

akzente

The GIZ Magazine

Refugees – Unwavering
desire for a new life

Start-ups create jobs in Tajikistan
Fires support climate protection in Brazil

**CASHEW NUTS HAVE STRONG
MARKET POTENTIAL –
AND EVERYONE SHOULD BENEFIT**

KWABENA TAYLOR
GENERAL MANAGER OF A COMPANY IN GHANA

KWABENA TAYLOR set up a cashew processing company. Africa used to export all its raw cashew nuts, losing out on potential income. The African Cashew Initiative has helped to create more than 5,000 jobs.

You can find more 'Faces and Stories' at
www.giz.de/stories.



Scan the code with your smartphone to watch the video.

A NEW START

Why people flee their homes and how GIZ is creating new prospects for them.

DEAR READER, Muhammad fled Mecca, Friedrich Schiller escaped from Württemberg and Heinrich Heine sought refuge in Paris. These examples show that migration and displacement are as old as humanity itself. And yet this means much more than simply escaping danger. These words are wrapped up with notions of motivation and drive, and the idea of starting a new life. Because the arrival of refugees almost inevitably leads to change. There are many examples from our past: consider the progress of the United States of America since the 18th century or Germany after the Second World War. In the long term, the arrival of different people stimulated development. This is worth remembering, though of course we shouldn't play down the immense challenges presented by the current refugee drama.

OUR AUTHOR Jochen Stahnke from the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung examines what lies behind the most recent refugee crisis and shows that the line between good and bad, between victims and people smugglers, is not always clear cut. In this issue's interview, Federal Minister Gerd Müller explains what strategies the German Government is pursuing and how it is tackling the root causes of displacement. And prize-winning author Saša Stanišić briefly reflects on his own poignant experiences of fleeing Bosnia.

OUR REPORTS take you around the world: to Tajikistan, where starting a business calls for innovative ideas and a fair amount of courage. To Egypt, where job centres are being used to counter unemployment. And to Brazil, where controlled fires in the Cerrado savannah are helping to prevent even worse bushfires.

OUR APP for tablets provides lots of additional interesting information, such as a picture gallery of famous refugees, a video to accompany the report from Tajikistan and a podcast about young Egyptians looking for the right job. Whether reading, clicking through or watching the videos, I hope you enjoy discovering everything this issue has to offer.

JUST ONE FINAL note from me: next issue you will see a new face on this page. After almost 10 years at the head of Corporate Communications, I will be taking a sabbatical next year and handing over the reins to my successor, Sabine Tonscheidt.

Best regards,

Dorothee Hutter



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Director of Corporate Communications
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AKZENTE APP

You can read akzente on your tablet too – download the app free of charge from your usual app store. There's also a video to help you navigate through the app.

www.giz.de/akzenteapp

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Paralegals support thousands of citizens who have been imprisoned without charge or trial in Bangladesh.

AUTHORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS



JOCHEN STAHNKE (1) is a political editor at the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. In his essay he explores the refugee situation, including experiences in Niger. Many refugees pass through the country on their way to Europe. Based in Cairo, **JÜRGEN STRYJAK (2)** reports on six Arab countries for broadcaster ARD. He and photographer **AXEL KRAUSE (3)** met young Egyptians who now have new prospects thanks to an employment pact. **HELEN SIBUM (4)** and photographer **FREYA MORALES (5)** met entrepreneurs in Tajikistan. **AMIT DAVE (6)** captured India's love of yoga in a fascinating photo. **CARL D. GOERDELER (7)** knows all about the beauty of the Cerrado. He has been living in Brazil for years and writes for various German-language newspapers. Together with photographer **WERNER RUDHART (8)**, he discovered how settlers, environmentalists, politicians and researchers have teamed up to ensure the survival of the savannah – using unusual methods.

INTRODUCING



46 Elisabeth Fischer

From her office in Bangkok, the agricultural expert advises the ASEAN member states. 'It's an exciting region,' she says. 'The markets are undergoing huge change.'

giz COMPANY PROFILE

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH offers sustainable and effective solutions for political, economic and social change processes. GIZ is a federal enterprise that employs more than 16,000 staff members and operates in over 130 countries worldwide.

www.giz.de/en

IN FIGURES

124,000,000

children and adolescents between the ages of six and 15 have never been to school or have dropped out, according to UNESCO's most recent global report on out-of-school children. The 2013 figures show that the United Nations' Millennium Development Goal of achieving education for all cannot be attained, although clear progress has been made. One aspect of this development goal is to ensure that, by the end of 2015, all children are at least able to complete primary schooling.

6,000,000

refugees were supported by GIZ on behalf of the German Government in conjunction with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees between 2005 and 2014. In 2014, more people than ever – some 13.9 million worldwide – sought refuge as a result of conflict or persecution. Of this number, 11 million were internally displaced within the borders of their own countries.

500,000

workers worldwide – in 2012 and 2013 alone – now have better working conditions thanks to support from GIZ. Improvements include higher wages, freedom of assembly and protection against forced labour.

230,000,000

hectares of forest were lost worldwide between 2000 and 2012. This is equivalent to an area almost seven times the size of Germany. The protection of trees is vital: 1.6 billion people – mainly in developing countries – depend on forests for their livelihood.

Strengthening participation



Exploring opportunities together: German Chancellor Angela Merkel with international guests

G7 FORUM FOR DIALOGUE 'Women must play a bigger role in politics, business and society.' This was the conclusion reached by German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the G7 Forum for Dialogue with Women, which was held at the Federal Chancellery in Berlin in September. At the G7 summit in Elmau in June, government representatives resolved, among other things, to increase by one third the number of women and girls who participate in vocational training projects in developing countries by 2030. Federal Chancellor Merkel invited 50 women from around 30 coun-

tries, including journalists, scientists and representatives of civil society, to discuss how these resolutions can be implemented. Queen Rania of Jordan and Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf were among those taking part in the dialogue. Tanja Gönner, Chair of the GIZ Management Board, led a working group on the economic empowerment of women. 'A great deal of economic growth potential is squandered if there is inequality of access to education, the labour market and important resources such as loans,' said Gönner.

Protection against disease

GLOBAL FUND The Ebola epidemic once again highlighted the importance of strong health systems. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria wants to play a greater role in the development of such systems. GIZ is a key strategic and technical partner in the implementation of the Global Fund's programmes, according to Viviana Mangiaterra, who travelled from Geneva to GIZ's offices in Eschborn along

with six other representatives of the Global Fund. 'We are united in a strong partnership based on trust,' emphasised GIZ Managing Director Cornelia Richter. The meeting aimed to identify further opportunities for both parties to work together. Taking Guinea as an example, they outlined opportunities for cooperation. Together, GIZ and the Global Fund plan to examine how to coordinate the strengthening of health systems.

Stadium goes green

RENEWABLE ENERGY M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore, India, can hold up to 40,000 cricket fans on match days. It is therefore a good place to reach a large number of people and promote renewable energy. With support from the Green Wicket Campaign, founded by Karnataka State, the Karnataka State Cricket Association and GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the stadium has gone green. A system in-

stalled on the roof of the stands collects up to 35 million litres of rainwater per year, which can be used, among other things, to water the playing field. A solar system provides green energy for the changing rooms and other areas. The arena is the first cricket stadium in the world to be powered by solar energy. The system saves 600 tonnes of CO₂ per year. Surplus energy is fed into the city's grid, thus enabling the investment to yield a profit within four years.

'LITERACY IS
VITAL TO BUILDING
MORE JUST
AND COHESIVE
SOCIETIES.'

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO IRINA BOKOVA on International Literacy Day 2015. Some 757 million people are still unable to read or write.

Empowering children in Kenya



SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT Auma Obama is a firm believer in the social power of sport. Through her foundation, Sauti Kuu, the half-sister of US President Obama therefore offers children a variety of activities, including football training. In Kogelo, Kenya, the foundation now has its own pitch. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, GIZ built this facility and provided equipment. It continues to support the foundation in the upkeep of the pitch and materials and in the provision of training for the trainers.

THREE QUESTIONS FOR



TETYANA KASHCHENKO,
lecturer at the Kyiv National University
of Construction and Architecture. She helped
develop the new Master's degree course in
'Energy-efficient construction'.

How important is the topic of energy efficiency in Ukraine?

Very important, because energy prices have been rising for years. One of the most important ways to save energy and thus costs is to insulate older houses and to build new houses according to modern standards.

Summer 2016 will see the first graduates of the new Master's degree. How will they differ from other graduates?

We helped them to form a new vision of architecture that combines ecology and energy efficiency in a holistic approach.

How was the specialisation developed?

Over the past five years we collaborated intensely with GIZ and during this time refined our goals for architectural education. In many seminars with German specialists, including engineers and architects, we exchanged experiences and information on methods and materials.

www.knuba.edu.ua/eng

Temporary homes



REFUGEES IN UKRAINE On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, GIZ has provided provisional accommodation for up to 3,500 people in seven locations in Ukraine. This will serve as a temporary home for those who have fled from regions affected by civil war to other parts of the country. The ministry is now expanding its support and, since September, has been offering a training programme developed by GIZ at all locations. Refugees and interested citizens can learn languages and IT skills and train for careers in the services industry. Training is also offered for those who wish to start a business. In addition, a programme was launched in October to improve psychological support for refugees.

www.giz.de/ukraine

Right address

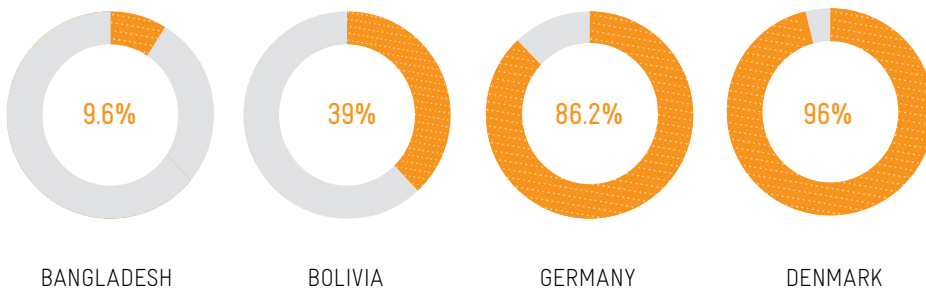


CAREER OPPORTUNITIES A central point of contact has now been established in Priština for Kosovars interested in studying or finding a job in Germany. At the German Infopoint for Migration, Vocational Training and Career (DIMAK), they can find out more about the labour market and legal ways of travelling to Germany. The centre also organises job application training and answers specific questions at seminars and on Facebook. DIMAK is a useful point of contact for German companies looking for skilled workers. GIZ runs the centre on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. It was established in response to the high levels of unemployment in Kosovo, especially among young people.

www.dimak-kosovo.blogspot.de

IN COMPARISON

Source: ITU 2014



Digital networking

Information and communication technology can support sustainable development. Studies show that, when 10 per cent more people have access to broadband internet in low-income countries, economic growth improves by almost 1.4 per cent. However, there are still marked differences in internet usage.



Outstanding support in implementing reforms

PRIZE FROM BELGRADE From comprehensive vocational training reforms and advice on the promotion of exports and tourism to the strengthening of small and medium-sized enterprises – GIZ, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and other donors, has achieved a great deal in Serbia. In recognition of this, it has now received a Belgrade Winner award.

The award was presented by the Belgrade Chamber of Commerce. It recognises GIZ's exceptional commitment to building a sustainable economy and forward-looking training system. 'This accolade gives us impetus and motivation to continue our work,' said country director Siegmund Müller, who accepted the award.

