



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



German Government and Federal States Programme

Jointly for sustainable development

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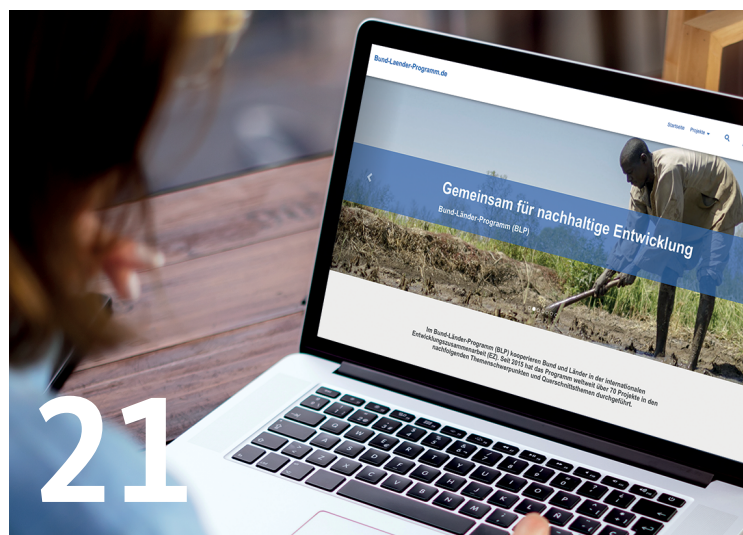
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Interview with Gerlinde Sauer, BMZ: Eight years of the German Government and Federal States Programme – developments and achievements



Gerlinde Sauer, Senior policy advisor, Division G 43 Federal States and Municipalities, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

The German Government and Federal States Programme was launched in 2015. What does BMZ think about how the programme has developed since?

Gerlinde Sauer: Traditionally, Germany's federal states have engaged in their own cooperative activities with partner countries in the Global South. Based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the 2030 Agenda, and following intensive consultations with the federal states, we devised the German Government and Federal States Programme so that together we can provide even better support for our partners on the ground as they move towards the goals of the 2030 Agenda, in the spirit of SDG 17. We built on the existing engagement of the federal states and systematically involved new specialist institutions and actors from these states. This has enabled us to address challenges together as they arise, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

In our view, another important element of the Programme is to build capacities to enable the federal states to deliver effective and sustainable development cooperation, as well as piloting innovative and agile methods. We believe that it is this that has made our joint project approaches

increasingly effective. We are delighted to carry the successful model forward into a third phase of the project.

What factors are critical for the success of the joint engagement of the German Government and the federal states in development cooperation?

We feel that the work is particularly successful when the specific capacities of the federal states are harnessed, integrating them into the overall strategic framework of our bilateral development cooperation in partner countries. While GIZ's regional offices in Germany maintain contacts with partner institutions in the federal states, GIZ's field structure ensures close coordination with partner country institutions and links activities to ongoing technical cooperation projects. The Programme also offers the chance to take promising project approaches to the next level over several back-to-back project phases. These approaches can then be scaled up through cooperation with bilateral partner projects. What we get is a triple win situation, with benefits for all sides, which cannot generally be achieved in the same way with the traditional project structures of either BMZ or of the federal states alone.

A recent OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and development) study looks at the status of decentralised development cooperation in Germany, and the challenges it faces, as well as approaches that have proved successful in other OECD states. Why is it so important to see the big picture?

The increasing interest within the OECD in exploring decentralised development cooperation helps us make these instruments even more effective and strategic. This applies not only to the German Government and Federal States

Programme but also to support mechanisms for development cooperation at municipal level. The OECD study analyses the strengths and weaknesses of decentralised development cooperation in Germany, and identifies best practices in other OECD states, which provides valuable information. We would like to act on several recommendations from the OECD study, and discuss them with the federal states and municipalities in order to identify ways we can work together to put these into practice. The German Government and Federal States Programme has an important part to play in this.

Feminist foreign policy and feminist development cooperation currently send out a strong signal at political level. What does feminist development cooperation mean for work within the German Government and Federal States Programme and what opportunities do you think it offers partner countries?

The German Government and Federal States Programme has always taken systematic account of the lives and situation of women, helping achieve gender equality. A total of 24 projects have addressed aspects of gender equality since the programme began. Under the programme, training has also been provided for stakeholders in federal states and a serious game entitled *Gender – Next Level* has been developed. It is available online as a decentralised training resource for all federal states. The response has been very encouraging.

The feminist development policy presented by BMZ in March 2023 sets out guidelines for more systematically mainstreaming gender equality in development cooperation. The intention is to identify discriminatory structures in partner countries and address these in cooperation at project level, for instance by involving women in decision-making to a greater extent. This offers partner countries a huge opportunity, because a society can only develop sustainably if all people can collaborate on an equal footing. We thus aim to further increase the proportion of projects by the Programme that are designed to be gender-sensitive or gender-responsive.

