



Federal Foreign Office



german
humanitarian
assistance

DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE



Federal Foreign Office Strategy for Humanitarian Assistance Abroad

Publishing information

Published by

Federal Foreign Office
Werderscher Markt 1
10117 Berlin

www.auswaertiges-amt.de

Authored by

Divisions S07, S08, S09

Last updated

September 2024

Designed by

www.kiono.de

Cover image

The German medical relief agency action medeor is distributing medicine in the villages of the Mykolaiv and Cherson regions in Ukraine together with the local organisation Farwater Pro. There is no doctor and no pharmacy in these villages. Getting to the village is a dangerous undertaking as the access routes keep coming under fire. The mobile pharmacy gets to within just a few kilometres of the frontline in order to reach people who are in urgent need of medicines. This aid can be continued thanks to funds from Germany.

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List of acronyms

CBPF	Country-Based Pooled Fund
CfA	Humanitarian Call for Action
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
COHAFA	Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRAF'd	Complex Risk Analytics Fund
CTA	Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies
DREF	Disaster Relief Emergency Fund
FTS	Financial Tracking Service
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAD marker	Gender, age and disability marker
GBV	Gender-based violence
G7	Group of Seven
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HC	Humanitarian Coordinators
HDP nexus	Humanitarian-development-peace nexus
HI	Handicap International
HPC	Humanitarian Programme Cycle
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDP	Internally displaced person

IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
INCAF	International Network on Conflict and Fragility
JIAF	Joint and Intersectoral Analysis Framework
NFF	Nexus Funding Facility
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ODSG	OCHA Donor Support Group
PDD	Platform for Disaster Displacement
PFWG	Pooled Fund Working Group
PSEAH	Protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFERA	Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities
THCC	Trust Fund for Hunger-related Climate Change
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WAHAFA	Welthungerhilfe Anticipatory Humanitarian Action Facility
WFP	World Food Programme
ZIF	Center for International Peace Operations

Introduction and summary

Humanitarian assistance is part of the Integrated Security concept.

“Ensuring human security also means overcoming poverty and hunger and reducing inequality.”

(National Security Strategy)

Three hundred and ten million people worldwide currently depend on humanitarian assistance – 310 million people in acute need. Wars, conflicts and the climate crisis are dramatically exacerbating humanitarian emergencies, causing hunger, suffering, hopelessness and mounting refugee and displacement flows throughout the world. Where people lack the essential resources they need to survive, where they lack food, hotbeds of social discontent form. Terrorist groups and armed militias attract members and the collapse of public order can destabilise entire regions in the affected countries.

In our interconnected world, all humanitarian crises can potentially have a global impact. Often, German security interests are directly affected. The tense situation in the Middle East and the ongoing war in Gaza in particular risk engulfing the wider region. Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and the violent clashes in Sudan demonstrate all too clearly how local and cross-border crises can have devastating conse-

quences for the lives, security and livelihoods of millions of people – also in Europe.

With its humanitarian engagement, Germany plays a crucial role in alleviating existential need, ensuring survival and mitigating or even preventing disasters so that people can continue to live in their homes and displaced persons can return home. For example, looming climate-related famine in Somalia was prevented also with Germany’s support, in the course of which we rapidly provided food and drinking water to those most severely impacted by this once-in-a-century drought. Following severe earthquakes in Afghanistan, people were provided with urgently needed emergency assistance. In Ukraine, we are, among other things, supporting seriously traumatised women and children as well as people with disabilities. We are supporting the provision of lifesaving assistance for millions of displaced persons in the Sudan and its neighbouring countries. For the people in Gaza, we are providing food, emergency shelter and medical care.

Humanitarian assistance is an important element of German foreign policy and a central component of human security, reaching millions of people across the globe. It helps mitigate the impact of crises, disasters and conflicts, and thus also the costs that would otherwise ensue, which would be many times greater. In coordination with the instruments of crisis prevention, stabilisation, peacebuilding, development cooperation and cli-

mate foreign policy, humanitarian assistance is part of the Federal Government's *integrated approach*. With the *National Security Strategy* in mind, we are working to dovetail foreign, development and security policy instruments even more rigorously at national and international level in order to prevent or address humanitarian crises with coordinated measures and thereby contribute to Germany's and Europe's security.

This Strategy serves as a compass for our work in the international humanitarian system when it comes to addressing the challenges of our age in an effective manner.

The objective is to provide efficient and effective humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of people in need. We have established three strategic priorities to this end:

1. *Enabling principled assistance: We are opening up safe access for humanitarian assistance through our humanitarian diplomacy.*

We are engaging in high-level crisis diplomacy, in collaboration with our missions abroad and partners, in order to do what we can to ensure that humanitarian assistance can be provided and international humanitarian law is complied with. In this way, we also seek to ensure that humanitarian aid workers and the civilian population are protected.

2. *Shaping the transformation: We are adapting the humanitarian system to the requirements of our times and are working to make it more efficient, effective, localised, anticipatory and gender- and inclusion-sensitive.*

The humanitarian system is under considerable pressure. Due to increasing numbers of crises, global need is growing and the funding gap is becoming greater. Efforts to reform the humanitarian system are moving in the right direction, but are not yet enough. Germany sees itself as a provider of inspiration and direction when it comes to adapting the humanitarian system to the challenges of our times, preventing new emergencies and meeting acute needs.

3. *Strengthening key components: We are promoting needs-based humanitarian assistance that first alleviates the greatest need and remains flexible when the situation requires.*

Responsible and targeted deployment of the funds available is critical for us. Germany therefore is working to ensure that the international system of humanitarian assistance focuses even more closely on the most urgent needs. Within the European Union (EU) and global forums, we are working on an improved cross-sector coordination system and on a fairer distribution of the burden between old and new donors.

In the pursuit of these priorities, we make systematic use of our global network of missions abroad and work in a spirit of trust with our national and international partners, civil society, other donors and international stakeholders.

Sector-specific and geographical priorities are determined annually or as the situation arises by the Federal Foreign Office and in consultation with our partners on the basis of humanitarian developments and assessed needs. We will monitor the implementation of this strategy in a structured manner and are planning to conduct a systematic review after approximately four years.

