



Dear Sir or Madam,

If health care delivery cannot be guaranteed, or only functions to a limited extent, this makes a country's system very vulnerable. Infectious diseases can spread quickly, for example, and social inequality can easily increase. One of the most important tasks of international cooperation, therefore, is to improve a population's state of health. This objective is also set down in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – in particular SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Together with our partners and commissioning parties, GIZ is currently involved in activities to promote health in over 80 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and increasingly also in Europe. This issue of GIZ Compass takes a look at some of these projects. In Afghanistan, for instance, GIZ is providing advice on developing and adapting public health systems. In Nepal, one focus is on ensuring that more people benefit from health services and health insurance. And around the world we are helping to prevent and combat the spread of disease. In addition, GIZ is contributing to healthy living by developing sanitary facilities and promoting improved hygiene and a balanced diet.

If you want to find out more about this topic, have a look at [issue 28 of our magazine akzente](#).

We hope you find this issue informative.
Your GIZ Compass Editorial Team

In this issue:

In focus

- » International cooperation works
- » Togo and Benin: In the right place at the right time
- » Worldwide: Invisible danger in our midst

- » Northern Iraq: Water for one million people
- » Afghanistan: A focus on enhanced provision and administration
- » Tunisia: Ensuring high quality
- » Nepal: Proper insurance

Panorama

- » Pakistan: Prospects in Pakistan
- » Thailand: Going with the flow
- » Worldwide: Effective planning and clean air

In brief

- » Brussels: Meeting point – GIZ at the European Development Days 2017
- » Further reading: Building a bridge between powerlessness and hope

In focus

International cooperation works Our health achievements in figures



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120 million people! That's how many men, women and children worldwide have benefited from improved health services with GIZ support on behalf of the German Government. What's more, over 300 million people can now rely on improved health insurance, and more than 16 million people have better access to sanitary facilities – resulting in better hygiene and fewer harmful germs.

These results are part of a company-wide survey conducted last year by GIZ. The survey compiled and analysed data drawn from over 800 programmes and 22 sectors implemented worldwide between 2010 and 2015.

These aggregated results supplement GIZ's comprehensive quality management system, which is aligned with national and international standards. From planning to evaluation, GIZ regularly reviews its activities and results achieved. Along with the two-yearly GIZ evaluation report, results statistics and brief reports on the evaluations of individual projects are published on the company's website.

Further information:

Further results and information on monitoring and evaluation are currently available on [GIZ website](#).

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In the right place at the right time Infectious diseases call for a different kind of response

Whether Ebola, the Zika virus or swine flu – infectious diseases can rapidly turn into epidemics that threaten large sections of the population. In 2014/2015, for example, Ebola claimed the lives of more than 11,000 people in West Africa. In order to prevent the same thing happening again, the international community is now seeking to improve response time in the face of health crises. To this end, the German Government has come up with a six-point plan. One of these points involves the creation of an 'Epidemic Preparedness Team' (known by its German acronym SEEG), a team of experts coordinated by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to control epidemics. Its objective is to prevent epidemics by putting preventive measures in place at the local level.



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Take Lassa fever, for example, a disease similar to Ebola. Suspected cases of Lassa fever were reported in Togo in 2016. In order to prevent the disease from spreading, reported cases had to be checked as quickly as possible. However, laboratories in Togo were not equipped to carry out the required tests. This was the moment for SEEG to be deployed for the first time: working at the local level, a team made up of staff from the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM), Robert Koch Institute (RKI) and GIZ developed a procedure for diagnosing Lassa fever. At the initiative of the partner, the National Institute of Hygiene, 120 experts recruited from across the country then received training in the correct procedure for taking samples and dispatching them to the laboratory. This approach proved invaluable in the most recent outbreak of Lassa fever in March 2017: the laboratory provided the correct diagnosis within a very short time frame, enabling prevention measures to be put in place. Benin is another country that is now better equipped to deal with outbreaks thanks to the deployment of SEEG: in early 2017, a team supported local laboratory staff with the reliable processing of samples from suspected Lassa cases and developed diagnostic procedures for other fevers such as Dengue.

Since every outbreak is unique, teams are specifically selected for each intervention. The necessary specialists can be chosen at short notice from a pool of experts: the specialist fields required cover health care and veterinary medicine, as well as logistics, climate, awareness-raising campaigns and hygiene. SEEG is a cooperation between GIZ, the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM) and the Robert Koch Institute (RKI).

