

# akzente

3/2019

The GIZ Magazine

Back to  
the future

Remembering Cambodia's past  
in the digital age

Pearls  
of knowledge

New learning methods for  
Afghan children

Pioneers from  
the jungle

Sustainable coffee  
from Ecuador

# Human security

The foundation of development





*Faces and stories*

# LET'S TALK FRANKLY ABOUT SEX.

ABDOUL DRAMANE BAMOGO

He provides information on safe sex and HIV prevention to young people in Burkina Faso. He was one of 70 social workers to attend a training course on reproductive health.

You can find this and other 'Faces and Stories' online at  
[www.giz.de/stories](http://www.giz.de/stories)



Scan the code with your smartphone to watch the video.

# SECURITY BEGINS WITH PEOPLE

How we can promote stability and development even in times of conflict.

IN TODAY'S WORLD, wars and violent conflicts are no longer the only things that jeopardise human security. It is under threat where human rights are flouted and where fundamental social, political and economic rights are ignored. And it is also in danger wherever the basis of people's livelihoods and resources are disappearing. That's why we made a conscious decision to focus on people in this issue of *akzente*. Because it is the people who are affected and who face challenges.

THE PROBLEMS that arise for social and economic development when human security is jeopardised are described in this issue. Fragile countries such as Yemen and Sudan are particularly hard hit by poverty and malnutrition. The fact that the number of people suffering from hunger across the globe has been on the rise again for the last three years – and has now reached around 820 million – can be attributed both to the large number of ongoing conflicts and to climate change. If people's security and existence are endangered, either as a result of dwindling resources, severe environmental changes or war and conflict, development becomes difficult or even impossible.

INCREASINGLY, stakeholders in international cooperation are faced with confusing, complicated and often dangerous situations. This places considerable demands on staff in our partner countries, raises challenging management questions – and requires extensive expertise on our part. Randa Kourieh-Ranarivelo, GIZ's Country Director in Mali, talks about this in an article on page 34. But Mali is just one example.

MANY STATES are now regarded as fragile states. At the same time, the challenges have become more complex and the number of stakeholders has increased: on the ground there are state and non-state actors – private, philanthropic, civilian and military. In many cases, the German Government dovetails its foreign, security, development and environmental policy in these regions. This networked approach has created a compass that guides GIZ's work. A guest column by State Secretary Martin Jäger describes how this has an impact. He takes Afghanistan as an example to show the success that has been achieved using this approach – despite considerable obstacles.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT: development cooperation has a particular role to play in situations where the causes of complex crises and dangers to human security need to be addressed. It takes a long-term approach and the courage to develop new instruments and forge new partnerships to reach the overarching goal that the international community set itself when it adopted the 2030 Agenda, namely to achieve lasting peace and to ensure that everyone can fulfil their potential and live in a world free from want and fear. That is exactly what 'human security' means – a goal that is particularly important in times of upheaval, as highlighted in an essay by US expert Mathew Burrows, one of the leading thinkers on strategic foresight and global trends. How is this experienced by those people who live in fragile contexts or have to cope with existential hardships every day?



SABINE TONSCHEIDT,  
Director of Corporate Communications  
sabine.tonscheidt@giz.de

As already mentioned, this issue of *akzente* focuses on people, which is why you will find lots of people having their say throughout the magazine. We hope you enjoy reading it!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sabine Tonscheidt".





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IN FOCUS: HUMAN SECURITY

# Safe and sound

For all the people in the world to feel safe and be able to develop in the best possible way, a lot more is needed than the absence of violent conflicts.

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In Cambodia, it's now possible to experience the country's painful past. p.10

PHOTOS: MORUCC UMMABER/DPA (P. 4, ABOVE), LIM SOKCHANLINA (P. 4, RIGHT), GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO (P. 4, LEFT)





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How exported plastic is shaping the urban landscape in Viet Nam. p. 36



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Excellent coffee, produced in harmony with nature p. 42

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SUSTAINABILITY, AKZENTE

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Financial expert Thomas Buck talks about his life in Malawi. p.50



DIGITAL AKZENTE

Our magazine is also available online in an optimised form for mobile devices.

[akzente.giz.de/en](http://akzente.giz.de/en)



IN FIGURES

2.6

trillion US dollars have been invested in developing renewable energy over the past ten years. Capacity has quadrupled in this period: whereas only around 410 gigawatts of green energy were produced in 2010, this figure had risen to 1,650 gigawatts in 2019. This has saved around two billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions worldwide.  
[www.unenvironment.org](http://www.unenvironment.org)

29

million babies were born in regions affected by conflict in 2018. Each of these children has already suffered stress in the first few months of its life due to chaotic and unsafe conditions. If children are faced with this stress repeatedly or over a longer period of time, it can have a severe impact on their mental and physical health. It also affects their ability to learn and their behaviour.  
[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

100

years remain before all insects may have become extinct. This is a scenario painted by the authors of the largest study on insects to date if insects continue to disappear at the current rate. The main causes identified by the authors are the loss of the insects' original habitat, intensive agriculture and harmful fertilisers and pesticides.  
[www.sydney.edu.au](http://www.sydney.edu.au)



## Something Xtra

**AGRICULTURE** An initiative called XtraPay allows customers to add a voluntary bonus of EUR 0.20 for products from developing countries. A total of 126 farmers have benefited from 1,300 XtraPay tags on products since August. The idea for XtraPay was developed by a team of development cooperation (DC) scouts. On behalf of the German Development Ministry, these DC scouts help German businesses get involved in developing countries on a sustainable basis. For example, they highlight financing options and bring potential partners together.

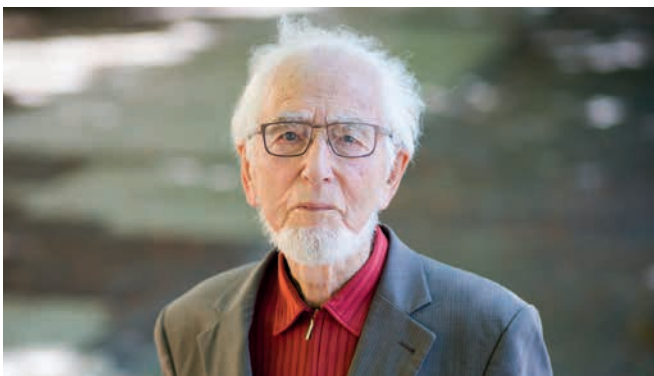
[xtrapay.info](http://xtrapay.info)



**‘People with higher education have higher employment rates, earn 57% more than those with upper secondary only and are more likely to protect the environment. Let’s ensure our youth acquires the right supply of skills for a changing world.’**

Tweet by ANGEL GURRÍA, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), at the presentation of the OECD Education at a Glance 2019 Report on 11 September 2019

## Pragmatic visionary



**ERHARD EPPLER** He established a modern understanding of development cooperation, was one of the first to advocate environmentally responsible management and was a staunch peacebuilder. The long-serving German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation, Erhard Eppler, died in October at the age of 92. ‘He was a visionary with his feet firmly on the ground, an open-minded and forward-looking politician,’ remarked Tanja Gönner, Chair of the GIZ Management Board, paying tribute to the former minister. During his time in office (1968–1974), Eppler,

from Germany’s Social Democratic Party, ensured that official German development cooperation was implemented by a public-benefit company and not a government body. He believed that the task of fighting poverty and achieving sustainable development called for the flexibility of an organisation governed by private law. And so he paved the way for integrating a large number of clients – ranging from governments in the partner countries and other state and non-state organisations to private companies. That played a key role in shaping GIZ as it is today and giving it its present focus.

## THREE QUESTIONS FOR



**ALICHITH PHENGSAVANH**

The sustainability manager at the Maison Souvannaphoum Hotel in Luang Prabang, Laos, was an ambassador for a GIZ project to support sustainable tourism on behalf of the German Development Ministry and the EU.

### What role does tourism play in Luang Prabang?

Our town has a population of 80,000. As a former royal city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it attracts around 650,000 tourists every year. The tourism sector is therefore of existential importance to us.

### What problems has tourism caused so far?

A lot of waste without good waste management, for example, and we have used a great deal of energy and water.

### You were project ambassador because your hotel was already a shining example when the project started. What do you think has changed as a result of the project?

We used to have clean-up days in our hotel before, when the hotel staff teamed up with the community to clear away rubbish from the river bank. That already helped raise awareness to some extent. But thanks to GIZ, the topic of sustainability has reached many more people, because it has brought together all of the groups connected with tourism. In addition to the private sector, government officials and the general public were also involved. Training sessions with experts helped us use much less plastic and water, for example.

[www.bmz.de/webapps/tourismus/index.html#/en/](http://www.bmz.de/webapps/tourismus/index.html#/en/)



# IT experts for Africa

**JOB** At least 450 new IT jobs are to be created in ten African countries over the next three years. This is the goal of a project launched in summer 2019 by develoPPP for jobs, in which GIZ is cooperating with the German technology company SAP on behalf of the German Development Ministry. The public-benefit SAP Training and Development Institute will provide training for 600 unemployed university graduates in a three-month training programme on digital technologies in the field of business/management and IT. The aim is to help at least three quarters of these graduates find jobs with local companies. Demand is high in the countries involved – Algeria, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia – because

they offer huge potential for jobs and growth in the digital sector. However, they currently lack experts to provide support in implementing digitalisation. The project is designed to generate jobs that could not be created or filled before because applicants did not have the necessary skills. develoPPP for jobs is a programme launched by the German Development Ministry that supports sustainable private sector initiatives to provide better training for experts and to create jobs in selected countries in Africa. The project emerged as part of the Strategic Partnership Digital Africa, a network connecting German development cooperation with around 200 European companies.

[www.bmz.de/20190626-1en](http://www.bmz.de/20190626-1en)

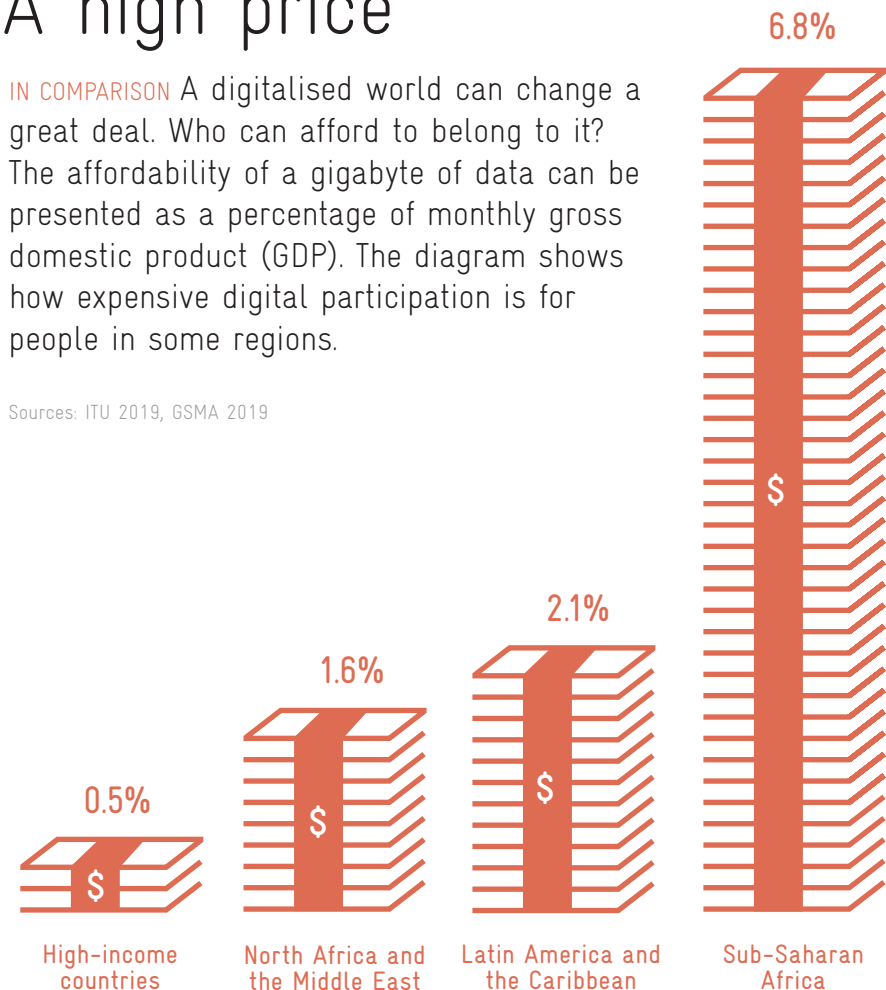


## Label for good material

## A high price

**IN COMPARISON** A digitalised world can change a great deal. Who can afford to belong to it? The affordability of a gigabyte of data can be presented as a percentage of monthly gross domestic product (GDP). The diagram shows how expensive digital participation is for people in some regions.

