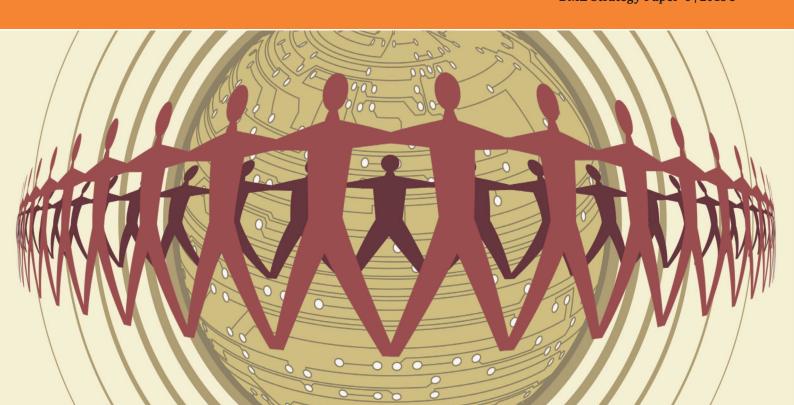




Strategy on Transitional Development Assistance

Strengthening Resilience - Shaping Transition

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Abbreviations

BMZ German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

EU European Union

FAO United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation

LRRD Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development

OECD Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

1. Introduction

This strategy establishes the framework, defines the objectives and describes the context and specific areas addressed by transitional development assistance interventions of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In drawing up this strategy, BMZ actively involved those stakeholders concerned, in particular the implementing organisations, non-governmental organisations, various federal government departments and other partners. As such, the strategy is based on a solid foundation of expert knowledge and experience.

The strategy paper is intended to serve as a reference for BMZ, its implementing organisations, beneficiaries and other partners when it comes to designing and implementing transitional development assistance projects. It also provides a foundation for BMZ's development policy dialogue on this topic with its domestic and international partners, other federal agencies, partner country governments, other donors, international organisations and the general public.

The aim of transitional development assistance is to help strengthen the resilience of individuals, local communities, civil society actors and state institutions in situations of fragility and protracted crises, during periods of recovery and in countries that are particularly exposed to natural hazards and the effects of climate change. The development process in highly complex crisis situations is not generally linear. Depending on the initial context, transitional development assistance – as a specific area of German development cooperation with its own sources of funding – can be provided parallel to or after humanitarian aid interventions, or during the transition to longer-term development cooperation.

One of the main objectives of transitional development assistance is to act as a bridge between immediate, medium-term and long-term measures in line with the concept of Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD). In terms of mitigating the impact of a crisis or disaster, the immediate response generally takes the form of humanitarian aid, which is committed to upholding the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. It focuses on humanitarian needs, and its overarching objective is to preserve human life. At government level, the German Federal Foreign Office is responsible for all humanitarian aid provided by Germany in other countries. Transitional development assistance creates a dynamic link between humanitarian aid and long-term development cooperation. As such, it lays the first viable foundations for the transition to a sustainable form of development.

1.1 CHALLENGES

While many countries have made significant development progress over the last thirty years, the global challenges facing development cooperation have increased. Around 1.3 billion people earn less than USD 1.25 a day. Many of them live in fragile states. Although a number of states have made the leap into the group of middle-income countries, the number and complexity of crises, disasters and violent conflicts in some of the partner countries of German development cooperation have risen considerably.

Around half of all BMZ partner countries are classified as fragile states or as states affected by violent conflict (BMZ 2012). Almost a dozen of these countries are beset by protracted or recurrent crises. In these situations, which often last for many months or even years, a substantial proportion of the population is exposed to external shocks for which they are not adequately prepared. State structures are generally weak, and states are only reluctantly willing or insufficiently able to respond appropriately to such shocks, to mitigate the impacts and to protect the population.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) the number of people experiencing hunger around the world amounts to 870 million, signifying that one in eight people is malnourished (FAO 2012a). Around two thirds of those living in extreme poverty are women (BMZ 2012). At present, there is a risk that Millennium Development Goal number 1 (to halve the proportion of people who suffer from extreme poverty and hunger over the period from 1990 to 2015) will not be reached.

Protracted crises

are events that on account of their nature and scope overwhelm the capacity of people and institutions to cope. Their previous experience, the skills they have acquired and the resources established to deal with such situations are inadequate.