Further information:

More on the '[Epidemic Preparedness Team](#)'

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Invisible danger in our midst

Reducing the threat posed by dangerous pathogens



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Highly dangerous pathogens are spread through natural outbreaks of infectious diseases; but they can also be released into the environment as a result of laboratory accidents or deliberate bioterrorist attacks. This means that prevention is key. That is why in 2013 the German Federal Foreign Office set up the German Partnership Programme for Excellence in Biological and Health Security as part of its contribution to the Global Partnership of G7 states. The programme aims to reduce biological risk in the context of the German Government's preventive security policy. To this end, GIZ works in partnership with the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), the Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology (IMB), the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (the Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, FLI) and the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM).

The first phase of the programme up to 2016 focused on 22 countries in Africa, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and South America. Activities were concentrated on Sudan, Tunisia and Morocco. The results already speak for themselves: in Tunisia, for example, there is now an emergency plan for bioterrorist attack and epidemics. Moreover, the relevant agencies for the security, health and science sectors in Morocco and Tunisia also received support with developing national risk communication strategies and were given instruction on proper conduct in the event of an attack through media training and simulations. In Sudan, the response capacity of relevant agencies has been strengthened as a result of a nationwide guideline on biosecurity and a national network of laboratories. The German Federal Foreign Office recently extended the programme term to 2019, during which period the focus will be on 12 countries.

Further information:

More on the '[German Biosecurity Programme](#)'

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Water for one million people

Safe drinking water and basic sanitation provision in northern Iraq

Around 1.4 million people live in Dohuk Governorate in the autonomous region of Kurdistan in northern Iraq. Since the start of the Syrian crisis, the province has also attracted around 660,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 77,000 Syrians seeking refuge. The region already faces a major challenge in terms of the drinking water supply and sanitation



already face a major challenge in terms of the drinking water supply and sanitation provision, but matters have worsened dramatically owing to the huge increase in population. This has also had a serious impact on hygiene conditions and the population's health.



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On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ is supporting the Kurdish water authorities with improving the drinking water supply and sanitation provision in the camps for IDPs and refugees, as well as in host communities. In collaboration with World Vision International and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), for example, GIZ has built new wells and water tanks and renovated existing ones. A former water treatment plant was restored in the district of Zakho and replacement parts and chemicals for water treatment were provided for one year. In addition, the Governorate was provided with five water tankers and two silt clearance tankers. These measures have now secured the drinking water supply for one million people. In response to the arrival of many more IDPs forced to flee their homes following the Mosul offensive in late 2016, GIZ supplied a further seven water tankers, 600 large water tanks and 300 standpipes, thereby providing drinking water for an additional 180,000 people.

The project team involved in the building project a number of particularly vulnerable refugees and IDPs, and in so doing provided them with a temporary income. In addition, the project worked closely with local authorities to ensure the sustainable use and maintenance of the drinking water system: training was given to technicians, operating staff and management to enable them to maintain and operate the facilities themselves in future.

Further information:

More on the '[Stabilisation of water supply and sanitation services for refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities in Dohuk Governorate, Northern Iraq](#)'

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A focus on enhanced provision and administration Afghanistan implements new national health strategy



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What is the best way to create a national health policy and what steps are required to implement it? GIZ is working with Afghanistan's Ministry of Health to find answers to these questions. On behalf of the European Union, GIZ International Services began advising the ministry in the third quarter of 2016, for a period of 30 months, on implementing the National Health Strategy 2016-2020.

In specific terms, GIZ is working with the Afghan Government to tackle various priority areas at different levels of the health system. One objective is to improve the provision of medical services by introducing nationwide standards, thereby enhancing quality and ensuring care.

In addition, the programme aims to provide standardised training materials and establish precise procedures for carrying out and reporting on health care services. The programme also seeks to improve management practices in the implementation of health policy and in public hospitals. This is done by providing training for central ministry staff and provincial health staff in the Afghan provinces, in budget and financial management and monitoring and evaluation. When it comes to hospital management, the focus is primarily on building capacity and improving efficiency through training senior hospital staff in at least 19 provinces on issues such as improved budgetary and human resources planning.

In addition, the project supports Afghanistan in implementing specific programmes for people with disabilities, mental health problems, substance abuse problems or non-communicable diseases, as well as with health care provision in prisons.

Further information:

More on [GIZ's work in Afghanistan](#)

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Ensuring high quality Health care services in Tunisia can receive accreditation in future

GIZ International Services is also active in North Africa, as it is in Afghanistan. Tunisian democracy may still be in its infancy, but the country is confident about its policy on health:



sound, efficient, sustainable and fair medical provision for all its citizens. On behalf of the European Commission, GIZ is working in Tunisia in particular on the accreditation of health care services and creation of a quality management system, initially in 30 hospitals.