Sources: ITU 2019, GSMA 2019



**SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES** In September 2019, German Development Minister Gerd Müller presented the new state label for sustainable textiles: the Green Button. It is designed to be a guarantee for shoppers that environmental and social standards have been met. To this end, not only is the clothing manufacturing process assessed, but the manufacturing companies are also checked. Twenty-seven firms have already signed up to the initiative, all of which have met the requirements for certification. During the initial introductory stage, the Green Button will focus on stitching and dyeing, which are common parts of the production process. A total of 75 million people work in this sector. In future, checks are to be extended to cover the entire manufacturing process. The Green Button was also the topic of a panel debate at the Hong Kong Fashion Summit in September 2019, the main event on sustainability issues in the Asian textile and garment industry.

[www.gruener-knopf.de](http://www.gruener-knopf.de)

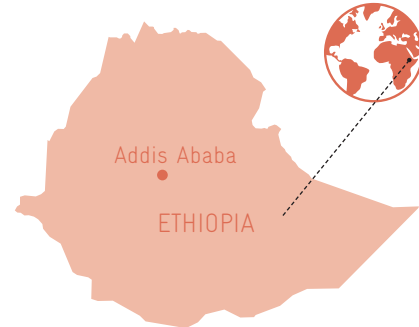
# Wanted: clever ideas for excellent coffee

**IDEAS COMPETITION** A total of 125 million people throughout the world depend on coffee for their livelihoods. Around 70 to 75 per cent of production comes from small family-owned businesses. However, due to low world market prices and increasing production costs, many people cannot earn enough from growing coffee to survive – not even in Ethiopia, where coffee originated. Moreover, the impacts of climate change are posing a threat to yields and quality. This is where the Coffee Innovation Fund is trying to help. GIZ is using the fund on behalf of the German Development Ministry to support projects that promote a fair value chain and increase the yields of smallholder farms. The Coffee Innovation Fund is part of the Programme for Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains and Standards and focuses on three areas: ideas for innovative farming systems that enhance quality and sustainability; ideas for transparent and integrative business models, for example using blockchain technology; and ideas that create access to new digital markets. The selected project ideas receive funding of up to EUR 50,000.

[www.giz.de/en/worldwide/77960.html](http://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/77960.html)

## ETHIOPIA WIKI

**Official language:** Amharic, more than 70 regional languages with equal state recognition / **Capital:** Addis Ababa / **Form of government:** Federal republic / **Head of state:** Sahle-Work Zewde / **Head of government:** Abiy Ahmed Ali / **Size:** 1,104,300 km<sup>2</sup> / **Population:** approx. 109 million / **Population density:** 101.9 per km<sup>2</sup> (1) / **GDP per capita:** USD 790 (2)



Sources: (1) UN Data, (2) World Bank 2018

## NEW PROJECTS



### Expertise for displaced people

**WORLDWIDE** In order to help support displaced people and host communities more effectively in future, humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peace-building are to be integrated more closely. On behalf of the German Development Ministry, GIZ is working with the UN Refugee Agency to implement this initiative. The organisations are cooperating in areas such as sustainable energy, which has great potential as a means of securing the supply of energy to refugee camps and settlements.



### Chatbot for communities

**SOUTH-EAST EUROPE** Cumbersome, difficult to reach, inefficient – this is how many people see the service offered by their local authorities in the Balkan countries. In a new develoPPP.de project, GIZ is cooperating with the software firm SAGA to improve quality. It has developed a chatbot, a software program designed to act as a digital service agent to provide citizens with written (and in future possibly spoken) information around the clock, initially in Serbia as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina.



### Biodiversity for jobs

**NAMIBIA** Three quarters of the population of Namibia in the south west of Africa depend directly on the use of natural resources. A new project being implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Environment Ministry aims to secure their livelihoods on a sustainable basis. The project is supporting the introduction of the biodiversity economy. This includes companies and business activities that either depend on or contribute to biodiversity, such as sustainable tourism.

PHOTOS: BETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO (P. 8, 9 LEFT AND CENTER), ROLF BACKER/VERSION-FOTO (P. 9, RIGHT)



*Report*

# BACK TO THE FUTURE

Students in Cambodia have developed an app that takes people to places of importance under the brutal regime of the Khmer Rouge and tells the stories of victims and perpetrators – so that the next generation does not forget.

TEXT JOHANNES TRAN

PHOTOS LIM SOKCHANLINA



*Back to the Future*



**MEMORY**

Student Socheata Seng in the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh. She made a video about the place for the Mapping Memories Cambodia app. Thousands of people were tortured here.





Dancing was banned under the Khmer Rouge. Along with other artists, choreographer Sophiline Cheam Shapiro has revived this form of artistic expression and taught young people about the terrible years under the regime.

The project contributes to the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



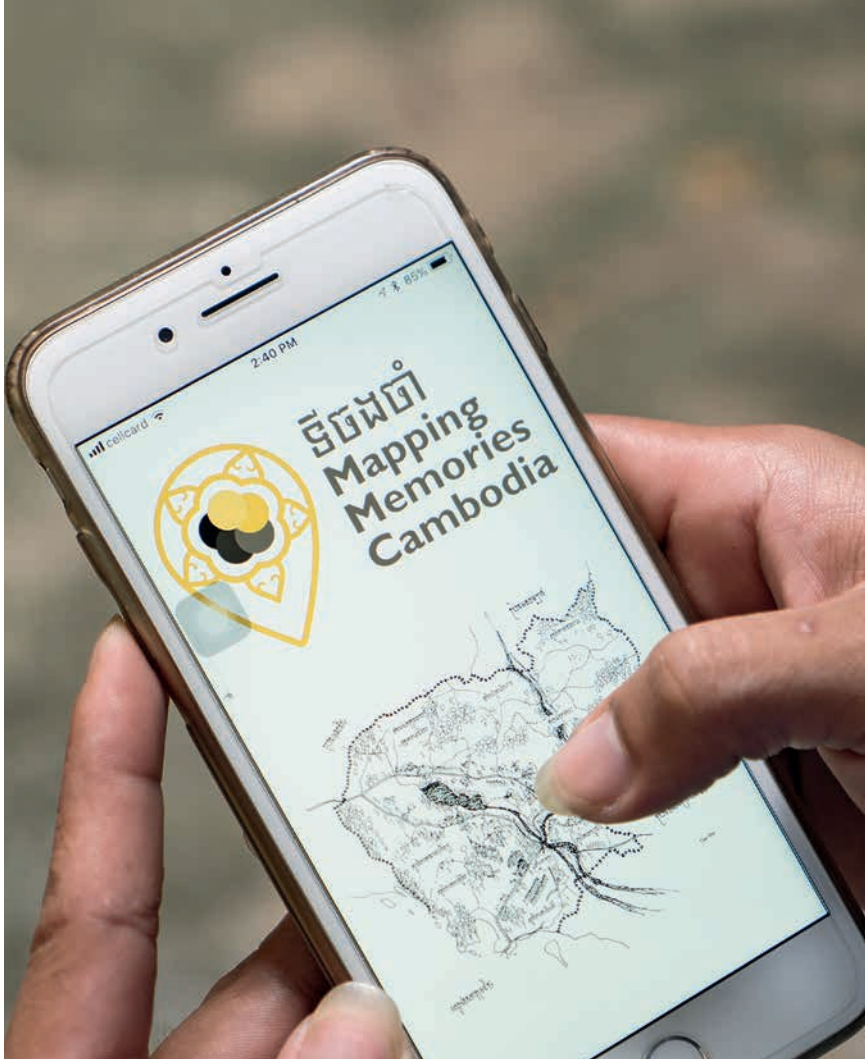
T

The path to the past takes Sophiline Cheam Shapiro through an archway, past terracotta-coloured houses and the sculpture of a smiling man bearing a plucked string instrument. Leafy trees as tall as buildings provide shade on the campus of the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh, and small groups of students in burgundy uniforms sit together in pavilions. ‘This place reminds me of hard times,’ says Sophiline.

Aged 52, she is an elegant woman who exudes a mix of grace and authority. Sophiline sits down on some stone steps and begins to tell her story: about how the Khmer Rouge drove her family out of the city after seizing power in 1975 and forced them to work in the fields, and how her father died of hunger and illness, followed soon afterwards by her brother. She talks about her mother, who was unable to cry when she heard that her son had died. And how she herself returned to Phnom Penh once the four-year reign of terror was over to study the traditional techniques of dance and music, painting and acting at this very place, the art school. ‘My teachers were extremely resilient. They worked day and night to breathe new life into our arts,’ Sophiline reminisces.

The Khmer Rouge had closed down the art school, just as they had all other educational, religious and cultural institutions. Artists, intellectuals and city dwellers were regarded as enemies. They were deported, and many of them were murdered. Around two million people – about a quarter of the Cambodian population – are estimated to have fallen victim to the regime of terror and its leader, Pol Pot. When the art school reopened after the Khmer Rouge had been overthrown, Sophiline was one of its first graduates. She was eager to rouse the country and to process the traumas of the past – using the expressive power of dance. Even today, her work as a choreographer addresses the horrors of that time. And she talks to young people about her own life – again and again.

Sophiline’s message about the need to deal with the past attracted the interest of media and communications students in Phnom Penh. In collaboration with the German Civil Peace Service and with support from GIZ, they worked on a unique project, using an app to tell the stories of eyewitnesses throughout Cambodia. The students sifted through historical documents in archives.



A click on the app and MMC shows reports, for example about the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in the centre of Phnom Penh (top).

They travelled across the country, to the towns and cities and to remote regions. They interviewed survivors of the regime, both victims and perpetrators. Then they produced audio and video documentation, created photo galleries and wrote articles in English and Khmer. The app was published at the beginning of 2019 and is called Mapping Memories Cambodia. Sophiline's story is part of the project too.

### 'So many untold stories'

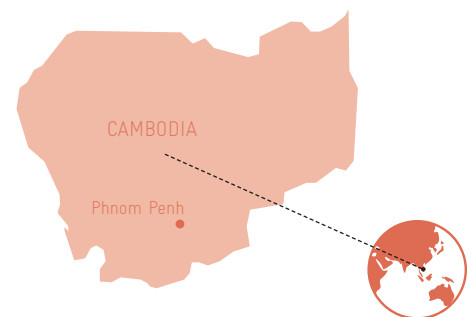
One spring morning, a student who helped to develop the app is sitting on a bench in front of the Department of Media and Communication at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Around her, young people on mopeds and bikes are arriving at the university in small numbers. 'I wasn't so happy with the project to begin with. I wondered how we were supposed to find a new and interesting approach to the time of the Khmer Rouge,' Socheata Seng remarks. 'But the more I worked on the topic, the stronger my feeling became that there are so many untold stories.'

She produced two contributions for the app. In a video documentary, Socheata illustrates the functions of the individual buildings all around the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, a former Khmer Rouge prison where thousands of people were tortured. She also interviewed a man who experienced the seizure of power by the brutal regime as a child in the French Embassy. While he and his mother

## CAMBODIA

**Capital:** Phnom Penh / **Population:** 16 million /  
**GDP per capita:** USD 1,380 (1) /  
**Economic growth:** 7.5 per cent (2) /  
**Human Development Index ranking:** 146

Source: (1, 2) World Bank 2018

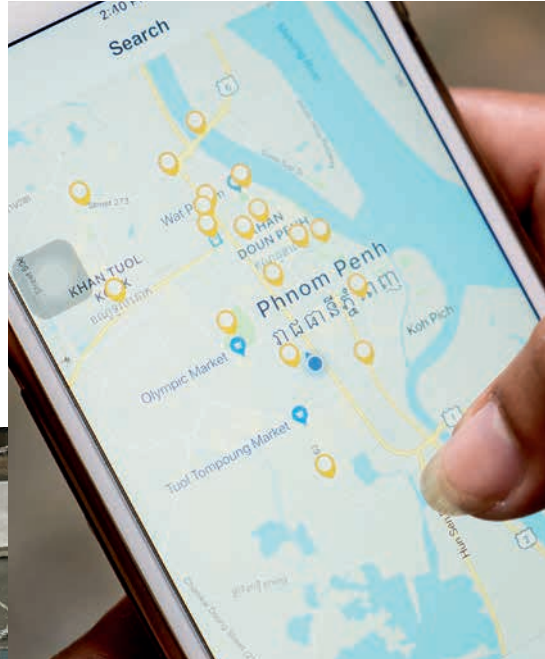


On behalf of the German Development Ministry, GIZ's Civil Peace Service is supporting efforts to come to terms with the past in connection with the Khmer Rouge Tribunal. This includes Mapping Memories Cambodia, a map-based smartphone app:

[www.mappingmemoriescambodia.com](http://www.mappingmemoriescambodia.com)  
**Contact:** Julia Ilse, [julia.ilse@giz.de](mailto:julia.ilse@giz.de)



**Right:** MMC provides information as a free app or on the website. Two thirds of young people in Cambodia use smartphones.



