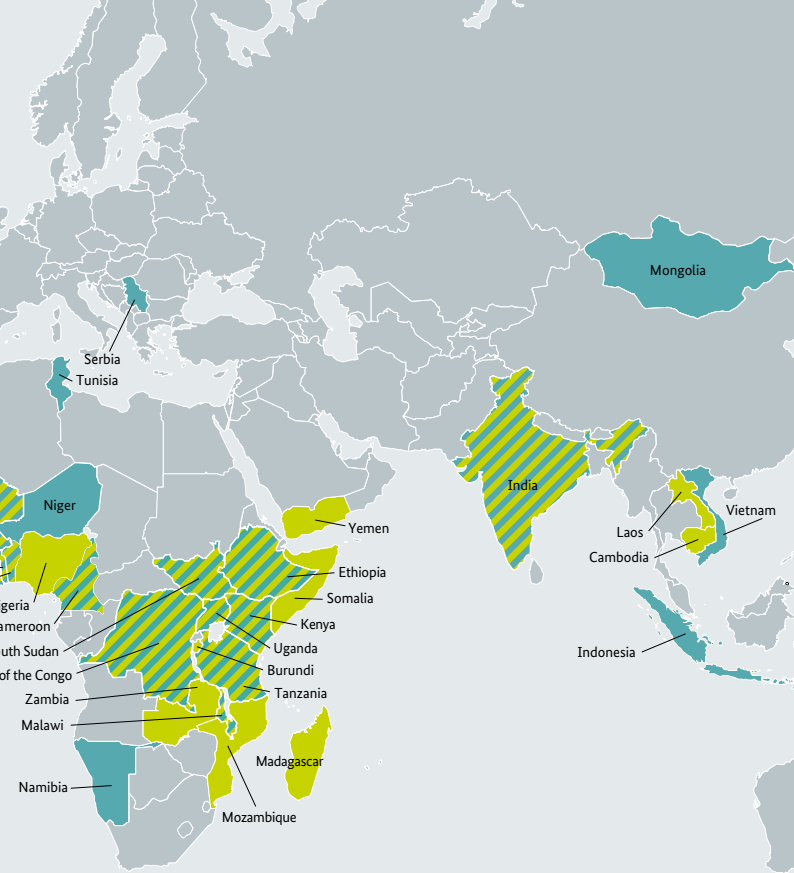
- We are working towards the goals set out in the internationally agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: ending hunger, achieving food security for all and promoting sustainable agriculture.
- We believe that we can only reach these goals in cooperation with our partners!
- That is why the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is investing some 1.5 billion euros a year in rural development and food security.
- Two thirds of those funds are used for projects agreed on with individual partner countries. The other third is channelled through a special initiative we launched in 2014, the One World – No Hunger initiative, which facilitates regional projects.



# Priority countries in German development cooperation







- Priority countries of the special initiative
- Priority countries for rural development

*The boundaries shown on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the legal status of territories or borders. As at December 2018*

# Food security



The main cause of hunger is poverty. People simply do not have the money for a healthy diet. Women and children are most frequently hit by hunger and malnutrition. In some cases, people simply do not know enough about healthy eating – people are increasingly eating an unbalanced diet. Crises can have a drastic impact on food security. For many years, too little money was invested in jobs and infrastructure in rural areas.

## HELPING COUNTRIES TO HELP THEMSELVES

Germany is making massive efforts to help its partner countries improve living conditions in rural areas. In areas hit by crisis, the first step is often to help countries recover. Our projects advise people on food production, processing, storage, hygiene and preparation. The focus is on the people, particularly women and young children. Our work is done in cooperation with governments, civil society, the churches, the academic community and international organisations. We also make every effort to get the private sector on board.

Between 2015 and 2017, the BMZ helped **over 15 million people** to lift themselves out of hunger and malnutrition.