Sustainable Development Goals

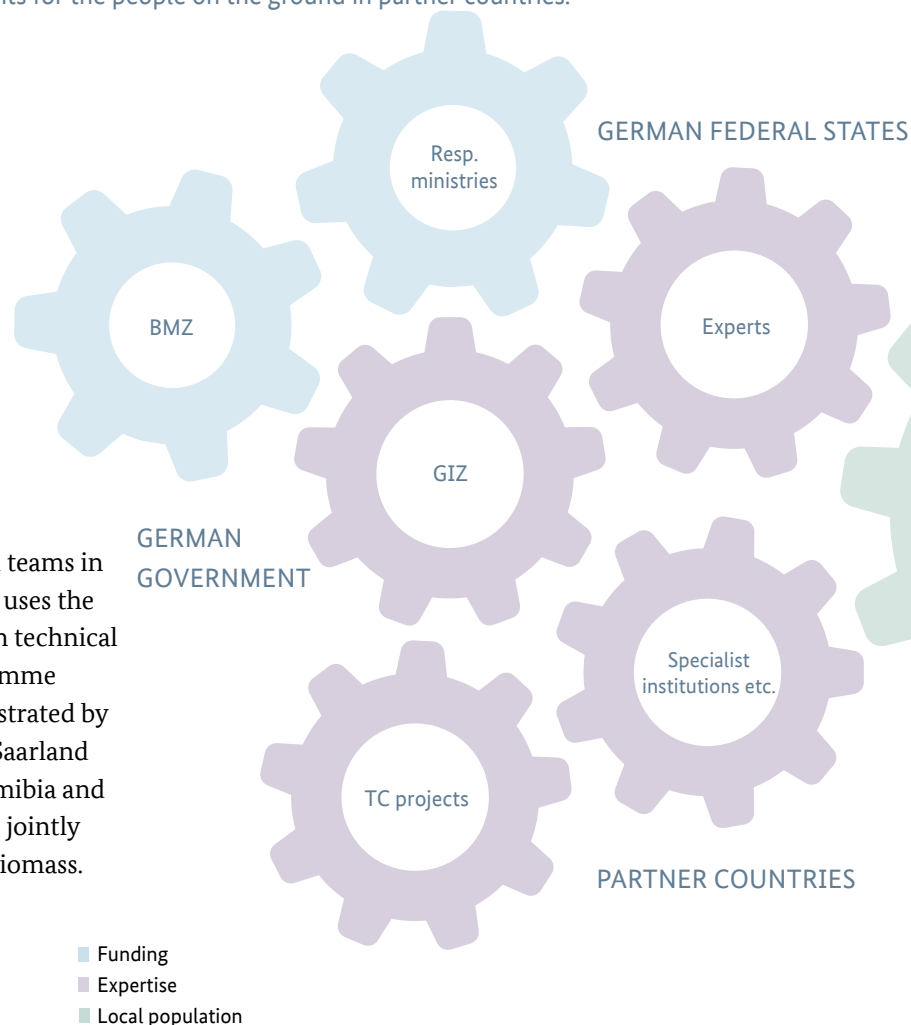


The German Government and Federal States Programme

Round the globe people benefit from the initiatives of the Programme, with its one overarching goal – driving forward development in partner countries and supporting people there. Many actors are involved in Germany's federal states, from state authorities and academic institutions to civil society groups and private companies. Together they complement the development cooperation activities of the German Government. The experience and capacities of this unique decentralised stakeholder landscape are interlocked in every programme component, helping achieve results. Find out more here about how the Programme dovetails the work of all parties involved, and how this maximises benefits for the people on the ground in partner countries.

The German Government

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) finances a large proportion of the German Government and Federal States Programme. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH implements the programme on its behalf via the Regional Office Germany-North in Hamburg, with the support of small teams in its three other regional offices in Germany. It uses the networks, structures and expertise of German technical cooperation in partner countries. The programme benefits from this interconnectedness, as illustrated by one project in Namibia, where experts from Saarland built on GIZ contacts at the University of Namibia and in Namibia's construction materials sector to jointly develop a construction panel made of bush biomass.



14,1

Mio. EUR



was invested by the German Federal Government between 2019 and 2023.

470.000

EUR



was the average total budget per project between 2019 and 2023.

The German federal states

The German Government and Federal States Programme brings together expertise and experience from Germany's federal states and passes this on to partner countries. The programme integrates the technical expertise and competence of private-sector, academic and civil society institutions and authorities in the projects. This effectively complements the development cooperation of the German Government. For example, in a project dedicated to expanding the use of renewable energy in Uganda, Ugandan decision-makers consulted with the village of Wildpoldsried in Bavaria, which is self-sufficient in energy, and with the OTH Regensburg (Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule Regensburg). To better protect water resources, the Dresden Groundwater Research Centre e.V. (DGFZ) shared its strategies with Peruvian regional authorities, while the Berlin-based association enpact e.V. organised communication between start-up ecosystems in Berlin and India. The German federal states provide a minimum of 40% of the funding for the projects. They also provide materials and equipment, working space and staff as required.

Target group

The German Government and Federal States Programme also organises network meetings to foster discussion among the partners involved in the programme. Training courses are offered to stakeholders in Germany, who learn more about various aspects of German development cooperation, such as objectives and challenges, effective planning and monitoring, and fostering gender equality.

13

German federal states



were actively involved in the German Government and Federal States Programme between 2019 and 2023.

5,5

Mio. EUR



was invested by German federal states between 2019 and 2023 including inputs in kind and specialist services.

64

partner institutions



from the German private sector, the science and research community and civil society contributed their expertise between 2019 and 2023.

30

projects



were implemented between 2019 and 2023.

20

partner countries



benefitted from the programme between 2019 and 2023.

The partner countries

The German Government and Federal States Programme implements projects around the world, improving people's lives in Africa, Asia, South America and South-East Europe. The expertise of partner institutions in German federal states allows projects to help protect the environment and climate, introduce renewable energy systems, and contribute to sustainable economic development, democratic structures and improved health care. Experts from Germany and partner countries engage as equals in discussion, maximising impacts. The collaboration of local ministries, businesses, specialist institutions and non-governmental organisations in the partner country is crucial for success. This ensures that the knowledge transfer is not only one-way, and that all actors benefit from knowledge sharing, first and foremost the local people in the partner country.

Priority areas

The German Government and Federal States Programme supports cooperation projects working in the fields of environment, climate and energy, sustainable economic development and governance. Since 2020 projects to enhance pandemic resilience have also been implemented. The German federal states have a wealth of experience in these areas, as they are responsible for implementing national legislation on the energy transition and devising state-specific measures, for example during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Environment, climate and energy

The German Government and Federal States Programme supports environmental protection and climate action as well as promoting sustainable energy supplies. People can only retain their income sources and protect their health if the environments that provide their livelihoods can be conserved in the long term. The projects in this area are thus not only beneficial in environmental terms but also economically and socially relevant. They also help prevent environmental crises, which

in turn plays a role in preventing climate-related displacement and migration. Between 2019 and 2023 the Programme implemented 10 projects in this priority area, including an intervention to protect groundwater in Peru with the help of expertise from Saxony, a measure to establish an e-cargo-bike infrastructure in South Africa with Bavarian support, and water resources management activities in Tanzania in conjunction with the German Management Academy of Lower Saxony.



This Bavarian-South African e-cargo-bike project will enable us to introduce a sustainable micro-logistics system in Stellenbosch, which will alleviate traffic congestion, reduce carbon emissions, and create much needed employment in the form of owner-driver opportunities for unemployed people. The project is catalysing local innovation and laying a pathway for future sustainable commuting.

Herman van der Merwe, Chairperson of Stellenbosch Entrepreneur & Enterprise Development (SEED), South Africa



Sustainable economic development

The German Government and Federal States Programme supports economic development in partner countries. An effective economy creates jobs, promotes innovation and boosts tax revenues, thus reducing poverty. Between 2019 and 2023 the Programme implemented 10 projects to promote sustainable economic development. They have trained actors in important sectors of the economy, including

vocational school teachers in Ethiopia and India, who have had the support of a training institute in Hesse, and employees of Tamale Technical University in Ghana, who have benefited from cooperation with universities in North Rhine-Westphalia. This has given numerous people, mostly the younger generation, better training and hence new opportunities, enabling them to look to the future more optimistically.



We hope that that the vocational training project between Hesse and India will enrich our employees' (trainers') experience with international best practice to help strengthen the quality of training on solar energy in our industrial training institutes.