Our assistance is localised, flexible, reliable, anticipatory and rapid

- **Localised:** As part of our assistance to Ukraine, we are promoting the involvement of civil society and local stakeholders, setting new standards for efficient and direct assistance. In this spirit, we are supporting local partners in Ukraine through training programmes tailored to Ukraine's robust civil society and through psychosocial support. In so doing, we are laying the foundations for transforming humanitarian initiatives into long-term structures within the Ukrainian administration.
- **Flexible:** We have been supporting people in the Palestinian territories with humanitarian assistance for many years now. This is why we were able to expand our assistance after the attack on Israel by Hamas and the Israeli military operation in response and make available flour for bakeries and private households, food and water, and hygiene articles such as nappies, baby food and medication, for example. We are bringing humanitarian diplomacy to bear in the region to ensure that this assistance reaches the people in need.
- **Reliable:** We are providing support for starving people also in the context of the worsening crisis in Sudan. We are employing a multi-sectoral approach to help improve food security and are tackling malnutrition with therapeutic nutritional supplements for children and for breastfeeding and pregnant women. In addition to this, we are making food packages available and ensuring safe access to clean drinking water.
- **Anticipatory:** From 2019 to 2023, we continuously and significantly increased our funding for anticipatory action from seven million to 130 million euro. We have made it possible for people in Bangladesh to be saved from climate-exacerbated floods with early warning systems. In the Horn of Africa, in the context of floods and droughts, our contribution to animal health and resistant seeds safeguarded the income of the rural population. In Latin America, the impacts of the El Niño weather phenomenon were mitigated with cash assistance.
- **Rapid:** Through our International Disaster Response instrument, we are able to provide rapid, targeted and direct support following severe natural disasters and major emergencies. Examples include the provision of search and rescue teams after earthquakes and the provision of emergency medical teams to provide vital treatment. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism provides a framework for this engagement. We were moreover able to help Ukraine by supplying generators and clearance equipment for civil protection and disaster prevention, and Turkey with tents, camp beds and blankets for earthquake victims. For Egypt, we provided incubators for premature babies evacuated from Gaza.

THEORY OF CHANGE – OVERVIEW



THEORY OF CHANGE – MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES

Safe humanitarian access has been opened up through humanitarian diplomacy.

We are enabling principled assistance in humanitarian crises.

Humanitarian diplomacy

Humanitarian protection

The humanitarian system has been adjusted to today's needs.

We are shaping the transformation of the humanitarian system.

The humanitarian-development-peace nexus

Anticipatory Action

Gender- and inclusion-sensitive humanitarian assistance

As local as possible

Participation of the affected population

Innovations and further development

Our humanitarian assistance is needs-based, prioritised and flexible.

We are strengthening the key components of efficient and effective humanitarian assistance.

Accountability and monitoring

Coordination and needs assessments

Shared responsibility and partnership-based approaches

Communication and visibility

Flexible funding

Our framework for action

The normative basis of Germany's humanitarian assistance

Our actions are based on the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

The humanitarian principles are founded on the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which were recognised as the basis of humanitarian assistance by United Nations (UN) General Assembly Resolution 46/182 (1991) and Resolution 58/114 (2003). These principles ensure that humanitarian assistance gets to where it is needed, that only humanitarian objectives are pursued and that assistance is provided in accordance with needs. The humanitarian principles help to ensure the security of humanitarian aid workers in the field and also promote acceptance as well as access to the affected population.

International humanitarian law, refugee law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant UN resolutions form the regulatory framework of our humanitarian engagement. In humanitarian diplomacy, too, we are working to protect and uphold these principles.

We are committed to a multilateral approach as part of the international community also in the context of humanitarian assistance.

Engagement with local decision-makers is an important part of our humanitarian diplomacy and the work with our partners.

We are also providing assistance in the crises that are not (or no longer) at the centre of public attention. For us, there are no "forgotten crises".

We are providing humanitarian assistance in such a way that it meets the most urgent needs, reaches people in vulnerable situations and has no harmful side effects. We are working in accordance with the Feminist Foreign Policy guidelines and are ensuring that women and marginalised groups cannot be excluded from our assistance.

Wherever we provide assistance, we take climate needs into consideration. We consider the changing climate-related and environmental risks. We are helping humanitarian actors to make use of the best available climate science data in order to allow them to respond adequately and in good time.



As a result of German funding, around 30,000 people in Colombia have access to psychosocial support. Overall, more than 84,000 people are being reached and are receiving support in the form of other targeted assistance from Malteser International and its partner organisations in Colombia. © Malteser International / Miguel Varona

1.

Enabling principled assistance in humanitarian crises



Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock learns about the impact of Germany's humanitarian assistance in conversation with displaced women during a visit to the Gorom refugee settlement south-west of Juba on 26 January 2024. © Photothek

1.1 Humanitarian diplomacy

We are committed to ensuring that humanitarian assistance can be provided and accessed safely and without hindrance

Unhindered access as well as the protection and safety of the affected population and humanitarian aid workers are indispensable prerequisites for providing effective assistance. We are working at the political and diplomatic level to ensure that the obligations of international humanitarian law are fulfilled by all stakeholders involved.

It is often physical restrictions to access that make it difficult to provide assistance. We are using our diplomatic channels to address political, bureaucratic and administrative hurdles to the provision of humanitarian assistance, for example through the Foreign Minister, the appointment of special representatives, coordinated key messages with like-minded partners, such as in the context of the Middle East, and by enshrining humanitarian issues in multilateral bodies such as the UN General Assembly.

An active and wide-ranging network, including with local stakeholders, is essential to addressing humanitarian issues. Our missions abroad are therefore engaged in a regular dialogue at the political level, as well as with humanitarian stakeholders and civil society. We will continue to strengthen the capacity of our missions abroad in a targeted manner through further training measures to enable them to engage in humanitarian diplomacy.

We are pursuing humanitarian objectives on the ground with the support of these networks. At the same time, we are working in national and international forums to remove barriers to the provision of humanitarian assistance and are promoting understanding and respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles at all levels.

We are also strengthening the negotiating capacity of humanitarian organisations, including with training courses on international humanitarian law and the humanitarian principles. Moreover, we are supporting access for humanitarian goods and humanitarian aid workers and are working to strengthen the protection of the affected population to ensure that assistance gets to where it is needed.

