



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Managing crises. Fostering reconstruction. Making people more resilient.

Transitional Development Assistance in Practise

BMZ in depth



bmz.de

“Every crisis response must take into account the long-term development of a country as early as possible.

Sustainable development is key to preventing and managing crises.”

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



FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

In developing countries more than anywhere else, armed conflict and natural disasters threaten millions of human lives, cause untold suffering and undermine the chances of achieving sustainable development. We must not allow humanitarian crises to become permanent crises, robbing the people affected of their future!

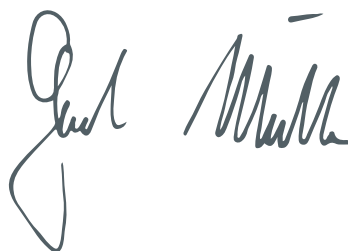
Germany's development cooperation is thus working to address ongoing crises including violent conflicts and natural disasters, to enhance the resilience of people and structures to new crises, and to build peace. The transitional development assistance of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is excellently placed to do just this.

Shortly after Mosul was liberated, I visited Northern Iraq to see first hand the damage this city, home to millions, had sustained during its liberation from the so-called Islamic State. If the city is not successfully rebuilt, with the close involvement of its local administrative structures and its people, there is a real threat of renewed radicalisation. That is why we are providing support to build or repair bridges, roads and schools, as well as helping the people work through their traumatic wartime experiences and improve their prospects of a new life.

But it is not only in Iraq that people need hope, so that they can return home and play an active part in rebuilding their countries. That is why we are currently delivering transitional development assistance in around 30 nations.

Alongside violent conflicts, people in many of these countries are suffering the consequences of extreme natural events, including droughts and flooding. These are often caused by climate change. To fight hunger and prevent famine, we are training small farmers in irrigation techniques, fostering farming methods adapted to drought, and working to put in place better maternal and child health care. We also support the development of local emergency plans and the establishment of disaster risk management committees in areas that are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters.

This brochure will give you some exciting insights into the principles, objectives and results of our work around the globe. We always put people and their needs firmly at the heart of all that we do. With them we lay the foundations for sustainable development and lasting peace.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gerd Müller', with a stylized, flowing script.

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





Contents

FOREWORD	3
OUR ENGAGEMENT BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER CRISES	7
WHAT EXACTLY DO WE DO?	8
WHERE DO WE WORK, AND HOW?	10
TRANSITIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AROUND THE GLOBE	12
SELECTED PROJECTS	
HAITI	
Protection from natural disasters and famine	14
MYANMAR	
For a healthy life in Eastern Myanmar	15
SAHEL REGION	
Sahel Resilience Initiative	16
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	
Food and nutrition security, drinking water and reforestation	17
SOMALIA	
Securing food and nutrition, improving hygiene, creating jobs	18
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES	
Barrier-free reconstruction for people with disabilities	19
IRAQ	
Access to social infrastructure for all	20
SYRIA	
Education and psychosocial services generate prospects of a better future	21
WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT OUR PROJECTS	22



Our engagement before, during and after crises

Crises, including violent conflicts, natural disasters and epidemics, have become dramatically more frequent and more intense worldwide. An increasing number of people live in regions that are affected by protracted, complex and recurrent crises. Crises reduce the chances of attaining sustainable development, reinforce chronic poverty and cause people to leave their homes. Crisis management and peace building are thus key development responsibilities. The BMZ can draw on its long-standing experience in these fields. Our transitional development assistance, financed from the budget item “Crisis Management and Reconstruction, Infrastructure”, gives us a flexible instrument with which we can address crises.

The aim is to make particularly vulnerable people and institutions more resilient in the long term, so that they can better master and prevent crises in future. The four priority areas of our work are:

- ➔ Securing food and nutrition
- ➔ Building infrastructure and establishing services
- ➔ Reducing the risks of extreme natural events
- ➔ Strengthening peaceful and inclusive coexistence.

STABILISING LIVELIHOODS, ENHANCING RESILIENCE

Poor sections of the population in particular are often defenceless in the face of armed conflicts and natural disasters. They are not generally in a position to rebuild their shattered existence without support. But governments in these parts of the world are frequently unable or unwilling to protect the population and push ahead with reconstruction. The people worst affected depend time and time again on external assistance.