During protracted crises, the livelihoods of a significant section of the population are exposed to recurrent and lasting threats. People may be overwhelmed due to the extreme and sudden nature of the crisis (shock situation) or as a result of more long-term and cumulative stresses. In this context, the term includes economic crises such as those caused by extreme and unpredictable fluctuations in food prices that pose a risk to food security. (based on ODI 2004)

The world's population is set to grow by 1.5 billion between now and 2025, and according to forecasts published by FAO the global demand for food will increase by 70 per cent. To make matters worse, by 2025 it is expected that two billion people will have no or only limited access to safe water (OCHA 2010). Global climate change and its impacts are already exacerbating existing problems. Above all, they are making it harder for poor people to lead self-determined lives. We now expect to see a change in

the intensity, duration, frequency and geographical scale of extreme weather events with a corresponding increase in disaster risk (IPCC 2012). This will be compounded by soil degradation, erosion, severe environmental damage and the absence of any adequate social security mechanisms that might afford the affected population at least some protection. Especially in developing countries, the loss of previously intact ecosystems can trigger a new crisis or aggravate an existing one. The number of conflicts over water, land and other natural resources threatens to increase, presenting even greater challenges that will demand a flexible and needs-based approach to development cooperation in the context of crises, disasters and conflicts.

Long-term development cooperation draws on a range of approaches and methods. In crisis situations, however, its ability to offer prompt and ideally flexible support to meet the needs and harness the potential of those affected as well as promoting reconstruction is frequently limited. This is due to the longer lead time required for long-term interventions as well as due to the often weak state structures on the recipient side. Development cooperation needs to adapt to the increasing complexity of the challenges facing its partner countries. The task of providing support in crisis situations and in the wake of disasters and violent conflicts requires a synchronised approach in which life-saving humanitarian aid and transitional development assistance frequently have to be delivered at the same time and in a coordinated manner.

1.2 DEFINITIONS AND OBJECTIVES

The overarching aim of transitional development assistance is to increase the resilience of people and institutions to withstand the impact and consequences of crises, violent conflict and extreme natural events while improving the prospects for

sustainable development. They harness existing potential and capacity in a way that makes it possible to deal more effectively with future crises and create more favourable prospects in the medium and long-term. In this way, resilience helps to protect whatever development progress has been achieved so far and prevent humanitarian emergencies from arising.

Given the multi-dimensional nature of the links between crises, violent conflicts and extreme natural events on the one hand, and poverty and the lack of food and nutrition security on the other, it is vital to ensure that all short, medium and long-term measures are effectively interconnected and that transitional measures are put in place. The humanitarian aid provided by the German Federal Foreign Office covers emergency aid, transitional humanitarian aid and support to emergency preparedness.

Resilience

is the ability of people and institutions – whether individuals, households, local communities or states – to withstand acute shocks or chronic stress caused by fragile situations, crises, violent conflict or extreme natural events, and to adapt and recover quickly without compromising their medium and longer-term prospects.

(based on DFID 2011, EU 2012)

Wherever possible and appropriate, transitional development assistance provided by BMZ establishes progressive measures which create links to state and civil society structures and actors in order to create sustainable follow-up processes. This linkage, or connectedness, can – depending on the context – operate at every conceivable level from local authorities all the way up to national structures. It is taken into account from the initial assessment and planning phases to the actual implementation of measures.

It is only by ensuring connectedness that interventions can build on and safeguard the positive results already achieved.

Initiating a process of change under fragile conditions with a view to promoting sustainable development often requires longer-term support and measures to build local capacity. However, it also carries the risk of setbacks. Transitional development assistance is regarded as supporting development if it allows people to maintain and improve their livelihoods in the medium and long-term through their own efforts. Transitional development assistance also encompasses the strengthening of the capacities of state, civil society and private-sector actors to perform their respective roles effectively and to work together. These actors include organisations as diverse as central or decentralised administrations, health centres, disaster risk management committees and associations of small farmers.

As a specific funding instrument, transitional development assistance can contribute to closing the gap between humanitarian aid and long-term development cooperation.

