LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

(The reality of German Development Policy 2016)

Kompass 2030
DIE WIRKLICHKEIT DER DEUTSCHEN ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK 2016
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is the Compass 2030?
The Compass 2030 report is a critical assessment of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) from Germany. It compares Germany's contributions at an international level, analyses what areas are given priority and shows how these funds are used. The report's analysis, recommendations and demands also acts as a compass for the development policies of the German Government and provides a roadmap for the way ahead. It is published yearly together with terre des hommes.

Since this year, Agenda 2030 is the red thread regarding topics to be included. Reference is made to concerns Welthungerhilfe and terre des hommes encounter in their work, be it at headquarters or abroad. The Compass is to become one of the documents that contains the main advocacy topics of Welthungerhilfe with regard to the German government, parliament and ministries. This is why it is published in German only, except the present summary in English available online only.

Agenda 2030
In September 2015 the United Nations agreed on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are wider reaching than their predecessor the Millennium Development Goals and consider all countries to be developing countries. Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that Germany would lead by good example in implementation and transparency, yet implementation remains slow. Germany's financial commitments to the SDGs have also been conservative. While the budget of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development for 2017 has increased by 580 million euros to a total of eight billion euros, this falls short of increases in previous years.

Meanwhile Germany’s commitment to spending 0.7% of GDP on ODA has still not been reached, despite being first agreed on in the 1970s. Increases in financing for ODA may also not be what they seem. With a total ODA spending of 16 billion euros in 2015, and an increase in ODA from 0.42% to 0.52%, this allowed Germany to move further up the ranking of donor states. However, this increase was mainly due to counting domestic costs for asylum seekers and refugees as development assistance. This trend can increasingly be seen in other European Union countries.

Investing to Leave No One Behind
"Leaving no one behind" is the guiding principal idea of the 2030 Agenda. Welthungerhilfe and terre des hommes have identified five areas which require urgent action:

1. Refugee and Asylum Policies
Globally, the number of displaced people has reached a new record of 65 million. However, only a small percentage of these people come to Europe; 90% remain in developing countries and two thirds stay within their national borders. People that are fleeing their home countries need protection. Refugee camps, while in some cases necessary in the short term, are not a viable strategy in the long-term. More support should be given to communities taking in refugees as this increases the financial and social independence of refugees and creates a better understanding of their situation in the wider population.
At a policy level, the Foreign Office and the BMZ should create a joint unit that combines crisis prevention, humanitarian aid and structural support. The BMZ must also become most flexible in the way it works and create innovative approaches in these three areas. Meanwhile, Germany should make greater efforts in creating effective international policies in crisis management and prevention.

2. Renewed focus on the poorest and most fragile states
According to the World Bank, 700 million people, or almost 10% of the world’s population, are living in extreme poverty and surviving on less than 1.90 US$ a day. The majority of this population live in Least Developed Countries (LDC) or Low Income Countries (LIC). In 2015 under the German led G7 it was agreed to reverse the reduction in financial assistance to least developed countries. This promise should now be kept and countries should work together multilaterally to coordinate spending and support greater financial independence of countries by reducing capital flight caused by foreign companies and promote good governance and improved domestic tax systems. Germany’s spending in LDC has reduced from 28% to 23% of total ODA since 2010; no sub-Saharan LDC is amongst the top 10 beneficiary countries of German Aid in 2014.

3. Fighting the root causes of hunger
Worldwide, around 800 million people go to bed hungry every night and two billion people suffer from undernutrition, a lack of essential vitamins and minerals often referred to as ‘hidden hunger’. SDG 2 calls for an end hunger and malnutrition by 2030. To achieve this, agricultural productivity and the income of small-scale farmers should be doubled. However, current approaches and resources are not enough to end hunger. Government efforts and spending in this area needs to become more transparent while policies in the areas of international trade, agriculture, natural resources, energy and finance need to be checked and if necessary changed to ensure they support, and do not hinder, the development of food and nutrition security in the global south.

4. Supporting vulnerable groups, woman and children
Education is the basis of all development. The World Bank states that education for women and girls is the most effective investment in developing countries. Yet in Africa one in four girls do not attend school. Vulnerable groups are all often consigned to the margins of society or go unnoticed. Governments and donors need to work together to conduct rigorous analysis of marginalised groups so that they can be identified and prioritised in projects. Improvements in social security and education systems are vital to allow good future prospects for the whole of a society.

Worldwide, woman produce 50% of all food yet own less than 20% of land titles. The German government has an action plan for gender equality and has named Uganda, Peru and Benin as the three countries where it shall focus its efforts on increasing formal land rights for women. Considering the scale of the problem this action plan does not go far enough and must be extended to include other countries with similar situations.

5. Creating employment for young people
Employment is the best way out of poverty and the 2030 Agenda highlights this with SDG 8: decent work and economic growth. Young people and women are in the most difficult situation with regards to finding employment. Using their potential and strengths is a key factor in ensuring no one is left behind. The challenge is great: 18 million jobs need to be created in Africa every year for young people who are trying to get into the job market. Germany has been a front runner in supporting employment education, doubling the amount it spends since 2010 to 147.2 million euros. Germany should continue to increase its pioneering efforts in this field by evaluating its work so far and then developing this further with partners on the ground.
Assessing Germany’s aid performance and coherence to the 2030 Agenda

The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals are a call to action to tackle the world’s most urgent problems. Increased financial support is important but money alone is not enough. The Quality of Official Development Aid Index (QUODA) measures performance of DAC countries and larger donors. Here, Germany is only an average performer. Policy coherence, especially relating to finance, climate change, migration and agriculture is urgently required. Several sources show that Germany is not doing enough. The Ending Rural Poverty Index that measures the positive influence of policies of all OECD countries on food and nutrition security in developing countries places Germany 22 out of 28 countries. Therefore, Germany is not yet the shining example the government likes to present itself as, neither in development policy nor with putting the 2030 Agenda into practice. The government needs to make clear that ‘business as usual’ is no longer an option and it needs to act systematically on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels. These are some of the important steps that need to be taken at this early stage to ensure we achieve all SDGs by 2030.

Key demands
1. Better combine crisis prevention, humanitarian aid and development cooperation. Improve flexible use of funding and implementing instruments
2. Re-Focus on LDC and marginalized groups to leave no one behind
3. Increase funds for and quality of Food and nutrition security interventions as speed of reducing hunger needs to triple.
4. Increase ODA to 0.7% now, not in 2030 as implementation of Agenda 2030 requires new investments! Improve on efficiency of German Aid, also with regard to civil society organisations.
5. Improve coherence of German policies with regard to Agenda 2030 (trade, agricultural, finance)