



GIZ orientation on human rights

GIZ stands for human rights. As a federal organisation, we implement German Government policy and base our actions on Germany's Basic Law, in particular the human rights guarantees enshrined in that Law.

As the world's leading provider of international cooperation services for sustainable development, we work around the globe to help people improve their living conditions, making a substantial contribution to developing and fulfilling human rights.

Our frame of reference

Human rights constitute the frame of reference for everything we do, and we see that frame of reference as a particular responsibility for GIZ. This commitment reflects our Corporate Principles. As a federally-owned company, we base our actions on the human rights obligations into which the Federal Republic of Germany has entered.¹

We also acknowledge our own corporate responsibility for human rights: GIZ has signed up to the [UN Global Compact](#) and follows the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#).

¹ This includes primarily the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the [United Nations Human Rights Conventions](#) and the [European Convention on Human Rights](#).

Our contribution and our responsibilities

Throughout their existence, GIZ and its predecessor organisations have made substantial and diverse contributions to strengthening human rights. On behalf of the German Government and other commissioning parties and clients, we implement projects targeted directly at improving the human rights situation in our partner countries. In other areas of international cooperation, we make a substantial indirect contribution towards securing human rights through our advisory and capacity development work.

The way in which we work boosts the ability of states, civil society and the private sector to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and empowers individuals to assert and realise their rights.

Some of the countries in which we work have major shortfalls in their implementation of human rights. As part of our commissions, we support these countries in moving towards compliance with international standards and developing their ability to respect, protect and fulfil human rights. We refer explicitly to this in negotiations while at the same time reflecting the individual country context and advising our cooperation partners accordingly.

We are sensitive to difficult human rights situations, which we examine, monitor and work to counter. In consultation with our commissioning parties, we attach great importance to the way we work and the results we achieve. In the commissions we undertake, we operate



in accordance with our commissioning parties' policies on promoting human rights, such as the BMZ strategy paper [Human Rights in German Development Policy](#).

Goal-setting and addressees

This orientation strengthens GIZ's stance on human rights and serves as a guideline for all our employees. It applies to all organisational units and informs our actions, both within the company and outside it. It is integral to our understanding of sustainable development and underpins our rules, procedures and activities.

This orientation also emphasises the importance of human rights for GIZ in relation to our clients, our business partners, our partner institutions, and the public at large.

Implementation

We ensure that our employees have the expertise, awareness and authority to put this orientation into practice.

Our rules and procedures are reviewed regularly, in particular to ensure that we act appropriately and professionally in situations that raise human rights issues.

We will respond immediately and appropriately to concerns that any of our actions may be having a negative impact on human rights. Please address any such concerns to humanrights@giz.de.

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