GIZ has been working in Serbia since 2000, during which time the country's economic performance has improved significantly. On behalf of various donors, GIZ also supports Serbia's efforts to build democratic structures and achieve the approximation of European Union laws. Serbia has been a candidate for EU accession since 2012.

www.giz.de/serbia

SERBIA WIKI

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE SERBIAN / CAPITAL
BELGRADE / FORM OF GOVERNMENT
PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY / HEAD OF
STATE TOMISLAV NIKOLIĆ / HEAD OF
GOVERNMENT PRIME MINISTER ALEK-
SANDAR VUČIĆ / SIZE 77,484 KM² /
POPULATION 7.1 MILLION [1] / POPULATION
DENSITY 92 INHABITANTS PER KM² / GROSS
DOMESTIC PRODUCT USD 43.9 BILLION [2] /
CURRENCY SERBIAN DINAR (RSD)

Source: [1] [2] World Bank 2014

NEW PROJECTS

More jobs

ITALY A project in the Veneto region is set to help reduce high youth unemployment. As part of the vocational education reform initiated in 2012, Italy plans to introduce elements of the German dual system. The project is promoted by the European Union as part of the Erasmus+ programme. Further partners include the Veneto education authority, the Veneto Lavoro employment agency and the German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training. The German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs recommended GIZ as a partner to the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

Green Mosques

MOROCCO The Green Mosques project is supporting Morocco's efforts to create jobs in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy. The country's mosques are initially being upgraded to use photovoltaic, solar thermal and LED lighting technology. At the same time, GIZ is working with the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs to raise awareness among the population of the efficient use of energy. The project is part of a special initiative launched by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to stabilise and promote development in North Africa and the Middle East.

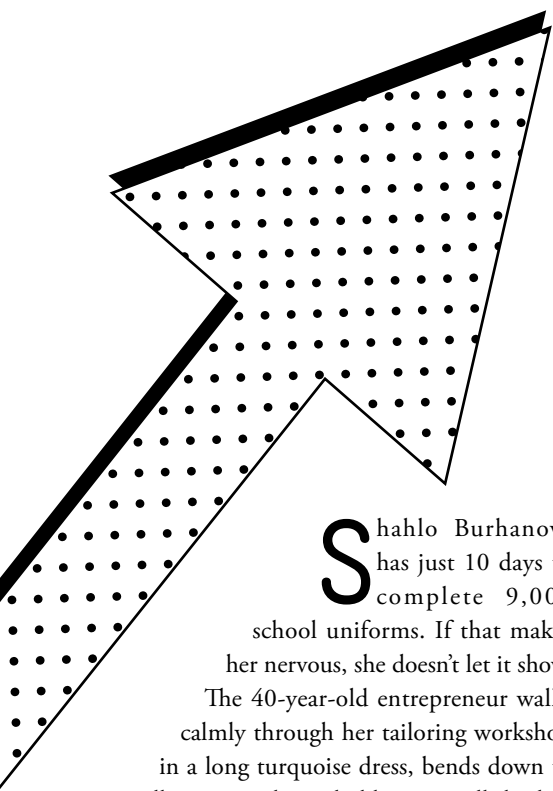
Equal opportunities

MEXICO A new project in Mexico aims to create greater equality of opportunity with regard to access to public services. On behalf of the European Union, GIZ International Services is also working to ensure that justice is served for all citizens equally and that human rights are widely respected. Safety is another aspect of the project, which aims to increase social cohesion in Mexico. Structures within public authorities are to be reformed by the end of 2018. The project also supports institutions which actively promote equal opportunities.



NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED

Starting your own business? In Tajikistan, many people lack the courage and money to do so. Meanwhile, the country urgently requires jobs. A new entrepreneurial spirit is now emerging in many places.



TEXT HELEN SIBUM PHOTOS FREYA MORALES

Shahlo Burhanova has just 10 days to complete 9,000 school uniforms. If that makes her nervous, she doesn't let it show. The 40-year-old entrepreneur walks calmly through her tailoring workshop in a long turquoise dress, bends down to talk to an employee, holds up a small checked waistcoat to inspect. Each school has a different uniform designed by Burhanova herself. The design process is her favourite part of her work. She started her own business in Shaartuz, in southwestern Tajikistan, just a few months ago. She actually wanted to make wedding dresses, but was then awarded this major contract for 25,000 uniforms for 56 schools. The wedding dresses will have to wait.

Being flexible, making the most of opportunities and being realistic about what you can deliver are lessons Burhanova has learned gradually from training courses on how to start your own business. These courses are offered by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, with financial support from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development. As a self-employed businesswoman, Burhanova is part of a small but growing group in Tajikistan with enormous promise. These start-ups could play a key role in the country's economic development. Tajikistan is among the least developed of the former Soviet states. The civil war from 1992 to 1997 compounded the country's economic decline, and its effects can be felt to this day. Consequently, many people look for work



Left-hand page: Wedding dream – Oihon Tojjeva in her bridal shop. This page: Picture of calm – entrepreneur Shahlo Burhanova (left) opened her tailoring workshop just a few months ago and has already received her first major contract. Anzhela Sarkisyan (right) runs a private preschool.

abroad, mainly in Russia. The money they send home accounts for almost half of the country's gross domestic product. No other country in the world is as dependent on remittances.

Expert tips for business plans

A comprehensive support programme has therefore been initiated in this area. It aims to stimulate the private sector and create jobs – not least because many migrant workers are returning home from Russia, owing to the economic situation there, to conditions which are no less uncertain. 'Our main focus is on jobs and higher incomes, in as many parts of the country as possible,' says programme manager Hagen Ettner. Supporting start-ups is an important component in this approach. Entrepreneurs receive training and ongoing support. They learn how to develop

business plans and market their products. GIZ also advises microfinance organisations in the country. For the first time, they are offering microcredits for start-ups. Previously, financial support was only available to existing businesses.

Because capital is expensive and inflation high in Tajikistan, the interest on microcredit is considerable – as is the case in many developing countries. Burhanova borrowed the equivalent of around EUR 35,000 at an interest rate of 26 per cent. She is therefore keen to repay the loan long before the end of the two-year term. 'If possible, after six months,' she says, while the finishing touches are made to more uniforms on sewing machines around her. Most of her 40 plus employees previously worked for themselves from home. Here, they earn around EUR 400 per month, more than three times the average income. Burhanova wants to employ her seamstresses on a »

long-term basis. After all, she has big plans. On the walls hang photos of women in elaborate wedding dresses – the likes of which will soon be made here.

Oihon Tojjeva's business is already a wedding dream come true. Situated just a short car ride away in the centre of the small community of Shaartuz, it is in effect an extension of the tailoring business: Tojjeva runs a wedding dress hire company. She has restored an empty department store for this purpose, using lots of red material and floral decorations. On the first floor, dozens of mannequins in white dresses are arranged in long, straight lines – like rows of debutantes at the Vienna Opera Ball. Since the workshop has not yet started producing dresses, Tojjeva imports them from Uzbekistan or Ukraine. The 44-year-old wants to offer her customers a full-service package of dress, make-up and hair. Vanity tables are set up on the ground floor, with mirrors surrounded by illuminated frames, like in a theatre dressing room. Using a twisted thread, one of her seven employees plucks fine hairs from a customer's cheek. 'That makes the skin nice and smooth,' says the boss.

Oihon Tojjeva, a well built, quietly spoken woman, is also fairly new to the world of self-employment. She took out a loan and invested her entire life savings. Until the busi-



Also available in the akzente app: a video of everyday life at Anzhela Sarkisyan's preschool.
www.giz.de/akzenteapp

Top: Shahlo Burhanova's workshop is a hive of activity. Production manager Bodomgul Minikulova keeps track of everything.

Middle: Oihon Tojjeva and her staff offer women everything they need for their wedding – dress, hair and make-up.

Bottom: Hard at work and a sweet treat during a break at Anzhela Sarkisyan's preschool.



ness becomes profitable, her family is living on the income generated by her husband, who runs a gift shop. This is not made any easier by the fact that he also has to support his two sisters. Nonetheless, things are going well for Tojjeva. Every day, she has an average of three customers, who each spend around EUR 250.

Weddings are big occasions in Tajikistan. So much so that the government has limited the number of guests to 150 because too many families were getting into debt as a result of organising celebrations they could not afford. Tojjeva is aware of this. 'I want to offer every woman a package which fits her needs.' The most expensive dress – which costs almost EUR 450 to hire – therefore rarely leaves the shop. Very few people can afford to buy a dress in Tajikistan, especially since three outfits are required for a wedding: one for the pre-wedding celebration, one for the wedding itself and one for the first visit to the bride's parents, which takes place one or two days after the wedding.

No tradition of starting your own business

There are still some issues that Tojjeva wants to address. Her wedding wonderland is hot. It is 40 degrees Celsius outside, and the fans she has arranged in the spacious premises provide little relief from the heat. She needs an air conditioning system and a fridge with drinks for the soon-to-be husbands, but her finances don't stretch to that at the moment. 'We have great plans, but there are so many challenges,' she says, wiping her forehead.

There is no tradition of starting your own business in Tajikistan, which for many years was defined by its centrally planned economy. When self-employed business owners approach authorities, they are often met by a furrowed brow. The general assumption is that, 'you won't make it anyway.' There is also a lack of transparency with regard to taxation and other regulations. Time and again, small businesses have to pay incomprehensible amounts of tax or undergo repeated inspections. The financial support for start-ups therefore gives them

the confidence they need to assert their position vis-à-vis authorities.

On the outskirts of Khujand, Tajikistan's second-largest city, situated in the far north of the country, the training courses were also a real eye-opener for entrepreneur Anzhela Sarkisyan. 'I used to think that the only thing I could do was teach,' says the 36-year-old. Today, she runs her own preschool.

This morning, a slow trickle of children make their way through the wooden door. They say goodbye to their parents, take off their shoes and enter the former residential building which Sarkisyan has converted into a school. Everything is brightly coloured, the shelves are full of books and toys. Sarkisyan has to peer over her baby bump to greet the children – she is expecting her fourth child. Mehri Yusupova, one of the teachers, ushers the older children into her classroom, where they sit at low tables for two. Time for English. 'What is the capital of Great Britain?' asks Yusupova, and a sea of children quickly raise their hands.

Sarkisyan, a pair of sunglasses perched on top of her head, stands in the doorway and smiles. Before she opened her own preschool, she worked in a kindergarten for ten years. What she experienced there made her

think. 'State kindergartens are overcrowded. It's impossible to prepare children for school there.' Many parents paid for extra tuition, which can be expensive, just so that their children could meet the requirements.

When Sarkisyan heard about GIZ's start-up competition in mid-2014, she wasted no time in applying. She took part in training activities and presented her concept to the panel of judges. In the end, she was one of five winners to receive financial support. 'I want to showcase children's talents,' she says of her philosophy. In addition to the usual subjects, she and her four teachers therefore also offer chess and drama lessons for their 30 pupils.

Sarkisyan also discovered hidden talents of her own: 'I didn't realise the extent of my organisational skills. I now know that there's much more I can achieve.' The parents of her pupils often ask if she can also offer something for the younger siblings. A kindergarten as well as the preschool? Yes, that may well be her next venture.