Sanjay Kumar, ISDS Director, ISDS (Project & International Cooperation), DGT and MSDE, New Delhi, India



Governance

The German Government and Federal States Programme fosters democratic development, the establishment of citizen-responsive administrative structures and political participation. People want to be heard and to see that their ideas and convictions are taken into account in political decision-making. Authorities in federal states and municipalities play a pivotal role in this context. This is where citizens have direct dealings with the state, health care services and courts. Procedures and processes in German federal states and municipalities cannot be taken as a blueprint for partner countries, but

they can indicate methods and options for societies that aim to decentralise their political architecture and involve people to a greater extent in political processes.

From 2019 to 2023, the BLP implemented four projects in the field of governance. Experts from Schleswig-Holstein, for instance, improved the services available to minorities in the Western Balkans, while lecturers and local authority staff from Baden-Württemberg trained administrative staff in Tunisia in political participation processes.



In the Schleswig-Holstein-Western Balkans project, experience sharing, encounters, examples of best practices, workshops and discussions have developed new initiatives that have been implemented in line with local needs by municipal partners within the scope of joint projects. The goal was to step up participation and inclusion in the social, economic, cultural and political life of partner countries for especially disadvantaged groups.

Linda Pieper, State Chancellery of the State of Schleswig-Holstein



Pandemic resilience

The German Government and Federal States Programme helps address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2020, COVID-19 has posed a challenge around the globe for people, health services and the global socioeconomic situation and development.

This is why the German Government and Federal States Programme is implementing six projects in the health sector. The Programme is strengthening

structures and assisting experts in many countries, demonstrating how health care can be supported and maintained during pandemics. In Malawi a new infectious diseases unit is being established in cooperation with an association and a hospital in Thuringia, while experts from Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein are helping improve university training for the health sector in Namibia. Meanwhile collaboration with Saxony is helping strengthen a teaching hospital in Uganda.



Namibia's health system is facing a number of major challenges. Cooperation between the University of Namibia and the University of Bremen is strengthening training in public health at university level, and specific proposals are being drawn up to address urgent problems.

Prof. Dr. med. Hajo Zeeb, MSc, Leibniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology – BIPS GmbH



Working effectively – Priority area “environment, climate and energy”

Between 2019 and 2023 the German Government and Federal States Programme implemented 10 projects in the priority area environment, climate and energy. The wide-ranging expertise of German federal states and their specialist institutions was harnessed in fields such as groundwater protection and the development of renewable energy use.

Bavaria – Togo: New energy sources for agriculture

Agriculture is a mainstay of Togo's economy. Renewable energy can help make agriculture even more productive. Solar power can, for instance, be used to keep storage facilities for harvested produce cool. Bavarian experts supported 34 smallholders in Togo use renewable energy to improve the quality of their produce, make efficiency gains and reduce losses. Training in Togo and study trips to Bavaria have enabled participants to learn more about effective farm management, financing models and support available. A group of women also attended

a workshop to draw up specific plans for the use of solar energy in their businesses, and to strengthen the role of women in agriculture.



BMZ, Bavarian State Ministry
for Economic Affairs, Regional
Development and Energy



08/2021 – 10/2022



271.000 €

Bavaria – Tunisia: Green hydrogen for a green future

Tunisia offers ideal conditions for producing green hydrogen and is investing in this technology for a green future. However, the country also needs well trained experts. To this end, a Bavarian-Tunisian technology and innovation hub with its own exhibition area and auditorium has been established at the National School of Engineering (ENIT). It provides a forum for discussions between Tunisian students and German professors and engineers, and for lectures on green hydrogen. Four young Tunisian academics have received a

scholarship allowing them to spend three months conducting research at the Friedrich Alexander University in Nuremberg.

Specially tailored training services, a mentoring programme and a retreat in Bavaria specifically addressed Tunisian women working in the hydrogen sector.



BMZ, Bavarian State Chancellery



05/2022 – 05/2023



981.000 €



Lower Saxony – South Africa: Greater expertise to operate mini-grids in the long term*



The intensive solar radiation in South Africa can be harnessed to drive mini-grids, generating green electricity. This offers isolated communities a reliable power source, allowing them to use electric lighting after nightfall and refrigerate food. Upper Blinkwater is one such community. Since 2019, 57 households have gained access to a solar-powered

mini-grid. The initiative has even created new jobs, at the local joiner's for instance.

To ensure that the community can continue to rely on the power generated in the long term, staff of the local energy authority were trained by experts from Lower Saxony as part of the project. They now oversee the innovative technology and ensure it is properly maintained.



BMZ, Lower Saxony State
Chancellery, Lower Saxony State
Ministry for the Environment,
Energy and Climate Protection



11/2020 – 12/2022



139.000 €

Rhineland-Palatinate – Rwanda: Digital weather forecasting helps farmers

Climate change is making weather patterns less predictable, which is impacting on agriculture in Rwanda. Digital weather stations can supply reliable weather data and help farmers better plan their work, protect their crops and boost harvests. Building on the experience gained in Rhineland-Palatinate with digital agricultural meteorology, two additional digital weather stations have been established in Rwanda. German experts have undertaken advisory assignments in Rwanda, while Rwandan specialists have shadowed their counterparts in German meteorological

institutions, ensuring a transfer of knowledge that should enable farmers to adapt better to climate change.



BMZ, Ministry of Economy,
Transport, Agriculture and
Viticulture Rhineland-Palatinate



06/2021 – 05/2023



389.000 €



During our visit and discussions at the Rheinhessen-Nahe-Hunsrück Rural Services Centre in Rhineland-Palatinate we had great opportunities to get to grips with new technology in the field of agricultural meteorology, data gathering, quality control and the dissemination of meteorological information for farmers. This enabled us to improve the management of our own national climate database at Meteo Rwanda.

Herve Murenzi, Staff member (training participant) Meteo Rwanda, Rwanda

* The project built on results and partner structures from predecessor projects.





Working effectively – Priority area “sustainable economic development”

Between 2019 and 2023 the German Government and Federal States Programme implemented 10 projects in the priority area sustainable economic development. They drew on the wide-ranging expertise of German federal states, especially in the field of technical and vocational education and training. The contributions of specialist institutions in the federal states were of paramount importance.

Berlin – India: Making urban mobility climate-friendly



reducing these levels, this project brought German and Indian start-ups together with experts from India's transport authorities and private companies. Together they devised solutions for attractive, climate-sound, urban mobility options. These proposals, including hydrogen-powered vehicles, were presented as part of a call for ideas, and further developed at a design sprint workshop in India. The question of ensuring the safety of women and transgender people in local public transport was also addressed. The best ideas are being pursued by the relevant actors in India.

