



GIZ Child Protection Policy

GIZ addresses children's rights and child protection on various levels. A large number of our commissioned projects in the field of international cooperation are directly or indirectly aimed at improving the living conditions of children, be it activities to support rural and urban development, protect the environment and natural resources or provide policy advice.

GIZ takes its responsibility to protect children seriously in its business activities. Children's rights are an essential component of [GIZ's approach to human rights](#). Children are particularly defenceless against violence, exploitation and abuse and require special attention. We have therefore set ourselves the objective of further structuring and expanding our child protection measures. The basis for this is the GIZ Child Protection Policy, which is aligned with our value system, in particular the GIZ Code of Ethics.

Context

When it comes to child protection, GIZ is guided by international legal frameworks on children's rights. Specifically, these include:

- the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, including its three optional protocols;
- the conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), especially Convention no. 138 (Minimum Age) and Convention no. 182 (Worst Forms of Child Labour)

- as well as the European Union Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child.

This policy constitutes a minimum requirement for child protection in GIZ's business activities. If the provisions of this document differ from national regulations, the more stringent regulation on child protection shall always apply.

Scope

In accordance with Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child¹, GIZ defines a child as anyone considered a minor under the law in their country. We protect all children who we engage with through our business activities equally, regardless of age, sex, ethnic background, religion or world view, sexual orientation or gender identity and physical, mental or emotional disabilities.

The scope of this GIZ Child Protection Policy extends to all business activities and the document is binding for all members of GIZ's workforce. In addition, GIZ obliges its contractors and funding recipients to comply with international standards on child protection.

A systematic approach to child protection

GIZ shapes its environment in such a way that any risks to child protection in its business activities can be identified at an early stage and addressed using suitable measures. Child protection is an integral part of its business processes and project management. GIZ will enhance these continuously by analysing risks, evaluating

¹ Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: 'For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.'



existing protection measures and expanding them if required. Measures have already been taken in a range of areas, for example procurement and travel management.

During project planning, we apply the Safeguards+Gender Management System and determine if there is a risk of unintended negative impacts on children's rights, including child protection, and how these can be avoided or reduced.

Everyone working within the scope of this policy is called on to ensure that their conduct does not expose children to any form of violence, exploitation or abuse.

Procedure for handling violations of the GIZ Child Protection Policy

The procedure for dealing with illegal or unethical behaviour is set out in the Code of Ethics. GIZ undertakes to maintain effective control systems to detect

this kind of behaviour and counteract it. Suspected cases are carefully investigated and resolved. Reports of violations can be addressed through the GIZ whistleblower system. This includes the [whistleblower portal](#), which can be used anonymously. Information about potential violations of child protection can be submitted in the human rights category.

Responsibilities

Every GIZ unit is responsible for complying with this policy within the scope of its business processes. The GIZ Sustainability Office has overall responsibility for this issue and for coordinating contributions from other units.

This GIZ Child Protection Policy was approved by the GIZ Sustainability Board on behalf of the Management Board on 28 February 2020.

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