> CONTACT

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> AT A GLANCE

New ideas for Tajikistan

More than 3,000 businesses have been launched since 2011 with support from GIZ, around 40 per cent of these by women. Approximately 6,000 new jobs have been created. The programme is implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, with financial support from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development. In addition to start-ups, the project promotes dialogue between businesses and administrations as well as economic relations with the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan. The programme also provides advice to ministries and institutions, and supports an agricultural extension service for farmers. Their yields have increased by a quarter.







REFUGEES

THEMES

UNWAVERING DESIRE FOR A NEW LIFE: Global refugee numbers are at their highest level in decades. People flee their homes for many different reasons, but their ultimate goal is always the same: a safe haven and new prospects.

OVERVIEW: Examples of work at GIZ

IN FIGURES: Unevenly distributed

'A TREMENDOUS CHALLENGE': Interview with German Development Minister Gerd Müller on migration and refugees

A MATTER OF CHANCE: Guest article by Saša Stanišić





Unwavering desire for a new life

Global refugee numbers are at their highest level since the Second World War. People are fleeing from conflict, violence, hunger and poverty. Most of them stay close to home, at least at first.

TEXT JOCHEN STAHNKE

Abubakar Demba is standing outside a branch of cash transfer company Western Union in Agadez. He's waiting to pick up his money. The 29-year-old with the short dreadlocks has been living here in Niger on the edge of the Sahara for the last 10 months. The young Gambian's original plan was to travel straight to Libya, crossing Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, but he ran out of cash on the journey. Now he is working as a translator and middleman in order to earn his fare. 'I have two clients from Ghana and Gambia today,' he says.

In Agadez, he joined forces with a local pickup driver and encourages refugees to use their services. Once a week, he escorts his customers to Murzuq in Libya. 'I translate for the refugees and make all the arrangements,' says Demba. He earns 500 Libyan dinars – around EUR 330 – per trip. After five or 10 trips, he would have

earned enough to make the journey to Europe himself. But for now, he wants to stay in Agadez.

So is Abubakar Demba a refugee or a people smuggler? In this desert city, the distinctions become blurred. 'I have a good relationship with the people I help,' he says. 'And they recommend me to others.' He is still in contact via Facebook with some of the people who have reached Italy with his help. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), around 90 per cent of the West African refugees and migrants who want to reach Europe pass through Agadez.

They are all fleeing from poverty, war or a repressive state. Gambia's dictator Yahya Jammeh – in power since a military coup in 1994 – has threatened to 'cut off the head' of any gay person found in his country. Opposition members or people thought to be opposed to Jammeh are routinely imprisoned and tortured. 'There is no future in Gambia,' says Demba, 'and the police treated me like dirt.'

Gambia has acquired a degree of notoriety because so many of its people are leaving this downtrodden country and heading north – for Europe. But compared with what's happening elsewhere in the world, refugee flows to Europe have always been noticeably smaller. »

An anxious backward glance, then full speed ahead: the refugees who make the journey by car or truck are the lucky ones. Many others have nothing but their own two feet.



①

DISPLACED PERSONS

PROJECT:

A NEW START FOR
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

COMMISSIONED BY:

GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE

LEAD EXECUTING AGENCY:

AFGHANISTAN'S MINISTRY OF
REFUGEES AND REPATRIATIONS

TERM:

2013 TO 2016

AFGHANISTAN

There are hundreds of thousands of displaced persons in Afghanistan.

This GIZ project is assisting the government in providing temporary shelters, a drinking water supply and community centres as the building blocks for a new life.

www.giz.de/en/worldwide/24299.html

②

SPORT FOR REFUGEES

PROJECT:

FOOTBALL FOR
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

COMMISSIONED BY:

GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

LEAD EXECUTING AGENCY:

PALESTINIAN MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION

TERM:

2014 TO 2016

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

GIZ is training trainers to work with young people in refugee camps through the medium of sport and encourage them to access vocational training opportunities.

www.giz.de/expertise/html/18311.html

According to figures from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), there were almost 60 million people forcibly displaced at the end of 2014 – eight million more than a year earlier. Some of them – notably the Palestinians – have lived as refugees for generations. Others, such as Syrians and Ukrainians, have been displaced by new wars. Some conflicts have been simmering for years, with no prospect of a settlement any time soon. Congo, Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan are key examples: 2.5 million people from Sudan's Darfur region have been forced to flee their homes and around 1.5 million Afghans have fled to Pakistan. The world is descending into chaos: 15 new wars and conflicts have broken out in the last five years.

Poverty and migration: a cycle of devastation

But it is not only warfare that drives people away from home. In Myanmar, members of the Rohingya Muslim minority are fleeing from systematic persecution. They too are setting out in unseaworthy boats and losing their lives to the waves, largely ignored by vessels from other nations. This year alone, thousands of Rohingyas from Myanmar and Bangladesh have set out across the Bay of Bengal in an attempt to reach Malaysia, Indonesia or Thailand.

Sometimes, droughts or other natural disasters cause poverty and hardship, forcing people to migrate, or sparking a war or conflict, which in turn triggers migration. According to a study by climatologist Colin Kelley, the severe drought in northeast Syria from 2006 to 2009 – which was caused by climate change and poor water policies – led to the migration of 1.5 million people, mainly poor rural workers, into Syrian cities. This intensified pressure on President Bashar al-Assad and possibly contributed to the uprising against him.

The war raging in Syria, now in its fifth year, has uprooted half the population. Eleven million Syrians have been forced out of their homes and about four million of them have fled abroad. This makes Syria the top source country of refugees at present.

Meanwhile, neighbouring Turkey has become the world's largest refugee-hosting country, with 1.6 million refugees, including more than one million Syrians, according to the latest figures from UNHCR. Turkey is followed by Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya and Chad – all of which have conflict regions on their borders. Not a single EU country appears in these statistics. On the contrary, most of the world's refugees



Getting away – any form of transport will do. There's barely time to snatch up a few belongings and flee.

'No refugee comes to another country seeking a holiday.'

The DALAI LAMA, spiritual leader of the Tibetan people

are hosted by developing and emerging countries, and this has been the case for some years. Countries such as Ethiopia and Kenya have taken in far more refugees than Germany, France or the United Kingdom, for example. In 2014, just 630,000 people applied for asylum in the EU. And although recent events might tweak the statistics, the ratio is likely to remain unchanged for now.

Kenya: home to the world's largest refugee camp

Kenya hosts around a million refugees. Most of them live in Dadaab camp in the north of the country; Somalis in particular have sought refuge here. But those who make it this far are by no means certain to have escaped abuse, exploitation or unemployment, for these camps do not only offer sanctuary; they are also fraught with danger.

Dadaab is the world's largest refugee camp, with an estimated 350,000 to 400,000 residents. It has existed since 1991 and was originally intended to house around 90,000 people. Today, however, it resembles a small city in many ways – albeit one where the Western aid »

2.987

people died trying to cross the Mediterranean between January and the beginning of October 2015. Source: IOM



'In my experience, going home is the deepest wish of most refugees.'

ANGELINA JOLIE, actor and UN Special Envoy

agencies provide basic services, creating little incentive for refugees and the many children born there to leave the camp any time soon.

But Dadaab is not controlled by aid workers or the Kenyan authorities: some areas of the camp harbour criminals and members of the al-Shabaab terror group from Somalia. The authorities in Nairobi suspect that the camp is a gateway for al-Shabaab, which terrorises not only Somalia but also its southern neighbour. The Kenyan Government has therefore been attempting to close the camp for some time. Demands for its closure escalated after the attack on Garissa University College earlier this year, when al-Shabaab militants killed 148 people. The attackers are thought to have travelled to Garissa from Somalia, using Dadaab as a staging post. But little progress has been made on its closure.

'Shutting down a refugee camp is far more difficult than setting one up,' says a senior UNHCR official who has worked in Darfur. 'I tried for years and always failed. The longer a camp exists, the more difficult it becomes.' In refugee camps like Dadaab, the structures are well-established and have stood the test of time. They may offer

practical help to the people living there, but they perpetuate a situation that was supposed to be temporary. And if the camp is closed, what happens to the hundreds of thousands of refugees? Where will they go? These issues also have to be considered.

Refugee camps are a global problem – and one which is currently being felt acutely by the Kingdom of Jordan, a small country now hosting more than 650,000 Syrian refugees. That's in addition to the two million Palestinian 'refugees' who have lived in Jordan for decades and make up around one third of its population.

Zaatari refugee camp – set up in 2012 and now home to around 80,000 Syrian refugees, half of them children – has become almost a city in its own right. The Jordanian Government is keen for Zaatari to remain a temporary camp, but the tents are gradually giving way to more permanent structures. In addition, the authorities are worried about possible infiltration of the camp by fighters from all the various factions in the civil war, as well as by agents of the Assad regime. Drinking water is also a problem: this is a scarce resource in Jordan, and there is barely enough to supply the refugees. Jordan is one of the world's water-poorest countries and if there are more permanent residents than the natural water supply can support, lasting structures of dependency are created. Dadaab – also located in an arid region – is another example.

Faced with these conditions, the refugees here and elsewhere clearly need new homes. But can refugees be forced to move to safe countries if they don't want to go? In fact, the opposite trend can be observed: according to UNHCR, in 2014, fewer than 127,000 refugees returned home from camps – the lowest number in 31 years.

The host countries – the vast majority of which are developing countries – need help from the international community, if for no other reason than to prevent them from becoming new crisis hotspots. Lebanon – already massively overstretched – has suspended new registrations of refugees by the various agencies. It also operates an official 'no camps' policy, partly the legacy of Lebanon's bitter experience during the 1975-1990 civil war, when many of the militias found a safe haven in the labyrinthine Palestinian camps. Another legitimate question is why the wealthy Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia are not playing their part in hosting refugees.

If refugees are welcomed properly and treated as free and autonomous individuals, instead of being stuck in camps and forgotten about, they are able to fulfil their potential. Mass migrations and the individual's quest »



At Home in Zaatari: a video about life in one of Jordan's largest refugee camps. There's even a high street, known as 'Champs-Élysées', with shops and market stalls.

www.youtube.com/embed/NKafLeEnYtM

Dadaab refugee camp in the Kenyan desert: almost a city in its own right.

UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED

With thousands of Syrians heading for Europe, migration has become an ever-present and urgent issue in this part of the world. However, in the past the main burden of providing for refugees was borne by the developing countries, not the wealthy nations: at the end of 2014, almost 90 per cent of the world's refugees were hosted by the poorer countries, and 25 per cent were living in least developed countries (LDCs) – a disproportionately heavy burden.

The main countries of origin

Most of the refugees registered by UNHCR in 2014 came from Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia. The fierce conflicts raging in all three countries mean that many people live in constant fear for their lives.