With the *Humanitarian Call for Action (CfA)*, we, together with France, created an important frame of reference in 2019 that calls for and strengthens respect for international humanitarian law from parties to conflicts. The CfA provides concrete suggestions regarding how countries can support humanitarian aid workers and organisations in providing principled and needs-based assistance. We are calling for further countries to implement the obligations arising from the CfA.

As part of our humanitarian diplomacy, we are committed to ensuring that the use of sanctions does not impede the provision of humanitarian assistance. For example, a wide-reaching humanitarian exemption not requiring approval was introduced for the sanctions regime for Venezuela that, among other things, covers humanitarian assistance provided by the UN or international organisations as well as specialist organisations of the EU member states. Moreover, we are engaged in an exchange of information in a spirit of trust with our partner organisations on findings concerning the unintended side effects of sanctions and are using this information to define humanitarian exemptions.

Within the framework of humanitarian diplomacy, we are also committed to intensifying the dialogue with national and international business and civil society in order to create a common understanding of working methods. Unintended negative impacts of international sanctions re-

gimes and measures to combat terrorist financing and money laundering can thus be prevented and actively addressed. In so doing, we want, among other things, to safeguard reliable and efficient payment channels for Non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Humanitarian diplomacy in action

Humanitarian assistance is coming under increasing pressure in many contexts. There have been arbitrary restrictions to humanitarian access, attacks on aid convoys and attempts to exert influence on independent needs assessments and the distribution of aid supplies. The Taliban in Afghanistan and the Houthis in Yemen have sought to prevent the work of humanitarian aid workers. As a result, women-led households are at risk of being cut off from vital aid for their families, for example. Without the work of female doctors, it is often even more difficult to reach women for basic healthcare. We are vehemently opposed to all attempts to exploit humanitarian assistance or to exclude women and girls who are in urgent need of help. We are therefore liaising closely with our partners in Afghanistan and Yemen and are, as part of a consensus among donors, committed to ensuring that women are able to work as this is the only way for women and children to be able to access lifesaving assistance. In so doing, we are helping in difficult contexts to protect the humanitarian space against attempted interference.

1.2 Humanitarian protection

We want to provide people in need with a minimum level of security and dignity

The protection of civilians in humanitarian crises is a fundamental duty for all states under international law. We are therefore committed to ensuring that our projects take humanitarian protection as a core element into account.

In line with the recommendations of the Inter Agency Standing Committee (*IASC Protection Policy Review*), we are working to ensure that the international humanitarian system takes a proactive approach to comprehensively address and

thus reduce protection risks by assuming responsibility and establishing clear lines of accountability, and also by providing and strengthening human resources as well as by ensuring clear rules on accountability. To this end, we will also promote systemic reform of the global coordination structure (the *Global Protection Cluster* including its *Areas of Responsibility*). We are calling for the development of and support for protection strategies by *Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs)* and *Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs)* at

country level and for their implementation by all stakeholders. We are seconding protection and gender experts and are thus helping to strengthen these processes.

The protection of the civilian population must play a pivotal role in the planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities across the entire spectrum of the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus. Coordination between humanitarian stakeholders and national authorities is essential here, also with a view to promoting the continuity of humanitarian assistance with sustainable national social protection systems.

It is only possible to protect the civilian population if effective and lasting access to population groups in need is guaranteed. We are calling for secure access and are committed to the physical protection of the population. With humanitarian mine action projects, such as in Ukraine, we are ensuring that aid deliveries can reach the people via roads that have been cleared of explosive devices and mines and that these goods can be distributed in safe, cleared areas.

We are placing a particular focus on protection against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). We are supporting survivors of SGBV with, for example, medical care and reintegration into everyday life with our specialist partners. We are also using our leadership of the *Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies* (2023–2024) to this end. Our priorities in this regard include improving SGBV activities and prevention in contexts of displacement and migration, as well as establishing more sustainable partnerships for local and women-led organisations. Moreover, we have intensified the exchange with Pramila Patten, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, under our leadership,

and are continuing our support with a view to achieving our common goal of putting an end to SGBV. As part of the *Global Refugee Forum*, we committed in 2023 to providing improved psychological and psychosocial support for refugees who have experienced sexual violence. In this context, we are, for example, working in Yemen and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to achieve improved access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls at risk.

The provision of psychosocial support and mental health measures is also urgently needed for the affected population, especially for girls and women, and for humanitarian aid workers. We will work with our specialist partner organisations to expand services in the area of mental and psychosocial healthcare and remove barriers to access these services.



Hala (4) survived an air strike involving a grenade. Thanks to Germany's support, she was able to receive a prosthetic limb from Handicap International (HI) and psychological assistance at the rehabilitation centre in Sana'a, Yemen. Since 2019, with German funds, HI has been able to provide care to more than 31,000 people injured by mine explosions and ordnance and people with disabilities. © ISNA Agency / HI

2.

Shaping the transformation of the humanitarian system to boost efficiency and effectiveness



Since 2016, Germany has been the second-largest donor to the UN World Food Programme (WFP), which played a pioneering role in developing the concept and strategy of the anticipatory action approach and has since been scaling it up. Here, the WFP is working with the national meteorological service of the Dominican Republic to monitor weather conditions within the framework of an anticipatory action project. © WFP / Esteban Barrera

The Grand Bargain as a forum for progress in the humanitarian system

The *Grand Bargain*, which was established at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, is the only global forum in the humanitarian system that brings together all stakeholders (local and international NGOs, the UN, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and donors) to work together on making progress in humanitarian assistance. The objective of the *Grand Bargain* is to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the humanitarian system in order to (better) help more people in need. The core issues pursued in the *Grand Bargain* include creating greater transparency, flexibility and accountability in the use of funds and promoting a stronger role for local stakeholders in humanitarian assistance as well as the participation of the affected populations from the planning phase onwards. In its current term from 2023 to 2026, one focus of the *Grand Bargain*, at Germany's instigation, is on developing solutions to reduce humanitarian needs by using innovative approaches, for example in the area of anticipatory action. Germany has been a member of the Facilitation Group of the *Grand Bargain* since 2022 and is committed to the ambitious further development of its objectives in this capacity. Germany's commitment also focuses on the comprehensive implementation of the outcomes reached in the *Grand Bargain*, which is necessary for the long-term transformation of the humanitarian system.