Start-ups are seen as an important driver of development and progress. As well as creating jobs, they help innovative ideas and modern technologies become established. The mobility sector in India is one of the beneficiaries. Traffic on India's roads causes extremely high levels of CO₂ and particulate matter. To develop ideas for



BMZ, Berlin Senate Department
for Economic Affairs, Energy
and Public Enterprises



03/2022 – 05/2023



418.000 €



Every modern metropolis faces the challenge of making urban mobility both attractive and environmentally sound. Start-ups can help with their innovative ideas. That is why we are encouraging knowledge sharing like this, with a special focus on our Indian partners.“

Stephan Schwarz, Former Senator for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises, Berlin

North Rhine-Westphalia – North Macedonia: Better career chances for young people

North Macedonia is struggling with both a shortage of skilled workers and high youth unemployment. The project partners from North Rhine-Westphalia addressed both of these issues simultaneously. They offered 30 young North Macedonians the chance to attend a technical seminar and undertake an internship in Germany. These young adults were given an insight into practical working life, thus improving their chances of finding appropriate employment. Following the programme, the participants completed an online course on applying for jobs. This proved highly effective: immediately after taking part in the programme,

about 30% of the participants found a job in North Macedonia commensurate with their qualifications. North Macedonian companies are also benefiting from their international experience.



BMZ, State Chancellery of North Rhine-Westphalia, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia



06/2021 – 03/2023



784.000 €



I was part of the GIZ programme for young professionals from Macedonia and had the opportunity to undertake an internship with SAP in Germany, a major IT company. I am also proud to say that, at the final programme event, my group won second place for our business plan for an app targeting children with reading difficulties, or dyslexia.

Ana Atanasova, IT engineer, participant

Saarland – Namibia: Putting bush biomass to use*

Encroaching bushes in Namibia are estimated to contain about 200 million tonnes of wood biomass – the resource at the heart of this project. Research scientists from Namibia and the Saarland explored ways of using bush biomass, killing not two but three birds with one stone. When the timber is broken down and pressed, it can provide Namibia's construction industry with a renewable construction material, while freeing up farmland from the encroaching bush, and also creating jobs.

Laboratory facilities have enabled Namibia to gain the expertise it needs to inspect and certify construction panels like this independently in future. This CO₂-friendly product can now be manufactured in Namibia.



BMZ, Ministry for Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digital Affairs and Energy, Saarland



04/2020 – 07/2022



422.000 €



*The project built on results and partner structures from predecessor projects.

Cooperation projects of the German Government and Federal States Programme (2015 – 2023)

16

German federal
states

72

measures

29

partner
countries

Under the German Government and Federal States Programme, BMZ and the German federal states together support project approaches that foster strategic cooperation on specific issues, supporting to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda in the partner countries of German development cooperation.

Mexico

Colombia

Peru

The above map does not necessarily reflect the position of the Federal German Government in terms of international law. It does not constitute any statement on contested territorial claims.





Working effectively – Priority area “governance”

From 2019 to 2023, the German Government and Federal States Programme worked with German federal states in four projects in the field of governance. The citizen-responsiveness and administrative expertise of German federal states are especially valuable here, and were leveraged in project implementation in combination with the technical expertise of partners in the federal states.

Saxony – Mozambique: Making mining safer*

Accidents in Mozambique’s industrial mining sector have been reduced by some 17% in recent years. The trend is partly attributable to the engagement of experts from Saxony. For years Saxony has been supporting the mining authorities in this East African country, based on expertise born of its own mining tradition and the Freiberg Geo-Cluster (GKZ Freiberg), which operates as a knowledge network. Saxony has trained mining inspectors and helped found the National Centre for Mining Safety, Mine Rescue and Gas Protection Services. In this way it helps establish citizen-responsible administrative structures in Mozambique, especially by working at local level with the National Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (MIREME) and the downstream Inspector General of Mineral Resources and Energy (IGREME).

This project has driven forward additional activities to help Mozambique implement

international occupational health and safety standards in mining. With the Dresden explosives training centre, experts from Mozambique have received advanced training and training has been set up in Mozambique for explosives officers. New guidelines record and analyse the risks at over 80 older mining locations. Accident and rescue plans for Mozambique’s mining companies have also raised employees’ awareness by 80% of the importance of occupational health and safety.



BMZ, State Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour and Transport;
Saxon Mining Office



03/2020 – 06/2022



863.000 €



Thanks to the support from Germany and the Free State of Saxony, IGREME has been able to establish itself as a recognised institution for mining safety in Mozambique, with its training centre (ZBGG). It now has legal and technical autonomy, highly qualified staff and tried-and-tested instruments, as well as an expanding range of services for the country’s mining companies. The inspectors have been applying their newly acquired knowledge, resulting in better compliance with legal provisions and thus greater safety in Mozambique’s mining sector.

Obete Matine, General Inspector, Inspector General of Mineral Resources and Energy (IGREME), Mozambique

* The project built on results and partner structures from predecessor projects.

Schleswig-Holstein – Western Balkans: Equal rights for all*



Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia aim to join the European Union. Before accession though, one of the things they must ensure is that all sections of civil society are treated equally. This means that minorities like Roma and members of the LGBTI* community have the same economic, social and cultural rights as everyone else. Partner institutions from Schleswig-Holstein supported the Western Balkan states in efforts to eradicate the disadvantages suffered by minorities. The internationally recognised approaches used in Schleswig-Holstein served as a template, which was then tailored to the

specific situation in each country. Administrative staff in the Western Balkan states attended four training units in which they learned more about diversity management. This was also discussed by 50 participants at a regional event in Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia. Eleven Western Balkan representatives undertook a study trip to Schleswig-Holstein and saw first-hand what the approaches look like in practice. The trip also provided another opportunity for discussion among equals.



BMZ, State Chancellery of the
State of Schleswig-Holstein;
Ministry of General Education and Vocational
Training, Science, Research and Culture of the
State of Schleswig-Holstein



04/2022 – 03/2023



254.000 €

Baden-Württemberg – Tunisia: Modern structures for a citizen-responsive service*

Tunisian administrative staff face the challenge of developing services for citizens at local level. Baden-Württemberg gave students at the Ecole National d'Administration de Tunis (ENA) practical insights into the duties that awaited them. A six-week course, that had to be completely replanned and moved online because of the COVID-19 pandemic, gave 49 students an understanding of how political participation processes are organised in Baden-Württemberg. One example was how the state engages with citizen action groups. Practical case studies and discussion with local politicians and ministry representatives helped them develop

this understanding, and transfer the processes in an appropriate form to their own future work in Tunisia. Tomorrow's administrative decision-makers were thus inspired to work towards modern, citizen-responsible administrative structures.



