



Crisis Prevention and Reconstruction

Peacebuilding and Inclusive Reconstruction in the aftermath of Crises, Conflicts and Disasters

The challenge

The increasing number of complex crises, conflicts and disasters presents challenges to partner countries of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* and the global community. They cause destruction of physical, economic and social infrastructure and the environment, often leaving communities without access to basic services and functioning governance structures. Disruptions of economic cycles and value chains deprive people of their livelihoods. Pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities are exacerbated by the disproportionate impact crises, conflict and disasters have on marginalized groups and people. Being exposed to traumatic stress can limit positive coping mechanisms and self-help capacities on a personal and community level. As a result, social cohesion and state-society relations can be permanently disrupted, while competition over scarce resources threaten stability and prospects for sustainable development.

Our approach

GIZ understands recovery as a transformative process that contributes to inclusive, sustainable development and peacebuilding. When supporting recovery and reconstruction efforts, GIZ aims at addressing structural causes and risk drivers for fragility, conflict and vulnerability to climate change and disasters to build resilience to cope with future crises (*recover forward*). We follow a multi-sectoral, needs-based, and participatory approach offering solutions that are tailored to the local context. Context- and conflict sensitivity are ensured throughout all stages of programming to avoid unintended negative effects. *Do no harm* and *leave no one behind* are key guiding principles. Contributing to crisis management as well as the establishment of sustainable structures for the recovery and reconstruction process, GIZ anchors its efforts in the respective local society and flexibly

combines short-, medium-, and long-term measures within the scope of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

Our services

Reconstruction of public infrastructure and basic services: GIZ supports the reconstruction of physical infrastructure and basic (social) services in communities affected by armed conflict or natural or human-made hazards. When rehabilitating public infrastructure such as schools, water networks, or health centres, we integrate risk reduction measures based on risk analyses. Moreover, we advise government entities on the effective and inclusive provision of quality basic social services. All infrastructure interventions are accompanied by inclusive, multi-stakeholder and participatory planning processes to build trust among different stakeholders and ensure that communities' priorities are addressed. GIZ promotes mental health and psychosocial support measures (MHPSS) to support affected people in coping with traumatic stress.

Income and employment generation and strengthening economic development: Increasing income and employment opportunities is a key focus of GIZ's recovery efforts. With temporary social transfers (food, vouchers or cash) and cash for work measures we provide immediate economic support for local communities. To support young people in entering the labour market, we offer vocational education and trainings and assistance for entrepreneurs to set up their own small businesses. These interventions aim to contribute to gender equality as well as green and decent job opportunities as foundation for a socially just and climate-friendly future. Restoring, adapting or adopting new livelihood strategies, where existing livelihoods become unviable in a post-disaster or -conflict setting, bares opportunities for peace and social cohesion.



Peacebuilding and social cohesion: GIZ uses various approaches to support peacebuilding on the individual, local and regional level. Measures involve all actors of society, while paying attention to the special needs of the most vulnerable groups. To ensure local ownership and sustainability of the measures, GIZ aims at strengthening the capacities of local state-, civil society and peace actors for the facilitation of conflict transformation and peacebuilding processes after crises, conflicts or disasters. For instance, in regions affected by droughts, GIZ helps local actors develop strategies and negotiate inclusive and transparent mechanisms for improved resource management. By supporting authorities in facilitating inclusive and participatory planning processes, state-society relations (vertical social cohesion) are being strengthened. In contexts affected by tension within or between communities, GIZ creates spaces, where people can address prejudices, build trust, and work towards a shared vision of future coexistence (horizontal social cohesion).

Disaster risk management: Disasters occur when a natural or human-made hazard hits a vulnerable population and exceeds their coping mechanisms. Post-disaster reconstruction presents an opportunity to integrate risk reduction measures in various sectors. GIZ draws on the results of post-disaster needs assessments (PDNAs) and supports risk analyses to map hazards and assess the vulnerability and exposure of communities and sectors. These inform measures in prevention, preparedness, risk transfer and recovery. Preventive measures include (re-)construction of dams and dykes, ecosystem-based approaches such as planting mangrove forests, or normative measures focusing on land-use planning and building codes. GIZ also supports preparedness measures such as setting up early warning systems and strengthening local emergency services. Risk transfer solu-

tions can cover remaining residual risks, e.g., insurance policies that provide financial protection for disaster-related damages.

An example from the field

Anbar is the largest governorate in Iraq, covering one third of the country's territory and bordering Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. During the occupation by the "Islamic State" and the subsequent liberation, basic infrastructure and important productive assets for basic services were destroyed. The slowly progressing reconstruction is putting additional strains on the social cohesion of local communities and undermines the confidence in the reconstruction efforts supported by the Iraqi state. The BMZ-commissioned project "Assisting Reconstruction and Improving Living Conditions in Anbar" (ARILA) together with its local governmental partners supports basic service delivery, strengthens state-society relations and revives local livelihoods. To foster state-society relationships, the project follows a twin track approach: ARILA strengthens local government structures to respond to the needs of the communities effectively and inclusively and created avenues for community members to voice their specific needs to the government. As a result, Joint Community Government Committees were formed including representatives from the Governor's Office, Mayors, Directorates, and community members and developed Community Action Plans for improved basic service delivery. Selected infrastructure projects are implemented by ARILA (e.g. rehabilitation of water treatment plant, youth center). Moreover, ARILA supports the local population's access to livelihood and employment opportunities by strengthening local vocational and job-skills training providers and supporting entrepreneurs in scaling their businesses.

Impressum

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