

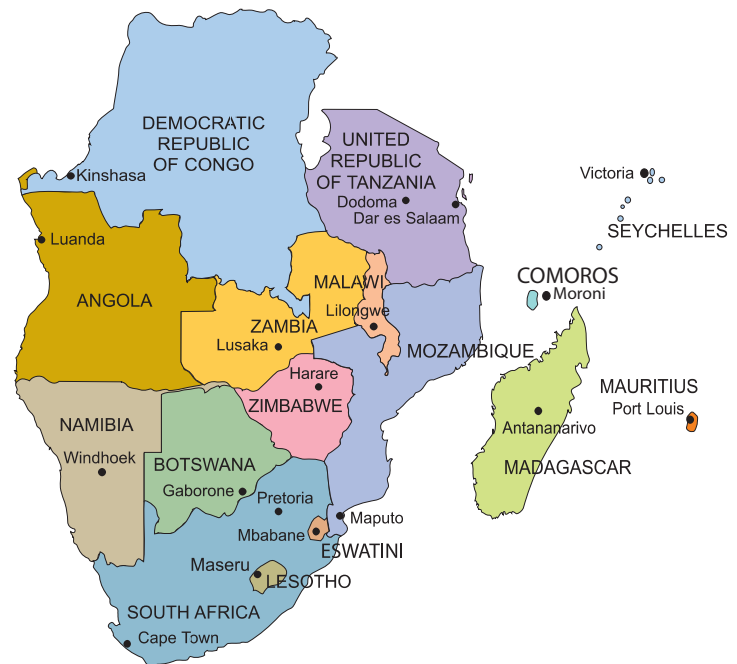
Regional Cooperation with the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Background

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is regarded as the most peaceful and stable region in Africa. The SADC region is also holding the greatest economic potential in sub-Saharan Africa, due in large part to the wealth of natural resources, particularly mineral resources. Nonetheless, poverty and economic inequality within and between SADC Member States remain the biggest challenge in the region. Almost 60% of SADC residents still live under the poverty line of USD 1.90 per day. Particularly women, young people and social and ethnic minorities are at risk of exclusion and poverty. Additionally, the SADC region is heavily affected by the effects of climate change, with adverse consequences for food security. This affects especially those who are already living in poverty. Strengthening the African Union (AU), SADC and other regional organisations in Africa is a long-term priority of the German government.

SADC is one of eight regional organisations in Africa under the umbrella of the AU. Its predecessor organisation, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), was founded in 1980 as a union of the frontline states to strengthen their economic independence against the dominance of the apartheid regime in South Africa. After the end of apartheid and the inclusion of newly democratic South Africa, new common objectives were defined upon establishment of SADC in 1992. SADC currently has 16 Member States comprising more than 380 million people – Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini (Swaziland), Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The seat of the SADC Secretariat is located in Gaborone, Botswana.

The objective of SADC is to achieve development, peace, security and economic growth. SADC aims to alleviate poverty, to enhance the standard and quality of life of the people of southern Africa, and to support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration which is built on democratic principles and equitable and sustainable development.





Approach

The Government of Germany aims to strengthen SADC in order to promote political and economic cooperation in the region. This is done by integrating Member States into communities on shared responsibility, creating larger markets with freedom of movement for goods, services, labour and capital, and by removing trade barriers, to make states more attractive to domestic and foreign investors. By supporting SADC's integration agenda, German Development Cooperation also aims to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In addition to its multilateral commitment via the European Union, the Government of Germany has provided over 500 million Euro in support to SADC since the organisation's establishment in 1992. Additionally, Germany is undertaking substantial bilateral development cooperation with eight of the 16 SADC Member States – Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

Negotiations between SADC and Germany are held every two years. The most recent round was concluded in Berlin in December 2023, with a total of 36.4 million Euro committed for the years 2024/2025. During the course of these negotiations, the participants reaffirmed their collective goals of strengthening regional cooperation for the benefit of the people and reduction of poverty. Continued cooperation

is manifested in the priority areas of regional economic integration, transboundary water management, cross-border protection and use of natural resources, including adaption to climate change as well as strengthening national-regional linkages throughout the SADC region.

German Development Cooperation is closely aligned with SADC's policy priorities, as outlined in the SADC Vision and the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030 (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation (SIPO-II). The development policy of the German Government is defined by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The German Embassy in Gaborone is responsible for liaising with the SADC Secretariat and coordinating development activities with other development partners. German development programmes are implemented by the following implementing agencies:

- KfW – German Development Bank
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- PTB – Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (National Metrology Institute)

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