BMZ, State Ministry of
Baden-Württemberg



12/2019 – 03/2022



153.000 €



Using concrete examples from Baden-Württemberg, prospective administrative officers are shown how democracy and good governance can be put into practice in Tunisia.

Timo Peters, State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg

* The project built on results and partner structures from predecessor projects.





Working effectively – Priority area “pandemic resilience”

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the German Government and Federal States Programme used BMZ special funding to implement six pandemic resilience projects with the German federal states. Projects drew on the experience and the professional expertise of medical and scientific facilities in German federal states, to help sustainably strengthen health systems in partner countries.

Thuringia – Malawi: Better protection from infectious diseases

The intensive care unit of Zomba Central Hospital in Malawi has four beds, although the hospital serves an area that is home to 4.6 million people. This vividly illustrates the difficulties facing medical staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. This project was able to improve the situation in Zomba and harness expertise from Thuringia. To isolate patients with infectious conditions from other patients, both physically and organisationally, a new infectious diseases unit was built, providing space for 30 beds. Some 350 Malawian doctors and nurses also learned more about infectious diseases, hygiene and infection control from German experts.

Hospital staff and patients in Zomba, and employees of other health facilities, learned about symptoms, consequences and ways of protecting against highly infectious diseases. This is not only relevant in the context of COVID-19, since Malawi regularly faces outbreaks of highly infectious diseases.



BMZ, Thuringia State Chancellery



11/2020 – 05/2023



1.200.000 €



The new hospital buildings and upgrading for our staff, but more than anything else this partnership with our German colleagues from Thuringia and from GIZ are a huge support for Zomba Central Hospital, and are helping consistently improve patient care. The new infectious diseases unit allows us to treat far more patients in a much more targeted way. I am certain that support from Germany has also played a part in the decision taken by our Government, to grant central hospitals greater autonomy in future. This gives us more scope to develop additional services for the people in the region.

Dr. Saulos Nyirenda, Director of Zomba Central Hospital, Malawi

Hesse – Viet Nam: Virus early warning system protects more people



In Germany as in Viet Nam, testing wastewater samples can help detect viruses in communities. Over several waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, this method emerged as a useful tool to detect outbreaks at an early stage in Germany. In Viet Nam

there is also interest in this method. Laboratory staff at the Vietnamese-German University learned more about molecular-biological measurements from research scientists from Hesse – from analysing wastewater to interpreting the data gathered and producing recommendations for action. Their new expertise and the laboratory equipment procured now allow them to conduct their own tests.



BMZ, Hessian Ministry
of Economics, Energy, Transport
and Housing



11/2021 – 05/2023



513.000 €



Bremen – Namibia: Improving the health service

Although Namibia has been investing for years in its health infrastructure and health research, the COVID-19 pandemic made it clear that diagnostic and epidemiological capacities must be expanded to allow the country to take effective action when acute crises strike.

To this end, the partner institutions from Bremen supported Namibia's health sector become better prepared for epidemics and pandemics. The experts also upgraded a bio-safety laboratory at the University of Namibia. New laboratory equipment was procured and is now available for teaching at the university. In this way, students and staff can work on COVID-19, tuberculosis and drug resistance within the framework of research, teaching and professional development. The project builds on the

long-standing partnership between the University of Namibia (UNAM) and the University of Bremen. Cooperation was stepped up with joint lectures for students from both countries, in-service training for teaching staff and curriculum revision. At the end of the project, more than 140 participants from Namibia, Southern Africa and Europe discussed measures to address tuberculosis and COVID-19 at an international symposium.



BMZ, Free Hanseatic City of
Bremen, Senate Chancellery



09/2021 – 05/2023



626.000 €

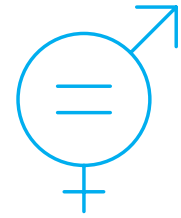


A resilient, sustainable health system needs excellently trained public health specialists. The Bremen-Namibia resilience project is building evidence-based, practice-oriented teaching at the University of Namibia.

Prof. Dr. Benjamin Schüz, University of Bremen, Faculty 11 (Human and Health Sciences)/Institute of Public Health and Nursing Research (Prevention and Health Promotion)



Gender equality



The German Government and Federal States Programme incorporates gender in its projects in many ways. The aim is to give particular attention to the needs of women and other disadvantaged sections of the population. Supporting women-led enterprises is one example of this. This contributes to the German Government's feminist development cooperation. It generates employment, strengthens gender equality and drives the emancipation of disadvantaged groups.

Women farmers in Togo: Boosting harvests

Women entrepreneurs in Togo discovered as part of their cooperation with Bavaria how to use renewable energy in agriculture to improve their results. The group included 15 women who attended a workshop in Togo's capital to discuss how they can better assert themselves in the traditionally male-dominated agricultural sector (see page 10).



BMZ, Bavarian State Ministry for Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy



GIZ, Women Engage for a Common Future e.V. in cooperation with the TC project "Rural Electrification" in Togo

Ethiopian experts and managers: Support in everyday work

Ethiopian women working in administrative posts in vocational schools and ministries were given an insight into German school management and the dual vocational training system. Training taught them to make better use of their strengths to open up new career opportunities and how to pass on their newly acquired knowledge to other women and girls in Ethiopia.



BMZ, Hessian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing



GIZ, Hessian Institute for Advanced Training in Technology (HLFT) in cooperation with the TC project "Sustainable Training and Education (STEP)" in Ethiopia

Indian women business founders: More support for women

Training sessions showed multipliers in India how to support and design new programmes for women business founders. In future, this will enable hundreds of women founders to access training. Indian women setting up tech companies found out about Berlin's start-up ecosystem, were given introductions to Asian networks, and attended international start-up conferences. Women entrepreneurs with a tech focus and the ambition to grow their businesses took part in training and advisory services provided by the Berlin Landing Pad Programme, with immediate success – two participants expanded their businesses to Berlin and Vienna following the programme.



BMZ, Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises of the State of Berlin



GIZ, enpact e.V. in cooperation with the TC project "Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start-ups by Women" in India

Serious game: Understanding feminist development policy through a game

This serious game brings together two important issues in development cooperation projects: digital learning, and involving and strengthening women and marginalised sections of the population. On their monitors, gamers experience themselves the obstacles that women and marginalised groups around the world need to overcome every day, in order to have a say in





The digital way forward

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was often impossible to study and work together as planned. Face-to-face meetings moved online, under the German Government and Federal States Programme as elsewhere. To bring together the German federal states and their partners in the best possible way, the Programme commissioned developers to produce a dedicated digital communication platform. Project rooms offer space for virtual delegation missions, events, workshops and training, as well as sharing documents. The platform uses the Open Source tool BigBlueButton, which also works well in partner countries as it uses limited bandwidth.