“The Federal Government will further intensify its engagement in an integrated approach that combines international crisis prevention, stabilisation, peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance and development cooperation.”

(National Security Strategy)

2.1 The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

We are closely coordinating humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and stabilisation activities in order to achieve maximum possible effectiveness together

Resilience and political stability are often prerequisites for an end to emergencies and the prevention of new crises. We therefore want to interlink activities in the fields of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation, and stabilisation and peacebuilding from the outset through joint analyses and coordinated planning and implementation. Close coordination between these stakeholders can play a significant role in ensuring that our funds are deployed more efficiently and needs can be reduced in the long term. The HDP nexus approach enables us to expand our perspective beyond humanitarian assistance already during the conception of humanitarian activities.

The HDP nexus can only have an impact if all players can overcome the operational “silo” effect. At capital city level, the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development are closely working together in a spirit of trust in order to dovetail their respective crisis management instruments even more systematically. The *nexus chapeau* and the *joint analysis and coordinated planning* approaches standardise processes for interministerial cooperation in crisis contexts. Expansion of the joint analysis and coordinated planning process to other countries is planned.

We also expect our partner organisations and, in particular, the major UN agencies, to play an active role in implementing the HDP nexus. We are therefore working, for example, with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to create long-term solutions and prospects for especially vulnerable people in need of protection and refugees. We are sec-

onding nexus advisors to the UN via the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) in order to drive the HDP nexus forward throughout the system. We are working with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to strengthen the capacities of international staff in fields along the HDP spectrum. We are doing this, for example, via the Nexus Academy run by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, as well as the *nexus helpdesk* at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). We are likewise engaging in joint efforts within international bodies such as the OECD’s *International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF)*, under the overall leadership of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, to enshrine the HDP nexus at international level together with other donors. We are also promoting inclusive HDP nexus forums at our missions abroad.

A financing instrument for the HDP nexus

We aim to make available innovative, integrated financing instruments for HDP nexus programmes, and therefore want to establish a *Nexus Funding Facility (NFF)* in the Lake Chad region as a pilot project. The NFF is intended to generate incentives for a coordinated approach by nexus stakeholders across borders in the countries of the Lake Chad Basin, by creating inclusive planning and coordination structures and providing resources for comprehensive programmes. These programmes will be implemented by consortia of specialised organisations along the HDP nexus. Lessons learned from the NFF will also be used for the ongoing reform of the UN coordination system in order to fully tap nexus potentials by enshrining the approach at institutional level.



Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock visits a WFP logistics centre in the United Arab Emirates, 10 December 2023, © *photothek.de*

Our humanitarian efforts for effective long-term solutions – fighting hunger

In order to save lives, food assistance in acute emergencies is a priority of humanitarian assistance. Germany's humanitarian assistance helps avert famines, ensure adequate nutrition and prevent negative coping strategies such as exploitative child labour and the marrying-off of minor girls or boys. In these efforts, we always rely on a holistic approach in the spirit of the HDP nexus. Our aim is to help ensure that sustainable agricultural production can rapidly resume in order to restore the supply of basic necessities and thus bring a swift end to humanitarian food crises.

Anticipatory action has a particular role to play in the context of food security, too. By taking measures at an early stage when natural events are predicted, we ensure that people build up stores of food and move their animals to safety, for example, in order to prevent humanitarian emergencies before they arise. Germany's support was instrumental in drastically reducing the number of people who lost their livelihoods due to the annual flooding in Bangladesh, for example, in recent years.

Eliminating hunger in all its forms is an overarching aim of our humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. The Federal Government is actively involved in international processes to this end, in particular the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* of the 2030 Agenda, the *UN Food Systems Summit*, the *Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*, the *G7 Food Security Working Group* and the German Sustainable Development Strategy.

The climate crisis is exacerbating resource scarcity and threats to livelihoods. Its impact is driving prices even higher and thereby fuelling food insecurity in many regions of the world. In 2022, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine also triggered an unprecedented increase in already high food prices and exacerbated emergencies in many crisis contexts. This weaponisation of food scarcity puts many people's lives at risk. In order to prevent famines, we have not only drastically increased our food assistance but also worked to promote other diplomatic initiatives such as the *EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes* and the *Black Sea Grain* initiative. In line with UN Security Council Resolution 2417, we are taking a decisive stand against the weaponisation of hunger.

Our humanitarian efforts for effective long-term solutions – displacement and forced migration

In the field of displacement and forced migration, Germany plays an important role in building bridges between host and donor countries. We are one of the leading host countries for refugees and also one of the leading donors in contexts of displacement and forced migration.

Our efforts are based on the principles of the *Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* and guided by the *Global Compact on Refugees* as well as the obligations arising from the *Global Refugee Forums*. Where possible, we complement our humanitarian assistance with development cooperation measures. Our aim in doing so is for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to regain autonomy in order to prevent long-term dependency on humanitarian assistance.

The Federal Government therefore supports measures that facilitate safe and dignified voluntary return, for example, as well as access to social services and, where possible, integration into national social security systems, in particular access to the labour market and integration into the healthcare system. Within steering bodies such as for stabilisation facilities, for the World Bank and for climate financing instruments, we are advocating for refugees, displaced people and host communities and countries to be taken into account.

We are also working to ensure a better distribution of responsibility between host and donor countries as well as states that until now have not contributed.

Another priority for us is to protect and support IDPs, who often remain dependent on humanitarian assistance for years and experience multiple displacements due to conflicts or (climate-induced) natural disasters. Germany supports comprehensive measures at the humanitarian, development, political, social and economic level in order to sustainably reduce internal displacement through durable solutions; where possible, it does so together with the governments of affected countries. We are calling for the implementation of the recommendations made by the *High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement* and the *Action Agenda on Internal Displacement*. In this context, the Federal Government is also calling for affected states to take on responsibility for securing the protection and rights of IDPs as citizens in their own country.

