



Security, Reconstruction and Peace

Crisis prevention and peace building

The challenge

Social, economic and power-political inequalities are leading to a rise in violent conflicts within individual states around the globe. For this reason, we are working more and more frequently in countries which are either in the throes of armed conflict or in the pre- or post-conflict phase.

Crises and armed conflicts destroy the livelihoods of many people, entail high economic costs and wipe out the results of years of development work within a very short period of time. They also weaken the state and leave the population with serious physical and mental scars. In order to avoid these radical impacts, development cooperation aims to prevent conflicts, deescalate conflicts at an early stage and support peace building processes.

Our approach

GIZ has developed innovative approaches to influence certain aspects of conflict dynamics. For instance, we help our partners tackle the root causes of the conflict and prevent conflicts escalating. At the same time, we develop the capacities of civil society and state actors in non-violent conflict transformation methods and support peace building measures in post-conflict situations.

Every conflict calls for a unique approach. Our modular system can be adapted to every given situation with the help of flexible solutions, which can be combined to produce various different service packages and integrated into projects and programmes in other sectors.

Our services

The spectrum of our services embraces the following themes:

- **Peace programmes:** We can identify factors responsible for escalation at short notice and train relevant actors in de-escalation techniques and in tackling the root causes of the conflict.
- **Gearing country and sector programmes to the imperatives of crisis prevention:** Projects and programmes in various sectors are made conflict-sensitive. This helps prevent the conflict from worsening and strengthens peace building impacts.
- **Use of conflict advisers:** They support the strategic direction of measures and ensure that they are implemented in a conflict-sensitive way in country.
- **Training:** We promote the peace- and conflict-related capacities of specialists and managers in development cooperation at home and abroad.
- **Reconciliation:** We enable state and non-governmental institutions (such as human rights organisations and Truth Commissions) to provide comprehensive back-up for dialogue between former parties to the conflict.
- **Promoting regional organisations working in the field of peace and security:** Regional organisations are helped to improve their structures and establish co-operation relations.
- **Conflict monitoring – early warning:** We help put in place an early warning system and conduct risk analyses.
- **Violence prevention and peace education:** We help our partners integrate peace education concepts into formal and non-formal education structures.
- **Security and prevention of violence:** We develop approaches to reintegrate into civil society individuals deemed particularly likely to resort to violence – such as ex-combatants.
- **Peace funds:** We support our partners in implementing peace building measures.



The benefit

The advisory services we deliver on crisis prevention and peace building enable our partners to harness the peace building potentials of their measures. They are given the expertise and capacities they need to avoid exacerbating conflicts and to ensure the safety of individuals and property.

GIZ has a well-founded understanding of how to gear measures to crisis prevention. Our highly qualified experts devise and realise innovative training and advisory concepts. At international level, we provide an important impetus to efforts to further refine concepts and instruments in this area.

An example from the field

Senegal is politically fairly stable. In the Casamance, the most southerly province of the country, however, conflicts have erupted time and again over the last 20 years between the central government and the region, which is rich in natural resources but geographically separated from the rest of the country. The conflict, fuelled by political, cultural and socioeconomic frustration, remains the single largest obstacle to development in the Casamance in spite of its low level of intensity.

In order to tackle this conflict, the Senegalese and German partners agreed on a common strategy that is designed to build peace in the Casamance and to support the implementation of the national reconstruction programme. The German contribution aims to help put in place an enabling environment for peaceful development in the Casamance. To this end, peaceful conflict management capacities, structures and processes are being strengthened and dialogue processes between civil society and state actors supported. Parallel to this, the geographical and economic isolation of the Casamance is to be overcome.

The programme has helped in no small way to network state and non-governmental actors, and thus to defuse local conflicts. Lobby work across borders has helped improve conditions for returnees and enhance the basic services provided by the respective municipalities. More than 400 villages in the area that borders on Gambia and Guinea-Bissau are involved in this process. No less than seven cross-border committees have helped reduce armed conflicts in these areas. In spite of difficult conditions, about 50 per cent of refugees and internally displaced persons have returned to their villages since 2006. Stable terms have been negotiated with the armed groups still in existence and the army, at least in the short term, which has made it possible to resume agricultural and economic activities. The basic infrastructure measures backed by the programme have improved the health and education services available by at least 50 per cent. Conflict-sensitive procedures have been mainstreamed in state and decentralised institutions. The regional development agency Ziguinchor and local government bodies in the region have incorporated the principle of 'do no harm' in their procedures. The increasing use made by the population of state services and structures is a measure of their growing trust and confidence.

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