



Water, Energy, Transport

Sustainable water supply and sanitation

The challenge

780 million people around the world do not have access to clean drinking water and 2.5 billion people do not have adequate sanitation facilities – despite major progress in this sector in recent decades. According to OECD, worldwide water consumption will increase by 55 per cent by the year 2050 amidst continued population growth, urbanisation, globalisation and economic growth. By then, 2.3 billion people will live in regions affected by water scarcity, especially in northern and southern Africa and southern and central Asia.

Many water supply and sanitation companies are affected by poor management, a lack of transparency and political interference. Pipeline networks and facilities are not maintained properly and are in poor condition. Water supply and sanitation is often a loss-maker if tariffs and revenues do not cover running costs and urgently needed investments cannot be made.

Our approach

GIZ works on behalf of the German Federal Government to help realise the human right to drinking water supply and sanitation. GIZ is involved in more than 80 projects in about 50 countries as part of this effort. Around 400 water and wastewater enterprises around the globe are receiving support in improving their services. More than 100 million people worldwide are benefiting from better-quality services, due in part to cooperation with KfW Development Bank.

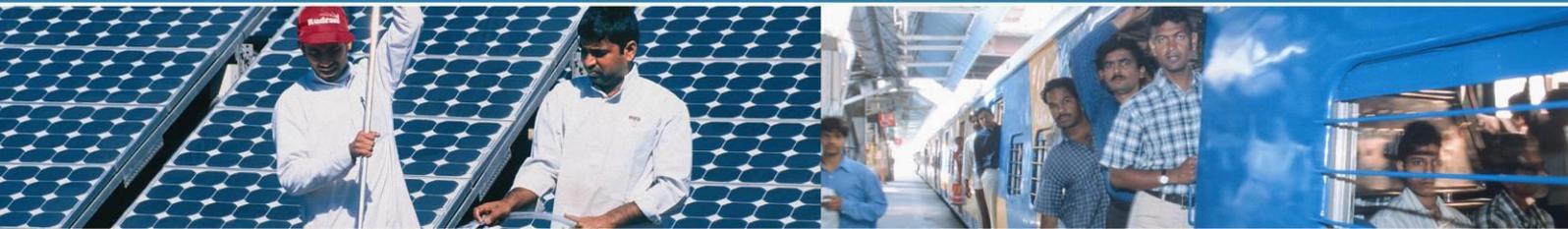
Sustainable development is possible only if all stakeholders in a country's water sector put their skills to optimal use. Long-term reforms to the water sector aim to bring about a more efficient, socially equitable provision of water and sanitation services. Focusing on customers and setting fair tariffs are core tasks in this process. At the same time,

regulatory bodies are trained so that they can monitor services and create transparency.

Our services

Sustainable water supply and sanitation systems must be economically viable, socially accepted and technically and institutionally adapted. Hygiene and health, environmental protection and climate-sensitive and resource-efficient implementation are at the heart of sustainable supply systems. The approach taken by GIZ is broken down into three strategic fields of action: efficient utilities, inclusive supply concepts and socio-political environment management. We also encourage stronger ties between water education and vocational training.

Efficient utilities: Our advisory services allow utilities to provide higher-quality water supply and sanitation services that are more efficient and pro-poor. Effective management, customer-oriented service and entrepreneurial actions are emblematic of a modern, performance-oriented utility. Working with our partners, we create the general technical, economic and administrative conditions that lead to an improvement in companies' performance. GIZ has extensive knowledge of a wide variety of participatory business planning and organisational development methods and tried-and-tested training modules providing managerial and operational advice, including on financial affairs and setting tariffs.



Inclusive, pro-poor supply concepts: Special supply concepts are needed to support an inclusive expansion of water supply and sanitation systems to poor areas. This includes developing a pro-poor sector policy and setting up and operating adapted access infrastructure. Information systems provide the data required for making investments, selecting technology and monitoring the supply rate. GIZ provides advice on the financing mechanisms required for implementation.

In addition, operators receive comprehensive advice on infrastructure planning, implementation and operation; their awareness of hygiene is also raised in the process. Supply can be improved rapidly by using simple technology, which ensures affordability. Examples of successful solutions include water kiosks, yard connections and public and private toilets.

Socio-political environment management: The provision of water and sanitation services takes place in a social and political context. A balance of local interests between the local government holding political responsibility, utilities and consumers is essential for supply to be socially, economically and ecologically sustainable.

The most important strategies for balancing interests are:

- Involving all stakeholders in planning and implementation processes.
- Conflict avoidance and mediation.
- Creating awareness of hygiene, conserving water and increasing people's willingness to pay for services.

Water and vocational training: The interface between the water sector and vocational training encourages cooperation with vocational training projects so the growing need for skilled professionals to operate and maintain water supply and wastewater management systems can be met in the future.

The benefits

GIZ has an innovative range of services for planning, operating, managing and financing water supply and sanitation systems. We follow a holistic approach that includes technical aspects, setting up qualified operators and sustainable financing. Both commissioning parties and project partners benefit from our vast expertise and many years of experience as an advisory enterprise operating around the world. We achieve lasting results by partnering with public operators, associations and projects in other sectors.

An example from the field

In Kenya, a poverty fund is working with utilities to finance projects to provide water supply and sanitation services in poor urban areas. So far, about 1.4 million people have gained access to clean water and approximately 100,000 people now have access to public toilets as a result. In a pilot phase, more than 20,000 people were provided with sanitation systems in their homes. This figure is to rise to 600,000 by 2016. An extensive online database documents water supply and sanitation in over 2,000 poor urban areas. This data serves as a basis for planning other projects. The regulatory authority is ensuring greater transparency and accountability as well as improved pricing at utilities and publishes a report each year comparing water and wastewater companies' services. In low-income urban areas, water action groups ensure that the needs of poor population groups are taken into account.

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