At the intersection of climate foreign policy and humanitarian assistance, we place a focus on displacement as a result of climate change and on the impacts of climate change on refugees, IDPs and their host communities. We are promoting an inclusive climate policy and climate measures that take refugees, displaced people and host communities and countries into account. As displacement caused by disasters and climate change increases, we intend to continue our support for the work of the *Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)* and for the development of protective mechanisms and measures to prevent and reduce displacement.

2.2 Anticipatory action

We are shaping the transformation of the humanitarian system through anticipatory action

The majority of humanitarian needs that are caused or exacerbated by extreme weather events can be predicted. We are therefore continuing to expand the instrument of anticipatory action in line with the Federal Government's Strategy on

Climate Foreign Policy. In so doing, we are initiating a paradigm shift in the humanitarian system from reactive to proactive and anticipatory.

Humanitarian assistance and the climate crisis

The increasingly dramatic impacts of the climate crisis are posing enormous challenges for the humanitarian system. There has already been a significant increase in droughts and floods. In addition, the climate crisis is a driver of conflicts, which in turn increase humanitarian need. We want to increasingly incorporate climate research findings into our planning and implementation in order to respond to this threat to human security. Risks and needs should be identified at an early stage on the basis of climate risk analyses and early warning systems, and humanitarian responsiveness proactively strengthened. One factor in this are integrated approaches that dovetail humanitarian assistance and climate change adaptation, emissions reduction and stabilisation with peacebuilding and dealing with loss and damage within the framework of the HDP nexus. At the same time, the humanitarian stakeholders themselves need to become greener, i.e. with the do no harm principle in mind, by using sustainable materials, reducing waste and using renewable energies wherever possible. Germany is actively driving forward this greening agenda (see 2.6).

Thanks to anticipatory action, we are reducing or preventing the humanitarian impacts of climate change and are providing effective and dignified assistance to people affected by crises and natural disasters. Anticipatory action is more efficient and effective than responsive action.

We are therefore working to ensure that anticipatory action becomes the norm throughout the humanitarian system – wherever the data available renders this possible. We are continuing to hone our shared understanding of the potential of anticipatory action to transform the humani-

tarian system and are promoting efforts to scale this approach up.

Anticipatory action also creates interfaces with our other priorities, for example with respect to the HDP nexus or for strengthening local stakeholders with a view to being able to act in good time and in a coordinated manner. We are committed to taking a gender- and inclusion-sensitive approach in all phases of anticipatory action.

As part of our G7 Presidency in 2022, we committed together with our G7 partners to substantially increase financial support for anticipatory action. Since 2023, we are earmarking at least five percent of our humanitarian funding for anticipatory action.

High-quality data that sheds light on the vulnerabilities of the population at risk in particu-

lar is essential for anticipatory action. In order to improve the available data, we are supporting projects that gather and analyse relevant data in fragile contexts, such as the *Complex Risk Analytics Fund (CRAF'd)*. High-quality data also demonstrates and underscores the impact of anticipatory action. Documenting the results of evaluations and sharing lessons learned is therefore another important part of our projects.

Funding instruments for anticipatory action

- We support a wide range of funding mechanisms in order to facilitate broad-based access for various different stakeholders to funding for anticipatory action (*Disaster Relief Emergency Fund, DREF; Trust Fund for Hunger-related Climate Change, THCC; Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation, SFERA; Start Fund and Start Ready*).
- We support the goal of investing ten percent of the funds of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for anticipatory action in the future. We welcome the fact that the *International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)* intends to earmark 25 percent of the DREF and the *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)* at least 20 percent of the SFERA for anticipatory action. In order to create further funding opportunities, in particular for local stakeholders, we are also advocating the anticipatory use of funding via Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs).
- By establishing the *Welthungerhilfe Anticipatory Humanitarian Action Facility (WAHAFA)*, we have created a further mechanism for funding anticipatory activities carried out by NGOs and their local partners.
- With the HDP nexus in mind, we are also committed to the complementarity and coordination of climate risk financing and funding for anticipatory action.
- We welcome the fact that the COP28 decision on financing arrangements, including the fund for loss and damage, calls for the expansion of anticipatory action measures. We will also continue to work to ensure that the humanitarian dimension is taken into account in decisions regarding the newly created Fund for responding to Loss and Damage.

2.3 Gender- and inclusion-sensitive humanitarian assistance

We are providing needs-based support to particularly vulnerable people

Effective humanitarian assistance is only possible when it systematically identifies and includes the particular needs of women, girls and marginalised groups. In accordance with the *Federal Foreign Office's Feminist Foreign Policy Guidelines*, the aim of strengthening rights, representation and resources for women and marginalised groups guides action in the field of humanitarian assistance, too. The Federal Foreign Office strategy on *Gender in Germany's Humanitarian Assistance* shows how the guidelines are applicable in the context of needs-based humanitarian assistance.

In line with the humanitarian gender strategy, 100 percent of Germany's humanitarian assistance should be implemented in a gender-sensitive and, wherever appropriate, gender-targeted manner. In so doing, we are making a contribution, also in the field of humanitarian assistance, to the objective defined in the guidelines for feminist foreign policy of spending 85 percent of Federal Foreign Office project funding in a gender-sensitive and eight percent in a gender-transformative way by 2025, in line with the criteria of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). We are calling for humanitarian stakeholders to systematically take gender-specific needs into account in their work, including in the recruitment, training and deployment of their personnel. The *gender, age and disability (GAD) marker* enables us to assess the systematic anchoring of an inclusive approach in humanitarian assistance and to rigorously follow this up in the projects that we fund. The comprehensive and transparent use of this marker by our humanitarian partner organisations will be given even greater importance in funding decisions in the future. Multi-

ple discrimination must likewise be taken into consideration in the planning, implementation and monitoring of all humanitarian assistance activities. In this context, we believe it is essential to include local and women-led organisations in humanitarian coordination, planning and implementation systems. This will allow us to better meet the complex, specific needs of the groups requiring assistance.

We continue to play an active role in the processes that contribute to the ongoing development of a gender-sensitive, inclusive approach in the international humanitarian system. In this context, we are guided by the *Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies*, which we are leading in 2023 and 2024. With a specific focus on displacement and forced migration as well as on localising humanitarian assistance, we are working to make concrete changes to the humanitarian system. Among other things, we are committed to improving women's and girls' access to assistance and protection in host countries and to strengthening the role of local organisations that are led by women and/or refugees.