*“On our communal fields, the advisors showed us women how to grow really nutritious crops. Now no child in our village need go hungry.”*

Kounynie Somé is one of 2,500 women in Burkina Faso who are being trained by government agricultural advisors on 63 pilot gardens and communal fields on how to grow healthy and varied food crops. In cooperation with local non-governmental organisations, we are helping over 18,000 women learn about healthy eating and hygiene.

# Promoting agriculture



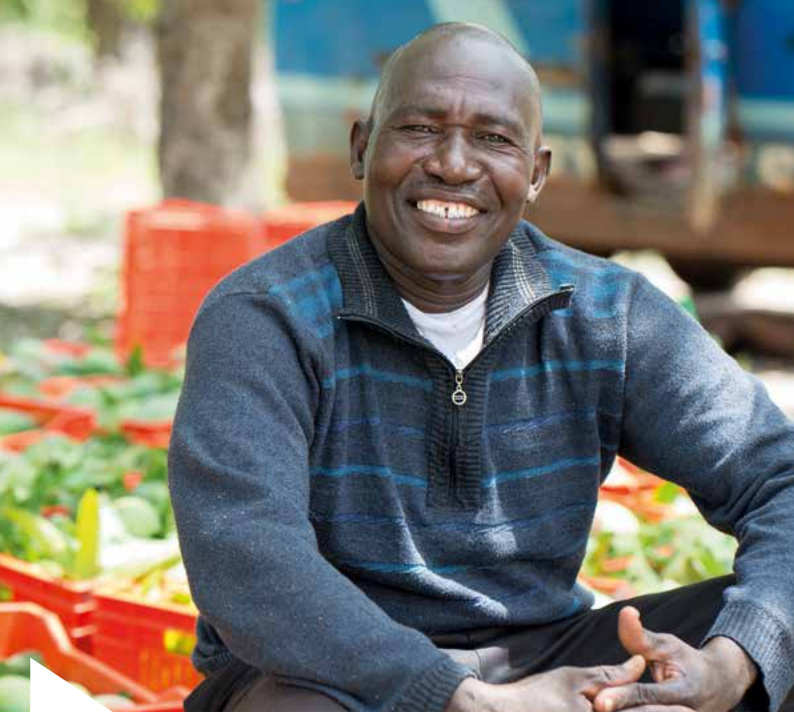
Experts estimate that we will need to increase production by at least 50 per cent by 2050 if we want to have enough healthy food for all the world's population. We also need to stop food being wasted through poor harvesting or storage practices.

## PROMOTING INNOVATIVE IDEAS

A sustainable agriculture sector can really drive forward development. That is why we have established what we call “green innovation centres”, mainly in Africa, to promote education and innovation in agriculture. Improving agricultural productivity not only boosts food security; it also boosts farmers' incomes and creates jobs. Women play an especially important role in agriculture, as it is they who produce the majority of food.

The BMZ has a large number of projects to promote sustainable cultivation techniques. We are funding work by international ag-ricultural research centres, for example, on developing varieties of grain that are more resilient to drought.

With the BMZ's support, over **16 million people** in rural areas were able to increase their incomes between 2015 and 2017. And **850,000 small farmers** were trained at the green innovation centres.



*“At the training course I learned about new farming techniques for growing certified mangoes. Now I can export my organic mangoes to Germany.”*

Abdoulaye Berthé from Mali used to earn very little from farming mangoes. Today, he’s able to export the fruit to Europe. He attended a course on boosting yields using certified cultivation methods. The mangoes he produces are now of much higher quality.

# Creating opportunities through rural development



Around 3.4 billion people currently live in rural areas. Of those, 92 per cent are in developing countries. The work they do – producing and processing agricultural goods, delivering services and practising skilled trades – is the key to achieving global food security and reducing poverty.

## LIVEABLE RURAL AREAS AND FAIR TRADE

The BMZ is working to make life in rural areas more attractive and create good earning and job opportunities. Processing local goods locally helps to create jobs and opportunities.

The BMZ is helping many countries to establish a fair land ownership and land use regime. People need certainty, after all, before they will invest in the land and in the future.