Syria
3.9 million



Afghanistan
2.6 million



Somalia
1.1 million

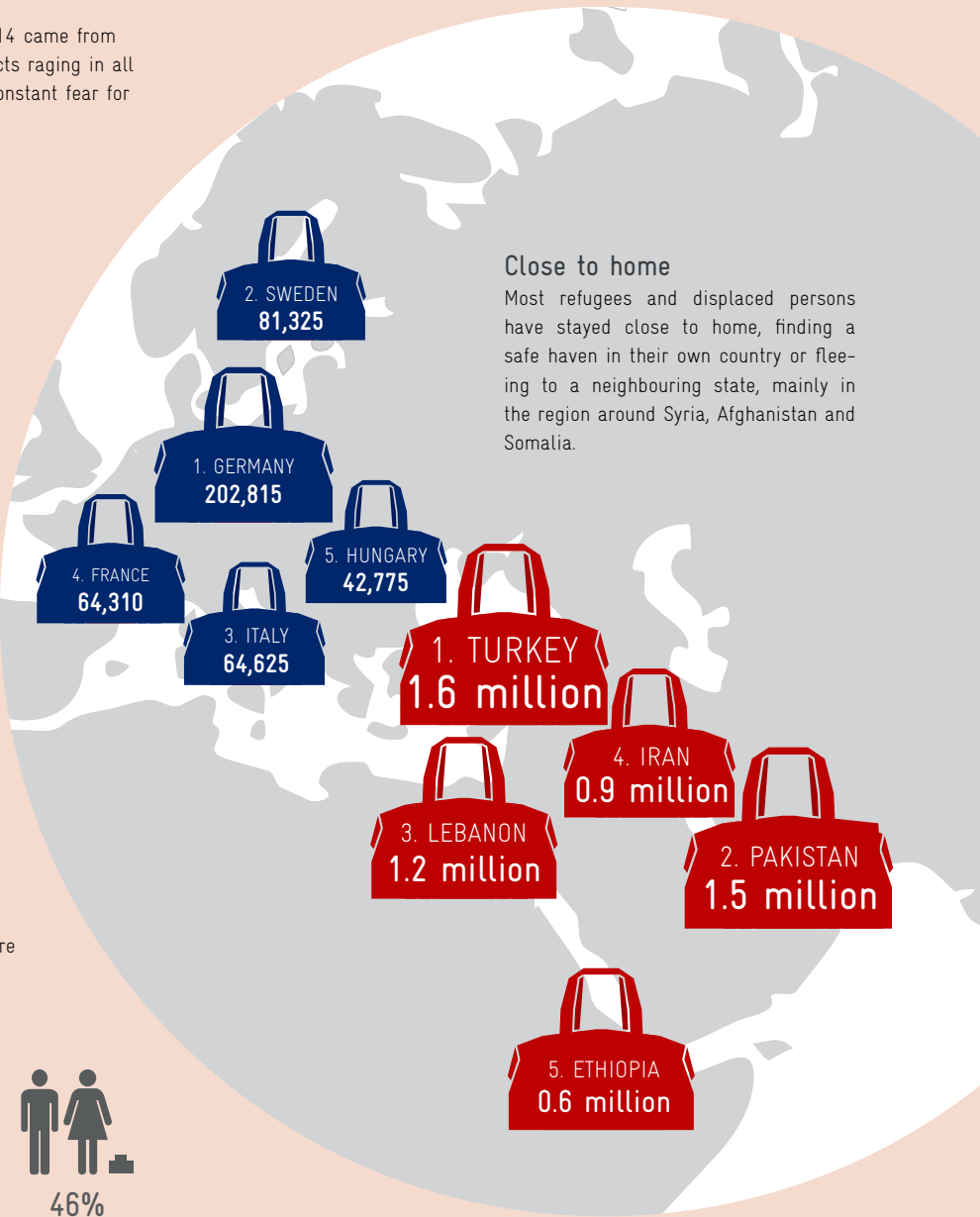
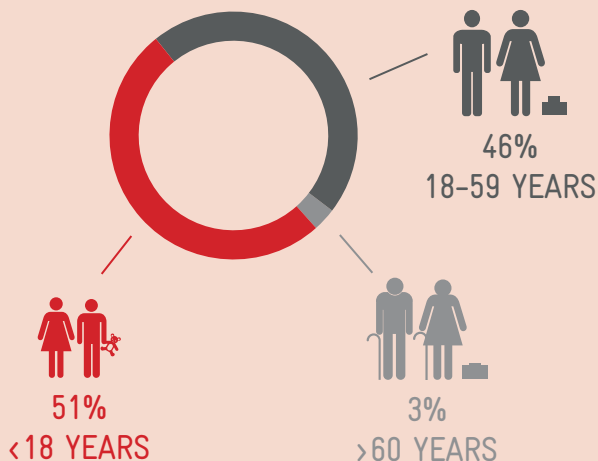


Migration by the minute

In Syria, one family every minute is forced to flee their home.

More than half are children

In 2014, more than half the world's refugees were under 18. The rest were mainly adults aged 59 or less. The over-60s accounted for a very small percentage.



Close to home

Most refugees and displaced persons have stayed close to home, finding a safe haven in their own country or fleeing to a neighbouring state, mainly in the region around Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia.



THE FIVE LARGEST HOST COUNTRIES

Total number of refugees at the end of 2014



EU COUNTRIES WITH MOST ASYLUM APPLICATIONS

Number of applications, 2014

Better shelter

Furniture chain IKEA has developed an emergency housing solution for the United Nations which is designed to provide better shelter for refugees from wind and weather. In some parts of the world it is set to replace tents, which generally have a lifespan of just six months and are less durable. IKEA's shelter is better insulated and has an expected lifespan of three years.



A model of hospitality

Welcome Dinner is a Swedish initiative which encourages families to host a dinner for refugees. It's an opportunity for everyone to get to know one another, share a meal and spend a – hopefully – pleasant evening together. The initiative has now been taken up and replicated in many other countries and cities, including Berlin, Hamburg and Athens.



A new home

Refugees Welcome is a Berlin-based initiative which finds vacant rooms, e.g. in shared apartments, for refugees. More than 1,500 people keen to offer accommodation throughout Germany have now registered with the website.



for a better life have been drivers of development since time immemorial. The arrival of refugees is always an opportunity to create something new – provided that this process is given free rein. The United States, for example, became the great nation that it is today partly because of the refugees and migrants, many of them from Europe, who shaped the country. Today, their legacy benefits each and every one of us.

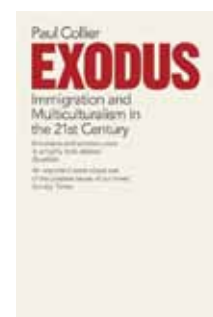
Lack of legal channels strengthens the people smugglers

Refugees should therefore be able to obtain work permits and later acquire citizenship more easily. Bangladesh, for example, does not grant citizenship to Rohingyas on principle. It's a similar situation for the Palestinians in Lebanon and Syria. And some of the European countries are struggling with the notion of citizenship for refugees and migrants.

Europe still lacks a coherent policy response to refugees and migrants, and there are still no safe legal channels for refugees to come to Europe. In light of the Syrian crisis, however, there is a strong case for fair burden-sharing according to countries' economic capacities – not only in Europe, but worldwide. At present, a properly organised system does not exist. What's more, not every country capable of hosting refugees is willing to do so.

But unless safe legal channels are available, refugees and migrants will turn to people smugglers for help. An Eritrean with the right to asylum in Germany, for example, could buy a plane ticket and fly to Europe for a fraction of the price demanded by people smugglers. However, no such opportunity currently exists. And Australia isolates itself as well. It intercepts refugee boats at sea and forces them to turn around before they reach Australian territory.

Giovanni Loprore, who heads the International Organization for Migration in Niger, believes that there is only a limited amount that can be done to prevent refugees from leaving their country, especially if they face the threat of war and persecution. Information campaigns about the dangers have limited impact. 'They know the risks,' he says. 'And they leave anyway.' It's a similar situation with the people smugglers. 'If a »



Professor Paul Collier from the University of Oxford is calling for a rethinking of policies on migration and refugees. At present, the migration debate is informed by emotion and ignorance, he says. His book 'Exodus: Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century' (2013) is published by Oxford University Press.



3

WATER

PROJECT:

TURNING REFUGEES INTO PLUMBERS

COMMISSIONED BY:

GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

LEAD EXECUTING AGENCY:

JORDANIAN MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION

TERM:

2014 TO 2016

JORDAN

In Jordan – one of the world’s most arid countries – the influx of Syrian refugees is putting increasing pressure on scarce water resources. GIZ has set up a training programme for plumbers in two governorates. Many of the trainees are refugees, who are learning how to mitigate water scarcity and prevent water losses from leaky pipes.

www.giz.de/en/worldwide/32347.html

4

HUMAN RIGHTS

PROJECT:

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS
IN MIGRATION SITUATIONS

COMMISSIONED BY:

GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT, EUROPEAN UNION

LEAD EXECUTING AGENCY:

SECRETARÍA TÉCNICA DEL PLAN ECUADOR

TERM:

2013 TO 2016

ECUADOR

The border area between Ecuador and Colombia is a dangerous place, partly due to the protracted conflict in Colombia. GIZ is assisting Ecuador in improving the protection for refugees and displaced persons in this region by providing access to services such as legal advice and social support.

www.giz.de/en/worldwide/15019.html

people smuggler is arrested one day and his operation is closed down, 10 new ones spring up the day after.’

Almost 3,000 people are thought to have drowned in the Mediterranean this year alone. And according to the International Organization for Migration, at least as many have died of thirst in the desert: in Niger, Libya or in the region between Sudan and Chad – currently a temporary haven for refugees from the conflicts in Darfur and South Sudan. Often, the distinctions between emigration, migration, displacement and expulsion become blurred. Abubakar Demba from Gambia says that he grew up in abject poverty and has no future, and claims that he was beaten by the police. His troubles are negligible, one might think, compared with all that the Syrian refugees have to endure, but Abubakar Demba is willing, nonetheless, to embark on a journey that could cost him his life.

No place for bureaucratic niceties

For the people affected, the distinction between a refugee, an internally displaced person and a migrant is often irrelevant. This applies, for example, in the region where Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon intersect, where local people are being terrorised by Boko Haram militants and members of the various ethnic groups are on the move in all these states. Very few of them have a passport. In all, 1.5 million people here have been displaced. Women in particular live in constant fear of being abducted, raped or forced into marriage.

One of them is Kouli Ali, who was held prisoner by Boko Haram for two weeks. She tells her story in Diffa on the border between Niger and Nigeria. ‘They arrived in Damasak early one morning,’ says Kouli. ‘There were more than 1,000 young men and two old ones who told the fighters what to do.’ Kouli is 21 years old. She sits with her family and neighbours under a tree on the outskirts of Diffa. The terrorists went from house to house, she says. ‘They shouted “Allahu Akbar” and then – tak-taktaktak.’ Kouli says that she was locked in a house with dozens of other women and children. After two days, the Islamists came back for the young girls. ‘They told the girls – the ones who were 13, 14 or 15 years old – “You are married now.” Then they took them away.’ Kouli was one of the lucky ones. ‘I was pregnant, so they weren’t interested in me.’ Three days later, while still in captivity, she gave birth to her baby, whom she cradles in her arms while she tells her story. The other women helped her while she was in labour. A few nights later, »

'A tremendous challenge'

Minister Gerd Müller talks about the global refugee crisis and its causes.

Refugee numbers are higher than ever. What are the causes, in your view?

Many crises and conflicts have become entrenched or have erupted again; examples are Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. And the list goes on: 15 new armed conflicts have broken out in the last five years alone. People are fleeing from violence and persecution. The war in Syria has triggered the largest upheaval: around four million people have fled abroad and 7.6 million have been displaced within Syria itself. Poverty, disease, hunger, rapidly growing social inequality, and climate change are other frequent causes of migration. Very often, it is the young people who leave their home countries because they see no prospects for the future.

What is Germany's role and responsibility here?

We have to work together on the issue of refugees and migration. The European Union faces a major test of strength here. We urgently need a common refugee policy with fair burden-sharing. Germany is clearly facing up to its responsibility and is taking action. We need effective integration of foreign, security and development policy, just as the Chancellor called for in her three-point plan: save refugees, combat people smuggling and eliminate the causes of migration.