2.4 Humanitarian assistance as local as possible

We are shaping partnerships between local actors and intermediaries

Local humanitarian actors are already present on the ground in humanitarian crises and have a deep understanding of local conditions and dynamics; often, they also benefit from greater access to and acceptance among affected populations. Involving local actors makes our humanitarian assistance more needs-based, inclusive, participatory and efficient.

We therefore continue to pursue the aim set out in the Grand Bargain of implementing 25 percent of our humanitarian funding as directly as possible, via a maximum of one *intermediary*, in cooperation with local partner organisations. Beyond simply passing on funding, we aim to increase and sustain the quality of partnerships. We committed to doing so in 2022 in the *Intermediary Caucus* of the Grand Bargain.

In order to facilitate planning and reliable partnerships with local organisations, a significant part of our humanitarian project funding is already provided on a flexible, multi-year basis. We are calling on our funding recipients to pass on the same flexibility to their local partner organisations and to take targeted action to strengthen these organisations' capacities. To support the core tasks and capacities of local partners, an adequate share of the lump sum for administrative overheads must be passed on. This is also important so that local partners can make an adequate contribution to the coordination, decision-making and advisory structures of the humanitarian system and be sufficiently represented in these structures.

For projects within the scope of the *CBPFs* managed by the *UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)*, too, it must be en-

sured that an adequate share of the lump sum for administrative overheads is passed on along the implementation chain. We will continue to work to ensure that these funds meet and build on the localisation goal of at least 25 percent of their allocations.

In order to consolidate partnerships, local actors should be more closely involved in the planning phase and throughout the implementation of projects, and play a greater role in decision-making. Likewise, risks should be jointly identified and mitigated through joint efforts in a spirit of partnership. From 2024, in order to eliminate further barriers to cooperation with local partners, we will be piloting the *Risk Sharing Framework* developed in the Grand Bargain. Furthermore, we will harmonise our *due diligence* procedures together with other donors.

We ask all partner organisations – international NGOs and international organisations – to expand their role as intermediaries and fill this role responsibly, participatory and transparently in the spirit of equal partnerships. When local partners are, in exceptional cases, not involved in a project, suitable justification should be provided for this.

In our view, international NGOs in particular do justice to the spirit of partnership required when serving as intermediaries. In order to continue strengthening them in this role, we will increase the share of their funding to at least 25 percent of Germany's humanitarian assistance by 2027. NGO funding amounts to at least 20 percent already in 2024.

To support the systematic monitoring of these obligations, we will review project application and reporting documents to ensure that local partners are involved in the project cycle and to verify what funding is passed on. Furthermore, we will collect data regularly in cooperation with our partner organisations regarding how our humanitarian funding is used and passed on. We will also take account of compliance with these obligations for funding provided to international organisations.

Moreover, we are helping to strengthen and involve local partners by providing a range of dialogue opportunities at our missions abroad. Humanitarian micro-projects by missions abroad should also continue to be implemented predominantly by local organisations. Moreover, we will pay greater consideration to local stakeholders in our public relations work and reporting on Germany's humanitarian assistance in order to give due credit to their work.

2.5 Participation of the affected population

People in need are at the heart of our humanitarian assistance

Only assistance that targets the specific needs of affected populations is effective and dignified assistance. This is achieved by actively involving and informing the people in need. We are therefore working to ensure that feedback and complaint mechanisms are available that are suitable for the relevant target groups. These mechanisms allow affected communities to present their concerns and suggestions and actively participate in humanitarian processes. The mechanisms thus help to ensure that humanitarian interventions

are tailored and successful, while also supporting transparency and accountability.

We are working to promote more active participation by affected communities and systematically follow this up in project work, from needs assessments to the design, implementation and evaluation of activities. Particular use should be made of digital applications and efficient processes in order to minimise the workload for affected populations and partners.

2.6 Innovations and further development

We are using new technological applications and novel approaches to help increase the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian activities

We are committed to using the latest technology and innovative approaches in the sphere of humanitarian assistance. This enables us to reach more people with the means available and helps to either avert crises or mitigate their impact.

We are supporting efforts to scale up tried-and-tested innovative approaches to demonstrate their effectiveness and use them across the board. We expect our partner organisations to work together on innovations wherever possible, as well as to share and render usable to each other any advances they have made, lessons learned and good practices. Furthermore, we are striving to foster exchange on humanitarian innovations in suitable formats among our partner organisations, as well as with other donors and the private sector.

Wherever the situation allows, *cash and voucher assistance* is the most direct and efficient way to enable those suffering hardship to meet their needs flexibly and in the manner they choose. We will further review the use of cash assistance in the relevant contexts and advocate their further development using the latest digital technology. We will also do more to improve monitoring of cash assistance and to monitor whether the relevant compliance guidelines are rigorously applied. We are calling on our partner organisations to participate in local coordination structures to establish common, uniform standards and to foster the development of technical capacities in line with the results of the 2021 Grand Bargain *Cash Coordination Caucus*. At global level, too, and in particular with regard to the documentation and impact of *multi-purpose cash assistance* and its continuity, we are encouraging cooper-

ation among our partners in order to increase the quality and efficiency of cash payments and to prevent misuse. Furthermore, we are working with our partner organisations to do more to inform national authorities of the opportunities and limits of cash assistance. Close coordination with state social protection systems supports the sustainable continuity of cash-based humanitarian assistance.

It is important to us that humanitarian assistance is provided in a manner that is environmentally friendly and that it is anchored in sound risk analysis based on the best available short, medium and long-term climate and environmental sciences and data as well as local knowledge. To this end, we have committed ourselves to the *greening* of humanitarian assistance by signing the *Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations* and the *Humanitarian Aid Donors' Declaration*. Our first step towards implementing the commitments is to monitor whether a means of assessing environmental impact is deployed in humanitarian project applications. Moreover, we are working to harmonise environmental protection standards in humanitarian assistance within the donor community, and are promoting the *Climate Action Accelerator* to this end.