Our transitional development assistance helps people break out of this vicious circle. We can act swiftly and flexibly before, during and after crises so as to stabilise livelihoods, while also enhancing the resilience of individuals and existing structures (see box on page 11). With the help of innovative and evidence-based approaches, we aim to make our projects more effective and needs-driven. It is especially important for us to know what works in a given context, since this allows us to make our support even more effective.

DELIVERING SUPPORT WHERE IT IS MOST ACUTELY NEEDED

The BMZ's crisis management begins where support is most acutely needed. We strengthen the people worst affected by crises. The degree to which a person is affected by a crisis depends not only on their prosperity, education and housing situation, but also on their gender, age, any disabilities they may have, their sexual orientation, religious beliefs, ethnic background, and their legal status. When we strengthen resilience, we focus not on the weaknesses but on the strengths of local individuals and institutions. Their skills and knowledge are harnessed in project planning and implementation, making an active contribution to changing things for the better. We also take into account the different needs of women and men, and girls and boys, and foster the active involvement of women, thus laying the foundations for long-term development and sustainable crisis management.


MANAGING CRISES, MAKING TRANSITIONS

In our experience, crisis management is most effective if it is geared to the long-term development of a country from the outset. Development-policy crisis management thus always aims to build and strengthen partner-country institutions. This is the only way to create prospects of a sustainable and better future. After natural disasters, in conflict-affected areas and fragile contexts it is thus crucial for assistance measures to be planned jointly with the people and institutions affected, and for them to be implemented in a way that is appropriate to the situation on the ground. Effective assistance in crisis situations calls for swift, effectively coordinated action. That is why, at the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016, Germany committed to the forward-looking, complementary use of humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peace building measures. Transitional development assistance is a significant factor in this, allowing for swift development interventions even in regions marked by violence and conflict.

This brochure uses topical examples to illustrate our work.



What exactly do we do?



Over the last 20 years, our transitional development assistance has supported many millions of people who were dependent on assistance in the wake of natural disasters, famines or armed conflicts. We not only meet acute needs, but also undertake coordinated measures to give those affected sustainable, long-term prospects, thus preventing new crises. Here are nine topical examples.

→ SYRIA

50,000 children and young people have received psychosocial care, and over 60,000 people have been educated about the danger posed by landmines. Learning conditions have been enhanced for **110,000 children** by rebuilding facilities and procuring learning materials. **60,000 young people** have been accepted for technical and vocational education and training courses.

→ ETHIOPIA

More than **400,000 people** have been given access to safe water, and have learned how good hygiene can keep them healthy.



LEBANON

Syrian refugees and residents in host communities have so far built 78 kilometres of irrigation channels, as well as planting more than 130,000 trees and rehabilitating cropland. Almost **53,000 people** benefit.



ZIMBABWE

Almost **two million children** have safe drinking water and healthy meals at school. Gardens have been planted and wells sunk, and agricultural training provided, so that their families are also better equipped to deal with the threat of famine.



JORDAN

We have planted vegetable gardens, distributed seedlings, reforested land and run agricultural training courses, providing healthier food for **400,000 people**.



IRAQ

26,000 people are helping rebuild schools and hospitals, giving them a temporary income. This benefits their families, and a total of almost **150,000 people**.



SUDAN

120,000 children, women and men now have safe water to drink, as well as receiving better medical and psychosocial care.



MADAGASCAR

100,000 farmers have learned to adapt their production to the changing climate, significantly increasing their harvests and thus their income.



SOMALIA

Improved medical care, the distribution of food supplements, and access to water supply and sanitation are helping combat malnutrition. This benefits **1.2 million people** – especially **pregnant women, nursing mothers and children**.

Where do we work, and how?

Our transitional development assistance addresses countries and regions where acute, recurrent or protracted crises jeopardise the immediate survival of the people and threaten to destroy their prospects. Crises today are increasingly marked by a complex combination of very different factors: poverty, violence, fragility, and natural disasters resulting from climate change. They generally affect a large number of people, cause material damage, and thus threaten the cohesion of a society.



SUPPORT THAT BUILDS RESILIENCE AND PREVENTS FUTURE CRISES

Transitional development assistance enables existing state and civil society institutions, and particularly adversely affected households, to master ongoing crises independently, and to mitigate the risk of new crises. In this way, we make an important contribution to preventing future crises. For instance, we work with the hardest hit communities to draw up emergency and evacuation plans for extreme weather events, including storms and droughts.

