



Wasser, Energie, Transport

Water policy

The challenge

Many countries are still a long way from having comprehensive water supply and sanitation service coverage that meets human rights standards. Frequently, the policy environment is not sufficiently forward-looking to address the deficits. Legal frameworks are often rudimentary and state administrations have limited capacity to take action. Good governance, funding and the management skills needed to put an end to supply crises and the inefficient use of water resources are lacking. At the same time, population growth and climate change are exacerbating distribution conflicts among user groups. Economic interests often compete with social concerns.

Leading international organisations agree that the 'water crisis is a governance crisis'. Fragmented responsibilities, a lack of accountability, limited opportunities for participation, corruption and a lack of transparency have many negative consequences. Investments are not implemented efficiently, infrastructure is inadequately maintained, and legal regulations such as those on resource conservation and water quality are seldom complied with. Many countries need to reform their water sector or consolidate successful reforms and good governance approaches in the area.

Our approach

The water policy advisory services offered by GIZ are directed towards achieving water security. Institutional structures frequently require radical change in order to ensure an effective, efficient, socially balanced and ecologically sustainable supply of basic services. This process can only succeed if reforms are actively supported by politicians and civil society, and if private sector interests and capacities can be taken on board.

GIZ advises its partner countries in preparing and implementing reforms and modernising existing water sector

structures and instruments. Our strategic approach is based on three key elements:

1. **Integrated water resources management (IWRM).** This links up environmental, economic and social objectives related to water resources management, water supply and sanitation.
2. **Good governance principles.** Transparency, efficiency, accountability, integrity and participation in decision-making and public service delivery.
3. **The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.** This comprises access, availability, quality, affordability and cultural acceptability, and strengthening the rights of marginal groups. The state bears responsibility for the steps involved in realising these objectives.

Our services

GIZ's comprehensive range of advisory services in the field of water policy is directed towards decision-makers, ministries and other national authorities, as well as regional and local administrative units. However, we also advise user groups, associations, service providers and the private sector. We support our partners in a number of different areas:

1. Water sector reform and governance

We advise our partner countries in preparing and implementing reforms and modernising the water sector. The main aim is to create suitable framework conditions and set up efficient institutions. A special focus is placed on improving sanitation.

Together with our partners, we develop strategies for making water supply more transparent and participatory, and therefore also less susceptible to corruption. We help to set up information and management systems, and mediation and moderation bodies.



2. Regulation of water services and resources

We pass on approaches that enable the effective, transparent and pro-poor regulation and supervision of the water sector. To implement the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, achieve sustainable water resources management and solve distribution conflicts, we can call upon a range of appropriate solutions extending from performance monitoring systems to independent regulatory authorities.

3. Water, energy, food security nexus

The advice we provide on water security is closely linked with the energy and food security sectors. We support our clients and partners in enshrining the water, energy and food security nexus at international and national level. Our services comprise planning and organising international conferences; initiating and assisting regional nexus dialogues; nexus studies; developing scenarios; and planning and implementing practical pilot projects on the ground together with our partners.

4. Water stewardship

Our new cooperation models include private actors. As part of the water stewardship approach, we develop partnerships between government authorities, civil society and private companies so that they can jointly address water risks and ensure the sustainable use of water.

The benefits

We have comprehensive advisory skills based on a wealth of projects around the globe, and offer tailor-made water policy approaches that transcend individual themes and sectors. Our work is innovative and value-oriented. Our solutions are based on sectoral expertise and long-standing experience.

Our services, which are based on the capacity development approach, offer a variety of benefits to our partners. Capa-

ble institutions and skilled staff promote the effective, efficient and socially equitable development of the sector, as well as its ecological sustainability, and ensure water security for all users.

An example from the field

The Kenyan Government is reforming its water sector with support from GIZ. So far, some 1.3 million people have received access to drinking water, and over 60,000 people have gained access to basic sanitation. This required the reorganisation of institutional responsibilities and the continuous provision of advice and training to the partners. The reform process involves strengthening the Ministry of Water, service providers, the regulatory agency, and the Water Services Trust Fund, which focuses on areas affected by poverty. Pro-poor regulation and socially sound commercialisation of water providers are important pillars of the Kenyan reform. Agencies in the water sector now operate more transparently, carry out more effective monitoring and make information publicly available. Local water users and consumers are able to voice their interests and submit complaints through consumer associations. Many customers connected to the water grid have experienced noticeable improvements in water quality, customer service and continuity of supply. The regulatory agency's reports result in greater transparency and give suppliers an incentive to improve their services. The project is also successful in terms of its environmental impact. Today, the Ewaso-Nyiro and Bwathonaro rivers are no longer drying up in the dry season.

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