This strategy is consistent with BMZ's 'Cross-Sectoral Strategy on Poverty Reduction' (BMZ 2012), the 'Strategy of the German Federal Foreign Office for Humanitarian Aid Abroad' (German Federal Foreign Office 2012), BMZ's development strategy entitled 'Minds for Change - Enhancing Opportunities' (BMZ 2011), BMZ's strategy paper 'Development for Peace and Security' (BMZ 2013), the Busan Declaration 'A New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States' (International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding 2011), and the 'Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations' elaborated by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD 2007). It corresponds with the objective established by the European Union of asserting and effectively implementing the LRRD approach.

Connectedness

This term is used to describe the extent to which different measures are linked. The definition is based on the approach known as Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD), which has evolved since its first use in the 1990s. It also relates to the concept of sustainability and highlights the importance of linking short and medium-term actions to a long-term development goal that is independent of outside donor support.

First and foremost, it involves linking transitional development assistance to more permanent structures and programmes established by state or civil society actors. At the same time, should the situation deteriorate (e.g. due to another natural disaster, the resurgence of a violent conflict or massive and unexpected fluctuations in food prices), it also provides an immediate and temporary option to support those affected by linking up with humanitarian aid measures.

(based on ODI/ALNAP 2006)

1.3 LESSONS LEARNT AND SUCCESS CRITERIA

The transitional development assistance provided by BMZ has proven highly valuable in a range of contexts prior to, during and in the aftermath of crises, disasters and conflicts. The fast-acting and flexible methods employed are designed to harness whatever potential and capacity exists with a view to promoting sustainable development. Experience has shown that transitional development assistance is always particularly successful in cases where:

- short and medium-term infrastructure rehabilitation measures bring about a direct and tangible benefit for those affected within a relatively short space of time;
- strengthening the capacity of people and institutions to cope with situations and adapt accordingly increases their resilience in the face of crises, conflicts and disasters;
- a flexible and pragmatic approach is taken in response to the uncertainty and challenges that affect planning and implementation in fragile contexts;
- → trade-offs and dilemmas are openly addressed, e.g. whether to create temporary structures in order to deliver urgent and tangible improvements to people's living conditions, or to prioritise longer-term measures that strengthen the capacity of the state;
- through a prompt reaction to early-warning signals along with detailed assessments the potentials and needs for change as well as the most effective response options are identified;
- realistic and binding exit criteria are established or follow-on/handover scenarios are developed at an early stage to ensure that the measures taken can be linked wherever possible to national, bilateral or multilateral programmes.

In order to make humanitarian aid, transitional development assistance and long-term development cooperation more coherent and effective, BMZ works with the relevant stakeholders at every level to promote institutional coordination and collaboration in the analysis, planning and implementation of all its programmes.

2. Principles and guidelines – How is transitional development assistance implemented?

The quality of all transitional development assistance interventions is maintained by ensuring compliance at every stage (planning, implementation and subsequent evaluation) with internationally recognised development cooperation standards and principles, especially those of the OECD. These include relevance and appropriateness (based on a detailed analysis of needs and interventions); evidence of effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability; and coherence and complementarity with existing policy guidelines. It is essential to formulate realistic objectives that reflect the actual risks and to measure and review all results and impacts on an ongoing basis as part of a monitoring process. Transitional development assistance activities also conform to a number of other guidelines based on internationally recognised development cooperation principles. These include conflict sensitivity, the Do No Harm principle, participation, gender sensitivity, the inclusion of particularly vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities, capacity development, accountability and transparency.

It is equally vital that the support given reflects the potential and immediate needs of those who have been worst affected and of disadvantaged individuals and groups, while creating more certain prospects for the future. In this context, it is essential to strengthen local and/or national capacity in order to promote self-help competencies, increase resilience and thereby prevent future emergencies from arising.

Coordination and cooperation play a key role in linking whatever measures are taken. Choosing specific measures on the basis of a national strategy and coordinating them with the various stakeholders allows for transparency and an effective distribution of tasks along with an exploitation of synergies. This

in turn supports the connectedness between transitional development assistance interventions and related state and civil society programmes and institutions. As far as possible, the partner's own structures should be used, even though in fragile states, where state structures have been destroyed and very few services are provided, there is often limited scope for doing so. In such fragile contexts, it is particularly important to strengthen and rebuild weak state structures.