We also foster adaptation to climate change in a variety of ways, one of which is training in drought-resistant cropping methods. This can prevent harvest losses and subsequent famine. To underpin achievements, we cooperate closely with local actors from the outset and ensure ownership. This is an important change of perspective. Rather than focusing on their weaknesses, we concentrate on the capacities and potential offered by local actors.

SUPPORT THAT MEETS BASIC NEEDS

Transitional development assistance revolves around the people affected by the crisis and their needs. Conflict- and gender-sensitive support is designed to enable them to restore and enhance their own livelihoods.

This includes meeting the basic needs of those affected in terms of food and nutrition, education, water and health care, which is why we work with local authorities and the local people to rebuild facilities like health centres, water supply systems and schools. By providing seed and agricultural inputs, and training farmers, we also help ensure that the people can meet their own needs again as swiftly as possible.

SUPPORT THAT CREATES PROSPECTS AND BUILDS PEACE

Vocational training and upgrading programmes help affected individuals to take charge of their own lives. Our activities in this sector help people who have fled their homes in particular to find their feet again – either in the community where they have sought shelter, or as returnees in their home region.

Parallel to this, we strengthen social cohesion and ensure that all our measures are conflict-sensitive, and that they prevent violence and build peace. In communities that have taken in refugees it is particularly important to prevent conflict over already scarce resources like drinking water.

To avoid causing or aggravating conflicts, we ensure that all sections of the population – local residents and new arrivals – benefit from our projects, and that they engage in dialogue within the scope of peace committees or similar fora.

OUR PARTNERS

We always build on existing structures and on the knowledge already available within the local population, while drawing on the expertise of our highly qualified partners, who include:

- ➔ German non-governmental organisations;
- ➔ the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH;
- ➔ the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW);
- ➔ the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- ➔ the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP);
- ➔ the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- ➔ the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

RESILIENCE – HOW TO EQUIP PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS TO DEAL WITH CRISES

Resilience is the ability of individuals and institutions to deal with acute or recurrent problems posed by natural disasters, conflicts or existential economic crises, without jeopardising their future prospects. Resilient communities and institutions retain their ability to act even as crises unfold. They can assess and anticipate existing risks, eliminate threats and prevent emergencies, and preserve and scale up development achievements.

You will find examples of how we strengthen resilience locally as of page 14.

Transitional development assistance around the globe



HAITI



COLOMBIA



LEBANON



PALESTINIAN
TERRITORIES



JORDAN



SUDAN



SAHEL
REGION



NIGERIA



CENTRAL
AFRICAN
REPUBLIC



With our transitional development assistance we are active wherever in the world the need is greatest. In reconstruction, education, food and nutrition, health and every other priority area – our projects always revolve around the worst affected sections of the population and their needs. This world map shows a selection of the countries in which we work. Pictograms indicate the two most important priority areas in each country. To enhance livelihoods as sustainably as possible in the wake of crises, our projects often address more than two priority areas. Some projects examples overleaf will illustrate this.