Where and how is Germany engaged, through its development policy, in ameliorating the suffering of refugees?

My task, as Germany's Development Minister, is to combat the causes of migration. That means ensuring that people have the prospect of a better future in their own and in the host countries. To that end, I have set up three special initiatives, restructured the

budget and secured additional funding. This year and next, we will be able to invest up to EUR 1 billion in this area. We are implementing a range of projects at the local level. Let me tell you about a few of them: in Jordan, we are providing a clean water supply and sanitation in communities that are hosting refugees. In Lebanon, 80,000 children are now attending school with Germany's support. On the Turkish-Syrian border, community centres are being set up for Turks and Syrians. In South Sudan, returnees are learning how to re-establish their livelihoods through farming. And in Kosovo, we plan to work with the Dortmund Chamber of Crafts on providing training for young mechanics.

Most refugees don't want to leave their homes. How can we help them stay there?

Most of the refugees I talk to say that they want a future in their own countries, but despair and hardship force them to leave. Many want to return home when circumstances permit. It is not enough for us Europeans simply to think about ways of keeping these people at bay. We need to reach out and tackle the root causes, and that means investing in development. We need economic and training programmes for refugees in their home countries, including programmes to support refugees returning home, along with advisory services. Development policies which aim to combat the causes of migration must be much broader in scope, however. It's about making globalisation more equitable through fair world trade. We need social and environmental standards along global supply chains so that people upstream in the production process can earn a decent living from their la-



'We urgently need a common refugee policy and fair burden-sharing.'

bour. We must move from free trade to fair trade. Each and every one of us can share in this responsibility by making the right consumer choices.

Must the world accept that higher refugee numbers are now a fact of life?

Worldwide, there are almost 60 million refugees and displaced persons – that's around eight million more than last year. The refugee crisis will not solve itself. On the contrary, it is getting progressively worse. Most refugees risk their lives to make their journey and endure terrible suffering. That's not something we should accept. We are not helpless onlookers: we must work together to tackle the causes of migration. The refugee crisis vividly demonstrates to us every day that if we fail to get a grip on hunger and poverty, these problems will come to us. That's why the refugee crisis is a tremendous challenge for all of us.



A mobile phone – a vital accessory for every refugee nowadays. With a phone, refugees can organise their journey, find a route and stay in contact with friends and family.



'The Migrants' Files' is an award-winning and steadily growing online dossier on migration to Europe. Partners of this research network include the newspapers Süddeutsche Zeitung, Libération and Der Standard. www.themigrantsfiles.com

she managed to escape, mainly because the terrorists lost interest in her.

Others are less fortunate, especially the countless women refugees who are raped, exploited or forced into prostitution in camps. And according to the United Nations, half of the world's refugees are children – and many of them are abused as well.

So what should be done? As long as there is open warfare in so many countries, little will change, no matter how much effort is made. Genuinely effective refugee policies must go hand in hand with security policy. The European debates about the resettlement of refugees who have already reached the EU do little to address the problem. The fact is that refugee numbers are unlikely to decrease substantially until the conflicts raging in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Somalia die down – for experience has shown that people will not return home until the war is over. But building peace takes more than humanitarian aid. It needs considerable diplomatic com-

mitment and, indeed, military engagement by the West, including the deployment of international peace troops.

However, all the negotiations in the world have little effect if the governments of the countries concerned remain disengaged. Gambian dictator Jammeh recently ejected the EU ambassador because she dared to voice criticism of the situation in his country in the context of the refugee crisis. It's a similar situation in Eritrea, where the leadership presses the people into never-ending military service. Much depends on the situation in the refugees' countries of origin. However, the host countries too – especially the Western industrialised nations – should not be short-sighted: an unwavering determination to make a new start is always one of the chief characteristics displayed by refugees – and one that can benefit everyone.

www.giz.de/refugees

www.giz.de/support-for-refugees

www.giz.de/migrationdevelopment



A MATTER OF CHANCE

Guest article by Saša Stanišić

On 20 August 1992, there was gunfire in Bosnia. In Heidelberg, there was rain. It was probably raining in Oslo too, somewhere else I might have ended up. Home is happenstance. You're born in one place, displaced to another, and leave your body to medical science somewhere else entirely. Luck means having the chance to influence fate. It means leaving home because you want to, not because you have to.

For me, Heidelberg began as happenstance. It was supposed to be temporary – a refuge from the unreality of war that was now my reality. On 20 August 1992, sunshine followed the rain. My mother wanted to do something nice for her war-traumatised son. But her cash only stretched to a single scoop of ice cream. The second was a gift from the ice cream seller. With our cones in our hands, we strolled along a river whose name – like everything else: streets, buildings, colours – was a mystery to us. We had no idea what people were saying. The only words I knew in German were Lothar Matthäus.

Pale red ruins of a palace looming over the old city, Japanese people plodding up the hill, taking photos ... everything was so normal: a tourist attraction, tourists, the taste of a chocolate ice cream. And suddenly, we seemed normal as well – a mother and her son in a little public square which, soon, would no longer be nameless but called Karlsplatz. Just like other mothers and sons in other squares. We escaped, then we arrived, and then we paused to admire an imposing building, its architecture foreign to our eyes.

PROFILE

SAŠA STANIŠIĆ and his parents fled to Heidelberg from the Yugoslav Wars in 1992. The author won the Leipzig Book Fair Prize in 2014.

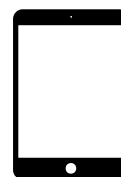
To me, the sight of the palace will always have the flavour of chocolate ice cream. And of safety, my first experience of that as a refugee. Here, we were strangers, but much more important, this strange place posed no threat to our lives. We were the lucky ones, unlike many of the others. There was no happenstance to save them. Cruelty and hatred deprived them of life. 2015 was the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, where more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslims were murdered. And death is still claiming thousands of victims: in Syria, in Yemen, in Libya, in the drug wars in Mexico.

Many refugees don't survive the journey – but not always because of happenstance. Often, it's because there is no political will to save them. The people drowning and freezing to death in the Mediterranean, and those who make it to the borders of the EU but are held back or sent back ... they reveal the reality of EU refugee policy. They show that its humanitarian values are, in reality, a farce made up of discord, passivity and ignorance. Instead of safe legal channels for migration to the EU with decent accommodation and support in individual countries, help is withheld. A humanitarian disaster

is being averted (for now) solely thanks to the efforts of volunteers.

Despite Germany's own historical experience of refugees and expulsion, the public and political debate about these issues is very limited, at least in some quarters, and I find that very disappointing. Barely a night goes by without an attack on an asylum-seekers' hostel. The social media are full of people who want to help, but they are also full of hatred and malice.

I have lived in Germany for 23 years. In the early days – the most difficult time – I met people in my neighbourhood and in the public authorities who were willing to help. They didn't make a fuss about it. I walked into their lives by chance and they stretched out a hand. Without them, I would have been deported and other people would be writing this article. They enhanced our random encounters with their acts of deliberate kindness. Just like the ice cream seller in Heidelberg, who showed me, with his simple act of generosity, that we are not only responsible for our own good fortune, but also for the stranger we meet by chance.



Download the akzente app to see some well-known faces who were refugees.
www.giz.de/akzenteapp





SILENT FORCE FIELD

YOUNG PEOPLE are often said to lack patience. In the Indian city of Ahmedabad, these schoolchildren are working on achieving the opposite – a greater sense of serenity through yoga. It is a picture that suggests the power and energy of youth, and hints at the dreams and plans they have for the future. And yet in many parts of the world, young people are unable to fulfil their potential through a lack of guidance and opportunity. GIZ is helping to change that through projects that promote children and youth. **Photographer: Amit Dave**

TOWARDS A BETTER CLIMATE

Floods, droughts, storms and heatwaves – natural disasters are occurring with greater regularity and having a more devastating impact than ever before. That's one reason why GIZ is increasingly working on behalf of the German Government in the field of climate change mitigation. Vera Scholz explains how successful its efforts have been.

We have been committed to tackling climate issues for over 20 years. Back in the 1990s we helped small farmers in India to cope with fields that had dried up as a result of climate change. For many of the local partners we worked with at the time, the topic was unfamiliar as there was still a lack of information. Today things are very different: climate change is a key concern both in Germany and throughout the world, as demonstrated this year by the German Chancellor's commitment to the issue. A third of all the projects we implement are now linked to climate change. In particular, we work on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, as well as other clients.

With rising sea levels and ever more powerful storms, natural methods of coastal protection are becoming increasingly important: mangrove forests, for example, can protect the land from flooding. In Viet Nam we are restoring the mangroves using simple bamboo fences and innovative forestry techniques; so far around 320 hectares have been reforested. The rice fields that lie behind the mangroves are now safe from flooding.

But adapting to the effects of climate change is just one side of the coin. The other is tackling the causes. First and foremost, that means cutting CO₂ emissions to reduce the burden on the environment. In China, for example, we support cities with saving electricity in schools and hospitals, treating wastewater using renewable energy, and making traffic more environmentally com-

patible – all steps that bring us a little bit closer to our common objective of limiting global warming to two degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

2015 has been a pivotal year for international climate protection: the world needs



VERA SCHOLZ heads up GIZ's Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Division.

a new and binding framework, in particular for reducing greenhouse gases. We support the German Government in its international climate negotiations. In the run-up to the G7 summit in Germany earlier this year, for example, we helped develop a concept for climate risk insurance, which the German Chancellor discussed in talks with the other heads of state and government. On the one hand, this measure is designed to enable individual farmers in poor coun-

tries to insure themselves against natural disasters; on the other, it means that states that have appropriate insurance will receive international funding in the event of a claim, which they can then pass on to their citizens.

As a first step, the new insurance solutions will benefit 400 million people. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris in late 2015, the German delegation will call for other states to participate in financing this climate insurance. The delegation includes experts from GIZ. In addition, we will be supporting the German pavilion with around 35 events during the conference.

Another key theme in the climate debate is renewable energy. The German energy transition has received widespread recognition abroad, and our energy experts are in demand worldwide. On behalf of the German Government and other commissioning parties, GIZ is currently supporting the development of hydroelectric, wind and solar power in over 30 countries. In South Africa, for example, we are advising the government on promoting private investment in renewable energy, and supporting training for young people to become wind turbine technicians. Personally, I hope Paris will bring ambitious climate change mitigation targets, which will inspire as many other countries as possible to follow this sustainable approach.

Previous 'Background' articles on GIZ's work can be found on: www.giz.de/magazine-akzente.

COMMITMENT

Where GIZ is active, how it approaches new challenges, what its projects achieve: three examples of GIZ's current work in Brazil, Egypt and Bangladesh.



FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

BRAZIL How an innovative project is helping to save the world's most species-rich savannah and protect the climate. **Page 36**



NEW WORKPLACE, NEW SELF-CONFIDENCE

EGYPT How a German-Egyptian initiative is creating prospects for Mahmoud Sobhy and other young people. **Page 32**



THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM

BANGLADESH How paralegals are working on behalf of men and women detained in jail for years without charge. **Page 40**



NEW WORKPLACE, NEW SELF-CONFIDENCE

One in four Egyptians under the age of 24 is without a job. Now an employment pact has restored hope, as the stories of Ibrahim Sabri and Mahmoud Sobhy show.

TEXT JÜRGEN STRYJAK PHOTOS AXEL KRAUSE



Four arms held aloft, a different tool in each hand – electric drill, hammer, folding rule and pliers. The poster virtually covers the entire wall behind the reception desk. Its message is clear: here, at the offices of the National Employment Pact (NEP), we are committed to getting people into work.

