



One World - No Hunger

A brief outline of the Special Initiative

March 2015

Challenges

The BMZ Special Initiative 'One World - No Hunger' addresses some of the greatest challenges facing humanity. Over 800 million people in the world still do not have enough to eat. Over a billion more suffer from 'hidden hunger'. They suffer malnutrition because their diets are unbalanced and fail to provide the nutrients they need for a healthy life. That brings to almost two billion the total global population without the food required to live a healthy, productive and dignified existence.

About 8,000 children die every day of hunger and malnutrition – that accounts for about half of all infant mortality around the world. Hunger poses not only the greatest health risk – undernourishment costs more lives every year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis put together – it is also one of the most serious obstacles to development. Hunger forces people to flee their homes, breeds violence and fosters the belief that there is no hope of a better future.

No other human right is violated with such frequency as the right to food. This breach and contempt for human dignity is one of the greatest scandals of our time. It is most prevalent in rural areas, home to three quarters of those suffering hunger and malnutrition. Jobs and income are scarce and poverty most acute in these areas. The main cause of hunger and malnutrition is not the lack of food. It is poverty that prevents people acquiring adequate supplies of healthy food.

Food security is primarily a structural problem in rural areas. However, it is exacerbated by natural disaster, epidemic, political crisis and conflict. Over 40 states are currently classed as fragile, more than half of them in Africa. But while more and more countries with stable statehood and good governance are winning the fight against hunger, the number of fragile states facing violent conflict continues to rise. Thus, the number of people for whom fragile statehood and conflict are the principal causes of hunger is also increasing significantly.

The professionalisation of agriculture is a key factor in reducing poverty and hunger in rural areas. Furthermore modernisation strengthens the resilience of people to come through temporary crisis. This is particularly important in view of the burgeoning global population. In many places there is enormous scope for raising productivity in agriculture, and it is encouraging to note an increased interest in investment in this sector in recent years. However, much of this investment fails to create income and jobs for those who need them most. The development benefits are in many cases doubtful.

Much of this investment also exacerbates the already ruthless exploitation of natural resources in the name of agriculture. Agriculture as practised today in many parts of the world is the largest single threat to the natural environment. Its spread is encroaching into our planet's few remaining intact natural environments and is the main cause of global deforestation and loss of biodiversity. Inappropriate irrigation and land use lead to a decline in freshwater resources and loss of fertile soils.



Key objectives of the Special Initiative

Against this background, the Special Initiative 'One World - No Hunger' helps achieve two main objectives:

1. Eradicating hunger and malnutrition: individuals who today suffer hunger and malnutrition must be given access to sufficient, affordable, healthy food as swiftly as possible. The focus must be on those worst affected and most vulnerable, i.e. pregnant women, nursing mothers and young children.
2. Creating a framework to ensure that future generations will also have sufficient, affordable and healthy food in spite of the rapidly expanding world population. Agriculture across the world must be put on a sustainable footing and investment in this sector must be environmentally and socially responsible.

These objectives can be achieved if all responsible parties play their part:

- the countries affected require unwavering political will, good governance, adequate public investment and an enabling environment for private investment;
- donors are called upon to support the efforts of the countries affected;
- The international community must ensure that global standards, regulations and development principles do not stand in the way of achieving these objectives, but rather that they help overcome hunger and malnutrition.