'I feel responsible for documenting history.' Since Socheata Seng began collaborating on Mapping Memories Cambodia, she sees her home city through different eyes.

were allowed to leave the country, his father had to stay in Cambodia and died there. 'That has left a mark on him that remains even today,' Socheata explains.

Mapping Memories Cambodia (MMC) has powerful stories to tell. When you open the app, the first thing you see is a map. Your current location is shown by a blue dot. Yellow pins show places in the immediate vicinity, which you can click on to see the contributions developed by Socheata and her fellow students. They include well-known locations such as the central market in Phnom Penh, where the Khmer Rouge used to keep supplies and animals. The app also highlights less well-known places, such as a derelict building complex in the south of the city, in which displaced artists sought refuge after the fall of the regime. That is the innovative thing about the project: it aims to use locations that still exist today to confront users with the past and encourage them to take a look at these places for themselves.

By using a digital format, the students hope that MMC will reach young people in particular. In contrast to people in Germany, the young generation in Cambodia knows very little about the gruesome history of their own country. A study conducted by the University of California, Berkeley in 2009 concluded that eight out of ten Cambodians born after the end of the Khmer Rouge reign had no or very little knowledge about the regime. This young generation is in the process of losing access to its country's history. The Khmer Rouge was only introduced into the national school curriculum a decade ago. Yet in families too, people barely talk about the brutal regime. The wounds are too deep, and the sense of shame is too overwhelming.

## A bridge between the generations

'When I was young, I thought the Khmer Rouge was a kind of fairy-tale,' says Socheata. 'My aunt used to make jokes about it, as if it wasn't anything bad or painful. But now I feel sorry for them. I'm sad about what my family had to go through in the past. Sometimes I cry because they suffered so much.' The project is helping Socheata to take a close look at her own family history for the first time. During her research, she found out what her family experienced under the Khmer Rouge. In the radical system, in which money and property were banned and city dwellers were marched forcibly to the countryside, people starved – and many died as a result.

Since helping to develop the app, Socheata has been seeing her city through different eyes. If she spots a striking building, she asks herself and others questions. When was it built? How was it used under the Khmer Rouge? What happened to the people inside it? 'I feel responsible for documenting history,' she explains. 'We are like a bridge between the old and the young generation. And I don't want people to say: You didn't pay any attention to history.'

When Sophiline, the artist and eye witness, hears about this, she believes it confirms the importance of her work. Under a roof supported by columns at the art school, a few metres away from her, a group of young men and women are practising traditional Khmer

## 20 YEARS OF THE CIVIL PEACE SERVICE

November 2019 marks 20 years since the first **Civil Peace Service (CPS)** experts left Germany to promote peace in regions of crisis and conflict and to prevent violence. In 1999, their destinations were the former Yugoslavia, Guatemala, Romania, Zimbabwe and the Palestinian territories. Since then, **1,400 experts** have been sent to nearly **60 countries**. The CPS Consortium is made up of nine German peace and development organisations – as the only federal enterprise, GIZ, working on behalf of the German Development Ministry, has been part of the consortium from the outset. At present, more than **100 CPS experts from GIZ** are collaborating with partner organisations in more than **20 countries**. Their work varies, depending on the country. In Cambodia, for example, they aim to promote **the creation of democratic structures** by helping people come to terms with the past. In Guatemala, victims of violence receive support in fighting for their rights. In West Africa, work focuses on peaceful conflict resolution between livestock herders. Through CPS, Germany is assuming responsibility in the world where conflicts need to be defused and stability promoted.

dance. They are wearing skirts and colourful scarves. Following a teacher's instructions, they move their hands to the rhythm of a chant. Sophiline looks over at the students, a reflection of her own history. 'It is important that this project exists. We older people must talk about the past more.' She pauses. 'But we have to move on too. Draw strength from the past. You have to use your energy to create something new and productive.' Her group's next performance is in two days' time. The topic: Can the cycles of revenge and violence be overcome? A question that many people who delve into Cambodia's past using the Mapping Memories Cambodia app will ask themselves. —



**JOHANNES TRAN** was born in 1996, studied South-East Asian studies in Hamburg and works for a number of organisations, including the German broadcasting association ARD. He heard about MMC when travelling through Cambodia.

**LIM SOKCHANLINA** is a Cambodian photographer and artist who focuses on portrait and documentary photography. Exhibitions of his work have been shown in places such as Singapore, New York and Berlin.





IN FOCUS

# HUMAN SECURITY

For all the people in the world to feel safe and be able to develop in the best possible way, a lot more is needed than just peace.





## REPORT

### A question of trust

On patrol with the mobile police station in the Palestinian territories **p.18**

## OVERVIEW

### New ways forward with digital tech

Five projects that demonstrate how technology can improve human security **p.22**

## GUEST COLUMN

### ‘No reason for doom-mongering’

Guest column by State Secretary Martin Jäger **p.23**

## ESSAY

### Two steps forward, one step back

US security expert Mathew Burrows explores the concept and the reality of human security. **p.24**

## INFOGRAPHIC

### The biggest risks of all

In today's world, war and weapons are no longer seen as the biggest dangers. In fact, the greatest risks that lie in wait for us concern the environment. **p.30**

## INTERVIEW

### ‘It’s not just wrong, it’s stupid’

Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, President of WIIS, on the significance of women in the field of security **p.32**

## BACKGROUND

### United for peace

Randa Kourieh-Ranarivelo, Country Director in Mali, talks about the challenging work in a fragile state. **p.34**

## EXAMPLES OF GIZ'S WORK

### Focus on people

How GIZ is working to improve human security around the world. **p.35**



*In focus: Human security*



A varied day in the life of a West Bank mobile police unit; Colonel Wafa Muamar (top) and Lieutenant-Colonel Zahra Sukkar (middle)

# A question of trust

Guided by the principles of human rights and the rule of law, Germany supports police forces in various countries to deliver a professional, community-oriented service. One example of this engagement can be found in the Palestinian territories. To see exactly how this works, we accompanied a mobile police station on patrol around Bethlehem.

Text BRIGITTE SPITZ Photos AHMAD AL-BAZZ / GIZ

A crowd gathers every time the white police van turns into a village road. Teenagers crane their neck and jostle for a good view as they make their way to school. Younger children point excitedly at the vehicle and call out to their mothers. As the police van makes its way around this rural area on the southern outskirts of Bethlehem, it soon becomes clear that the sight of a Palestinian police unit is quite a special occasion.

That morning, Zahra Sukkar gathered her team at Bethlehem district police station: seven male officers and two female officers – including Sukkar herself, who commands the Bethlehem District Mobile Police Station. There is now a dedicated mobile station for each of the eleven districts that make up the West Bank with its population of nearly three million. The mobile police stations are just one example of GIZ's work on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office in the Palestinian territories. The objective of this particular project is to strengthen local police structures and the rule of law.

'Yallah – let's go!' says Sukkar. Accompanied by traffic officers, an anti-narcotics officer, a cybercrime specialist and an environmental protection officer, she heads off

in the direction of Beit Fajjar, a small town right down at the southern end of her district. She is holding a permit issued by the Israeli authorities. Without this document, she is not allowed to pass through any part of Area C, where the Palestinian Authority has no jurisdiction of any kind.

The team climb into the large white police vehicle. With a blue stripe running along the side, it vaguely resembles a campervan. There is a good reason for that. The vehicle was designed by the police officers themselves with the help of GIZ experts. Unlike other police vehicles, it is not fitted with window guards. Inside there is a table with benches. On the outside, the van has an extendable awning so that the team can set up chairs in the open air. As a result, whenever they stop in one of the villages, the van can be quickly transformed into a miniature police station with an inviting outdoor area. The message – that police officers are approachable and there to serve the people – is intended to create a greater sense of community and trust.

The Palestinian Civil Police force struggles with a limited presence and the fact that its officers are not seen often enough in remote areas. In part, this is due to the political situation. The West Bank resembles a

## THE WEST BANK ABC

In 1995, following the Oslo II Interim Agreement, the West Bank was divided into several areas of control.

**Area A:** This makes up around 18 per cent of the entire West Bank. Larger cities such as Ramallah and Bethlehem were placed under the control of the Palestinian Authority. Around half of the West Bank's three million people live in Area A. Access is controlled by the Israeli army.

**Area B:** 20 per cent of the West Bank is classed as Area B. This consists mainly of rural communities. While administrative control rests with the Palestinian Authority, Israel has control over security.

**Area C:** This covers 62 per cent of the West Bank and consists mainly of sparsely populated areas of undeveloped land, Palestinian villages and Israeli settlements. Area C is exclusively controlled by Israel. It is home to around 300,000 Palestinians and some 400,000 Israeli settlers.

**Source:** United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA oPt)



patchwork quilt of jurisdictions. A mere 18 per cent of the land (Area A) is controlled by the Palestinians. If there is a crime or a car accident in Area B or C, the Palestinian Civil Police must first ask Israeli military authorities for permission before it can access the area and start investigating. The official term for this is ‘coordination’. Sometimes this can take hours or days. They even have to request permission if they need to use an Area C road in order to reach an incident in Area A. For this reason, the police are keen to widen their presence on the ground.

### Community focus and expertise

‘We want to reach out to people in remote areas. That’s why we adopted a new community-based approach to policing,’ explains Major General Hazem Atallah, Chief of Palestinian Police in the West Bank. ‘When it comes to achieving that objective, the mobile police stations are a big help. They allow us to reach places we’ve never been to before.’ The equipment and know-how were just not available in the past. This lack of resources was raised at the 2008 Middle East Conference in Berlin, and the German Government pledged its support. Quite a lot has been

achieved in the intervening decade. The mobile police units are just the most recent sign of progress. One of the earlier projects involved designing and building a model police station: open-plan, all the rooms fitted with windows to let in the light, and no cells or other areas hidden from view. The prototype was followed by eleven more new stations. A special police station for simulations and training was built at the Palestinian Police College in Jericho – without a ceiling so that the instructors could monitor and evaluate their trainees from above without disrupting training sessions. The College works with the German Police University in Münster to assist in compliance with international police training standards.

Zahra Sukkar is one of around 1,400 Palestinian police officers to gain additional skills and qualifications through training courses run by GIZ. She joined the police as a young woman and now – in her mid-40s – holds a middle-management position with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Her career path is unusual for a woman given the traditional nature of Palestinian society. Twenty years ago, she was encouraged by her father, even though he had never learned to read. ‘He believed in justice and the law and in a

future with our own separate state,’ she recalls. Lieutenant-Colonel Sukkar has a clear zest for life and a natural air of authority. Even so, it was a challenge for her to assert command over the men in her unit as the highest-ranking officer. ‘In our society, it’s usually the men who tell the women what to do,’ she says. ‘Still, good communication is the key, and sometimes I resort to compromise and avoid taking such a confrontational line with my colleagues,’ she adds, laughing.

The mobile station stops at the girls’ secondary school in Beit Fajjar. Seventy teenagers are waiting in the main hall for her and the unit’s anti-narcotics officer, who has swapped his uniform for civilian clothes to make the audience feel more at ease and to help establish a rapport. While he talks to the young women about the dangers of drugs, Sukkar meets the school’s headteacher. This is the mobile unit’s second visit to the school in the space of a year. The headteacher holds out a faxed letter she has received from the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah. The note, which includes Sukkar’s contact details and those of the mobile unit, has been sent to all schools in the district. ‘That’s great,’ says the police of-



**Left:** Major General Hazem Atallah, Chief of Palestinian Police in the West Bank

**Above:** The simulation room at Jericho Police College gives instructors a good view of the training sessions without causing any disruption.

ficer. Together with her team, she wants to maintain that contact over the long term, so that they can take appropriate action before things happen – especially when young people are involved.

## Signs of change

Young people and women are particularly at risk from domestic violence, cybercrime and drug abuse, observes Colonel Wafa Muamar, who leads the Family and Juvenile Protection Unit operated by the Palestinian Police in Ramallah. The unit was set up in the West Bank ten years ago with a team of just three people. Today, it consists of 112 officers, 40 per cent of whom are women. ‘We are still a conservative society, and problems are usually settled within families,’ explains the Colonel. ‘What’s more, many of our laws are obsolete,’ she continues, describing the challenges. However, things appear to be changing. A specialist officer from her unit is now assigned to each mobile police station to deal with cases of domestic violence. More of these incidents are being reported overall. Awareness of the issue seems to be increasing. One example is the recent killing of a young woman, which set off street protests in Palestinian towns. The 21-year-old had posted a video with her future fiancé on social media. Investigations are still ongoing, but there are indications that the fact that she had shown herself with her partner online before her official engagement might have triggered violence by male relatives that caused her death.