It is 10 am. The reception area at the employment centre is full of young Egyptians looking for work. Ibrahim Sabri has come here for the first time. The 28-year-old has just got married and is about to become a father. He runs a small tailor's shop, but the takings are not enough to live on. NEP is designed to help people like him. For university graduates there are private employment agencies and internet portals, but ordinary workers only find jobs if they hear of one by chance or by going from company to company. There is no state-run employment agency.

The employment centre is on the seventh floor of an office building in Dokki District. It is one of three such centres in Greater Cairo. After Egypt's 2011 revolution, business representatives put their heads together to determine what the country urgently needed during the redevelopment phase. The answer, they decided, was jobs. And so NEP was born. Its management committee is made up of representatives from 12 German and Egyptian companies, including Siemens, BASF and Hassan Allam Holding. GIZ has been supporting NEP since 2011 on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Foreign Office. Since 2015, the project has been part of the special initiative launched by BMZ to promote stability and development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

'I feel I'm doing something important.'

Mahmoud Sobhy now has a job with social security and 21 days of paid holiday.

GIZ develops training courses for applicants as well as for qualified employment officers. So far 55 Egyptians have received training and are now working as employment officers in the centres.

The official unemployment rate in Egypt is around 13 per cent. However, half of all those employed work in the shadow economy, with neither social nor health insurance and no employment rights. The situation is particularly difficult for young people. For this reason, NEP specifically targets applicants under the age of 35, for whom it aims to find decent jobs with social protection.

Ibrahim Sabri is part of this target group. His dream is to work as a driver. At the employment centre he answers questions about his skills, interests and ambitions. He is told he must complete a two-day preparatory training course designed to get applicants ready for the labour market. Behind the glass wall of the seminar room, one of the training courses has just got underway, featuring a music video by popular rapper Ahmed Mekky. 'Don't be anybody but yourself,' it says. 'Believe in yourself!'

Better, more committed applicants

The 24 participants learn about their rights and obligations as employees. They are taught how to conduct themselves at job interviews and, in particular, what companies will expect from them. One of the participants is Fatma Maged. 'I had heard a lot about the employment centre,' the 22-year-old says. 'I met people who were really enthusiastic about it.' What she likes in particular about the training course is that the speakers inspire greater self-confidence and determination in participants.

Proof that this really does make applicants more attractive to employers is to be found just 12 kilometres away, as the crow flies, at Samaya Electronics Egypt in the Cairo district of Nasr City. Human resources coordinator Basma Abbas explains why she is so happy to take applicants sent to her by NEP. 'When I started here a year ago, my

JOBS IN FOCUS

Through its special initiative to promote stability and development in the MENA region, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is creating opportunities for people in North Africa and the Middle East. The initiative therefore also contributes to maintaining peace. Since 2014, BMZ has provided more than EUR 200 million for projects focusing on youth employment, economic stabilisation and democratisation.

boss told me straight away to work with NEP,' the resolute young woman recalls. She is responsible for recruiting production staff. 'Workers from NEP are more committed and more productive.'

The company produces radios, central locking systems and other electronic components for car manufacturers, including Mitsubishi, Alfa Romeo and Renault. It employs over 500 people, but is currently taking on around 50 more every month. The demand for new workers is constantly growing. Around one third of new recruits have come via NEP in the past year.

The production halls appear neat and tidy. The building is being cleaned from top to bottom, the smell of disinfectant is everywhere. The employees wear colour-coded polo shirts – team leaders wear red, quality controllers green. Clearly little is left to chance at Samaya.

It is easy to see why Basma Abbas enjoys working with NEP, because the employment agency preselects potential candidates. That not only increases the applicants' chances, but also benefits the companies. With a degree in psychology, the human resources coordinator is able to interview jobseekers and judge how serious they are about their application. One in three of all new workers quit soon after taking up employment, for example because the job is too far from home.



Basma Abbas explains that her company offers social security and good prospects. ‘The mindset of production workers is different to that of graduates from a technical college or university. They have no career plans, even though we aim to provide them with opportunities.’ To workers who want to quit before finding a new job, she says: ‘Why sit around at home? At least apply for a new job while you’re still in full-time employment.’



Preparatory training a complete success

It is 8 am and Mahmoud Sobhy has just finished the nightshift. Outside on the street, company buses are dropping workers off at regular intervals at Nasr City Free Zone, which is home to several other companies in addition to Samaya. Sobhy wears a blue polo shirt like the other production assistants. The 22-year-old has been working here since September 2014. Before that he had worked at a printer’s, a dairy and in a clothing store. He learned about the job placement scheme at a job fair in his district organised by NEP.

In Warraq District, where Sobhy lives, there are many unemployed young people. They sit at home or in the cafes, with no idea



Also available on the akzente app: a podcast in which Ibrahim Sabri talks about his search for a job (only in German).

www.giz.de/akzenteapp

Top: How do you apply for a job? What do companies look for? The employment centre provides the answers.

Centre: Samaya Electronics Egypt likes to recruit staff from NEP. Conscientious: Mahmoud Sobhy checks electronic components.

Bottom: A helper distributes flyers about the employment centres to young people in the streets of Cairo.

how they will find a job. These are exactly the type of people the German-Egyptian Employment Pact hopes to reach. It distributes information flyers, organises fairs and encourages jobseekers to visit one of its employment centres – just as Mahmoud Sobhy did. He was particularly impressed with the preparatory training: ‘They treated us with respect. Even before the first day was over, I was already looking forward to day two.’

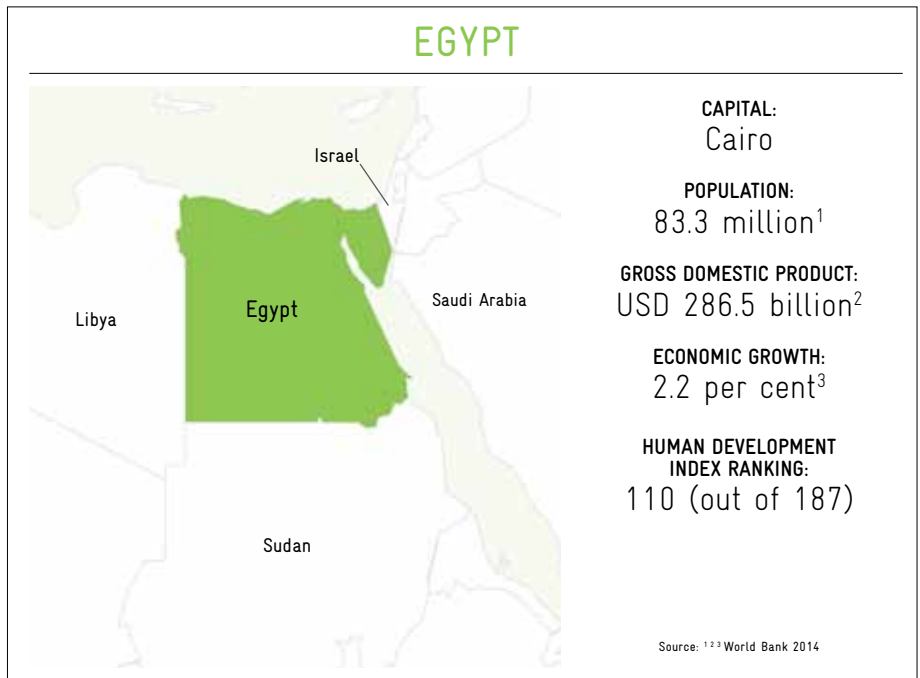
After that things moved fast. The employment centre organised an interview for him with Samaya, he was appointed to the post and since then has been checking products at the end of an assembly line. He enjoys being part of a properly functioning system. ‘I feel I’m doing something important, because I’m making devices for well-known car brands.’

Mahmoud Sobhy now enjoys social security and 21 days of paid holiday per year. He gets free food in the canteen, pays nothing to use the company bus, and also receives overtime pay. There is no health insurance, but if employees fall sick they are treated by contract doctors in contract clinics at the company’s expense. The only problem for Sobhy is the long journey to work. It takes him two hours to travel the 30 kilometres from Warraq to the factory gates in Nasr City – before he can board the company bus, he first has to make his way to the main railway station.

So Sobhy is considering looking for a new job. And a chance, perhaps, to earn more money. Samaya pays employees a monthly salary equivalent to around 120 euros, a competitive market wage. ‘Of course I would take a better job if I found one.’ He’s not yet sure when he will start his search. But he is certain of one thing: he will definitely be going back to one of the employment centres run by NEP.

› CONTACT

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PROMOTING DECENT, SECURE JOBS

PROJECT:

PARTICIPATION THROUGH EMPLOYMENT –
FACILITATING ACCESS TO THE LABOUR MARKET

COMMISSIONED BY:

GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PARTNERS:

NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT PACT,
UMBRELLA ASSOCIATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TERM:

2014 TO 2017

Unemployment in Egypt is high, particularly among young people. At the same time, many companies struggle to find suitable employees. GIZ supports the National Employment Pact (NEP) in developing better preparatory and job placement services. It also advises the Umbrella Association for Economic Development on improving the quality of jobs in the manufacturing sector. GIZ has been supporting the project since 2011 on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the German Federal Foreign Office. Since then, the project’s partners have found employment for more than 4,000 Egyptian men and women. And the number is rising by 130 each month. Around 500 companies currently use NEP’s services.

www.nep-egypt.com



FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

The world's most species-rich savannah is under threat from bushfires in Brazil. Both the climate and natural biodiversity are at risk. An innovative project seeks to change this.

TEXT CARL D. GOERDELER

PHOTOS WERNER RUDHART

Flight SLX6414 was unable to land: 'This morning the airfield was forced to close on account of clouds of smoke caused by bushfires in the Cerrado.' News reports like this one from Palmas in the state of Tocantins are not unusual in northern and central Brazil, where the Cerrado stretches for miles and miles. An arid savannah of trees and scrub, the Cerrado covers an area measuring 2 million square kilometres, six times the size of Germany. And with its regular and recurring bushfires, the Cerrado is responsible for 40 per cent of Brazil's CO₂ emissions.

As our rutted track takes us further and further across the undulating sand, the flat-topped mountains seemingly float above the greyish-green ocean of scrubland like sinister land masses, jutting into the sky before dipping back below the horizon again. After a bone-shaking drive of four or five hours from Palmas into the vast expanse of the Cerrado, we finally arrive at a group of huts: Mateiros, a settlement of 3,000 people near the mountain they call 'Jalapinha' – named for the miracle plant *Mirabilis jalapa*, whose roots produce a sap used by locals as a cure for stomach ache.

Rejane Ferreira Nunes comes from Mateiros. These days she is responsible for the Jalapão conservation zone, previously she

Deforestation: wildfires can destroy many square kilometres of land in a very short time. But new approaches to firefighting are already enjoying initial success.

worked for a number of different environmental initiatives. Her creed is simple: 'We must learn to use and protect nature at the same time.'

On the subject of nature conservation, Brazil is committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by around 40 per cent by 2020. But that can only be done if the bushfires in the Cerrado can be controlled and prevented. And since the Cerrado is the world's most biodiverse savannah, climate change mitigation automatically also involves species conservation.