Our innovation projects aim at further developing humanitarian assistance

- We have been supporting the WFP *Innovation Accelerator* since 2016 with a view to devising new approaches to resolving humanitarian problems. Focusing on the sphere of food security, experts are developing technological innovations to deliver effective and cost-efficient solutions in the fight against hunger. These efforts are targeted, for example, at developing seeds that can grow without soil and in arid areas.
- By developing a centralised digital infrastructure, we are helping to ensure that existing apps and programmes in the field of humanitarian assistance are accessible to everyone. The shared use of this infrastructure around the world will optimise the security of the applications and their costs.
- We are supporting our partner organisations in the area of anticipatory action with project-related measures in order, for instance, to ensure the availability and sustainability of data. We are also strengthening analytical capacities by providing experts to draw up cartographic material of risk areas locally and in good time.
- To build up expertise and further develop common standards for the provision and risk management of cash assistance in crisis contexts, we are providing support to the training courses and fundamental tasks of specialised organisations. We are also funding the secondment of experts in the sphere of cash assistance with the aim of strengthening coordination structures locally.
- We are piloting the use of an app to gauge and gather data on the CO₂ emissions of humanitarian activities. A road map on bringing about a 50 percent reduction in the CO₂ emissions of humanitarian organisations by 2030 has been devised to support emissions reductions.



Germany is also a reliable partner for the people in Ukraine with humanitarian assistance. We have been supporting the work of the Ukrainian Red Cross for many years via the German Red Cross. Volunteers from the organisation (here in Uzhhorod) have already provided more than 12 million food and hygiene sets throughout the country since the escalation of the conflict. © Anette Selmer-Andresen / IFRC

3.

Strengthening key components for efficient and effective humanitarian assistance



A resident of Gamni village in Mali drinks fresh water from a Help well. The rehabilitation of the well is part of a German assistance project that is also providing 56 modern water sources through an integrated approach. In this way, Help is reaching 70,400 people. © Tiécoura N'Daou / Help - Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V.

3.1 Accountability and monitoring

We and our partner organisations have committed to be accountable to the German public

Critical security conditions, weak rule of law structures and corruption frequently characterise the situations in which humanitarian assistance is implemented – often under considerable time pressure. The risk of misuse of funds is high, and great power imbalances between aid workers and recipients increase the risk of abuse of power as well as sexual or ethical misconduct. Limited access for experts makes necessary reviews more difficult.

We want to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided where it is most urgently needed. It should not have any unintended negative impact. We want to work more closely with our partner organisations to analyse and prevent the many risks. We regard transparency as well as evidence of the impact and the responsible use of funds as absolutely crucial.

We therefore require our partner organisations to take comprehensive measures to prevent any form of misconduct or misuse of funds, investigate any accusations and act effectively to head off compliance violations. In the spirit of our motto “zero tolerance for inaction”, we also require our partner organisations to communicate with us in a timely and transparent manner. We can only continue our flexible funding practices if reliable compliance mechanisms are established, cooperation is close and based on trust and there is a frank exchange of information.

We are working to ensure that protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH) is comprehensively addressed in all humanitarian measures. To this end, we are actively networking with other donors to achieve systematic progress by harmonising approaches

to ensure coherent action. Furthermore, we are expanding the exchange of information among donors on relevant risks by developing concrete measures in international forums.

We are working to ensure that transparency, accountability and integrity are also adequately ensured in UN-wide reform processes. This includes jointly developing and adopting system-wide approaches in operational forums (such as the IASC). Our goal is to effectively prevent all forms of misconduct and to ensure that perpetrators are held to account. Jointly agreed rules concerning PSEAH, corruption and fraud will also be more firmly and coherently enshrined in the model agreements with our humanitarian UN partner organisations.

A *Risk Sharing Framework* has been drafted within the context of the *Grand Bargain Risk Sharing Platform*. This approach is aimed at better reaching people in need by having donors, intermediaries and (local) implementing partners set up their risk management together and share responsibility for preventative measures as well as for any risks that arise. We will pilot the Risk Sharing Framework with a view to fostering a responsible and transparent means of tackling a wide range of risks.

3.2 Coordination and needs assessments

We are promoting humanitarian assistance based on evidence and prioritised according to need

The people we want to support are the focus of attention in the *Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC)*. To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance, participatory, local, cross-Cluster, needs-based and flexible action from our partners is required. Planning must be coordinated from the outset with the HDP nexus in mind.

We are committed to strengthening effective coordination structures and to further developing joint needs assessments as the basis for targeted assistance. Alongside increased timeliness and precision, inclusion and intersectionality are key principles when it comes to tailoring humanitarian assistance to the actual needs, capacities and priorities of different population groups. That is why we are supporting the OCHA-led *Flagship Initiative* and the reform of the humanitarian programme cycle (*HPC Lightning Reform*). Both approaches are aimed at enhancing the quality of central aspects of the programme cycle, for instance needs assessments, as an established planning and coordination instrument. Key measures include involving local stakeholders, simplifying processes, defining clear priorities as well as developing and implementing strategic, innovative solutions, primarily at local level. We are calling on our partners to actively contribute to this prioritised *area-based* approach and to support the reforms, both from their headquarters and on the ground. We are thus planning across all sectors and based on local needs. With its cross-system mandate for humanitarian coordination, OCHA has an especially important task. Our partner organisations have to help ensure it succeeds and we, too, want to support it in a focused fashion.

Key to targeted assistance are accurate and coordinated needs assessments that provide a reliable basis for humanitarian assistance by being timely, precise, inclusive and sensitive to local contexts. In order to make needs assessments quicker, less bureaucratic and more precise, we are calling for the *Joint and Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF)* drawn up as part of the *Grand Bargain* to be implemented as a standard instrument for needs assessments.

Precise needs assessments require a reliable and up-to-date data pool. To this end, greater account should be taken of evidence-based forecasting as well as climate and conflict analyses in the future. We support greater coordination among cluster groups, partner organisations and representatives of local communities as well as the joint collection of data. Respect for the regulations on data protection as well as the protection of the affected population are especially important here. In addition, we are driving forward innovations that can create a reliable data pool more precisely and quickly with the help of technology.

We will continue to strengthen humanitarian capacities in the context of crises and conflicts by seconding experts to humanitarian organisations via the ZIF. This will allow us to ensure that urgently needed specific expertise is swiftly available and the humanitarian system maintains and expands its effectiveness.