Six guiding principles

1. **Set a course towards a social and ecological market economy.** Global challenges call for global solutions. Prosperity and a good quality of life for individuals must not be achieved at the expense of others: neither at the expense of other individuals, nor other regions of the world, nor future generations. Rural areas in particular, which are home to the vast majority of the world's poor and hungry and which must produce practically all the food for people today and in future, should not be allowed to lag further behind social developments or fall victim to environmental exploitation. This is why we support a socially and environmentally oriented structural change in rural areas in particular, thereby paving the way for global sustainable development.
2. **Make global responsibility a reality.** Food and agriculture concern every one of us. The way we feed ourselves has huge consequences – on developing countries and on the future of our entire planet. We must take a long hard look at our own individual consumption patterns, just as we must review global production, investment and trading relations in the agri-food sector. This sort of critical reflection and readiness to correct our individual and collective behaviour patterns is the precondition for any credible support for change processes in developing countries.
3. **Realise the right to food.** The very fact that the right to affordable healthy food is now recognised as a human right is in itself a significant achievement. This right is non-negotiable and is thus the starting point for all German development measures. A rights-based approach aims to strengthen groups facing food insecurity, to improve all aspects of food security and to consistently review all measures for their potential impact on the right to food.
4. **Realise gender equality.** Women play a crucial part in food security and agriculture. In very many countries, simply giving women equal access to the means of agricultural production and enhancing their social status would drastically reduce the number of people suffering



hunger and malnutrition. We are making vigorous efforts in all German development cooperation measures to achieve this overarching goal.

5. **Make effectiveness, efficiency and transparency the yardstick by which our actions are judged.** We affirm our commitment to dealing with our partner countries as equals and to the principle of mutual accountability. The primary goal is to optimise the effectiveness and efficiency of all inputs.
6. **Foster partner responsibility and inputs.** We help people meet their needs in line with their own visions. This also means that we gear our support services to the policies and strategies of our partners. In Africa the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) provides a sound framework for this.

Six overarching starting points

The Special Initiative 'One World - No Hunger' is about much more than the provision and use of additional funding. It involves pooling and giving strategic direction to all BMZ activities in the field of rural development and food security. Additional funding will go primarily to new projects and programmes that are innovative in nature, go beyond established approaches to development cooperation, explore new forms of cooperation, initiate new development processes and promote hitherto neglected areas.

1. **Improve strategic orientation.** In some fields, BMZ will recreate or enhance the strategic and conceptual basis that underpins German development policy in the fields of rural development and food security. These foundations are needed to provide a clear direction for bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes and to specify objectives for an enhanced global framework in future.
2. **Expand bilateral cooperation.** Bilateral cooperation programmes form the operative heart of the Special Initiative; they will benefit from the lion's share of the additional funding available. New projects will be set up where support is most urgent and development potential is greatest. Ongoing measures are also to be geared more specifically to food security and sustainable development in rural areas. The projects of the Special Initiative will interact with existing bilateral development cooperation measures in individual countries.
3. **Trigger and help shape global programmes and initiatives.** On the basis of close cooperation with partners within the EU, BMZ is to step up its engagement within the field of multilateral cooperation and broaden the dialogue with important international organisations in the relevant sector. Parallel to this, BMZ is to trigger and help shape global initiatives, dialogues and processes, with a view to ensuring that international standards, regulations and guidelines provide an enabling environment to bring about food security and policy coherence.
4. **Enter into concrete partnerships.** The knowledge, experience, enthusiasm and commitment of all stakeholders will be required if we are to achieve the global objectives for the future. BMZ therefore invites all relevant actors to join forces. Private development bodies, church aid organisations, those involved in strengthening social structures, research facilities and many other institutions together offer an immense wealth of experience and commitment in the field of food security. BMZ also invites private businesses and associations in the agri-food sector to work together, to combine if possible their own business interests with development concerns and to help gear their efforts towards food security. There is to be no financial support for private businesses. All BMZ's partners must commit to complying with clear social, environmental and development standards in their activities.



5. Promote development-policy dialogue. BMZ not only invites other actors to join forces in action, but also to engage in a vibrant and critical dialogue. Within the context of the Special Initiative 'One World - No Hunger', BMZ is particularly keen to broaden the dialogue originally initiated through the Charter for the Future process with the specific objective of eradicating hunger and malnutrition in the world. The first two of eight action areas set out by the Charter for the Future – 'Ensure a life of dignity for all everywhere' and 'Protect natural resources and manage them sustainably' – directly correlate with the objectives of the Special Initiative. Other action areas of the Charter for the Future – in particular 'Combine economic growth, sustainability and decent work' and 'Drive transformational change through innovation, technology and digitalisation' – are also closely related to the specific action areas of the Special Initiative (see below).¹

6. Step up financial engagement. For 2014 and 2015, a total of EUR 625 million of additional funding has been made available to realise the Special Initiative 'One World - No Hunger'. These funds are being channelled through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, non-state agencies including NGOs, churches, bodies that promote social structures, political foundations and research institutions. It seems likely that further special funds will be available in 2016 and 2017. Along with the funding available with the Special Initiative, BMZ is therefore investing well over one billion euros a year in rural development and food security.