Harmonisation and alignment are listed among the pillars of the Paris Declaration. Despite certain risks, they are instrumental in efforts to establish appropriate links that help to ensure the sustainability of the measures taken. As such, they are given due consideration in transitional development assistance interventions. It is essential to adopt a flexible approach to the modes of delivery that reflects the specific context.

Gender issues are given particular attention in the transitional development assistance process. The situations described above affect men and women in different ways. If transitional development assistance projects are to be successful, it is essential to have due regard for their different perspectives and needs. Depending on the situation, the planning and implementation of measures must in particular examine the role of men in violent conflict in terms of radicalisation, their readiness to indulge in violence and, more specifically, commit acts of sexual violence. In particular for women and children who frequently lack protection, assets and access to resources, key measures are those that offer relief while affording them security and better access to work, education and training. Such measures strengthen the capacity of households affected by crises and help to deliver a positive outcome in the medium and long-term.

3. Contexts – Where is transitional development assistance provided?

Transitional development assistance is designed to mitigate the impact of protracted or recurring **crises**, violent **conflicts** and **disasters** caused by natural events that undermine the prospects for social and economic development of large parts of the population and thus reinforce poverty. Since transitional development assistance is not limited to BMZ partner countries, it can also be applied in cases where it has become either very difficult or impossible to collaborate with national governments, state or regional structures. In an effort to increase the effectiveness of transitional development assistance, widen the scope for links to other programmes, optimise strategic planning and make efficient use of resources, the focus is put on **three priority contexts**.

3.1 FRAGILE STATES AND PROTRACTED CRISES

Fragile states present specific challenges for development cooperation (BMZ 2011). Generally speaking, a state or situation is regarded as fragile if the state is either unwilling or unable to fulfill its fundamental functions (monopoly on the use of force, legitimacy and the provision of basic state services) due to the absence, weakness or disintegration of its institutions (German Government 2012). This puts the safety of the population at risk and means they do not receive – or at least not in sufficient measure – even the most basic social services from inefficient state providers.

In many fragile states and countries affected by protracted crises, there are complex links between power and control over resources. Violent confrontations and extreme natural events frequently threaten large segments of the population. The situation is often aggravated by social tension between refugees or internally displaced groups and the communities which host them. Fragility is generally associated with extreme levels of poverty, mistrust and social inequality.

Transitional development assistance interventions are primarily a response to fragile situations and protracted crises. In each case, the approach is adapted to the particular country or region. Despite the obvious uncertainties and risks, the aim is to identify development opportunities and promote the peaceful resolution of competing interests.

3.2 (HIGH) RISK COUNTRIES PARTICULARLY EXPOSED TO NATURAL HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The risk of a society to incur damage as a result of a natural event depends not only on the natural hazard itself but to a large extent on the society's level of vulnerability. The more vulnerable a society, the greater is the risk that a natural event will overwhelm the society's coping capacities. This can result in the loss of lives as well as in social, economic and environmental damage that destroys any capacity to act. In least developed countries especially, disasters caused by extreme natural events can completely undo the development progress achieved through decades of painstaking work.

Furthermore, for many countries, the risk of being hit by a natural disaster is increasing as a result of climate change. In response, transitional development assistance concentrates on (high) risk countries and complements risk management and adaptation measures of long-term development cooperation programmes. These are specifically designed to help prevent and mitigate disaster risk and permanently strengthen the capacity of institutions and people to cope and adapt.

This requires a detailed risk analysis covering both present and future areas of vulnerability. Transitional development assistance places great importance on establishing close links with national disaster risk management and climate change adaptation plans.

3.3 RECOVERY SCENARIOS

Time and again, extreme natural events and violent conflicts lead to enormous damage and loss, especially in fragile states and situations. They often render key elements of the infrastructure inoperable, the delivery of (state) services is difficult or impossible, and social networks and means of production on which people's livelihoods depend are destroyed. State and civil society actors need help, particularly in the critical phase during and after the provision

of humanitarian aid, to manage and implement the process of reconstruction in a way that involves as many of the affected groups as possible. Crises often generate social tension, especially in contexts where people have been driven from their homes or have become refugees in search of a place to settle and make a new life for themselves. For host communities, the task of integrating refugees presents a huge challenge, one they are often unable to meet without external support. This can lead to further tension and possibly (renewed) violent conflict.