‘One of our main goals is prevention. We want to build up trust in the police service so that people know they can turn to us even if they have problems,’ says Sukkar. The mobile unit has now moved on to a primary school. Their task here is to train young members of the school crossing patrol. Wearing high-vis yellow jackets, the girls listen attentively to the traffic officers. Together they practice how to control the traffic and learn how to exert authority. The atmosphere is relaxed. Everyone is smiling or laughing, and after a while the children seem to lose any nervousness they may have had in the presence of the police officers. The girls confidently hold up the red sign ordering drivers to stop. —

The project contributes to the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



## INTERVIEW



JOACHIM VON BONIN

Programme Manager, Strengthening of Police Structures in the Palestinian Territories

### Working in the Palestinian territories, how do you manage to keep a sense of direction and distinguish between right and wrong?

That’s a question I think a lot about – especially as a German citizen. I work for GIZ so I am guided by the policies of the German Government, which continues to support the two-state solution. A vision in which a viable Palestinian state and an Israeli state coexist in peace and security. This is the foundation for all activities in our police programme. As programme manager, I am also committed to the values enshrined in the German Constitution and the UN Convention on Human Rights. That’s not always easy in the Palestinian territories, but we have established a trustful and open dialogue with our Palestinian partners on these issues.

### What is the key to successful cooperation?

First and foremost, in such a difficult and volatile situation you need a great deal of patience in your work. I was involved in setting up the first phase of the police programme ten years ago. Since then, my predecessors have achieved an incredible amount of progress. It is this kind of continuity that explains why we are highly valued as a partner in the area of policing. Another important factor is the strong mutual trust we have built up over that time. That allows us to address difficult issues and work on them together as partners. Finally, I have been deeply impressed by the tremendous motivation and strong qualifications of our national staff in the Palestinian territories. They are the real backbone of our work here.

### How do you see the future of the region?

The first thing you realise when you come to work in the Middle East is: there are no easy solutions to this conflict. Still, I remain an optimistic person so I concentrate on taking one step at a time. I believe it makes absolute sense to help improve human security for the people who live in the West Bank. Perhaps, in a small way, that will contribute to a bigger solution later on. And besides the political context: for me personally it’s a great honour and privilege to live and work in this region with its wonderful people and such a diversity of cultures and religions.

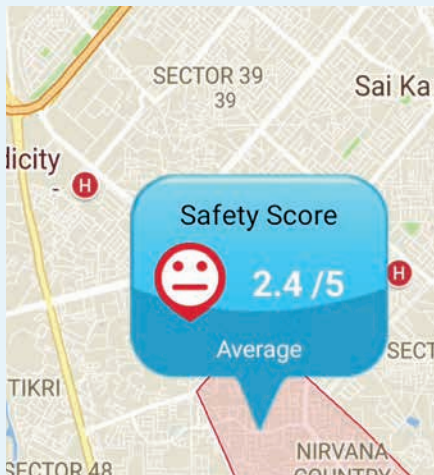


# New ways forward with digital tech

A selection of projects that demonstrate how technology can improve human security

## Interactive security network

**CRIME** India is regarded as one of the world's most dangerous countries for women. The social enterprise SafetiPin was set up a few years ago in New Delhi to help women move around this city and others as freely as possible. To this end, the company developed an app that marks high-risk areas with a pin on a digital street map. A red pin shows that an area is particularly dangerous. Orange indicates a moderate level of risk, while green is safe. One of the great benefits of this system is that it quickly identifies new risk areas. Users score each district themselves on the basis of specified criteria and are continuously feeding new data into the system. –



## Digital farming assistant

**AGRICULTURE** The mobile phone app Kurima Mari is a handy tool for farmers in Zimbabwe. Jointly developed by the NGO Welthungerhilfe and the country's Ministry of Agriculture, it contributes to the farmers' economic security by providing valuable information about plant varieties, crop rotation, weather conditions and marketing opportunities. The app – available in three languages (English, Shona and Ndebele) to attract as many users as possible – also offers advice on how to obtain credit or apply for funding. Agriculture is by far the largest sector of the economy in Zimbabwe. –

## Real-time epidemic control

**HEALTH** It is often impossible to detect and control epidemics at an early stage in large countries with insufficient health systems. In Nigeria, medical practitioners can now send data on ten different pathogens to the relevant authorities in real time using the app SORMAS (Surveillance, Outbreak Response Management and Analysis System). The list of diseases covered by the app includes measles, yellow fever, dengue fever, cholera and Ebola. The system is based on open-source technology and is regularly updated to incorporate new developments that can help to bring epidemics under control as soon as possible. –

## Facts against fake news

**MEDIA** In Georgia, the Myth Detector platform was launched to help debunk fake news reports and anti-western propaganda. The goal of the multimedia training programme, which has its own editorial team, is to combat and correct fake news on the internet so that media users can have more confidence in the information they come across online. The Myth Detector was created by the Georgian Media Development Foundation in collaboration with DW Akademie. The editorial team also set up a Myth Detector Lab, a training programme that teaches students how to identify internet trolls and deconstruct fake news stories published online. –



## My Cable Car public transport app

**MOBILITY** The app Mi Teléferico (My Cable Car) provides information on services, routes and prices for public transport users in the Bolivian capital, La Paz. The key feature of the app is that it provides access to the largest public cable car network in the world. Constructed in less than seven years, the network comprises ten routes and 26 stations, and connects the city's poorer districts with the more prosperous ones. Instead of spending hours battling the dense traffic in order to get from A to B, local people can now reach their destination much more quickly by cable car, with a bird's-eye view of the bustling urban landscape, in one of the safest forms of transport there is. –

# ‘No reason for doom-mongering’

By State Secretary MARTIN JÄGER



**R**efugee crisis, climate disaster, terrorism. Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Afghanistan, Syria. Our living rooms are regularly bombarded with images of crisis and violence, brought to us courtesy of the media. In many cases, however, those pictures are one-sided and pessimistic. Today, we can follow events in East Timor, El Salvador or Malawi in ‘real-time’. Crises, wars and conflicts that appeared so distant just a few decades ago now unfold before our eyes and demand an emotional response. That can leave many people with the impression that the world around us is becoming more insecure, that problems and conflicts are on the increase, and that we are losing control.

Objectively, however, the idea that everything is getting worse is by no means true. In 2018, the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research recorded another fall in the number of conflicts worldwide. According to data released by the World Bank, the proportion of the total global population living in absolute poverty is now well below ten per cent. Twenty years ago, it stood at nearly a third. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO) estimates that 86 per cent of the world population can now read and write. Back in the 1960s that figure was under 50 per cent.

Even the deep concern that people feel today about migration or climate change is not necessarily any greater or worse than that experienced by many who were alive 60 years ago, when the world stood on the brink of nuclear war.

I certainly don’t wish to imply that everything is OK. Yes, we need to address some very serious and potentially existential challenges, but that’s no reason for doom-mongering or resignation. The resources and tools we need to help us find lasting solutions to problems and improve the lives of many people are available to policy-makers. In that context, development policy has a particular role to play, especially when it comes to tackling complex problems with multiple causes.

**‘Yes, we need to address some very serious and potentially existential challenges, but that’s no reason for doom-mongering or resignation.’**

Take Afghanistan, for example. The conflict has been generating headlines here in Germany for two decades. Afghanistan is a landlocked country. Most of the land is desert or mountains. The population is rising much too fast compared with the rate of growth in food production. There is too little employment and hardly any industry. Socially and institutionally, Afghanistan bears the scars of a half-century of war, conflict and mismanagement. As yet, all efforts to bring about peace, establish the rule of law and create stability have proven unsuccessful. As a result, there are many who believe that its problems cannot be solved, that the country is akin to a ‘black hole’.

But that is overlooking the fact that per capita income has quadrupled in Afghanistan since the end of the Taliban regime. Life expectancy has increased by 20 years. More boys and girls than ever now attend school. Afghanistan is also one of the few countries between the Mediterranean and the Pacific with freedom of expression and press freedom. Without international support, including the contribution made by Germany, none of this would have been possible. Development experts, soldiers, diplomats and police officers have all contributed to those outcomes, working together as part of an integrated strategy. Personally, I remain hopeful that there will be a peace process in Afghanistan.

Even apparently hopeless, complex, multicausal crises and wars can be resolved step by step if we take the time and make the effort needed to address their root causes. These actions really can make the world a safer place. —





# Two steps forward, one step back

Human security encompasses more than the absence of war. It envisions a life free from fear and want – for all. The US security expert **Mathew Burrows** analyses where we stand, what we have achieved and which obstacles we have to overcome in this endeavour.

Illustrations: Florian Bayer

**W**ith the Cold War ending, the exclusive focus on state security vanished, and the wellbeing of individuals came to the fore. Only a few years into this 'New World Order', the United Nations Development Programme introduced a new paradigm – Human Security – in its annual Human Development Report (HDR). The UNDP warned that 'without the promotion of people-centred development none of our key objectives can be met – not peace, not human rights, not environmental protection, not reduced population growth, not social integration. It is far cheaper and far more humane to act early and to act upstream than to pick up the pieces downstream ...' Built on four principles – people-centred, comprehensive, context-sensitive, preventive – the new Human Security approach was

## IN THIS ARTICLE

### 1. PAST

How the concept of human security emerged and took root.

### 2. PRESENT

Which developments threaten the world and therefore undermine human security.

### 3. FUTURE

Five points which the global community should address in order to promote human development.

preceded by a shift in development economics. The Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq and the Indian Nobel laureate Amartya Sen introduced an approach that switched from national income accounting to people-centred politics. 'People are the real wealth of a nation,' Haq wrote in the first Human Development Report in 1990. Hence, human development needed to become 'a process of enlarging people's choices' – most critically about how to lead a long and healthy life, how to be educated and how to enjoy a decent standard of living. Without 'political freedom, guaranteed human rights and self-respect,' Haq insisted, 'all foreign aid would be in vain.'

## Freedom and dignity

Despite this forceful, forward-looking paradigm shift, it took the United Nations



General Assembly almost two decades to come up with a definition of human security that was accepted by all member states. The 2012 General Assembly Resolution on Human Security stresses the role of 'Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people'. Central to the approach is the idea that people have 'the right to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair ... with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential'.

But the debate on human security was not only led by the development aid community; it was soon dominated and superposed by security events. With the decline of inter-state wars, atrocities committed within states attracted much more attention than during earlier decades of the twentieth century. Triggered by the genocides in Bosnia and Rwanda, the UN, supported by NATO, developed the 'Responsibility to Protect' (R2P) doctrine, which gradually evolved and was eventually adopted in 2005, stating that the international community has a right – and the obligation – to intervene in sovereign states if they do not protect their citizens' lives and wellbeing.

Even though this concept has been highly criticised as a pretext for military intervention and led to doubtful results in Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, the combination of these three new paradigms – human development, human security and R2P – now constitutes what is being discussed under the label of 'comprehensive approach'. Without this paradigm shift, neither the Millennium Development Goals nor the Sustainable Development Goals could have been established as universal blueprints for the advancement of humanity and the protection of our habitat.

## Upsides and downsides of globalisation

But all these paradigm shifts would have been empty promises without another big global driver: globalisation. Triggered by the end of the bipolar order, the next wave of

globalisation boosted the free flow of people, capital, data, ideas and goods on a much greater scale than the earlier waves of global interdependence between 1860 and 1914 and after the Second World War. The newly created World Trade Organization (WTO) encouraged all nations to embrace free trade, and in 2001 even China, a developing state, became a member.

At the same time, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, prompted by digitalisation and the internet, connected people across the world at almost zero marginal cost, allowing for a deeper integration of global value chains. Saving on labour costs, western companies shifted more production to emerging-market countries. As a result of this boost to growth in the developing world, a new middle-class grew up, further fuelling economic expansion.

'The result,' as the World Economic Forum once dubbed it, 'has been a globalisation on steroids.' In the 2000s, global exports rose to about a quarter of global GDP and two-way or overall trade grew to about half of world GDP.

## A rising middle class

The vast majority of the global population benefited from these developments: over the past 25 years, the socio-economic situation of large sections of the population in developing and emerging countries has improved considerably. Between 1990 and 2010, while the proportion of people living on less than two US dollars a day fell to around 10 per cent, the proportion of people from developing and emerging countries who belong to the global middle class tripled.