Once a charred hell, now a thing of beauty

So how does this work? 'Just a few years ago people thought it was enough simply to fight the fires,' says Michael Scholze from GIZ, who is managing a project to control bushfires in the Cerrado. 'Just as in the myth of Sisyphus, this was a never-ending task. Every time the fires were extinguished, they would come back again fiercer than ever. So the people here were forced to develop a proper fire management plan.' Since 2011, GIZ has been implementing an innovative approach in collaboration with the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment (MMA) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

'It's a paradigm shift,' explains biologist Francisco Oliveira. He heads up the department at MMA that combats deforestation.

He puts the new concept in a nutshell: 'Either we control the fires, or the fires control us!' In other words: 'bad' fires have to be fought using 'good', carefully controlled fires. This involves the use of modern satellite technology, which supplies real-time data on bushfires and greenhouse gas emissions. The controlled fires are set at a time of year when trees and plants are not yet completely dry. In this way they prevent the outbreak of uncontrollable bushfires at the end of the dry period, when there is much more wood and tinder around to feed the flames. This causes much less damage to nature and fewer carbon emissions.

Today the Jalapão landscape is one of towering golden dunes and crystal clear waters. But in 2014 this area was a charred hell. Almost the entire park – at 1,580 square kilometres it covers an area twice the size of Hamburg – was ravaged by the flames. The bushfires had evidently been caused by farmers using fire for agricultural purposes. 'Satellite photographs gave us the evidence we needed,' explains Warley Rodrigues, a former park manager.

A plume of smoke billowing kilometres into the sky

Can't the perpetrators be fined? Can't fires in the Cerrado be prohibited? That approach has been tried for years – and it has failed. Firstly, because there have always been natural bushfires in the Cerrado, many caused by lightning strikes, for example. Secondly, the widely scat-



Top: 'We have to protect and use nature at the same time,' says Rejane Ferreira Nunes, responsible for the Jalapão conservation area. Here and elsewhere in the Cerrado, the fight against bushfires also involves satellite technology. **Below:** The beauty and diversity of the region will only be preserved if the new concept catches on. For local people this is a vital issue – they live off the Cerrado, either as farmers or by weaving baskets and ornaments from the 'golden grass'.

tered villages traditionally use fire to clear land for grazing and to stimulate fresh vegetation. And thirdly, over time a ban on fires only leads to an accumulation of combustible materials, which simply fuel huge infernos when they catch fire. This can result in the destruction of many square kilometres of savannah in just a few hours. Even today we spot a column of smoke on the horizon rising three kilometres into the deep blue sky.

'We also lay controlled fires to herd the cattle,' says Sabino Francisco Tavares. The

cowherd's hut is beside a stream; everyday he drives his son 30 kilometres to school on his motorbike.

Initial scepticism towards 'gringos'

Tavares and his 'neighbours', other sailors lost in the Cerrado ocean, know everything about the different levels of vegetation in the region: from the gallery forests along the rivers and the moist 'veredas' or drainage basins, to

the open savannah, with fire-resistant trees such as the 'witch's broom', and the shrub steppe where thorn bushes grow no more than a metre high. The Cerrado provides a living not only for livestock herders like Tavares. At the end of the rainy season, many local villagers also collect the 'golden grass', which they use to weave saleable goods such as baskets, boxes and ornaments.

The project to control the region's bushfires brings together two spheres: the world of the settlers, with their wealth of experience;

and the world of cutting-edge technology, in particular satellite surveillance. With the support of satellites and the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE), which is also involved in the project, detailed maps can now be downloaded virtually in real time. The satellites are able to differentiate between old and new vegetation, take into account the relevant carbon volumes, climate parameters and the lie of the land, and even relate data to comparative figures.

The maps then form the basis for decisions on where to set controlled fires. They are also used in discussions with villagers, who are involved in the process. 'To begin with we were mistrustful of the gringos,' say Tavares and others. 'Then we saw that we could learn from one another. That's why we now work together.' They feel they have been acknowledged – and there are fewer conflicts between park management, the fire service and the communities. Over a dozen partners are involved in the project: these include environmental and conservation authorities at national and federal level, the communities themselves, and the administrative bodies that govern the national parks, conservation areas and biosphere reserves.

'They thought I was completely mad'

Environmental activist Rejane Ferreira Nunes sees one of her main roles as being to mediate between different interest groups. That also applies to the deployment of 'brigadistas' – the firefighting brigades, of which Mateiros provides 13 and Jalapão Park alone has 15. In total, GIZ has provided training for more than 1,200 fire brigade employees, farmers and activists. Warley Rodrigues, who has contributed his considerable experience to the project, explains: 'When my former colleagues from park management asked me what I was doing with the Germans, I answered: I'm fighting fire with fire. They thought I was completely mad.'

> CONTACT

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BRAZIL



CAPITAL:	Brasília
POPULATION:	202 million ¹
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT:	USD 2.3 trillion ²
ECONOMIC GROWTH:	0.1 per cent ³
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX RANKING:	79 (out of 187)

Source: ^{1,2,3} World Bank 2014

PROTECTING THE SAVANNAH

PROJECT:

PREVENTION, CONTROL AND MONITORING OF BUSHFIRES IN THE CERRADO

COMMISSIONED BY:

GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
NATURE CONSERVATION, BUILDING AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

LEAD EXECUTING AGENCY:

BRAZILIAN MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

TERM:

2011 TO 2017

The Cerrado in central Brazil is one of the largest savannah landscapes in the world. It is also a gigantic sink for climate-damaging carbon dioxide, absorbing around 26,500 tonnes per square kilometre. But the area must be protected if Brazil is to achieve its climate objectives. So the project focuses on the one hand on controlled fires. At the same time, it ensures that uncontrolled fires are discovered earlier and extinguished more quickly. The communities involved in the region also use a satellite-supported monitoring system. The German Aerospace Center helped to develop this system. Uncontrolled bushfires are often started deliberately by farmers, who use them in their work. So GIZ has trained over 100 of them in alternative farming techniques. The project is part of the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. It is implemented in cooperation with KfW Development Bank.

www.giz.de/en/worldwide/12505.html



THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM

Paralegals support thousands of citizens who have been imprisoned without charge or trial in Bangladesh.

TEXT ROLF OBERTREIS PHOTOS THOMAS L. KELLY



Abul* spent 12 years in prison. 12 years without charge. When the police came to arrest him in January 2001 he was in his mid-20s. He was accused of having broken the country's law on public security. 'I don't know what I was supposed to have done, no one ever told me,' Abul says. He lives in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. He was arrested at the same time as several other men. They were released after two years, because unlike him they could afford a lawyer.

Compared with Abul, Karimon* was almost fortunate. The 45-year-old spent 'just' two-and-a-half years behind bars. Without charge. 'A neighbour reported me for alleged possession of drugs,' she explains. The police arrested her, a judge sentenced her to prison. Her two sons, aged four and 13, were sent to their grandmother, she took her three-year-old daughter with her to prison. In Bangladesh, prison means a room measuring 100 square metres designed to accommodate 40 people, but with 200 prisoners cramped together. Each detainee is given two blankets, a plate, a glass, a bowl. Bread in the morning, rice for lunch and dinner. Occasionally fish.

Promita Sengupta from GIZ is aware of even more dramatic cases. She shows a photograph of a man with snowy white hair and a bushy beard. He spent 21 years in jail. Without charge, without trial. His 14-year-old daughter accompanied him to the prison gates. 21 years later, a 14-year-old girl came to meet him – his granddaughter.

Karimon and Abul sit in the GIZ office in Dhaka. The two former prisoners are free at last and can now lead relatively normal lives. 'These are just three examples out of tens of thousands,' says Sengupta. The problem is colossal: there are currently over 77,000 people in the country's detention facilities. But there is really only room for half

that number. The central prison in Dhaka, for example, was designed to accommodate 2,700 detainees, yet in late 2014 it held over 7,000 men. 'If someone gets up to go to the toilet in the middle of the night,' Sengupta says, 'his place is taken by the time he gets back.'

Four out of five inmates are being held in custody, often kept there for years on the grounds of an allegation or petty theft. And most do not have the money to pay a lawyer. 'There are not enough police, not enough judges,' says Sengupta. 'The backlog of cases has now risen to three million.'

Long since given up hope

So what is the solution? Recruit more police, appoint more judges? Bangladesh already faces a shortage of funding and qualified staff. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, GIZ has adopted a different approach in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs in Dhaka: together they are training paralegals. The course lasts 29 days. Once qualified, the mostly young men and women are assigned to individual prisoners, in many cases soon after their arrest. They make the individuals aware of their rights and urge the courts to deal with cases more rapidly. There are currently around 130 paralegals; by 2017, it is hoped there will be 220 of them across 40 of Bangladesh's 64 districts.

Paralegals finally brought Abul's case to court. 'I had given up hope,' says the 40-year-old, remembering the period before his hearing. The law he was alleged to have broken and for which he had been arrested was no longer even in force. Even then, he should have served at most a three-year sentence.

Since the project was launched in late 2012, the paralegals have achieved extremely positive results: in around 15,000 cases they have provided legal advice to prisoners, and have supported a further 45,000 at trial. In total, they have helped secure the release of 5,100 men and women.

JUSTICE REFORM

Training for paralegals is part of the Justice and Prison Reform project commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The project is co-financed by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). GIZ has been coordinating the project since its launch in late 2012. The paralegals are employed by non-governmental organisations operating in the field of legal aid.

Nahidur Rahman was one of the first to undergo paralegal training. The 30-year-old sociologist is assigned to the central prison in Dhaka and three detention facilities in the northwest of the city. 'Every morning, three or four of us go to one of the prisons and talk to the new prisoners on remand. We explain our work and tell them how we can help.' Often the circumstances are muddled, the legal cases are poorly documented. 'The paralegals are sometimes the only people who can clarify the circumstances,' says Rahman with conviction. 'We communicate with the police, the prisons and the courts.' The paralegals are given legal support from lawyers – one for every 20 paralegals.

The paralegals also prepare prisoners for their release from detention, for example by providing vocational training while they are in prison. A public campaign has recently been launched with the slogan: 'We have not forgotten you.' This campaign uses posters and TV advertisements to highlight the injustices suffered by many men and women in Bangladesh. And the suffering continues.

**Name changed by the editorial team*

➤ CONTACT

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Feeling of powerlessness: after spending years in prison, Abul and Karimon (top) were only released thanks to support from paralegals like Nahidur Rahman (bottom).

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK WITH THE AKZENTE APP

Reports and videos on our projects around the globe, news from the world of international cooperation, and interviews with experts on global issues – the akzente app brings you in-depth insights. Let us show you what the app offers.

The akzente app enables you to view the magazine content on your tablet device, but there's much more to it than just convenience. The app also gives you access to previous issues, focusing on topics such as climate change, transparency or young people. And with every issue, there are extras: read a full-length interview with an expert on the phenomenon of climate change migration, for example, or watch a video that will take you to the Nicaraguan village of Ocote Tuma, where the local people are, for the first time, benefiting from electricity generated by their own hydropower plant. Podcasts bring GIZ's work on the ground direct to you. And video and audio features complement the reporting on our projects around the globe.

All the content in the app is easy to locate and access, and it caters for a general readership as well as for experts, with infographics to make complex subjects clear and understandable.

The magazine app is available four times a year, in English and German, and can be downloaded free of charge from your app store. This two-page spread explains how the app is designed and how you can make full use of its features.

www.giz.de/akzenteapp

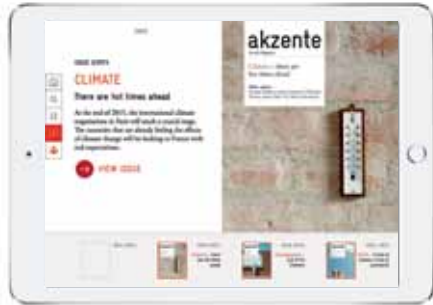
CLICK AND GO



To open the magazine app, simply click on the 'GIZ akzente' icon on your tablet device's desktop.