Income and employment



Reconstruction



Education



Water, sanitation and hygiene



Peaceful and inclusive communities



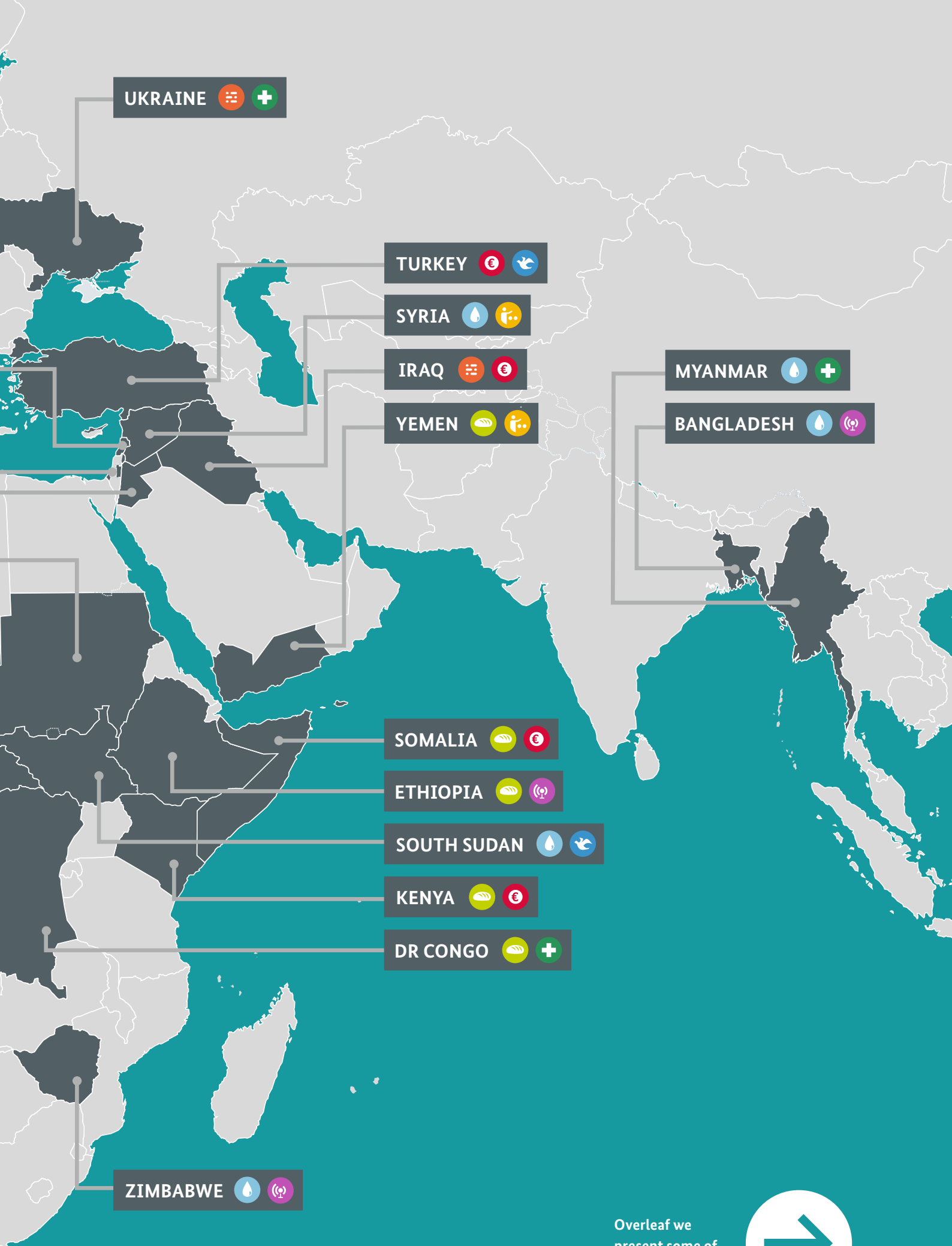
Health



Food and nutrition security



Disaster risk management



UKRAINE



TURKEY



SYRIA



IRAQ



YEMEN



MYANMAR



BANGLADESH



SOMALIA



ETHIOPIA



SOUTH SUDAN



KENYA



DR CONGO



ZIMBABWE



Overleaf we
present some of
our projects.





HAITI

ARBEITER-SAMARITER-BUND DEUTSCHLAND (ASB) PROTECTION FROM NATURAL DISASTERS AND FAMINE

Storms, earthquakes, flooding – few countries are so vulnerable to natural disasters as Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Climate change means that extreme weather events are set to become more frequent and more intense. And Haiti's government is barely able to provide its people with any effective protection. The devastating earthquake that hit the country in 2010 cost more than 200,000 people their lives. On behalf of the BMZ, and in close cooperation with local authorities, the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (the Workers' Samaritan Federation) is thus working to strengthen the resilience of people living in rural areas. Roads and bridges are being repaired and solid school buildings erected, where people can shelter from storms. School children and teachers are learning what to do in an emergency, with evacuation drills and first aid courses. New school gardens are helping provide a more balanced diet for the often malnourished school children. The measures are benefiting 170,000 people.

Priority areas:



School children and their parents are learning about new cropping methods, and how to store and preserve food.

Training for midwives and health service professionals means that women have access to ante- and post-natal care locally.