The rise of a global middle class is a story of epic proportions, contributing greatly to human security. More and more individuals can realise their potential, no longer trapped in a day-to-day struggle to survive. Still, the big gains for the middle class were concentrated in China, South America and Eastern Europe, and many in the global middle class worry about falling back into poverty as economic growth slows in a number of emerging markets. While the middle class expanded globally,

**'Between 1990 and 2010, the proportion of people living on less than two US dollars a day fell to around 10 per cent.'**



in the West it saw its household incomes stagnate or decline, fuelling the current populist sentiment, and thus increasing inequality and reducing human security.

### Education is key

The increasing levels of educational attainment are perhaps the most positive sign of permanent change for the better. Educational attainment in the developing world is rising faster than it did for the West in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Young girls, not just boys, are benefiting. It is projected that the average number of years in education for women in the Middle East and North Africa could rise from five to seven years by 2030, which begins to close the gap with boys, who will go from 7.1 to 8.7 years in the same period.

So, if we take stock of the progress achieved during the last 25 years, there has been real advancement. The World Bank estimated that the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving the proportion of people living on less than one US dollar a day was achieved in 2008, mainly due to progress in China, India and East Asia. Looking to the future, though, the most recent UN Global Sustainable Development Report in July 2019 warned that none of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals will be reached until 2030 if there is not a more concerted global effort.

### The danger of climate change

After hundreds of years of imperialism, hegemony and conflict we should welcome the fact that we now live in a world of greater economic opportunity, individual empowerment, including that of women, and decreasing war. But with the rise of populist parties in Western countries and nationalism everywhere, democracy is in retreat and authoritarians are gaining ground. There is less public interest in helping others, even as globalisation has made us more interdependent. As the late UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan once put it: 'Ours is a world in which no individual, and no country, exists in isolation. Pollution, or-

**'There is less public interest in helping others, even as globalisation has made us more interdependent.'**

ganised crime and the proliferation of deadly weapons likewise show little regard for the niceties of borders; they are problems without passports and, as such, our common enemy.'

The biggest human security challenge requiring collective action is climate change. Those living in the sun belt, north and south of the equator, are most at risk. Sub-Saharan Africa – which could see the biggest impacts – is also where population growth is still surging. Hardly able to feed itself now, the expected increases in temperature will make it difficult to grow existing crops. The climate change threat is more widespread, with no country likely to be spared. Still, gaining international agreement on measures has been difficult. Advanced economies believe developing countries should bear more of the burden for cutting back CO<sub>2</sub>, while developing countries blame the West for the problem.





*In focus: Human security*





## Shift away from reactive mode

To overcome the current nationalist backlash and cooperate with one another, governments need to shift away from their reactive crisis management mode. If political leaders want to reinvigorate the 2030 Agenda and deliver on their promise to improve human security, they need to better understand the fundamental drivers of change in our highly dynamic world. Only then will they be able to develop and implement policies relevant for solving challenges over the long term. Otherwise they will face a severe legitimacy gap and mistrust in institutions. This creates a fertile breeding ground for new social movements like Fridays For Future and eventually puts the political system under even more pressure. It is therefore all the more important to act swiftly and prudently. Not everything demands systemic change on a big scale; there are also low-hanging fruits:

**First** and foremost, political decision-makers and bureaucracies need to better understand the systemic interdependencies of a world that is becoming increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous.

**Second**, honest and straightforward communication with constituencies about the societal and individual costs of the desperately needed green socio-economic transition is indispensable. Policy-makers need to address vested interests if they want to achieve collective action.

**‘To overcome the current nationalist backlash and cooperate with one another, governments need to shift away from their reactive crisis management mode.’**

**Third**, politics needs to become solution-focused instead of problem-oriented. It is not what people need to give up that should be in the centre of political communication but what could be gained.

**Fourth**, better coordination and harmonisation of sectoral policies (whole-of-government approach) and new forms of political participation, decision-making and shared responsibility are needed. Interministerial cooperation can be easily enhanced within national governments without constitutional changes.

**Fifth**, alignment with like-minded people – nationally as well as internationally – to demonstrate that change is possible.

Human development based on the principle of human security – i.e. a life free from fear and want for all races, genders and nationalities – will only be achieved if we reinvent our societies and political processes and understand that the welfare of others is just as necessary as our own. —



**MATHEW BURROWS**

is a US expert on global trends and security issues. He is currently Director of the Atlantic Council's Foresight, Strategy, and Risks Initiative. Previously, he spent many years with the CIA and the US Department of State.



# The biggest risks of all

In today's world, war and weapons are no longer seen as the biggest dangers. In fact, the greatest risks that lie in wait for us concern the environment. The threat to humankind from climate change and natural disasters is more acute than from any other source.

## Background

Every year, the World Economic Forum publishes a Global Risk Report, in which key decision-makers from industry, science and civil society are invited to set out their views on the biggest threats to humankind. The order in which they are shown in the infographic is based on the likelihood of occurrence as established in this year's report.

## 1. Extreme weather

All over the world, extreme weather events are occurring with increasing frequency. Since 1980, the number of floods has quadrupled, while the number of droughts, bush fires and storms has doubled. Source: European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC)

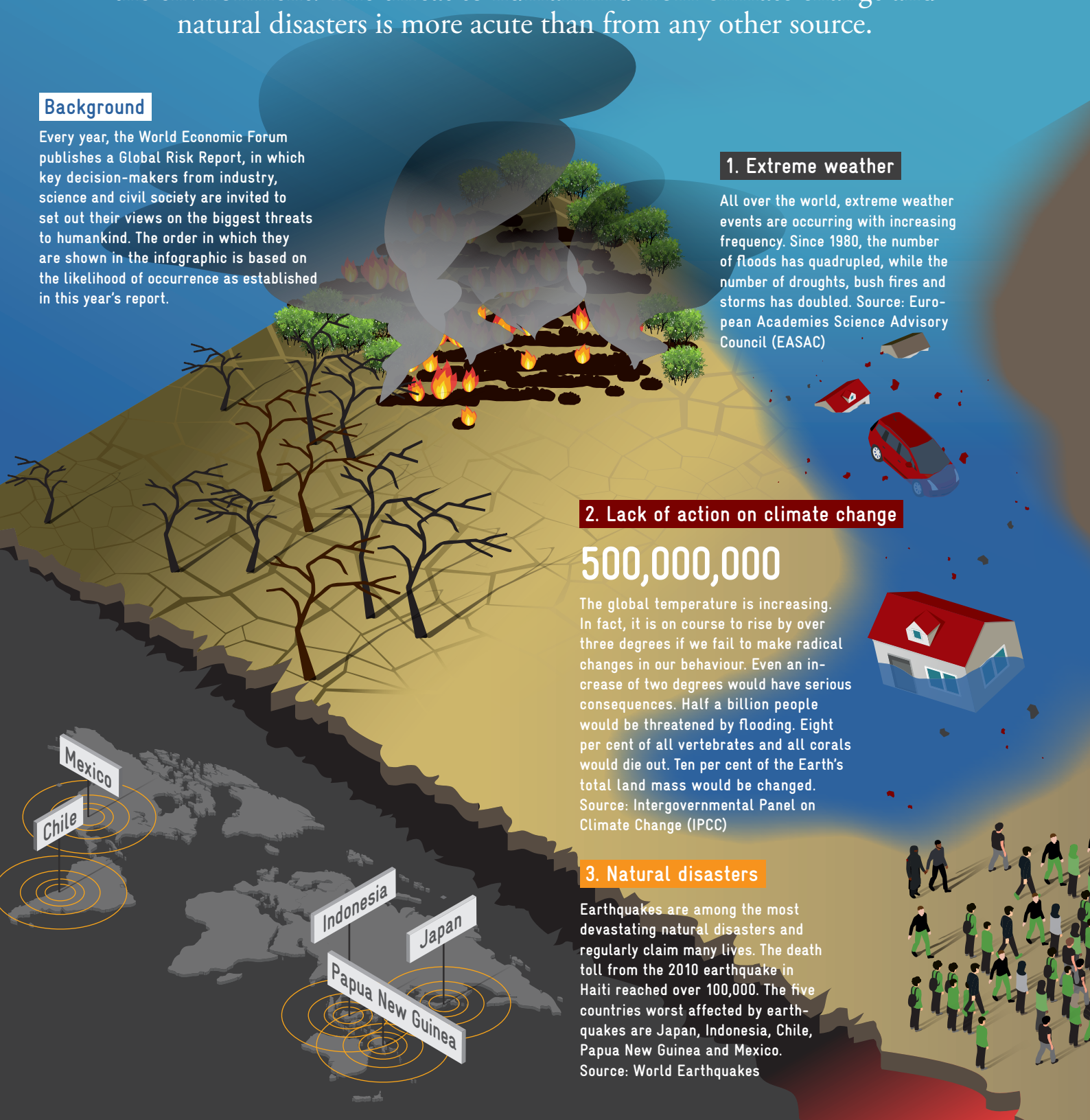
## 2. Lack of action on climate change

**500,000,000**

The global temperature is increasing. In fact, it is on course to rise by over three degrees if we fail to make radical changes in our behaviour. Even an increase of two degrees would have serious consequences. Half a billion people would be threatened by flooding. Eight per cent of all vertebrates and all corals would die out. Ten per cent of the Earth's total land mass would be changed. Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

## 3. Natural disasters

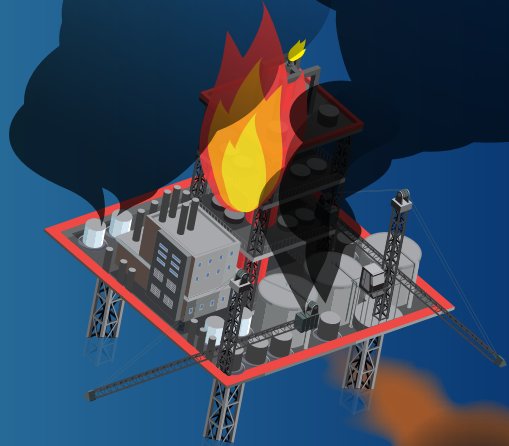
Earthquakes are among the most devastating natural disasters and regularly claim many lives. The death toll from the 2010 earthquake in Haiti reached over 100,000. The five countries worst affected by earthquakes are Japan, Indonesia, Chile, Papua New Guinea and Mexico. Source: World Earthquakes





#### 4. Data fraud

Over recent years, data theft and data fraud have emerged as a major security risk. According to forecasts, the resulting economic damage will reach USD 3 trillion by 2020.  
Source: World Economic Forum



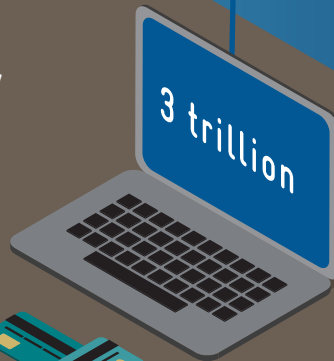
#### 6. Human-induced natural disasters

# 4.9 million

In many cases, natural disasters are caused by humans, for example oil tanker spills and oil drilling accidents. In 2010, 4.9 million barrels of oil flowed into the Gulf of Mexico when a BP drilling platform exploded and later sank.  
Source: Disaster Rally

#### 5. Cyberattacks

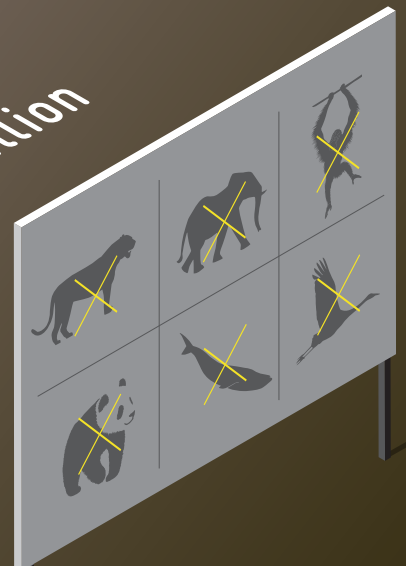
Hackers are constantly inventing new ways of stealing data. One method that has recently proliferated is 'formjacking'. This involves manipulating checkout payment forms on e-commerce sites in order to extract credit card information. It is estimated that around 4,800 sites are affected every month. Just ten stolen credit cards per compromised website can generate up to USD 2.2 million per month.  
Source: Internet Security Threat Report



#### 7. Forced displacement

# 71 million

There are more displaced people today than at any other point in recent decades. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) put the figure for 2018 at over 70 million – 25 people per minute. According to all forecasts, that figure is set to increase further as the changing climate forces people to abandon their homes.