Online events replace study trips

A study trip to Schleswig-Holstein had been organised to show 14 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia ways of enhancing the rights of disadvantaged groups. Instead, a three-day online event was held, giving participants an insight into the work of the Minorities Commissioner in Schleswig-Holstein and the various relevant institutions. They became familiar with established practices and identified ways of adapting these to their own regional contexts. Within the scope of an e-academy, some 100 people shared their views in a webinar rather than at the regional conference originally planned.

 *BMZ, Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture of the State of Schleswig-Holstein*

 *GIZ, Federal Union of European Nationalities in cooperation with the TC project "Social Inclusion of Disadvantaged Groups" in the Western Balkans*

Online learning rather than in-person internships

Instead of completing internships in Germany as planned, 49 Tunisian students from the Ecole National d'Administration de Tunis (ENA) attended an online autumn school. With the support of Kehl University of Applied Sciences and tutors, they spent six weeks studying case studies of political participation in Baden-Württemberg and developing projects to transfer what they had learned to their future working life in Tunisia. They held online discussions with local politicians and ministry representatives, and took part in a virtual cultural programme and intercultural training (see page 17).


 *BMZ, State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg*

 *GIZ, Kehl University of Applied Sciences in cooperation with the TC project "German-Tunisian Academy for Good Governance" in Tunisia*

Blended Learning

Teaching staff learned about solar energy to incorporate this in teaching at technical vocational schools in India. When no in-person training was possible, courses moved online. To test their newly acquired skills practically, in spite of the digital format, participants received a solar training case from the Hessian Institute for Advanced Training in Technology (HLFT). Hybrid events brought training participants together at local level, where they engaged in online discussions with German experts.

 *BMZ, Hessian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing*

 *GIZ, Hessian Institute for Advanced Training in Technology (HLFT) in cooperation with the TC project „Indo-German Programme for Vocational Education and Training“ in India*

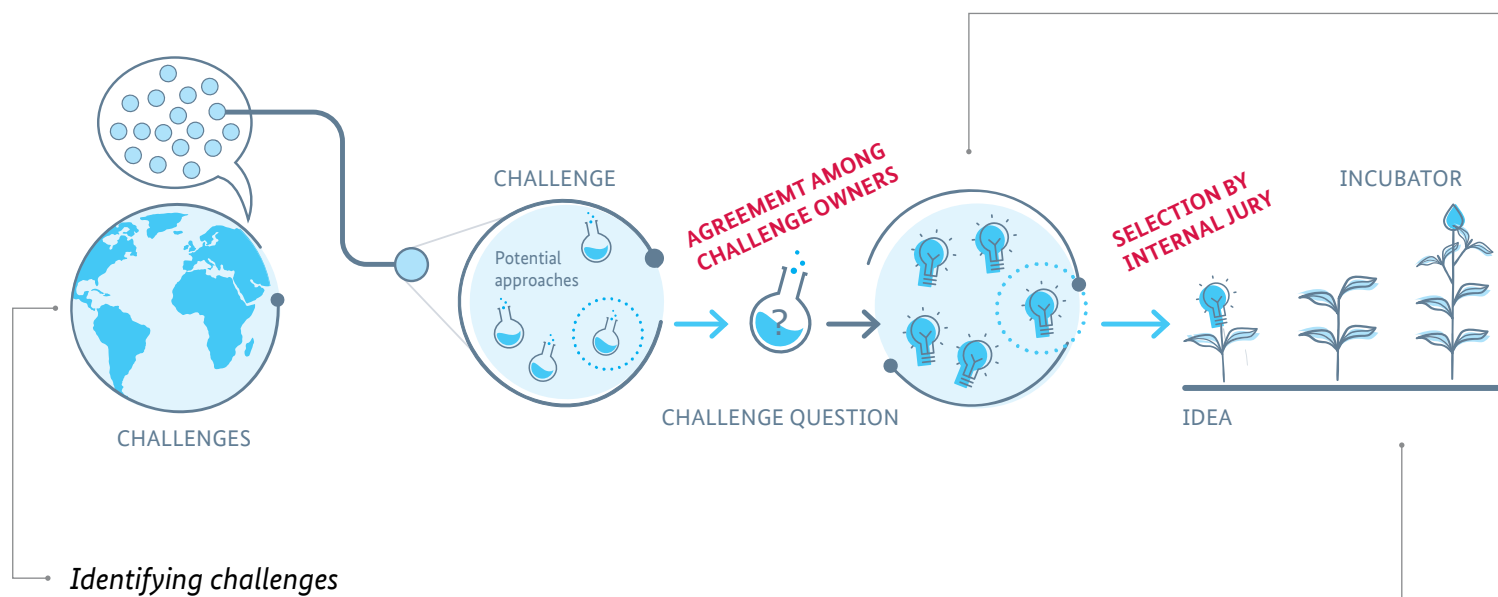
→ Scan here to open the game.



decision-making processes. With this new awareness and knowledge about the pitfalls along the way, managers can better plan and implement their projects – in line with BMZ's feminist development cooperation.

Decentralised Development Lab

The Decentralised Development Lab – or DDLab as it is known – was launched in 2021 as an innovative, user-centred innovation promotion project. The programme initially worked with creative partners around the world to identify the challenges currently facing efforts to achieve sustainable development. Over a twelve-month period, the DDLab then supported trans-national teams engaged in devising solutions to some of these challenges in international cooperation.



At the start of 2021 the German Government and Federal States Programme invited the German federal states and their international partners to submit examples of issues that will determine the future of sustainable development. A jury then selected four issues, on the basis of a number of criteria including innovative potential and expected development. Experts from Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Rhineland-Palatinate and Schleswig-Holstein worked with partners from Indonesia, Peru, Rwanda and Ukraine and came up with the following questions on the four relevant issues:

- › **Electric mobility**
How can we support (public- and private-sector) investment in electric buses and the relevant infrastructure?
- › **Inclusive digitalisation of administration**
How can we make active citizen participation for disadvantaged groups more inclusive?
- › **Mangrove-friendly aquaculture**
How can smallholders be involved in the development of mangrove-friendly aquaculture?
- › **Female entrepreneurship in rural areas**
How can we tap the potential of female entrepreneurs for the green and digital future of rural areas?

