



Rural development

Food and nutrition security

The Challenge

Hunger and undernourishment are still a key barrier to development in many developing countries and emerging economies. An inadequate intake of essential vitamins and minerals exacerbates the situation. Retarded growth, increased risk of infection, and physical and mental impairment result in low labour productivity and high expenditure on health services. Besides the negative individual and social impacts, hunger and undernourishment also have serious economic consequences for entire states and regions.

Our Approach

In the area of emergency and transitional aid, GIZ's 'TEL' approach (*Transferleistungen, Ernährung, Landwirtschaft* – transfers, food, agriculture) combines social transfers such as Cash for Work with food security measures and steps to increase sustainable agricultural productivity. In order to tackle micronutrient deficiency, GIZ supports measures such as short-term nutritional supplementation with highly concentrated, pharmaceutically manufactured vitamins and minerals, fortification of foods with nutrients, and an increase in the variety of foods in agricultural production and in people's diets (diversification). GIZ takes a multi-sectoral and multi-level approach to integrated Food and Nutrition Security.

Our Services

Policy advice on Food Security: We advise national governments and regional institutions such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa on the development and implementation of Food and Nutrition Security policies. We draw on many years of experience and proven methods.

Developing value chains for safe and nutritious food: We encourage and support actors along entire agricultural

value chains to increase the availability of safe and nutritious food, applying our ValueLinks approach. In particular we focus on linking smallholders to markets through inclusive business models and reducing post-harvest losses and contamination.

Cooperation with the private sector: We cooperate with private sector partners to develop innovative business models at the interface between entrepreneurial interests and development objectives. In particular we focus on nutrition-sensitive agriculture, staple food fortification and educating farmers and consumers about the importance of nutritious food.

Food and Nutrition Security in fragile contexts: In the context of crises, conflicts and disasters, we address the immediate food and nutritional needs, protect and strengthen livelihoods and foster the resilience of affected populations and institutions. We respond to those situations by linking short-, medium- and long-term measures as well as temporary social transfers such as Cash for Work, nutritional interventions, and activities to (re-)boost agricultural production.

Sustainable resource use and diversified food production: We facilitate access to water and land, and promote sustainable natural resource management, good agricultural practices and diversification of production. Measures include institutional and personal capacity building as well as offering policy advisory services.

Improved maternal and child health and nutrition: We focus on improving nutrition during the first critical 1000 days of life, from conception to the child's second birthday. We increase access to and availability of affordable, micronutrient-rich foods to bridge the gap between nutritional needs and current intake. We also enhance the quality of and access to health services for women of reproductive age and increase their knowledge of nutrition and health.



The Benefits

Food and Nutrition Security creates the foundation for healthy physical and psychological development. Individuals and groups are made aware of the importance of a nutritious, varied diet and sustainable consumption, and are able to put this knowledge into practice in daily life. Policymakers integrate Food and Nutrition Security in policy design.

Food and Nutrition Security makes an important contribution to maintaining and increasing productivity, creativity, and to economic and social development.

Disproportionate price rises and food shortages create competition, rivalry and conflict. Therefore Food Security makes an important contribution to peace and security. Programmes designed to develop infrastructure, to improve health and to conserve natural resources all help to boost resilience.

An example from the field

The inhabitants of Karamoja in north-eastern Uganda have for years suffered acute and chronic **food shortages**. The former nomadic herdsman have only minimal knowledge of and skills in arable farming. This leads to unsuitable land use and cultivation methods. Livestock is also lost through cattle rustling and disease. The 'Food and Security and Conflict Management in the Karamoja Sub-Region' project improves access to food via Cash for Work programmes. They act as a **temporary social safety net** to guarantee the hungry population access to food. Malnourished children are targeted for support. Children are given vitamin A supplements and worming treatments. Additionally courses on breastfeeding and baby foods are run for mothers. In addition the project has made a significant contribution to **boosting agricultural productivity**. The provision of seed and tools has resulted in a significant increase in yields - over 30 per cent for maize and rice. Traditional storage facilities in homes have been improved. Young people with an increased risk of becoming involved in conflict have been reached through employment promotion and conflict resolution schemes.

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