#### 8. Biodiversity loss

We are losing species at an astonishing rate. Based on the most recent calculations, a million species are at risk of extinction. Biodiversity can be seen as a kind of life insurance policy. If one species disappears – perhaps because it could no longer cope with rising temperatures – its place can be taken by another. It is for this reason that diversity is so important.  
Source: World Biodiversity Council





**CHANTAL DE  
JONGE OUDRAAT**

has been President of Women In International Security (WIIS) since 2013. Her areas of expertise include women, peace and security, gender, international organisations, peacekeeping and US-European relations.

# ‘It’s not just wrong, it’s stupid’

Excluding women from security matters – as is still widely the practice across the globe – seriously affects the success rates of peace processes, says **Chantal de Jonge Oudraat**. She is President of the network Women In International Security, which advocates equal female representation in all security issues.

Interview: Friederike Bauer

## **S**ecurity has traditionally been a male field. Where do we stand in terms of female participation?

Across the globe, the under-representation of women in national and international security institutions remains glaring. Gender perspectives are insufficiently integrated into analyses of national and international security challenges. Gender perspectives are usually afterthoughts, if they are thought about at all. Lastly, violence against women continues at horrifyingly high levels.

## **Are there any geographic differences?**

Progress towards gender equality has varied greatly from country to country. But no country has achieved gender equality. When you examine the obstacles to progress, it is not the differences that are striking, but the similarities between countries. Most national and international security establishments are comprised mainly of men and run by men. They have been reluctant to bring women into professional or policy-making positions, especially if this would displace men. These policy establishments also look at national and international security issues in very traditional ways and continue to treat gender issues as marginal issues.

## **Are we moving forward or backwards here?**

Progress is uneven across the world and has

even been reversed in some countries. To me, the wave of neo-patriarchs coming to power in the 2000s and 2010s is particularly worrisome in this regard.

## **Why is it important to have women engaged in security issues?**

There are rights- and needs-based arguments. The first is grounded in the principle of gender equality. The second acknowledges that neglecting 50 per cent of the population leads to ineffective outcomes. In Afghanistan and Iraq, for example, the US military had to recognise that its male-dominated forces could not engage with half of the population. It led the USA to rescind its prohibition on women serving in combat positions.

## **Would you say this rationale is the same all over the world?**

Yes, this is universal.

## **Are there matters where women can make a real difference?**

Of course, and so can men! But we must stop talking about women and instead talk about gender. The Women, Peace and Security resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council explicitly refer to ‘women’. This has helped to highlight the important role of women in security affairs. Unfortunately, it

has also made it easy for the traditional security community to pigeonhole this agenda as a ‘women’s issue’ and treat it as a secondary or tertiary issue in national and international security policy. In addition, many policy discussions in this context conflate ‘women and girls’, ‘women and children’, and ‘women and youth’. I personally feel this points in the wrong direction because it infantilises women, reinforces the idea that women have no agency and bolsters the prevailing pattern that excludes women from participating in national and international security policy-making.

## **What are the next important steps to increase female representation in security issues?**

Policy-makers need to understand that the perpetuation of gender inequalities is not just wrong, it is stupid. Research has shown that higher levels of gender inequality are correlated with a greater propensity for conflict and instability. We also know that peace processes that include women are more likely to last and 64 per cent less likely to fail. The current inequitable state of affairs has serious, negative consequences for national and international security. Promoting gender parity in security policy affairs is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do. —



# United for peace

In a fragile country like Mali, greater stability in all areas of life is only possible if foreign, development, security and environmental policies are dovetailed in the long term. GIZ is part of this strategy.

By RANDA KOURIEH-RANARIVELO

**Y**ou do not associate a country like Mali with the term ‘human security’. This West African state is one of the ten poorest countries in the world. Since 2012, an armed conflict with Islamist terrorist groups has dominated the country’s northern region. Early in 2019, the situation also escalated in central Mali. In large parts of the country, the state is unable either to ensure the immediate security of the people or to deliver services such as education. Against this backdrop, GIZ is working on behalf of the German Government. In Mali, we are part of an interlinked approach involving foreign, development, security and environmental policies that Germany has developed for crisis regions, as a means of achieving long-term peace.

To this end, military and civilian resources in the country need to work together in a coordinated manner. One of the tasks of Germany’s armed forces, the Bundeswehr, is to provide training for security forces involved in missions for the European Union and the United Nations. Another important factor is the support we provide to Mali in implementing the peace agreement signed in 2015. In the northern region of Gao, GIZ is active at the civilian level, but in coordination with Bundeswehr troops.

Due to the security situation, most of our staff are based in the capital city of Bamako and can travel only sporadically to our six regional offices. Nevertheless, we cooperate with local partners who are present on the ground. Known as remote management, this allows us to remain active throughout the country. This is the way we work on behalf of the German Development



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and Environment Ministries, as well as the Federal Foreign Office and the EU. The focus is always on improving the lives of people in Mali and promoting reliable state structures – in short, on achieving a ‘peace dividend’. As such, all colleagues – whether specialised in stabilisation and peace or small-scale irrigation – collaborate closely with each other. We have identified communities that have worked to promote stability in Gao, and have supported them, for instance by organising local transport or building sports grounds. This is intended to help them uphold their commitment to peace.

In a complex society such as Mali, changes take time. It is all the more important, therefore, that we link our priority areas together rather than viewing them in

isolation. And we are seeing success, for example in agriculture. The majority of the population depends on agriculture, yet only around a third of the surface area of this desert state can be used for this purpose. Moreover, due to the frequent droughts that result from climate change, the traditional rain-fed farming approach has reached its limits. Yet by using efficient irrigation, there is still potential for greater food security. That is why German development cooperation is supporting the construction of the necessary systems. GIZ is helping its Malian partners to maintain these systems and use them efficiently. More than 90 per cent of the irrigation systems that have been set up are being used intensively by smallholder farmers, resulting in a threefold increase in the rice harvest. This in turn contributes to the country’s economic stabilisation.

Arts and culture, which are highly regarded in Mali, also play an important part in peace and security. To strengthen social cohesion and counteract violent extremism, we provide support for artists and cultural centres. In this we aim to promote young people as ‘agents of change’. Opportunities for cultural expression are designed to help them find a peaceful place within society.

Faced with the headlines coming out of Mali, these seem like small steps to take. However, if we manage to provide a positive outlook for young people, it represents an investment in human security. A life lived in freedom and dignity, free from poverty, fear, hardship and despotism is something we all yearn for. And worth adopting a long-term approach for. —

# Focus on people

Security provides the framework for sustainable development. Drawing on our experience, GIZ is working to improve human security around the world. The spectrum of activities is broad.

## Protection first and foremost

The guidelines entitled 'Preventing Crises, Resolving Conflicts, Building Peace' define the way in which Germany helps to improve people's security worldwide and pave the way for sustainable development. For the German Government, they represent an interministerial compass which also forms the basis for the actions we take. At the same time, we can only carry out our work if we protect our staff and their families in places where the situation is difficult. That involves risk analyses, training and security offices. —



**MEXICO** More than 40,000 missing persons, 26,000 unidentified people and almost 100 murders every day: that is a huge challenge for the rule of law in Mexico. On behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office, GIZ is supporting the efforts of the Latin American country to improve its crime investigation work and the systems that underpin the justice system and forensic medicine. —

# 126,000

**CITIZEN FOCUS** Police units that specifically seek to enter into dialogue with local people are new in many parts of Afghanistan. Their aim is to create trust and stability. In this way, GIZ is supporting the country in the Hindu Kush on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office. In 15 provinces, GIZ is promoting police officers' social skills and direct dialogue with citizens. The younger generation is also addressed in a range of information events. For instance, 126,000 schoolchildren have already learned how to react in an emergency. —

## 12 countries

**BIOSECURITY** Outbreaks of diseases such as Ebola demonstrate time and again how quickly such highly contagious pathogens can spread. They threaten people's lives and the stability of societies. The same is true of bioterrorist attacks. To prevent this danger, Germany has launched a biosecurity programme, which is active in 12 countries across Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe. On behalf of the EU and the German Federal Foreign Office, GIZ is cooperating in this venture with German research institutions. The aim is to strengthen our partners in their crisis response capacities. To this end, we are primarily supporting networking and communications strategies. —

## Women for peace



**GENDER** The number of peace missions in Africa is increasing, as is their significance. On behalf of the German Development Ministry (BMZ), one way in which GIZ is supporting the African Union is in helping it to deploy a larger number of women in its work to promote security and stability across the continent. We are training about 200 women as civilian experts and supporting a network of female mediators. —

## United against crime

**WESTERN BALKANS** Since organised crime operates across borders, efforts to combat it also require an international approach. On behalf of BMZ, GIZ is working with the Italian Ministry of the Interior to carry out a security project in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. Public prosecutors, crime-fighting authorities and ministries are supported in dismantling criminal structures. Police officers and public prosecutors from EU countries are using information from ongoing investigations to advise partners. —









## Everything flows

**IMPORTS** A woman in Xa Cau cycles quickly past an imposing river – a river of plastic bottles. This is an everyday sight in the Vietnamese town near Hanoi and is no reason to interrupt your journey. It is also a symbol of the global plastic waste exports that end up in Viet Nam. Since China stopped allowing plastic waste to be imported in 2018, the vast quantities have mainly been sent to Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam and Indonesia. The governments of the emerging economies in Asia are now issuing bans on plastic waste imports themselves. It remains to be seen whether sights like this will therefore become a thing of the past.

**Photo:** REUTERS/Nguyen Huy Kham



# PEARLS OF KNOWLEDGE

Education is a weapon against extremism. Teachers are busy learning about modern teaching methods to make lessons more appealing for Afghan children.

TEXT & PHOTOS: MARIAN BREHMER

A

An aircraft soars between the x and y axis on the graph, directly alongside the curve. Twenty teenage girls have their eyes fixed on the blackboard where their maths teacher has drawn the diagram. The lesson is about the practical application of mathematical equations. ‘Whether in aviation, architecture or mechanical engineering – lots of things we encounter in our lives are based on formulas like these,’ explains Maneela Mahdi. Then there’s a moment’s pause as she looks directly at her pupils. ‘Have you understood the principle?’ she asks quietly. ‘Let’s look at it again, this time in groups.’ Straight away, the 12th grade girls gather round the classroom tables in three groups and start solving the equations again together, while Mahdi walks around the room, looking over the girls’ shoulders. After ten minutes, she invites one girl from each group to come forward in turn and present their results. The material has been taught so well that the girls state what they have learned in their own words, without showing any shyness.

Mahdi has been teaching maths at the girls’ school in Khairabad in Badakhshan Province, northern Afghanistan, for twelve years now. Around 1,300 pupils living in the small town and its surrounding villages currently attend the school, in year groups 1 to 12. For Mahdi

herself, starting school was anything but easy. She comes from an area of Afghanistan where most people are poorly educated – both her mother and father are illiterate. ‘Even as a child I was interested in geometric shapes,’ she recalls. When she was older, she sought out neighbours and friends in her home town who knew a bit about maths and got some private tuition. She wrote down what she learned and swotted up on algebra in books. She was the first person in her family to complete school.

Armed with her school knowledge and her passion for her ‘be-loved maths’, she began to teach without having a university degree or any teacher training. ‘During the first few years, I just dumped the subject matter on my pupils from the front of the class,’ Mahdi remembers. ‘I still sometimes feel guilty for doing this.’ Now, though, the 31-year-old uses group work and interactive lessons as a matter of course. ‘Since I started using more modern teaching methods, the girls have shown much more interest in the subject,’ says Mahdi. ‘Motivation has risen and the girls miss school less often.’ This quantum leap in teaching is the result of seminars which Mahdi has attended in recent years. She is one of more than 8,000 Afghan teachers who have taken part in in-service training courses to improve the quality of their lessons in the four northern provinces of the country since 2009. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) commissioned GIZ to organise these educational support programmes. The aim is to raise the level of learning in Afghan primary and secondary schools.

‘Even though some teachers have graduated from university, they do not have enough practical experience or pedagogical skills,’ says GIZ’s Niazmohammad Puya, who has himself worked in teacher training as a lecturer. ‘Another big problem is lack of motivation among teaching staff. Their pay is no incentive, as it is



سود دارد مالمی از بیستی ام

شکری بی بی  
نخ سال ۶۰۴  
تادعلت شهرت  
و در گذشت  
پدر مولانا  
سب

شعری مضمونے، کلیات شمس، فیہ بہ، مکاتب  
ت این کلام  
ہر کہ زمین

**INSPIRING**

Literature scholar Deeda Shakeb in front of a painting of the icon of Afghan poetry: the national poet Rumi. The 29-year-old works at the Faizabad teacher training college.



Maneela Mahdi has turned her love for mathematics into her profession. She teaches at the girls' school in Khairabad, northern Afghanistan.