MYANMAR

MALTESER INTERNATIONAL FOR A HEALTHY LIFE IN EASTERN MYANMAR

Some 110,000 internally displaced persons live in camps and temporary settlements in the embattled east of Myanmar. Most of them have no access to safe water or medical care. Malaria is widespread, as are diarrhoeal and respiratory diseases, which cost many children their lives. Storms, flooding and landslides further compound their distress during the rainy season. On behalf of the BMZ, Malteser International is working with the local authorities and villagers to build health centres, train health service staff and equip schools with latrines and safe drinking water. To boost their self-help potential, the measure is helping local people set up committees that are then responsible for maintaining the new infrastructure. Parallel to this, health and hygiene campaigns are being organised; one focus is the prevention of diarrhoeal diseases. More than 21,000 people have already benefitted from the measures.

Priority areas:   

School children in Timbuktu
enjoy a nutritious lunch.




SAHEL REGION

UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP) SAHEL RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

Almost five million people in the Sahel Region suffer long-term food insecurity. The region is struggling to cope with recurrent droughts, political instability, limited access to basic services and high population growth. Together, the BMZ and the World Food Programme (WFP) devised the Sahel Resilience Initiative, which aims to sustainably improve the food and nutrition situation and livelihoods of the people in Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Chad. 730,000 people in 850 villages have already benefitted from the measures. For instance, 350,000 women and men have restored over 10,000 hectares of farmland, built 155 wells and created 53 water and fishponds. They receive temporary cash transfers for their work, enabling them to feed their families, and strengthening local markets. 250,000 children also receive nutritious meals at school. In parallel training courses teachers, school kitchen staff and school children themselves learn how to handle food hygienically. In the long term, the five-year initiative is to reduce the region's need for external assistance and enable the people to meet their own needs independently.

Priority areas:



A woman with a headscarf and a striped shirt is holding a tomato plant in a field. The background shows other vegetables like cabbages and carrots.

Tomatoes, cabbage, carrots, onions and leeks: hitherto unknown vegetables are enriching the menu, and they also sell well at market.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

OXFAM DEUTSCHLAND

FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY, DRINKING WATER AND REFORESTATION

Forest clearance in the highlands of the Democratic Republic of the Congo mean that heavy rains regularly wash away fertile soil or even entire harvests. To counter the threat of famine, Oxfam is distributing seed and agricultural equipment to the most vulnerable families, as well as training them to use efficient cropping methods. They now produce their own, climate-appropriate seed and grow a variety of crops including potatoes and beans. This gives them a more balanced diet and allows them to sell their surplus at market. As well as preventing acute emergencies, Oxfam is addressing other problems in the region: with the help of the local people, fences are being built around water sources, protecting them from contamination. This is preventing diarrhoeal diseases, which are often fatal for children. Energy-saving stoves not only reduce respiratory diseases, but also use 70 per cent less fuelwood, reducing the workload of women and girls, who are traditionally responsible for gathering wood. In addition, 350,000 trees are being planted to counter deforestation.

Priority areas:





More than 17,000 people have received treatment in the mobile health stations. Food, nutrition and health advisory services have already done much to improve the health of women and children.



SOMALIA

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ) SECURING FOOD AND NUTRIITON, IMPROVING HYGIENE, CREATING JOBS

Almost thirty years of civil war, recurrent drought and brutal expulsions have brought famine, poverty and death to Somalia. The port of Kismayo in the south of the country is now considered to be relatively safe. This is where internally displaced people seek refuge, along with those who have returned home from what was until recently the world's largest refugee camp in Kenya. But even in Kismayo there is a lack of safe drinking water, medical care and jobs. Many people, especially children and women, are undernourished or malnourished. Poor hygiene results in regular outbreaks of diseases. On behalf of the BMZ, GIZ is thus advising the Somali Ministry of Energy and Water Resources on ways of establishing reliable water supplies in Kismayo. More than 1,200 households already receive water for washing free of charge. Latrines have been built, education campaigns run to prevent cholera, and soap distributed. To raise people's incomes, cash for work measures have been introduced. Women and men plant trees, repair roads and raise hens. Particularly vulnerable women and mothers also take part in sewing and baking training, learn how to make soap, and how to run a small business. This has spawned more than 100 small businesses, which generate a sustainable income for their founders and for the employees. All in all, the project has so far benefitted more than 50,000 children, women and men.

Priority areas:    

People working in the construction sector are being trained to modify their construction planning to ensure the buildings can be used by people with disabilities.



PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL E.V.

BARRIER-FREE RECONSTRUCTION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Airstrikes in the Gaza Strip repeatedly destroy buildings and public infrastructure. The population has only very limited access to food, water, electricity and medical care. This affects some 120,000 people with disabilities particularly badly. The BMZ is thus promoting a Handicap International project that aims to modify and rebuild infrastructure such that people with disabilities can use the facilities without assistance as far as possible. There is a focus on barrier-free access to health and rehabilitation centres. To ensure that people with disabilities and other people in need of protection can receive medical care in an emergency, about 100 employees of local non-governmental organisations are being given the training they need. 250 volunteers are also being trained to help people with restricted mobility in crises.

Priority areas:



Reconstruction work at a school is giving these young men a temporary income, while also improving learning conditions for school children.



IRAQ


DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ) ACCESS TO SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALL

The outbreak of the crisis in Syria and the advances of the so-called Islamic State triggered an enormous flow of refugees into Northern Iraq. More than 1.4 million internally displaced Iraqis and some 235,000 Syrian refugees still live in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The infrastructure in the host communities is not strong enough to meet the needs of all these people. On behalf of the BMZ, GIZ is thus supporting local authorities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Together, wells and water supply systems are being built, health centres put up, and hospitals extended. This is giving both refugees and the local people better access to safe water, primary medical care and psychosocial counselling. The measures are benefitting over 1.7 million people.

In addition to this, 4.4 million internally displaced persons have returned to the areas now liberated from the so-called Islamic State. GIZ on behalf of the BMZ is thus also helping create prospects for returnees in the areas destroyed by fighting. Health and education infrastructure in the governorate of Nineveh in Northern Central Iraq is being rebuilt and livelihoods, in particular in agricultural production, are being revived. Parallel to this, the peaceful co-existence of all religious and ethnic groups in the area is being fostered.

Priority areas:





Some 4,500 families of children with disabilities have received financial and medical support.



SYRIA

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF) EDUCATION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES GENERATE PROSPECTS OF A BETTER FUTURE

Civil war has raged in Syria since 2011, resulting in one of the largest refugee movements anywhere in the world at present. Of the 18 million people who have remained in Syria, it is estimated that 13.5 million are now dependent on external assistance. Children suffer most. Many schools have been attacked and destroyed. Thousands of school children have been killed, injured or traumatised. The BMZ-financed UNICEF project has already provided psychological care for 100,000 children and young people. 100,000 children can go to school again and 50,000 young people are being trained for a variety of occupations. This is designed to prevent children and young people growing up with no prospects of a decent future. In Eastern Aleppo, 61,000 people have been educated about the risks posed by mines and unexploded ordnance, to mitigate the risk of fatal accidents.

Priority areas:





“I fled from Syria with my children to get away from the war. Life in Lebanon is hard and expensive, but since I learned to preserve vegetables in a course for Lebanese and Syrian women, I can sell my products at market. With the money I earn, I can send my children to school and pay the rent.”

AMRA K., LEBANON



“I can hardly believe so much has changed. Since I have been growing vegetables with some of the other women from here, we have so much food we can even sell some at market. But the biggest change for me is the respect I enjoy locally as president of our farming group. The last few years have been terrible, but today I can genuinely say that I am happy.”

AREK D., SOUTH SUDAN



“In our village almost everyone works as day labourers for rice farmers in other villages. We use our wages to buy rice. Before we never used to grow our own vegetables. We bought them from a travelling salesman; that was really expensive. At training courses I learned to make my own vegetable garden, and how I can use a composting tank to make my own fertiliser. I share the fertiliser with my neighbours and advise them how to improve their crops. Now our harvest is enough for the whole family.”

TIN O., MYANMAR



“I used to have no money to send my children to school. But then I had the opportunity to be part of a cash for work project. With the money I earned I was able to open a small restaurant. Now my children no longer need to go to bed hungry and I can take them to the doctor if they are sick. At last I no longer need to be ashamed in front of my children.”

NIMCO M. H., SOMALIA



“I hope that the situation here in Iraq improves and that we can all live together in peace. We have so many problems. Jobs and basic services are in short supply, and we don’t have enough water or electricity. But now I helped renovate a school in our village. With the money I earned, I can buy food and clothes for my family.”

SAIDO D. R., NORTHERN IRAQ

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