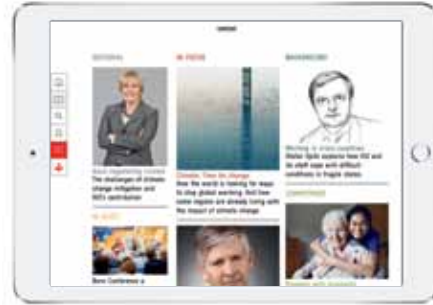


THE KIOSK



The kiosk is a one-stop shop for current and previous issues of akzente. The app gives you the flexibility to download content and read it offline when and where you choose – for example when you're travelling. And to save space on your tablet device, you can delete an issue once you've finished reading it. Don't forget, though, that you can download any issue as many times as you like.

AT A GLANCE



What are you particularly interested in? Just click on 'View issue' to see the full contents of each issue. There are links to individual features, or you can swipe to move from one article to the next.

SIMPLE NAVIGATION



The house icon takes you back to the kiosk, while the open magazine icon brings up the contents list. The magnifying glass icon enables you to search an issue by theme, and you can then use the bookmark button to save articles as favourites, and share them with others using the social sharing button. And it's easy to switch between the English and German versions: simply click on the language button in the menu bar.

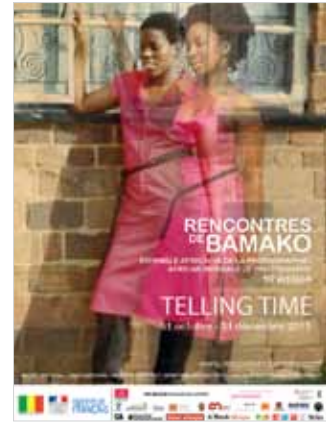
A HOST OF EXTRAS



The app gives you exclusive access to additional content on selected stories – videos, photo galleries and infographics.



To help you get the most out of the akzente app, we've produced a short video showing how one user navigates the app's many features. Just scan the QR code or go to www.giz.de/akzenteapp.



Malala's story hits the big screen

Pakistani children's rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai is the subject of a compelling new documentary by Davis Guggenheim. Malala hit the headlines around the world in 2012 when, at the age of just 15, she was shot several times and badly injured in a targeted attack while she was on her way to school. Malala had been campaigning for girls' right to education; aged just 11, she had contributed to a blog for the BBC, reporting on the Taliban's brutal refusal to give young Pakistani women the chance of an education. Malala's commitment to this cause made her, and her father Ziauddin Yousafzai, another campaigner for access to education,

prime targets for assassination by the Taliban. Now she has set up the Malala Fund to continue her campaign for girls' rights to attend school around the world.

Davis Guggenheim previously produced and directed 'An Inconvenient Truth', featuring Al Gore. His new film, 'He Named Me Malala', is a sensitive portrait of the real Malala behind the headlines and reveals insights into her new life in Great Britain. The film also portrays the current political situation in Pakistan.

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'He Named Me Malala'

Director: Davis Guggenheim

www.henamedmemalalamovie.com

Photo biennale in Bamako

Mali's capital Bamako is hosting the world's biggest pan-African photography exhibition, the African Biennale of Photography, for the tenth time in 2015. Bamako Encounters (Rencontres de Bamako) has taken the title 'Telling Time' for this year's event. The central exhibition in the National Museum of Mali will be showcasing the work of 39 photographers and video artists from Africa and the diaspora. Other exhibitions will focus on themes such as ageing and the future, or on individual artists, including the South African William Kentridge and the Brazilian Ayrson Heráclito.

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 Bamako Encounters runs until 31 December 2015.
www.rencontres-bamako.com

GIZ PUBLICATIONS These publications can be downloaded or ordered free of charge from www.giz.de/publications.



Employment Promotion in the Health Sector in Developing Countries

Available in German
 Bianca Rohrbach, Julia Gering

The shortage of skilled workers in the health sector has become a major challenge around the world. The growing demands on health systems, their chronic underfunding

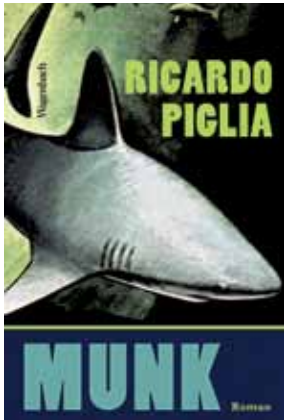
and a lack of training opportunities are the main causes. This background paper sets out proposals for improving basic health care provision.



Dialogue and Transparency in the Extractive Sector (PDF)

Available in German and English
 Johanna Beate Wystluch, Lena Link, Boris Raeder

Germany has been supporting the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) since it was set up in 2003. In 2014, the German Government decided to apply for recognition as EITI compliant. This publication documents the initial stages of implementing the standards on financial transparency and accountability in the extractive sector and reflects the wide-ranging debate and challenges.

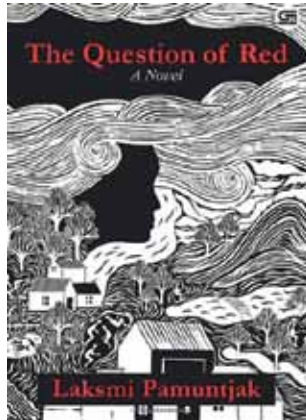


Munk

Ricardo Piglia, Argentina
Available in German, translated from Spanish by Carsten Regling
Verlag Klaus Wagenbach, 256 pages

There are at least four different levels at work in this novel. It starts as a campus novel: an Argentinian author is broke, arrives at an elite American university and falls in love with a star student, who then dies. The novel turns into a detective story: was the death actually murder? Meanwhile, it's also a thriller. It's a gripping read, but the metafiction is more interesting. For example, how can I write about a pine marten that looks at you 'spitefully and scornfully, like a little monk with a black cloak and grey hood'?

Ruthard Stäblein, literary critic and editor

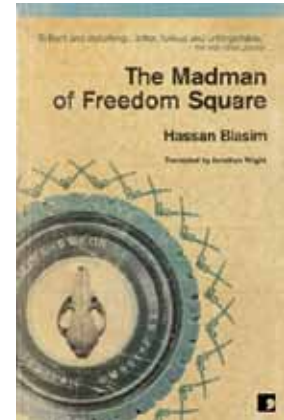


The Question of Red

Laksmi Pamuntjak, Indonesia
Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 556 pages

Amba loves Bhisma, a doctor and activist, but they are driven apart by the brutal violence of General Suharto's purge of Communists in Indonesia in 1965. 40 years later, Amba goes in search of Bhisma on the former prison colony island of Buru. This skilful intertwining of a love story and a political novel charts a dark chapter in Indonesia's history and is an epitaph for its victims, mirroring the national epic narrative, the 'Mahabharata'. This is the most important Indonesian novel this season.

Cornelia Zetzsche, literary editor, critic and broadcaster



The Madman of Freedom Square

Hassan Blasim, Iraq
Translated from Arabic by Jonathan Wright
Comma Press, 238 pages

Dead souls haunt Baghdad, where tattooed missing limbs are an everyday occurrence and everything – including language and style – is falling apart. The master of the short story here draws 'a thousand and one knives', the title of another story in the collection. These stories tunnel deep into a country scarred by horror after decades of war.

Ilija Trojanow, author

.....
Litprom – the Society for the Promotion of African, Asian and Latin American Literature – provided the reviews for akzente. The titles were selected from Litprom's list of best new novels. www.litprom.de



GIZ's Experience in the Water and Sanitation Sector in Latin America
Available in English and Spanish
Daniela Pavía Santolamazza, Cornelia Gerhardt, Michael Rosenauer

More than 34 million people in Latin America have no access to clean drinking water, and around 110 million lack adequate sanitation.

Against this backdrop, the publication provides information about GIZ's strategies and knowledge in this area, building on more than 10 years' experience in the region.



Young People in Kyrgyzstan (PDF)
Available in German
Marc Calmbach, Heide Möller-Slawinski

This publication reports on qualitative research among young people and young adults in Kyrgyzstan. It offers insights into the values, attitudes, opinions and behavioural patterns of 14- to 24-year-olds in the country, providing a robust basis for the planned development of sustainable youth work in this Central Asian country.



ELISABETH FISCHER,

AGRICULTURAL EXPERT

WHAT SHE REALLY ENJOYS is 'working together in an intercultural team.' From the moment she chose her degree subject – international agribusiness – Elisabeth Fischer was setting a course for a career abroad. Now, working on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development as an advisor on sustainability in agribusiness and the food industry, she travels throughout the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) from her base in Bangkok. 'It's an exciting region' says Fischer: 'The markets are undergoing huge change because, at the end of 2015, ASEAN is launching the ASEAN Economic Community with a single market.' There's a lot of work involved: the 10 member states have to agree on standards, for example for the certification of foodstuffs. Fischer is designing shared learning packages for the ASEAN countries in areas such as the production and marketing of healthy foods. 'What's really important is that the system works not only for producers and consumers, but also for the environment,' she argues. The target group for training is young professionals from state and private sector companies. But decision-makers in government ministries are also being targeted in an attempt to disseminate new knowledge within member countries. And strengthening small-scale farms has been a major aim too: 'We want to improve the way small farms cooperate with the private sector so that they can get more out of value chains,' Fischer says.

GIZ is always looking for experts for its projects. Interested? Why not visit our 'Jobs and careers' page: www.giz.de/careers.

SUSTAINABILITY

A look back at a project and its results

PROJECT:
IMPROVING THE QUALITY
OF TEACHER TRAINING IN HONDURAS,
GUATEMALA AND PERU

COMMISSIONED BY:
GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

TERM:
2005 TO 2012

THEN: Increasing numbers of children were attending school in Honduras, Guatemala and Peru, but the quality of teaching in state schools was low, particularly compared with that at private schools, which many families cannot afford. Insufficient teacher training was the main reason for poor public education provision: many teachers lacked the necessary specialist knowledge and pedagogical skills and had no access to the most up-to-date teaching methods.

NOW: More than 3,500 teachers in these three countries have been familiarised with modern models of teaching. They know how to design learning processes and create a culture of dialogue in the classroom. They were taught by the 121 lecturers from in-service teacher training institutions who took part in the programme, almost three quarters of them women. The cornerstone of their training was a one-year placement in Germany, giving them insights into pedagogical research and practice. Around 150,000 school pupils in Honduras, Guatemala and Peru are now benefiting from better teaching.

giz.de/en/downloads/giz2013-de-honduras-guatemala-peru-procalidad-schlussevaluierung.pdf

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PREVIEW

akzente issue 1/16

DIVERSITY These days, we can do what we please as long as we don't offend anyone else. All those 'red lines' that used to govern our lives have given way to greater openness towards other people. Diversity is an asset that benefits us all. But what brought about this transformation? What

lies behind it? Have we really learned to see clearly and become genuinely tolerant – or are we just serving our own interests? And is there the same tolerance of diversity everywhere around the world? Answers to these and other questions will be given in akzente 1/16.





People only abandon their homes if they have no other choice – driven out by war or the threat of conflict. Doing something to alleviate this situation directly is the best way to resolve refugee crises.

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