**Far right:** When the weather is good, lessons are held outdoors.



rather low in Afghanistan. Being a teacher has to be a vocation, something close to the heart.' This is what it is for Maneela Mahdi, who at the start of her career had to provide for her entire family with her monthly income of around 7,000 afghanis (roughly EUR 80). She used her first monthly salaries to pay for the education of her younger brothers. One of them, she recalls with tears in her eyes, became a soldier and was killed in a battle with the Taliban. The territory controlled by the insurgents begins less than ten kilometres away from the site of the girls' school.

The best weapon against the extremism of the Taliban, though, is education – Mahdi is sure about that. She is so committed to her job that, last year, she even opted to return to work just a few weeks after giving birth, waiving her right to three months of parental leave,



## THE PROJECT IN FIGURES

**26,000 students,**  
teachers and lecturers have received  
training so far.

**Over 40 per cent women**  
have been trained on these courses.

Contact: Dieter Göpfert; [dieter.goepfert@giz.de](mailto:dieter.goepfert@giz.de)

The project contributes to the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



so that her pupils would not spend too long a period of their schooling left by themselves. Everyday challenges at the girls' school are manifold: lack of teaching materials, overcrowded classrooms and families who cannot afford school uniforms and writing equipment, or pupils who get married young, become pregnant and then drop out of education. 'Sometimes girls come to me with their personal problems, and naturally I try to help them,' the maths teacher tells us after the lesson has finished.

It is now noon, and a teacher uses a stick to ring the school bell dangling from a post. The bell is actually a rusty metal cylinder that was once part of a Soviet tank – a symbol and relic of the years of war. Soon, the playground is bustling with girls of all age groups.

## Group work rather than rote learning

It takes an hour to drive from the school to Faizabad, the provincial capital. The route takes you through a picture-postcard mountain landscape, with nomads and their large flocks of sheep appearing every now and again on the otherwise quiet road. Faizabad is home to the regional teacher training college. It offers trainee teachers two-year courses in one of seven different subjects, such as natural sciences, English or Islamic theology. The curriculum also includes courses on subjects such as peace education or gender and human rights.

The department for Dari, one of the official languages of Afghanistan, is headed by 29-year-old Deeda Shakeb who, after graduating with a degree in Persian literature, went on to obtain a Master's



‘The head of the teacher training college in Faizabad is now a woman. That would have been inconceivable a few years ago.’

NIAZMOHAMMAD PUYA, Director of the Basic and Secondary Education Programme for Afghanistan (BEPA) in Badakhshan Province. The full interview is exclusively available at: [akzente.giz.de/en](https://akzente.giz.de/en)



A primary school teacher talks about improving the quality of lessons in an akzente video at: [akzente.giz.de/en](https://akzente.giz.de/en)

degree in Sweden. Personal contacts with international organisations had enabled her to get a grant to gain this qualification abroad. However, this is very much the exception for Afghan citizens. The linguist exudes an air of confidence and radiates enthusiasm for education. School syllabuses and lesson plans are scattered all over her desk. Behind her is a picture of Afghanistan’s national poet Rumi, who was one of the most eminent Persian-language poets of the Middle Ages. Shakeb heads further training courses in didactics for lecturers in teacher training, partly on behalf of GIZ. ‘One of the most important attributes of a good teacher is flexibility,’ says Shakeb. ‘This means adapting methods to the situation in the classroom and the needs of the students.’

In Shakeb’s Dari lessons, trainee teachers are taught on two levels simultaneously: content and method. Today, Shakeb is teaching a class of 16 young women in their third semester, explaining the differences and similarities between classical and contemporary poetry. The students work in groups, after which two overlapping circles are drawn on the board, their intersection showing the features that are common to poetry of different eras. ‘How did we arrive at this diagram from the initial issue we discussed?’ asks Shakeb. One of the students stands up and summarises the learning steps and the teaching methods used.

Shakeb’s students come from different regions of northern Afghanistan and hope to find a good teaching post soon. Fereshta Mahmudi, a 21-year-old, chose Dari as a subject because at secondary school she herself had a teacher who kindled in her a passion for

literature. What was it that she liked most about this teacher? ‘She looked after all of her pupils equally, regardless of how clever they were,’ says the young woman with the bright-red headscarf. ‘That’s the kind of teacher I would like to become.’

Maneela Mahdi took that step quite some time ago. She is fully aware of how important good teachers are for Afghanistan’s future. ‘The biggest problems in Afghanistan are lack of education and the resulting unemployment,’ she says. ‘This creates a breeding ground for war and violence.’ Mahdi works to combat this every day. When the young mother starts to talk about her four-month-old daughter, her face breaks into a smile. ‘I want my child to have the opportunity to study for a Master’s degree in future. To be able to do this, she must have the chance to grow up in a peaceful environment. This is my greatest wish.’ —



**MARIAN BREHMER** is a freelance journalist with a passion for Islamic culture from Turkey to India. He has a degree in Iranian studies and in Persian language and literature. Brehmer now lives mainly in Istanbul, but he has also visited Afghanistan several times on behalf of akzente.



# PIONEERS FROM THE JUNGLE

The Amazon region is of vital importance for the climate. In Ecuador, indigenous peoples use this sensitive ecosystem sustainably by tending their rainforest gardens. In the process, they are helping to conserve the rainforest while also combating overexploitation. Our four interviewees describe how this became an economic success story in the production of coffee.



*Pioneers from the jungle*







## ‘Clear-felling is taboo for the Quechua community.’

**PEDRO RAMIREZ**

*(54) has a degree in agriculture and lives in Ecuador. On behalf of GIZ, he advises smallholders in Napo Province on how they can make a decent living from the sustainable use of their natural environment.*

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### ‘SISTEMA CHAKRA’

The **traditional farming system** used by the indigenous Quechua communities is characterised by mixed cultivation. Up to 120 different crops are grown on small areas of between one and a maximum of five hectares, using strictly organic methods. These include tubers, such as yucca, and numerous varieties of vegetable, but also medicinal plants, herbs, bananas, cocoa or indeed coffee – all in the shade of tropical trees. In the Ecuadorian province of Napo, the ‘sistema chakra’ is recognised on a regional level as a sustainable, organic cultivation system that can serve as an example for others. Up to 15,000 Quechua people live in Napo, with around 6,500 of this **indigenous tribe** living in communities supported by the regional umbrella organisation Rukullakta. Most of the families make their living from growing crops in the rainforest and around its edge, and for them the ‘sistema chakra’ is part of their identity.

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‘The coffee cooperatives Waylla Kuri and Jatary are showing the way for the whole region. They have managed to keep improving the quality of their coffee. That means they are no longer tied to the global coffee market price and now enjoy higher prices on the gourmet coffee market. Production follows clear rules: coffee and other products may only be grown on land that has been used before. Clear-felling of primary forest is taboo – the community keeps a close eye on that. Consequently, the focus is on growing quality crops. To do this, they use strict organic criteria and work to improve their production methods. We support the cooperatives in this by procuring coffee threshing machines, for example, and improving drying tents. We also help to establish contacts with new potential buyers. The Quijote Kaffee company in Hamburg is a major name in the sector because this German roasting house imports directly, is well-known and uses a network of allied coffee roasters that its partners can join. This makes the coffee cooperatives and their way of doing business better known. It is important for them to protect and preserve their own living environment. In Ecuador, this can by no means be taken for granted. In Napo Province, people from other regions of the country, too, learn from the members of the Quechua ethnic group how to use natural resources sustainably, respect nature and nevertheless generate a good income. Their status as a role model depends crucially on economic success, in which marketing new products such as guayusa can also play a part. The leaves of this tree contain caffeine and are traditionally used to make a herbal tea with a fruity, refreshing taste that has met with initial demand in Europe as well. Here we see further potential for a product that is typical of the Amazon region, grown in the rainforest gardens – the chakras – and has good prospects on the international market, to the benefit of the communities, the Amazon region and the climate. After all, the Quechua people’s traditional cultivation methods protect the rainforest, a key climate regulator, that can absorb huge amounts of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide and store the carbon from the gas in its plant life and soil.’ —

## ‘We sell good coffee at a good price.’

**AUGUSTO SALAZAR**

*(50), a coffee grower, is president and founder of the Waylla Kuri (Green Gold) cooperative in the provincial capital Tena, in the Amazon Basin.*

‘I am a child of the chakra. Even as a little boy, I was intrigued by the different plants in my family’s forest garden. I learned how to look after them and began to understand that all those different plants growing in our region protect each other. It was my father who told me about this, and he also taught me to respect the rainforest all around us. These are traditions handed down to us by our ancestors, which I’m now passing on to my own children. Like me, they are coffee growers. In 2007, we founded the Waylla Kuri cooperative to market coffee and other products from the chakra. Back then, we had only just started growing coffee. Although we had little experience, it didn’t take us long to produce good-quality coffee. GIZ helped us sell our coffee by putting us in touch with Quijote Kaffee. This means that we now get a good price for our coffee and have a secure sales market. This year we expect to produce 350 quintals (equivalent to about 16,000 kilograms) of robusta coffee, all thanks to the work of the 330 members of our cooperative. I myself produced between four and five quintals of coffee (over 200 kilograms) last year. The number of members is growing, and more and more of them are women – about 40 per cent now. The area where we grow our crops is increasing, too, although we only use land that was already being used for agriculture. The Quechua tradition forbids clearing the rainforest. Collectively, we have titles to more than 41,000 hectares of land, around half of which is primary forest that we don’t touch. People are allowed to grow crops on the remaining area – but must use the ‘sistema chakra’. These forest gardens are cultivated according to the Quechua traditions, entirely organically. We don’t even use copper, which is allowed as a pesticide in organic farming in Europe.’ —







## ‘Women play an increasingly important role.’

**GLADYS SHIGUANGO**

*(37) is president of Rukullakta, an umbrella organisation of Quechua communities in the Tena region.*

‘I have been president of Rukullakta since the beginning of 2019, the first woman to be elected to this office. I grew up on my parents’ chakra, where we grew cocoa, guayusa, maize, yucca and many other crops. Now we want to add coffee as well. This is my family’s decision, and we aren’t the only ones in our neighbourhood who have opted to grow coffee. The reason is simple: we are paid good money for a good product. This is appealing and gives my family and many others a chance to raise their living standards a little. Women are playing an increasingly important role in our organisation, which now has 17 communities as members, with around 6,500 people altogether. I am one example, but there are also the two technical experts working as managers in our Waylla Kuri cooperative. Women now have a voice and the right to vote in the assemblies where we jointly decide on our future. This has not always been the case. Today, 40 per cent of the 330 coffee producers are women – and the figure is rising. Soon I too will know more about coffee when my family plants their first coffee trees and harvests the first coffee berries in two or three years. This will be a new experience for me, albeit in a familiar environment. All of us have grown up with the chakra. It feeds us, and in future we expect it to give us a better income. Marketing new products is also part of this. It is our opportunity to be more successful, and this is what I’m committed to as president of our community. We want to progress – with coffee, with cocoa and other products.’ —

The project contributes to the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



## ‘Our aim is to improve together.’

**ANDREAS FELSEN**

*(46) is a direct importer of coffee and coffee roaster at Quijote Kaffee in Hamburg.*

‘I arrived in the Río Napo region in June 2010 with the aim of finding producers of high-quality robusta coffee. A coffee importer in Hamburg had told me that it was grown there. So I went in search of it and my attention was drawn to the Jatary cooperative in the provincial town of Tena. This was a stroke of luck for me because the robusta produced by the sixty or so farmers, most of them women, is of excellent quality. Jatary has been supplying us since 2011, and as we pay regular visits to our partners we get to know a lot of people – including from GIZ. It was through these personal links with GIZ that we also came into contact with the Waylla Kuri cooperative in 2013. Today, both cooperatives supply us with increasing quantities of robusta coffee of ever better quality. This fits in well with the philosophy of Quijote Kaffee: to improve together. It all starts with choosing the right beans, then drying them and selecting the dried beans. All of these steps are labour-intensive, but the hard work is worth it – for both sides. The minimum price we pay for one American pound, or 454 grams, of robusta is USD 2.80, but we do expect excellent quality for that. We only accept beans that reach a very high level on the Specialty Coffee Association scale. In exchange for this we pay much more than the global market price for robusta (USD 0.71 per pound as of August 2019). With us, therefore, a significantly higher percentage of the final consumer price goes back to the cooperatives, which is what we want. We believe in a partnership of equals, which also includes providing training and advice on the ground, whether about cultivation or about developing their own roasting profiles to sell their own coffee locally. In addition, we pre-finance the harvest, paying for 60 per cent of the ordered quantity, interest-free. In that way we take our share of the risk – after all, the farmers have the sword of Damocles hanging over their heads, in the form of harvest failure, loss of quality due to climate impacts such as rainy seasons at entirely the wrong time, and financing risks. This isn’t fair and we are doing things differently.’