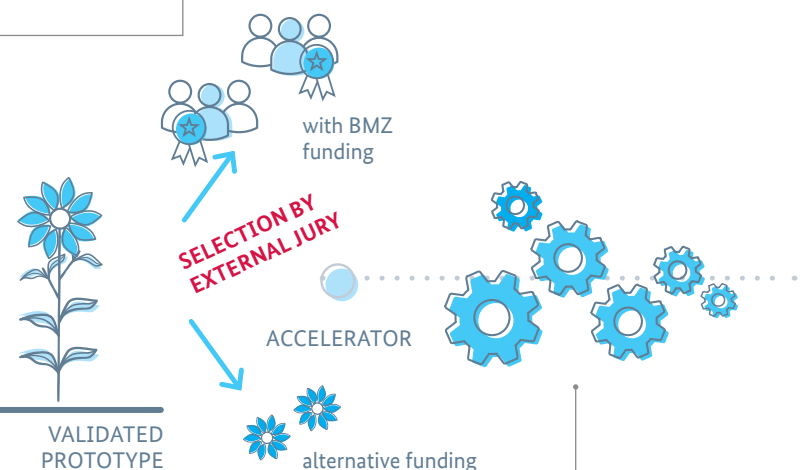


The DDLab enables us as a subnational administration to explore new avenues in the preparation and international discussion of sustainable development cooperation. The DDLab works across national borders, helping decentralised administration units to explore the common challenges of the future and discuss potential solutions with practitioners.

Helen Franke, Berlin Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises; Foreign Trade, European Economic Policy, Development Cooperation Division

International Call for Ideas

In response to a call for ideas, teams from around the world submitted about 180 ideas that creatively addressed the four challenges. One team was selected for each challenge, three from Indonesia and one from Rwanda. They were invited to develop their project proposals.



Accelerator

The two winning teams received additional financial support to enable them to pilot their project ideas. They attended training courses and took part in workshops in Berlin, Jakarta and Kigali. For seven months, the teams were accompanied by coaches and advisors from GIZ, the German federal states and the partner countries, to prepare for the implementation phase, with the following results:

Female entrepreneurship in rural areas

The Becoming Nala team devised a digital platform to develop the entrepreneurial skills of women in rural parts of Rwanda. Interested women gain access to high-quality webinars and advisory services, financing opportunities, a learning database in the national language and further training options at local, regional and global levels. A mentoring programme also offers coaching services, provided by experienced women entrepreneurs. By the end

Incubator

During the incubation phase, the four teams had the support of advisors and experts from German federal states and partner countries, and from GIZ, over a period of five months, allowing them to drive their ideas forward. With financial support and the assistance of coaches, the teams honed their projects. Potential users tested the ideas, while meetings with government and civil society actors helped fine-tune the proposed solutions.

At the end of this phase, the teams presented their detailed ideas to a wider audience and a jury. In the final assessment, two teams achieved the same number of points and were selected to proceed to the next stage.



During the incubator phase all teams met at a workshop in Berlin

of the DDLab, the team was piloting their digital platform and was in talks with potential investors, with the support of Brandenburg and Rhineland-Palatinate.

Electric mobility

The Indonesian start-up TRANSISI developed software to manage electric charging infrastructure. The team worked closely with bus operators in Jakarta, and experts from Berlin and Bremen, to organise the transition to the greater use of electric buses. At the end of the DDLab, the team became a registered company in the Netherlands and in Indonesia. It was able to successfully pilot its software for electric cars and generate its first turnover from software sales. It was preparing to offer the software for electric buses too.

Interview with Stefano Marta, OECD: Study on decentralised development cooperation in Germany



Stefano Marta, Coordinator for the Territorial Approach to the SDGs, in the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Recently we have seen an increasing focus on decentralised development cooperation. What makes this issue so interesting and how is it linked to the SDGs?

Stefano Marta: Decentralised development cooperation and partnerships for sustainable development involving cities and regions in industrialised countries and developing nations can act as drivers for important global agendas. To create a sustainable, equitable, resilient future, we need the active engagement of structures at subnational level. Global agendas, including the Paris Agreement on climate change, the 2030 Agenda and the G20 Rome High-level Principles on city-to-city partnerships to localise the SDGs stress the importance of cities and regions in sustainable development. These can be mutually supportive through peer learning and capacity development on key development issues where stakeholders have strong technical capacities, including education, health and water.

The OECD study presents a comprehensive analysis of the wide spectrum of decentralised development cooperation in Germany and provides insights into best practices in other OECD states. What part do the federal states play in Germany's decentralised development cooperation, and what achievements would you highlight in comparison to other OECD states?

Germany's federal states and municipalities have become increasingly important in development cooperation. Currently, they provide more public funding for official development assistance (ODA) than comparable structures in other OECD countries. They account for more than 60% of global decentralised development cooperation volumes reported as ODA.¹ The German Government and Federal States Programme (BLP) and its cofinancing model is an exciting and integral part of decentralised development cooperation in Germany.

One of the advantages and the added value of decentralised development cooperation for Germany's federal states should be their return on investment from these activities. One pivotal goal of decentralised development cooperation is to provide for mutual benefits and interplay between cities and regions in German federal states and in partner countries, as a result of peer learning. The main benefit and return on investment in decentralised development cooperation is improved local and regional public services. This ensures that citizens are more satisfied and that they trust local authorities to a greater extent. It also increases the transparency and accountability of authorities.

The study underscores the positive impacts of multi-level governance. What do you see as the particular benefits?

¹ A high proportion of Germany's ODA funding is accounted for by financing university fees in Germany for students from developing countries.

At the OECD we use the term ‘multi-level governance’ for interdependent relations between public-sector actors at different levels of governance. Relations can be vertical, horizontal or interconnected. A properly functioning multi-level governance framework can help foster coherent, decentralised development cooperation strategies and priorities. This can work across different levels of governance and in conjunction with non-governmental stakeholders such as NGOs, universities and private companies, which play a key role in decentralised development cooperation in Germany. A lack of cooperation between different levels of governance can result in uncoordinated, fragmented projects, with a loss of potential synergy for partner countries and duplication of activities. These obstacles can be overcome by using different governance tools, including dialogue platforms and cofinancing arrangements, and improving coordination between the different levels of governance. In particular, the interaction between German federal states and municipalities is still limited in decentralised development cooperation, since the federal states often fail to get their own municipalities involved in the projects. The OECD study proposes that the German Government introduce special incentives to improve cooperation between federal states and municipalities, such as pilot projects in partner countries.

Based on your findings and recommendations, how do you see the future for decentralised development cooperation in Germany? What direction should it take and what role do you see for the German federal states?

The report sets out 10 recommendations for decentralised development policy, strategies and priorities, multi-level governance, financing, and data and information, which aim to scale up the impact, effectiveness and monitoring of decentralised development cooperation strategies and programmes at all levels of governance in Germany. I see three recommendations as being particularly relevant for German federal states:

- › Enhancing peer learning in decentralised development cooperation at federal state level by promoting more direct cooperation with local

and regional governments in partner countries. This could help generate greater return on investment in the fields of knowledge, capacity and competence, for both the German federal states and for partners in the Global South.