Planning is also focused on a strategy to improve management of public hospitals, for which GIZ is providing support to the Tunisian Government. The four-year programme, which will be implemented by 2019, will receive funding of just under EUR 5 million.

During this period, one project component will operationalize the National Accreditation

Agency with measures to ensure that the accreditation process and programme is aligned with international standards – in particular those of the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua). The accreditation of health care institutions in Tunisia is voluntary but aims to establish a consistent and transparent assessment, which promotes compliance to basic common quality principles and the safety of staff and patients. As soon as the institutions meet all criteria, they receive the accreditation.

Therefore, the project prepares 30 pilot hospitals – including 15 public and 15 privately run hospitals – to be accredited. They will introduce quality management systems and test the national accreditation programme. This will involve training not only the relevant staff at the hospitals and accreditation authority, but also their government counterparts at national and regional level. In addition, the project is developing a pool of health experts, whose members will be able to carry out accreditation in future as external surveyors and provide advisory services. This approach will help ensure that everyone knows what it takes to achieve good health and to improve and monitor quality on a sustainable basis.



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Further information:

[More about GIZ International Services](#)

[The project website](#) (French only)

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Proper insurance for Nepal

Citizens benefit from national health insurance scheme



© GIZ/ Nirajan Khadka

High blood pressure, diabetes or a broken leg are all ailments that are comparatively simple to treat in Germany. Until recently, however, for people in Nepal they could bring devastating consequences, since any visit to a doctor that involved more than basic health care had to be paid for out of a patient's own pocket. As a result, many would either borrow money in an emergency or simply do without treatment altogether – often with fatal consequences.

All that changed a year ago: in April 2016, Nepal introduced a state health insurance scheme designed to benefit all citizens. So far the health insurance scheme has been introduced in eight districts, with a further ten to follow soon. The long-term objective is to roll out the scheme across the country within the next two to five years, so that all of Nepal's 30 million

people can benefit from health insurance protection. On behalf of the German Government, GIZ has been actively involved in this process for many years, providing the Government of Nepal with support and advice on setting up the health insurance scheme and help with technical preparations. For example, a web-based information system now enables registration via app and smartphone. The interesting feature of this system is that the insurance company equips a team of 'registration assistants' with smartphones, enabling them to use the app to register new members in their homes. This not only saves the health insurance company money, it also means people do not have to travel lengthy distances to the relevant authority or pay for a photograph for their insurance card. In addition, creating registration assistants generates new jobs – particularly for young women.

In addition to developing the health insurance scheme, the programme is also improving the quality of services specifically in the area of mother-and-child health, including the introduction of a training programme for midwives.

Nepal is not the only country to close an insurance gap for its citizens with German support. GIZ has played its part in establishing similar schemes in India, Indonesia, Rwanda, Pakistan and Kenya.

Further information:

More on the '[Support to the Health Sector Programme](#)'

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Prospects in Pakistan

50,000 graduates in in-demand occupations by 2021 thanks to European involvement

Two million young people scour the labour market for work each year in Pakistan. With too few training places, a lack of training standards and irrelevant training content for the praxis, the success rate had been only one in five. Five years ago Pakistan received European support: the European Union, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Netherlands and Norway worked closely with the Government of Pakistan and a number of companies to promote a reform of technical vocational education and training (TVET). Implemented by GIZ, the programme has produced results, including the creation of 100 job placement and vocational counselling centres. In addition, in the cities of Karachi and Lahore, in a partnership of 140 companies and private and state training institutions, 1,000 young people have received places in an in-company training scheme in selected occupations in the commercial and service sectors. One hundred experts trained in didactics, methodology and pedagogy have since passed on their knowledge to more than 8,500 TVET teachers to improve the quality of teaching. And there are now standards and standardised content for over 60 skilled occupations.

Job seekers now have a much clearer idea of where they should go and whom they should contact: a recent study identified the sectors in which there is high demand for skilled labour. TVET conferences and an online platform pool training information and put companies, TVET institutions and job seekers in touch with one another. This not only helps those seeking work to get a foothold in the labour market; it is also good for the economy. For this reason the programme was extended in late 2016 for a further five years. The European Union is providing EUR 45 million over this period, and BMZ a further EUR 8 million. One of the goals for the second phase is to train 50,000 young people in skills-based training courses, with at least one third of the places to be filled by young women. Additionally, at least four new teacher training centres are planned with a view to improving training for up to 3,600 teachers.