Six specific areas of intervention

1. Food security

Food insecurity is a complex challenge that primarily affects women, mothers and young children. All four dimensions of food security – availability, quality, use and stability – must be guaranteed. The specific causes of food insecurity vary from one region to another. Cultural factors, lack of awareness regarding dietary practices, poor hygiene and inadequate health services often play a major part.

The measures needed to tackle the problem are equally complex, ranging from food-specific measures to activities in the areas of water hygiene and sanitation, health care, nutritional education and social welfare. Within the scope of the Special Initiative we are launching integrated food security measures of this sort. The aim is above all to improve the nutritional situation of pregnant women, mothers and young children. Not only should they have access to sufficient calories but also to healthy, nutritional food, which is crucially important to ensure sound mental and physical development. Measures of this sort to overcome structural undernourishment and malnutrition among mothers and young children are some of the most effective investments in the future.²

2. Resilience and food security in crises and conflicts

Food insecurity is one of the most serious consequences of economic crisis, natural disaster and violent conflict. Structural transitional aid is used to improve food security in situations like these and during reconstruction. This instrument combines short-term, medium-term and long-term food security measures with a view to enhancing the resilience of people and institutions to the impacts of crises

¹The eight objectives laid out in the Charter for the Future are: 1. Ensure a life of dignity for all everywhere; 2. Protect natural resources and manage them sustainably; 3. Combine economic growth, sustainability and decent work; 4. Promote and ensure human rights and good governance; 5. Build peace and strengthen human security; 6. Respect and protect cultural and religious diversity; 7. Drive transformational change through innovation, technology and digitalisation; 8. Forge a new global partnership and develop multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development.

² Known as the Copenhagen Consensus

and future shocks and giving them genuine prospects for the future. Where humanitarian aid meets long-term development cooperation we therefore make a targeted contribution to initiating and strengthening change processes and to systematically developing the capacity of local communities, civil society actors and state institutions to respond to situations like these in future.

3. Innovation in the agri-food sector

Our efforts in this action area focuses on establishing 'green innovation centres'. The key to reducing poverty and hunger in rural areas is to modernise agriculture and make it more professional. Productivity gains in agriculture are today achieved more by innovation than by increasing the use of chemical and other inputs. This is also true of agriculture in developing countries. This encouraging trend must continue: technical and institutional innovation must become increasingly important, making it a central driver of sustainable development. Agricultural productivity must be raised significantly, and upstream and downstream sectors along the value chain (harvesting methods, storage, transport, processing) are in need of development. This calls for research, education and extension services, access to capital, the use of appropriate technology and reform of the institutions responsible. The green innovation centres seek to achieve comprehensive development of the entire agri-food sector – from farm to fork.

We do not promote industrialised agriculture. The support we deliver with a view to making agriculture more modern and professional is geared to small family farms. We offer impoverished small farmers the prospect of producing for market. We help them transcend the subsistence farming approach, which brings with it a high risk of poverty and hunger. A productive agri-food sector not only generates work and income in rural areas, it also makes developing countries less dependent on world market prices and guarantees food that remains affordable for the poor living in both rural and urban areas.

4. Socially and environmentally sound structural change in rural areas

Poverty and hunger in rural areas can only be overcome if these areas are given access to growing urban markets and if, parallel to this, maximum value added is generated and remains in rural areas. Continuing urbanisation can only be used as an opportunity by rural areas if promotion of the agri-food sector is firmly embedded in a comprehensive strategy for rural areas. This calls for environmentally and socially sound structural change that moves rural society away from the predominance of the agri-food sector towards greater diversification of employment opportunities. Both inside and outside the agriculture sector the focus must be on a market orientation which enables people to earn an income, put aside savings, increase social security and make investments.