- › Enhancing collaboration between German federal states and municipalities in development cooperation. Although some examples can be seen, including Bavaria and North Rhine-Westphalia, there is still little cooperation. The German Government should introduce relevant incentives and should also involve programmes of GIZ and the Service Agency Communities in One World.
- › Developing a harmonised approach to monitor and evaluate decentralised development cooperation in all federal states and municipalities, so as to measure the impacts of results-based measures and activities designed to be sustainable in the long term.

The study mentions the BLP at several points and presents a number of projects in detail as examples. How do you see the BLP, especially in terms of its goal of bringing the development cooperation of the federal states closer to that of the German Government?

The BLP is a very important way of stepping up coordination between the federal states and the German Government in decentralised development cooperation. The OECD Global Policy Toolkit for decentralised development cooperation takes it as an example to inspire other countries. Many German federal states use the BLP to coordinate their strategic and geographical priorities in decentralised development cooperation with the German Government. The BLP also provides for knowledge sharing and networking among the German federal states, with training and networking events for stakeholders. The BLP is a key tool in supporting decentralised development cooperation activities, although some obstacles such as the complex administrative processes used in project management and the limited flexibility in terms of geographic and thematic focus still need to be addressed.

Partner institutions of the projects

Environment, climate and energy

Bavaria – Togo → Page 10

Partner institutions in Bavaria: Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences, German Biogas Association (Bavaria), Women Engage for a Common Future e.V., Central Agrar-Rohstoff Marketing- und Energie- Netzwerk e.V., Energiedorf Wildpoldsried

Partner institutions in Togo: Agency for Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy in Togo, Directorate General of Energy in Togo

The project cooperated closely with the “Rural Electrification in Togo” project, which GIZ is implementing in Togo on behalf of BMZ.

Bavaria – Tunisia → Page 10

Partner institutions in Bavaria: Women Engage for a Common Future e.V., Fichtner GmbH & Co. KG

Partner institutions in Tunisia: Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mines in Tunisia, Ecole Nationale d’Ingénieurs de Tunis (ENIT)

The project cooperated closely with the “Green Hydrogen for Sustainable Growth and a Low-carbon Economy in Tunisia” project, which GIZ is implementing in Tunisia on behalf of BMZ.

Lower Saxony – South Africa → Page 11

Partner institution in Lower Saxony: German Aerospace Center (DLR)

Partner institutions in South Africa: Eastern Cape Departments of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), Fort Hare University (FHU), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

The project cooperated closely with the “South African-German Energy” Programme, which GIZ is implementing in South Africa on behalf of BMZ.

Sustainable economic development

Berlin – India → Page 12

Partner institution in Berlin: Enpact e.V.

Partner institution in India: Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) of the Government of Karnataka, India

The project cooperated closely with the “Promotion of the Transformation to Sustainable and Climate-Friendly E-Mobility project and the Green Urban Mobility Innovation” project, which GIZ is implementing in India on behalf of BMZ.

North Rhine-Westphalia – North Macedonia → Page 13

Partner institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia:

IMAP-Institut, Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie, Bergischer Abfallwirtschaftsverband (BAV), WTE Wassertechnik GmbH

Partner institutions in North Macedonia:

Delegation der Deutschen Wirtschaft in Nordmazedonien (German-North Macedonian Chamber of Commerce) in Skopje, Goethe-Institut Skopje

The project cooperated closely with the “Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Modernisation of Municipal Services” project, which GIZ is implementing in the Western Balkans on behalf of BMZ.

Saarland – Namibia → Page 13

Partner institution in Saarland:

INM – Leibniz-Institut für Neue Materialien gGmbH

Partner institutions in Namibia: University of Namibia, Namibia Biomass Industry Group (N-Big)

The project cooperated closely with the “Bush Control and Biomass Utilisation” Programme, which GIZ is implementing in Namibia on behalf of BMZ.

Governance

Baden-Württemberg – Tunisia → Page 17

Partner institution in Baden-Württemberg:

Kehl University of Applied Sciences

Partner institution in Tunisia:

Ecole Nationale d'Administration de Tunis (ENA)

The project cooperated closely with the “German-Tunisian Academy for Good Governance” project, which GIZ is implementing in Tunisia on behalf of BMZ.

Saxony – Mozambique → Page 16

Partner institution in Saxony:

Geokompetenzzentrum Freiberg e.V. (Freiberg Geo-Cluster)

Partner institutions in Mozambique: National Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (MIREME), Inspector General of Mineral Resources and Energy (IGREME), Ministry of Labour

The project cooperated closely with the “Good Financial Governance” project, which GIZ is implementing in Mozambique on behalf of BMZ.

Schleswig-Holstein – Western Balkans → Page 17

Partner institution in Schleswig-Holstein:

Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

Partner institution in the Western Balkans:

Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)

The project cooperated closely with the “Social Rights and Inclusion for Vulnerable Groups in the Western Balkans” project, which GIZ is implementing in the Western Balkan states (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia) on behalf of BMZ.

Rhineland-Palatinate – Rwanda → Page 11

Partner institutions in Rhineland-Palatinate:

Rheinhessen-Nahe-Hunsrück Rural Services Centre (DLR RNH), TH Bingen, University of Applied Sciences, RLP Agrosience GmbH

Partner institutions in Rwanda: Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Rwanda's Meteorological Service (Meteo Rwanda), Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB)

The project cooperated closely with the “Digital Solutions for Sustainable Development” project, which GIZ is implementing in Rwanda on behalf of BMZ.

Pandemic resilience

Bremen – Namibia → Page 19

Partner institutions in Bremen: University of Bremen, Leibniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology (BIPS), Research Center Borstel (Schleswig-Holstein), Inselspital Bern (Bern University Hospital), Pneumology Department (Switzerland)

Partner institutions in Namibia: University of Namibia (UNAM), School of Public Health, School of Medicine, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology

The project did not cooperate with any ongoing programmes, but it does work closely with GIZ and BMZ representatives in Namibia.

Hesse – Viet Nam → Page 19

Partner institution in Hesse:

Technical University of Darmstadt

Partner institutions in Viet Nam: Vietnamese-German University, Vietnamese-German Centre of Excellence in Medical Research

The project cooperated closely with the “Global Programme for Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health”, which GIZ is implementing in Viet Nam and 12 other partner countries on behalf of BMZ.

Thuringia – Malawi → Page 18

Partner institutions in Thuringia:

Verein Zomba Hospital Projekt e.V.; Sophien- und Hufeland-Klinikum Weimar

Partner institution in Malawi: Zomba Central Hospital (run by the Malawi Ministry of Health)

The project cooperated closely with the “Health Systems Strengthening” project, which GIZ is implementing in Malawi on behalf of BMZ.

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