

SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER GLOBALLY

For 60 years now, Germany's development policy has been a successful policy of cooperation. It has, in this way, created a network of partnerships across the world, forging mutual trust, surviving political change and providing the scope to continue working even during times of crisis. In a period of global upheaval, this unique strength is invaluable. But as the world changes, development policy must change also. Just weeks after taking office Germany's Development Minister, Reem Alabali Radovan, launched a process of root-and-branch reform aimed at better reflecting current geopolitical and economic realities and actively shaping the way forward.

The results of that reform process can now be presented. They build on decades of development policy experience whilst at the same time marking the start of a new phase of German development policy – not disruption but rather a bold step towards clear change, prioritisation and deprioritisation. The reforms will make German development policy **more strategic, more focused** and more **partnership-based**.

Development policy will be more strategic because the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) will increasingly differentiate between different forms of cooperation. As a rule, cooperation with emerging economies will in future be in the form of repayable loans. Budget funds will mainly be deployed where they are truly needed, in the least developed countries (LDCs). In those countries, the BMZ will focus on fighting poverty, hunger and inequality. A new governance model will be put in place with clear political targets, streamlined strategies and improved monitoring and evidence.

Development policy will become **more focused** because the BMZ will increasingly target its resources. That targeting applies to both regional priorities and priority issues and sectors. Focusing does not mean relinquishing responsibility. It means discharging that responsibility more effectively – guided by a clear political strategy.

German development policy will become **more partnership-based** because **we at the BMZ want** our cooperation with the Global South to be more on an equal footing: respectful, reliable, honest. Partnership

also means, however, being clearer about our own interests. Partnership-based development policy means being guided by clear values while also focusing strategically on German interests. That is the foundation of credible and effective international cooperation.

In the overhaul of German development policy, four overarching goals have been defined that set the framework for official German development cooperation.

Ending hunger, poverty and inequality

The key purpose of development policy is to end hunger, poverty and inequality. One focus is on children and young people.

- The BMZ will focus more of its budget on nutrition and hunger. Cooperation in the field of food security will concentrate on regions of Africa particularly affected by hunger and poverty.
- It has launched a new initiative on early years nutrition which supports school meals programmes and maternal and child health in the first 1,000 days of children's lives.
- The BMZ will be stepping up its work on water, sanitation, hygiene and irrigation, building on Germany's expertise in these fields.
- German development cooperation is improving children's education, health and prospects for the future.

Peace and stability – promoting security over the long term

Development policy is a central pillar of Germany's security and peace policy. The BMZ is working towards stabilising countries in crisis, preventing new crises and defusing existing ones. It also contributes its viewpoint to the German government's new National Security Council.

- In regional terms, the BMZ's work on peace and stability will be concentrated on its European neighbourhood, the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa), the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

- The BMZ will support refugees in host countries in these regions. The focus will be on the main drivers of refugee movements: war, armed conflict and forced displacement.
- The BMZ will support reconstruction in Syria, Ukraine and, when the situation allows, Gaza. The German private sector, civil society and municipalities will be brought on board in these efforts.
- The BMZ will expand its cooperation with Germany's Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of Defence. A new working unit will bring together analysis, crisis early warning and strategic foresight.

Facilitating economic cooperation for sustainable and equitable growth

As a large industrialised country and major exporter, Germany depends on reliable international partnerships. That is why the BMZ is making economic co-operation with the Global South one of its strategic focuses. The aim is to build partnerships that benefit all concerned.

- The Action Plan "Strong partnerships for a sustainable and resilient global economy" sets out to strengthen the dialogue with the private sector.
- The BMZ aims to facilitate market access for German businesses, including small and medium-sized businesses. Measures will include specially adapted funding and tendering instruments.
- There will be a focus on supporting the sustainable mining and exploitation of critical raw materials and the supply of those materials for green transformation.
- The BMZ's approach is centred on sustainable economic development and local value creation in our partner countries.
- We will support partner countries in implementing and observing human rights standards and labour, social and environmental standards.

Strengthening strategic alliances for global solutions and the multilateral system

Key to the BMZ's approach is strong international co-operation and a multilateral system capable of delivering. Germany and Europe play a prominent leading role in this. This is coupled with incorporating and supporting the interests of the Global South.

- The BMZ plans to establish a development policy North-South Commission.
- Multilateral institutions will be strengthened and reform champions supported.
- Strategic alliances will be forged and strengthened, including with Gulf states.
- The BMZ is championing a just international financial architecture and promoting innovative financing models.
- Multilateral climate and health initiatives will be prioritised and, at the same time, reformed.
- The BMZ's activities in the health sector will be primarily implemented through multilateral cooperation.

Civil society organisations will remain key partners for the BMZ and are to play an even greater role in implementing the overarching goals.

The various procedures, instruments and processes used in German development cooperation will also be completely modernised. Our aim is greater efficiency, less bureaucracy and more streamlined rules and procedures.

This reform marks the start of a new phase in German development policy that pursues political goals, adopts clear priorities and defines shared interests together with partners.

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