4. Key areas – Which interventions does transitional development assistance promote?

In order to achieve their goals effectively, transitional development assistance interventions focus on the following key issues.

4.1 RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF BASIC SOCIAL AND PRODUCTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

As part of the recovery process, activities promote the rehabilitation of the basic social and productive infrastructure, restoration of the operational capacity of (state) service structures and stabilisation of livelihoods with a view to improving them over the medium-term. Achieving these objectives presupposes the (re)construction of basic social, economic and infrastructural systems - with due regard for earthquake, storm and flood-resistant, barrier-free and environmentally compatible building methods ('building back better') and the development of skills and responsibilities (capacity building). To this end, transitional development assistance responds directly to people's needs and harnesses their potential in order to achieve rapid and tangible results. State institutions are supported in establishing basic services. It is an approach that generates confidence in the prospect of peaceful development. Close collaboration with the relevant coordinating platforms and national reconstruction plans is essential. Support includes:

- measures to stabilise livelihoods and improve them over the medium-term;
- measures to help state and civil society structures develop the institutional capacity to deliver basic services;
- measures to build and repair the basic social and productive infrastructure.

4.2 DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Within the German Government, BMZ has the lead role in the area of disaster risk management. It takes a comprehensive approach that aims to integrate the issue into national and international development agendas as a cross-sectoral theme. The approach is based on the international framework for disaster risk management known as the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 - 2015 (UNISDR 2007). To meet the diverse challenges it faces in dealing with extreme natural events, transitional development assistance adopts a holistic approach to disaster risk management wherever possible. This approach covers every aspect of mitigation, prevention and preparedness. The starting point is a detailed risk analysis that links the natural hazard with the vulnerability of the society in question in order to provide a concrete assessment of possible damage and losses, and identify suitable risk management measures. With a view to limiting the negative impact of climate change, disaster risk management strategies are modified where required to include other climate adaptation measures. The main focus of transitional development assistance is on (high) risk countries and postdisaster situations and includes measures at local level. Support includes:

- disaster prevention measures to mitigate and in some cases even prevent the impacts of extreme natural events over the medium and long-term. These preventive measures are often designed to be implemented across different sectors;
- measures that build up institutional capacities in order to increase preparedness and to avoid or minimise fatalities and other losses and damage in case of an extreme natural event;

- → measures to promote the (re)construction of social and productive infrastructure in a way that increases disaster-resilience while drawing appropriate lessons from past disasters and integrating prevention and preparedness measures into the reconstruction process;
- adaptation measures that specifically help to cope with the impact of climate change. For the purposes of transitional development assistance, these measures relate primarily to agriculture, healthcare and water.

4.3 (RE-)INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES

Transitional development assistance activities promote the (re-)integration of refugees and internally displaced persons into host communities and support efforts to help local populations in areas affected by refugee movements. The aim is to strengthen social cohesion on a permanent basis. As part of a range of context-specific prevention measures, interventions also aim, where necessary, to strengthen the capacity of local communities to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner. Support includes:

- measures to ensure the (re-)integration of refugees and internally displaced persons, with a particular focus on generating sources of income (livelihood measures);
- support for host communities;
- capacity development for conflict transformation.

4.4 FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

Hunger and food insecurity are two of the most serious consequences of economic crises, natural disasters and violent conflicts. Measures to improve food and nutrition security as postulated by the FAO are designed to safeguard or improve the nutritional status of those affected and ensure that they receive an adequate supply of safe and nutritious food. Depending on the initial scenario, this can involve securing access to basic social services in the areas of healthcare, water, hygiene and education as well as restoring and improving the basic productive infrastructure including rural paths, roads, markets and irrigation systems. Interventions of transitional development assistance to promote food and nutrition security include:

- measures aimed at improving direct access to sufficient and adequate food through temporary social transfers (including conditional and unconditional transfers of food, cash and vouchers);
- nutritional measures aimed at pregnant women, breast-feeding mothers, new-borns and infants that reduce and prevent under- and malnutrition;
- → interventions to initiate or revive agricultural production and thus improve the availability of food, maintain the natural means of production and raise incomes to the level required for subsistence, including post-harvest protection and storage.

In all these areas, transitional development assistance harnesses the potential and capacity of people and institutions to establish a basis for sustainable development in the context of crises, conflicts and disasters.

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