



Germany and FAO

Partnering to build global food security

Germany is an active resource partner, having channelled more than 115 million euros into FAO projects since 2002. Its contribution to FAO assistance includes a food security fund that supports activities ranging from bioenergy development to improved nutrition and land tenure regulation. In addition, German funding supports environmental and emergency projects, including recent responses to mitigate the impact of drought and floods on food and nutrition security in disaster-stricken countries.

Targeting agricultural investments to combat hunger and malnutrition

Germany's Bilateral Trust Fund for Food Security (BTF) supports activities carried out with FAO to improve food security for vulnerable groups in less developed countries. Set up in 2002 with an annual budget of approximately 9.5 million euros, the Fund has supported almost 100 innovative FAO projects over the past decade. Projects have been located principally in Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and in the Congo Basin in Africa.

The Fund is a vital source of seed money for testing new ideas that will catalyse funding from larger, international donors – always with the overarching goal of combating global hunger and malnutrition through targeted investments in agriculture.

BTF-FAO projects are formulated around the following fields:

- Bioenergy and food security
- Sustainable nutrition and rural development
- The right to food
- Responsible governance of land tenure
- Fighting malnutrition

Funds are managed on a project-by-project basis by the German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food under the supervision of the Ministry.

Multiple sources of support

Germany's support and contributions to FAO assistance come from a variety of funding sources:

- The **Ministry of Food and Agriculture** supports forestry and genetic resources projects as well as the country's major Bilateral Trust Fund for Food Security
- The **Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety** supports large environmental projects
- The **Federal Foreign Office** supports emergency projects
- The **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development** supports large-scale development projects. Sources of funding include the **German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)**, supporting emergency and small development projects, and the **German Development Bank (KfW)**, which supports a variety of development projects

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The right to food – from principle to reality

The right to adequate food was formally recognized by the United Nations as a human right in 1948. The right is enshrined in Article 2 of Germany's Basic Law, and the German Government originally funded the dedicated FAO unit which works to mainstream the understanding that every person in the world today has the right to sufficient food, no matter where he or she lives.

FAO aims to incorporate the right to food in national food security and nutrition programmes, social policies and legal processes. It supports policy as well as capacity development, fostering good governance and strong, accountable institutions to secure this basic right. Economic growth and development are monitored within a framework designed to ensure that progress is not achieved at the expense of the right to food or other human rights.

Germany's continued support in this area has allowed FAO to implement voluntary guidelines on the human right to food in the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Sierra Leone.

Through the Bilateral Trust Fund for Food Security, for example, Germany has provided around US\$2.5 million to help the Government of Sierra Leone and partners promote the right to food and improve the quality of

diets as part of the country's Smallholder Commercialization Programme. The project promotes the right to food among Sierra Leone's farmers, university students and regional food and nutrition security coordination committees. Directly aligned with the country's agricultural strategy as well as FAO's country programming framework, actions simultaneously address governance, food security, nutrition and economic growth - the ultimate goal being to achieve the right to food for every person in Sierra Leone.

Land tenure reform – a vital basis for food security

Secure and fair access to land, fisheries, forests and other natural resources is essential for sustainable rural livelihoods. Rural women, in particular, stand to benefit from reformed regulations. While women account for more than half of the world's small-scale farmers, they are often disenfranchised by traditional land inheritance laws and in fact hold less than 20 percent of land titles.

In 2012, FAO pioneered an unprecedented international agreement on the governance of tenure: **the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests**. These Guidelines underline the importance of secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests for sustainable development, environmental management and the eradication of hunger and poverty.

Considering that more than 83 million hectares of agricultural land in developing countries have been sold or leased since 2000, the Guidelines are essential. Without clear and transparent land tenure regulations, for example, rural smallholders can be forcibly evicted from their land. And while private investment is an important part of the drive for food security, too often land transfers have amounted to land grabbing.

In addition to supporting the drafting process for the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, Germany has committed more than US\$3 million, again through its bilateral fund with FAO, to promote responsible land tenure governance in Mongolia, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The objective is for other countries and investors as well as non-governmental and international organizations to make compliance with the Guidelines a precondition for bilateral cooperation and investment.

"Interventions should be based on the concept of the human right to food. Fighting hunger is not charity, nor should it be dependent solely on a government's good will."

José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General