Interview by Knut Henkel



Andreas Felsen (right) with Alejandro Grefa, president of the Jatary coffee cooperative

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### EMPOWERING NATURE AND HUMANS

Ecuador is one of the most species-rich countries in the world. It has areas of rainforest and dry forests, mangroves and upland moors. Climate change poses a threat to these ecosystems, and with them the lives and livelihoods of the people living there. The poorer sections of society suffer the most. On behalf of BMZ and with cofinancing from the EU, GIZ supports the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Autonomous Decentralised Governments in their efforts to increase the resilience of the population to these challenges. The aim is to protect the treasures of nature and show people how they can protect themselves against the impacts of climate change and develop economic alternatives – in harmony with nature. The innovations in coffee growing are an example of how everyone can reap the rewards.

Contact: Karin von Loebenstein, [karin.loebenstein-von@giz.de](mailto:karin.loebenstein-von@giz.de)

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### THE PROJECT IN FIGURES

**Up to 400 per cent**  
higher coffee prices paid to family-run farms  
thanks to improved quality,  
organic certification and direct marketing.

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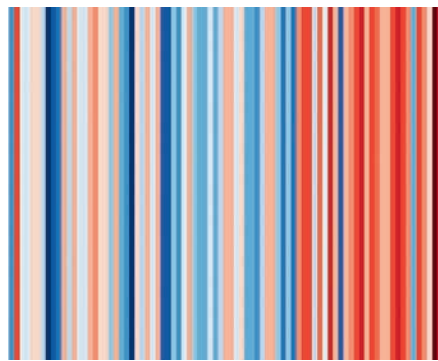
# EDITOR'S

## *Digital Picks*

## The Heat is On

**REPORT** Since 2014, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have been working to support governments in their efforts to achieve their nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The latest report on progress and the outlook shows that we can – and must – win the battle against climate change. Let's join forces! —

<https://outlook.ndcs.undp.org>



## #ShowYourStripes

**GRAPHICS** British meteorologist Ed Hawkins' warming stripes quickly became world-famous, even making it onto the cover of The Economist magazine. The colourful barcodes show at a glance how the temperature at a certain location has increased over the last one hundred years. —

<https://showyourstripes.info>

## A future for all

**CAMPAIGN** In November 1989, the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. To mark its 30th anniversary, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is launching a campaign: 'For every child, every right!'. It raises awareness of how children's lives have changed around the world and what still needs to be done so that every child – no matter where it is born – can have a secure and healthy future. —

[www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention](http://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention)

## A glimpse into the unknown net

**WEB SERIES** 'If I Were From Beijing' gives an insight into the Chinese internet, where you certainly won't find the likes of Google or Facebook. The regime has banned these popular platforms and set up home-grown alternatives instead. The six-part web series shows how the Chinese internet is structured and what makes it different. —

[www.arte.tv/en](http://www.arte.tv/en) (search term: Chinese)

## Exchange without borders

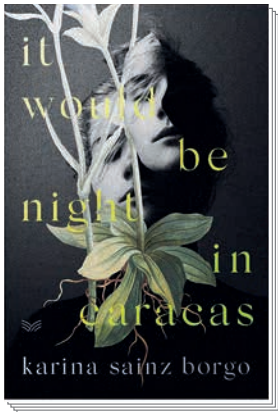
**KNOWLEDGE** On its Latitude website, the Goethe-Institut invites creative people, artists and experts from around the world to exchange opinions on colonial power relations, their consequences and, above all, on how to overcome them. The platform provides a space for in-depth discussion and stands 'for a decolonised and non-racial world'. —

<https://www.goethe.de/prj/lat/en/index.html>



# GOOD READS

*from around the world*

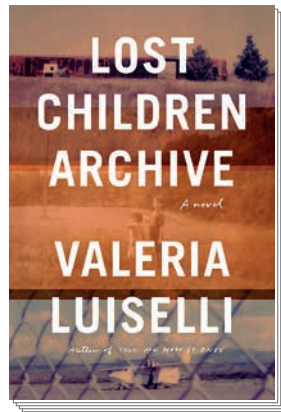


## IT WOULD BE NIGHT IN CARACAS

After 20 years of Chavismo, once wealthy Venezuela is on its knees. The extent to which violence and lawlessness now reign is portrayed by Karina Sainz Borgo in her feisty debut novel *It Would Be Night in Caracas*. A passionate, uncompromising literary indictment. — *Andreas Fanizadeh, literary critic and editor*

**Karina Sainz Borgo, Venezuela/Spain.**  
Translated from Spanish by Elizabeth Bryer.  
HarperVia, 240 pages

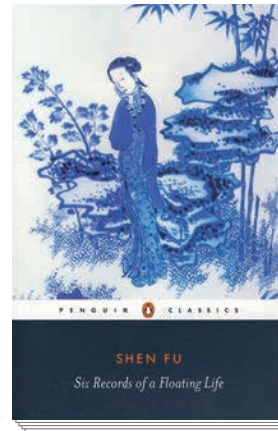
LITPROM RECOMMENDS  
Litprom – the Society for the Promotion of African, Asian and Latin American Literature – provided these reviews for akzente. The titles were selected from Litprom’s list of the best new releases.  
[www.litprom.de/en](http://www.litprom.de/en)



## LOST CHILDREN ARCHIVE

A very timely novel. Children are fleeing from Mexico to the USA. A patchwork family travels in the opposite direction, southwards, searching for echoes of dead Apaches and traces of two missing children from Mexico. A road movie and a migration novel. Full of emotion, full of concern for the children, full of fun and adventures. — *Ruthard Stäblein, literary critic and editor*

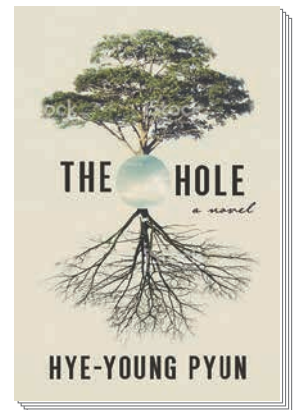
**Valeria Luiselli, Mexico/USA.**  
4th Estate, 400 pages



## SIX RECORDS OF A FLOATING LIFE

China around the year 1800: Shen Fu, the young son of a scholar, marries his cousin Chen Yun. They are very much in love, but lack financial means or an income. An intimate novel about the fleetingness of happiness, embedded in a deeply spiritual Taoistic attitude to life which says that everything must change and nothing lasts forever. — *Katharina Borchardt, literary critic and editor*

**Shen Fu, China.**  
Translated from Chinese by Leonard Pratt and Chiang Su-Hui.  
Penguin, 176 pages



## THE HOLE

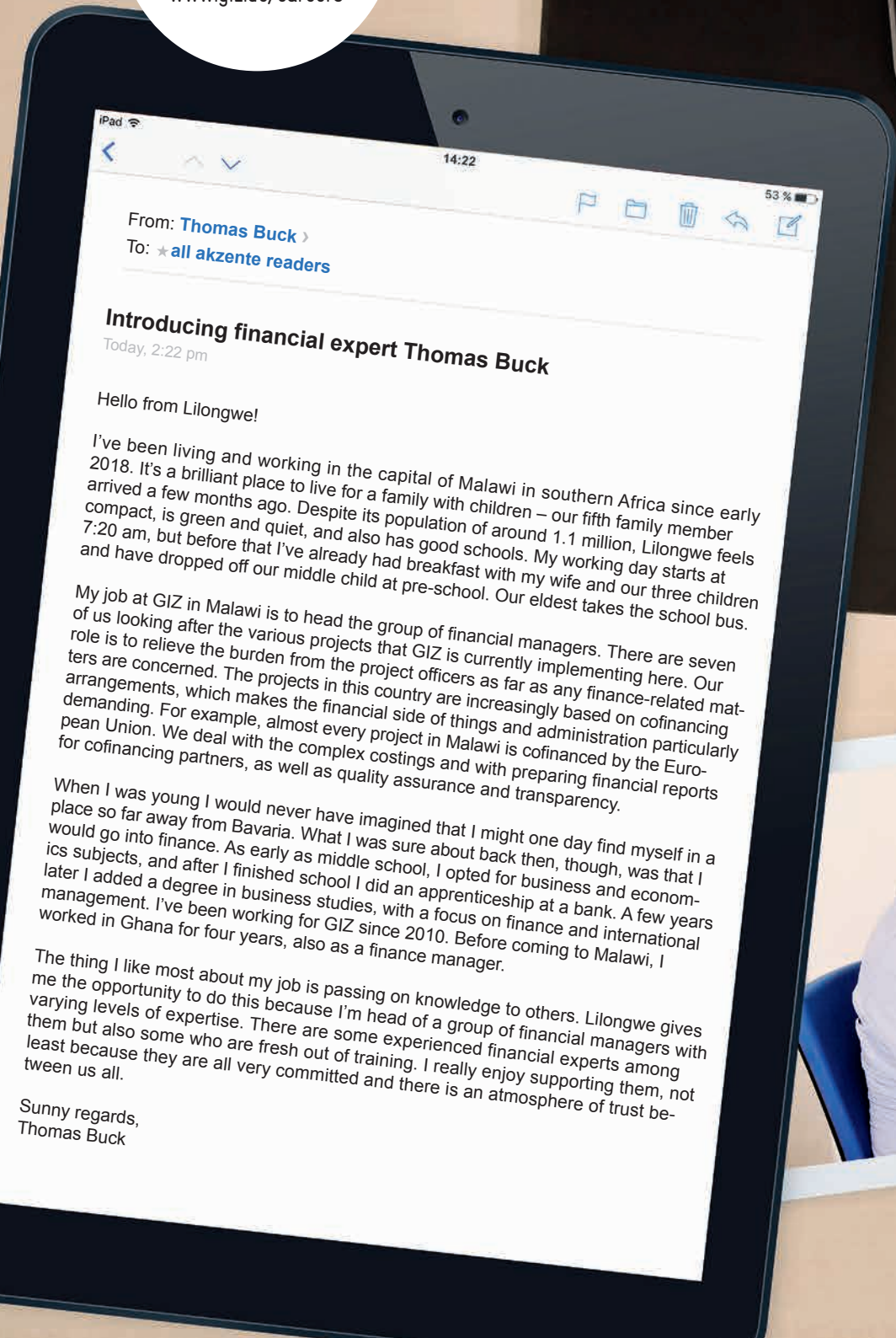
Ogi’s wife dies in a car accident that was his fault. Badly injured and bed-ridden, he has to rely on his mother-in-law to look after him. Little by little the cracks, not only in the life he had with his wife but in his entire existence, begin to reveal themselves. Unimaginably dark places are laid bare. Nothing is at it seems. Hypnotising. — *Anita Djafari, Managing Director, Litprom*

**Hye-young Pyun, South Korea.**  
Translated from Korean by Sora Kim-Russell.  
Arcade Publishing, 208 pages



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SIGNATURE



# SUSTAINABILITY

## A look back at a project and its results



**Project:** Sustainable Energy / **Commissioned by:** German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) /  
**Partner:** Mexican Ministry of Energy (SENER) / **Term:** 2009–2019

### THEN

Energy plays a crucial role in the global challenges of our time, not only in terms of climate change but also areas such as **education, health and employment**. For a long time, Mexico mainly relied on fossil fuels. In 2013, the Government launched an **energy reform**, initially focusing on electricity and hydrocarbon. Since 2015, efforts have primarily been devoted to achieving a sustainable power supply. GIZ supported Mexico in implementing the project on behalf of BMZ. It soon became clear that the topic is **not gender neutral**. Women were thought to have less technical expertise; they were poorly represented and poorly informed. In Mexican households, women make **80 per cent of the purchasing decisions**, however, and so decide whether energy is saved or not. The switch to renewable resources therefore also provides a major opportunity to promote women. In order to transform the Mexican market, **135,000 experts on renewable energy** are required.

### NOW

Trained personnel are a key factor in the use of new technologies. The project produced material for women, offered special courses such as training on how to install solar thermal systems and organised childcare. As a result, the **gender perspective** spread to a traditionally male-dominated area. In addition, the **evaluation system SiseviveEcocasa** was introduced to promote sustainable house building. By the end of the project, the architectural design and energy and water consumption of **250,000 houses** had been assessed. GIZ also helped to develop **clean energy certificates**, with which bulk energy purchasers can demonstrate that their share of power from renewable energy is in line with what is required. The results achieved by the project also made it attractive for neighbouring countries. **Six triangular cooperation arrangements** were set up, with Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Colombia, Argentina and Cuba.

<https://mia.giz.de/qlink/ID=246060000>

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