



Supporting peaceful coexistence in Chad

People in the western part of Chad receive support to create better livelihoods



Project name	Improving livelihoods in western Chad (PAMELOT)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Hadjer-Lamis, Bahr-El-Gazel and Kanem regions
Lead executing agency	Chadian Ministry of Economy and Development Planning
National partners	Local administrative authorities, non-state actors, traditional authorities, decentralised local administrative bodies
German organisations involved	Action Against Hunger (ACF)
Duration	05/2019 – 12/2023
Volume	11.5 million euros

Conflict and lack of prospects

The Republic of Chad is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. But in spite of the developmental challenges it is facing, this state in the middle of Africa has taken in more than 600,000 refugees from neighbouring countries in recent years. The entire region is suffering acutely from the effects of climate change, water scarcity, population growth, soil erosion and desertification. The Chadian regions of Kanem, Bahr-El-Gazel and Hadjer-Lamis have some of the weakest economies in the country. The majority of

the population is poor and underserved when it comes to health care. However, the national budget is overstretched and cannot make up the shortfall. The population groups compete for vital resources such as water and land, and for opportunities to gain qualifications and earn an income. For everyone, the focus is on daily survival. This situation fuels conflict between population groups, increasing the danger of instability. This can create new causes for displacement.

Opportunities to earn an income and live together peacefully

On behalf of the *German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* supports 11 communities in western Chad. Employment opportunities for young men and women create prospects and promote development in the region. The stability grows and perspectives arise, which ultimately helps reduce the causes of renewed displacement and avoid competitive situations.



GIZ organises training courses to help people learn more about topics such as digitalisation, the internet and computers. And practical courses teach participants more about sustainable, yield-boosting and climate-smart agriculture and cultivation techniques. Women-headed households have priority here. They can earn a higher income after growing and selling their produce, and this boosts the economy in local communities.

Using participatory planning processes, GIZ brings people in the 11 communities together and encourages them to jointly set priorities for further development in the region. Administrations and residents identify unused land and draw up conventions for resource and land use themselves. This strengthens links with the surrounding area and promotes integration within neighbourhoods. GIZ also organises moderated dialogue forums with mediators, as well as sporting, cultural and leisure events. These events give the different population groups a chance to get to know each other and exchange ideas. This defuses conflicts within the communities and strengthens social cohesion.

Our results

The project aims to support 3,500 young men and women in improving their living situation. More than 2,000 unemployed young people between the ages of 16 and 35 are expected to be in work and earning a stable income by the time the project ends.



In addition to assisting young people, the project will also help women improve their economic situation, mainly by boosting agricultural production. Around 1,500 women in the selected communities will be given support to increase their yields. All new production methods will be climate-smart.

To promote peaceful interaction, GIZ will support and organise 500 sporting, cultural and leisure events in the 11 host communities. These events will give the different population groups an opportunity to get to know each other. 62 mediation and conflict committees also support people. GIZ provides members of the committees with training in peaceful conflict resolution so that tensions in the communities decrease, peaceful coexistence is guaranteed and new causes of displacement are counteracted preventively.

The project is part of the BMZ Special Initiative entitled 'Tackling the Root Causes of Forced Displacement, (Re)integrating Refugees'. The measures supported by the project benefit refugees and host communities alike. By taking a sustainable approach, the measures mitigate structural causes of displacement in the long term, such as social inequality or a lack of prospects. This particular project helps improve the income prospects of young people and women and strengthens peaceful interaction between conflicting parties.

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