3.3 Shared responsibility and partnership-based approaches

We are committed to complementary engagement and are calling for fair burden-sharing

We are pursuing a partnership-based approach with a wide range of civil-society partner organisations as the key foundation for effective and efficient humanitarian assistance. We are therefore committed to strengthening our civil-society partners. Through a collaborative, partnership-based approach with civil society, we want to strengthen the expertise and core mandates of the organisations and thus make use of them for humanitarian assistance.

We are also actively promoting the systematic coordination of donor activities. After all, greater coordination and transparency of humanitarian financing and funding priorities are essential in order to ensure that the funds available are complementary and deployed efficiently and in a targeted manner. At the same time, we have to heighten the sense of shared responsibility for global emergencies through coordination and agreement among donors, thus ensuring that humanitarian support is reliable. We will therefore continue to use and strengthen political forums for coordination with other donors.

At European level, we want to further extend the coordination and joint strategic orientation within the *Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)* and to help promote the implementation by the EU member states of the Council Conclusions on addressing the humanitarian financing gap.

At international level, the work in the supervisory and decision-making bodies of multilateral organisations and joint financing instruments (CERF, CBPFs) is our priority. We will further strengthen OCHA's coordinating role through our support in the *OCHA Donor Support Group*

(ODSG) and work within the *Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG)* to enhance the inclusive, anticipatory and needs-based focus of the CBPFs.

We are also working with other donors to expand the donor basis. We have to incorporate new donors into the humanitarian system, develop new solutions together and implement them in a coordinated manner. In line with the Council conclusions on addressing the humanitarian financing gap, we are, in particular, intensifying the dialogue with countries that have the economic potential to assume greater responsibility for extensive and anticipatory needs-based funding of humanitarian assistance. To this end, we are systematically drawing attention to humanitarian issues and regularly putting humanitarian issues on the agenda of our bilateral meetings. We will also call on new donors to strictly comply with humanitarian principles and to respect international humanitarian law.

Cooperation with the private sector offers considerable potential, which has not yet been fully exploited. By using existing business infrastructure, products and services, as well as logistic routes, it may be possible under some circumstances to tackle humanitarian crises quickly, flexibly and comprehensively, thus ensuring that more people are reached. At the same time, further developments and innovations from the private sector can increase the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian measures. For this reason, we are encouraging our partner organisations to explore and use the potential for synergy offered by cooperation with the private sector.

3.4 Communication and visibility

We are presenting our global humanitarian engagement visibly and transparently

Germany's humanitarian engagement is effective. It is important to make this impact of our assistance even more visible in a tangible way – both for the German public and for the public in the countries and regions affected. Germany should become still more visible as a crucial, reliable and constructive partner. We want to draw attention to the added value and impact of assistance funded from Germany using authentic stories and images and to place the people who we are supporting centre-stage.

We are presenting ourselves to a broad target group in Germany and all over the world, which includes experts, journalists and decision-makers, as well as interested members of the public. We want to showcase our engagement, our work, its objectives and impacts in a more tangible and comprehensible manner, particularly to the public in the project countries – including in their respective national languages and in close cooperation with our missions abroad and Regional German Information Centres.

To this end, we intend to intensify the humanitarian public relations work of our missions abroad. We want to see proactive, timely and engaging public relations work from our partner organisations that makes Germany's contribution visible, also by using our logo. This applies particularly with regard to the deployment of our flexible funds. Moreover, we expect our partner organisations to endeavour to enter into a direct dialogue with our missions abroad and the respective country and regional offices in order to support the public relations work of our missions abroad on the ground.

Independent reporting with a wealth of background information is required in order to raise awareness of the complexity and conflicting challenges of humanitarian assistance among a broad public in Germany. This helps to increase the visibility of humanitarian crises and to draw attention to the challenges of humanitarian work among the German public – also in what are known as “forgotten crises”, which are not (or no longer) at the forefront of public attention.

3.5 Flexible funding

We are calling for full transparency in the use of funds as the basis for continued flexibility

In the *Grand Bargain*, the donor community has undertaken to provide more multi-year funding as well as to collectively increase the share of flexible funding (to a total of 30 percent). The Federal Government also enshrined this target in its coalition agreement for 2021–2025.

We have made significant advances here: We are supporting the majority of the humanitarian proj-

ects in the form of multi-year funding already today. In 2023, 82 percent of Germany's humanitarian funding was spent on a multi-year basis. We provide our funding at an early stage in order to allow our partner organisations to plan ahead with more confidence (*frontloading*). In the sphere of flexible funding (unearmarked and softly earmarked), too, our target of 30 percent was reached back in 2020 and we achieved 53 percent in 2023.

In order to be in a position to maintain this practice in the context of funding legislation, we require our partner organisations to work together with us in a spirit of trust. That means heeding compliance requirements as well as pursuing transparent and anticipatory risk management. Any suspected cases of misuse of funds must be communicated without delay and in a transparent manner.

Moreover, we expect our partner organisations to comply with the commitments contained in the *Grand Bargain*. This applies in particular to the concrete use of funding and transferring flexibility to local partner organisations as well as working to enhance their visibility. The implementation of this obligation on the donor and implementation side is documented in the *Grand Bargain* annual report.

Another factor key to continuing our flexible funding models is the active participation of our

partner organisations in the UN-coordinated humanitarian system, compliance with humanitarian standards and adherence to the measures set out in this strategy.

Fulfilment of the obligation to be accountable to the German public and the affected population is based on the responsible handling of funding, achieved through regular monitoring, evaluations and reports on the use of funds. Transparency and proactive, prompt communication concerning the use of flexible funding are crucial in order to set out the targeted, needs-based use of resources in a comprehensible form.

Furthermore, reporting on the use of all funding, including flexible funding, to the *International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)* and the *Financial Tracking Service (FTS)* is essential in order to ensure transparency and prioritisation in the entire humanitarian system as well as coordination within the donor community.



Germany supports OCHA in its work to strengthen coordination structures and ensure the participation of the affected populations. Joy Maingi, an OCHA staff member, engages in discussion with women from a village in Kenya on the impact of the drought on their livelihoods.
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