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Further information:

More on '[Supporting Technical and Vocational Education and Training \(TVET\) reform in Pakistan](#)'

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Going with the flow

How drones are helping Thailand's water planning



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Thailand, sun and the Mekong... Like many other rivers in this country in Southeast Asia, this idyllic waterway, with its temples and lush rice paddies, can rapidly turn into a threat. This is particularly true when the river floods following a drought and neighbouring reservoirs are breached as a result of poor maintenance. As fields and villages are inundated, the precious water required for survival cannot be stored for future periods of drought.

Management of such extreme weather events is all the more difficult because there is a lack of knowledge among the relevant authorities and because areas along the rivers are often inaccessible. In the past this meant that reservoirs first had to be drained completely in order to identify potential damage.

So since 2013, the Thai Government has been getting help from the air: on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), GIZ has been working with its partners to introduce drones in three water catchment areas severely threatened by climate change in order to monitor the state of rivers and reservoirs more efficiently. Data collected by the drones is then used to develop 3D models that enable experts to simulate the impact of future floods and to identify and carry out timely maintenance work on reservoirs.

Lessons learned with the approach are shared among staff at the water authorities, researchers and local people affected, in an attempt to secure long-term success with the restoration and maintenance of functioning ecosystems in Thailand. Guidance is also being provided in the deployment of drones: several hundred people are now able to pilot the devices and have received training in sustainable waterway management. The Ministry of Agriculture is now evaluating the potential for deployment of drones in water catchment areas.

Further information:

More on '[Improved management of extreme events through ecosystem-based adaptation in watersheds \(ECOSWat\)](#)'

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Effective planning and clean air

At least 100 cities are moving towards sustainable urban mobility

Dakar in Senegal, Caracas in Morocco, Manila in the Philippines and Arequipa in Peru have had enough of air pollution, traffic jams and road accidents. Instead, these cities are turning to more climate-friendly urban mobility solutions for a more sustainable, efficient and higher quality approach to life. The cities are committed to climate-friendly urban traffic and as such are receiving European support from the 'MobiliseYourCity' programme. At the heart of this is a partnership initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the French Ministry of the Environment



© MobiliseYourCity

and the European Commission. Set up at the Paris Climate Conference in 2015, the initiative aims to provide support to at least 100 partner cities and 20 national governments in emerging and developing countries by 2020. The objective is to develop and implement sustainable and effective urban transport together with the relevant infrastructure, for example by introducing low-emission transport systems and technologies, viable investment programmes for cities and municipalities and improved mobility policies at national level that enhance the framework for sustainable infrastructure. A specific focus in this regard is to coordinate policy programmes closely with the budgetary planning of partner countries. The initiative already has over 20 partner governments and various implementation partners on board, including GIZ, which is supporting the initiative on behalf of BMUB. In partnership with the French Agence française de développement (AFD), for example, it coordinates the initiative's secretariat in Brussels. There, the initiative presented 'MobiliseYourCity' to interested parties as part of an organised event in early March, which can now be viewed on a video.

Further information:

Early successes, best practice examples and planned objectives – you can learn more about 'MobiliseYourCity' in the event report and video on the [GIZ website](#).

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In brief

Meeting point: GIZ at the European Development Days (EDD) 2017

48 hours dedicated to the latest issues in international cooperation



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For everyone involved in international cooperation, the dates 7-8 June are already highlighted on the calendar: for the eleventh time, Brussels is to play host to the European Development Days (EDD). This year the focus will be on 'Investing in Development' and the role of the private sector in international cooperation in particular. GIZ will be present at the EDD and is ready to share experiences from its projects worldwide along with commissioning parties and partners at stands in the Global Village and in lab discussions. For example, it will provide insights into its activities with the Moringa tree, cocoa and cashews, report on the topic of integrity and illustrate why it is vital to invest in African youth.

Meet GIZ: Further information about our programme at the EDD 2017 can be found on the [GIZ](#) and [EDD](#) websites.

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Further reading: Building a bridge between powerlessness and hope

Tanja Gönner on support for people in and around Syria

On issues ranging from geopolitics and the economy to climate change and new technologies, over 30 women from the spheres of politics, academia and practice share their experiences, opinions and predictions in the spring issue of the political journal Europe's World. Among

them is Tanja Gönner, Chair of the Management Board of GIZ. Under the headline 'Building a bridge between powerlessness and hope', she writes about international support for Syrian refugees and the importance of development cooperation.

The article online on: europesworld.org.



Cooperation with the EU and important dates in Brussels

More information about GIZ's cooperation with the EU, important dates and news from Brussels are available online at www.giz.de/eu.



About GIZ

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a public-benefit, federal enterprise with more than 17,000 employees. We support the German Government and many other public and private clients and financiers, including the European Union, around the world in a wide range of different areas – from business development and employment promotion to energy and the environment to peace and security.



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