Market orientation and private investment, however, presuppose that certain advance services are in place. If people are to live and work better in rural areas the most important of these services include: schools and vocational education and training, health centres, energy supply, drinking water provision and sanitation, and links to the road network. Although some of these services can be provided by private sector actors where effective state regulatory frameworks are in place, these are essentially services that must be provided by the state and which we support within the scope of our regular development programmes.

In addition, the self-help capacities and abilities of rural people to set up their own organisations must be enhanced if there is to be an economic upturn in rural areas. This is why we provide support to civil society forces, including producer, consumer and agricultural worker organisations, which ensure fair access to sales markets, decent working conditions and involvement in local decision-making processes. Self-organisation gives all individuals affected a voice and enables knowledge available at local level to be used to resolve problems. Our broad approach to rural development also allows us to support severely marginalised groups.

5. Sustainable management of natural resources in rural areas

In many parts of the world, agriculture is responsible for deforestation, loss of biodiversity, consumption of water resources and massive deterioration in soil fertility. Through our projects we support the development of sustainable agriculture and responsible management of all natural resources in rural areas.

Land is absolutely fundamental to all farming activities. It is the single most important factor in production. Yet this basis is massively under threat worldwide. For this reason, our efforts in this area of intervention are particularly focused on soil protection and the rehabilitation of soils that have already suffered degradation. This is an area that has hitherto been completely overlooked by development policy. But efforts to boost agricultural production will only be successful in the long term if soil degradation can be halted along with the dramatic decline in soil fertility.

6. Responsible soil and land use rights

Natural resources must not only be protected and managed sustainably; people also need fair and secure access to them. Inadequate rights to land ownership and land use in many places are a key reason why people are unable to feed themselves and why nobody invests in land. For many small farmers and their families in particular, secure access to land and other natural resources is essential if they are to escape poverty through their own efforts and be in a position to feed themselves. Legal provisions mean that women are particularly disadvantaged in many countries with respect to property and inheritance. We are working intensively to improve the land law situation around the world, especially for women, small farmers and their families and marginalised groups. This also involves promoting responsible investment in land, which takes into account the rights of small farmers and their families and of indigenous communities.

Regional focuses of the Special Initiative

Africa is the regional focus for activities of the Special Initiative 'One World - No Hunger'. Most of the countries with the highest rates of hunger and malnutrition and with the most dramatic nutrition issues can be found on the African continent. And in Africa the number of hungry people is actually rising – a statistic that bucks the global trend.

To maximise impact, the Special Initiative has identified ten 'food-insecure core countries' which are to be a focus for the majority of activities and funding. In Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia the full spectrum of development instruments will be applied; in Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Yemen, increased engagement in the field of food security takes the form of multilateral cooperation, non-governmental development work and structural transitional aid, whereas state bilateral cooperation in this area is either of secondary importance or not applied at all. Selection of these ten Special Initiative core countries provides a guideline, but does not preclude engagement in other countries in individual instances. The priority areas of action (in line with areas of intervention 1 - 6) also vary from country to country. The key criteria for selection of specific measures for individual countries in the different areas of intervention are: interests of the partner countries, potential to build on existing and ongoing German development projects, prospects for success. On this basis, the following decisions were taken (as at January 2015):

- Integrated food security measures (areas of intervention 1 and 2) are being implemented in the following 12 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Togo, Yemen and Zambia.



- Innovation in the agri-food sector is being promoted through the establishment of green innovation centres (area of intervention 3) in the following 13 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, Tunisia and Zambia.
- Soil rehabilitation measures (area of intervention 5) are being launched in five countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India, and Kenya.

A decision is still to be taken regarding regional priorities in areas of intervention 4 (structural change in rural areas) and 6 (soil and land use rights).

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