A number of projects are being conducted to promote fair trade and sustainable supply chains from field to fork – and, in this way, guarantee living incomes for farmers.

Since 2009, the BMZ has helped to create **530,000 jobs** in West Africa in the cultivation and processing of cashew nuts.



*“Now I know about all stages of the process – from establishing a cashew farm, to farm maintenance, to quality control. The courses I attended not only gave me more knowledge. They also gave me more confidence in my professional skills.”*

Ardiata Traoré from Burkina Faso attended a Master Training Programme for women, funded by the BMZ. Today, she is production manager of a factory employing 300 workers and is a role model to many.

# Protecting natural resources



Our lives depend on natural resources like soil, water, vegetation and biodiversity. Yet those resources are being destroyed at an alarming rate. Every year, we are losing around 24 million tonnes of fertile soil and an area of forest the size of Serbia. Unsustainable fishing practices are threatening 90 per cent of fish stocks.

## PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

The BMZ is helping small farmers to protect arable land and make it usable again. There are 200 German development cooperation projects focusing on the conservation and sustainable management of forests, the restoration of forest landscapes and protection of biodiversity. We advise our partners on sustainable fisheries, we support people engaged in small-scale fishing, and we back efforts to combat illegal fishing.

Through the special initiative One World – No Hunger alone, the BMZ has been able since 2014 to protect or rehabilitate **130,000 hectares** of land and **boost yields by 37 per cent**. Some **1.8 million small farmers** are benefiting from an improved understanding of how to protect their soils.





*“Our crop had been getting smaller and smaller, even though we were using more fertiliser. So we decided to grow black-eyed peas and that helped the soil recover. The beans are really healthy. It’s a true blessing, because we can use them to feed our families.”*

Tohomé Hadonou and Angel Gbaguidi took part in a course in Benin on how to increase soil fertility. They learned how black-eyed peas, a type of bean often grown in West Africa, can help to make depleted soils fertile again by fixing valuable nitrogen. The vegetable matter that is left over following harvesting is composted down, returning even more nutrients to the soil.

# How can I help to achieve a world without hunger?



We are all responsible for the choices we make as consumers. What we buy determines what is produced – and under what conditions. Too much of what is being grown on the world's farmlands does not generate enough return for the farmers. One in eight food items bought in Germany is thrown away. That is a waste of farmland, water and fertiliser and of the energy used for harvesting, processing and transporting the products.



## WHAT WE CAN DO:

- ➔ Shop mindfully: be conscious of what you buy, throw less away
- ➔ Consume ethically: look for goods that have been produced and brought to market in a sustainable and environmentally-friendly way
- ➔ Store properly: keep food under the right conditions
- ➔ Make it last: make food keep longer by freezing or preserving it
- ➔ Share food: use foodsharing platforms to pass on any food you can't use yourself

## WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO CREATE A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER

Find out which German organisations are already working towards a world without hunger:

[www.weltohnehunger.org](http://www.weltohnehunger.org)

## **PUBLISHED BY THE**

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and  
Development (BMZ)  
Public relations and events unit

## **EDITED BY**

BMZ Directorate for food; rural development;  
natural resources

## **DESIGN AND LAYOUT**

Atelier Hauer + Dörfler GmbH, Berlin

## **PRINTED BY**

BMZ

Printed on paper certified with the Blue Angel ecolabel

## **PHOTO CREDITS**

Photothek.net: Thomas Trutschel (front cover), Michael Gottschalk  
(inside front cover), Ute Grabowsky (p. 5), Thomas Imo (inside back  
cover); GIZ: Health Focus/Damien Farma (p. 9), Klaus Wohlmann  
(pp. 11 and 15), ComCashew/Michael Drexler (p. 13)

## **AS AT**

January 2019

## **CONTACT**

poststelle@bmz.bund.de  
www.bmz.de



Visit the food and rural development  
section of our website  
[www.bmz.de/en/issues/Food/index.html](http://www.bmz.de/en/issues/Food/index.html)