



Federal Foreign Office

World in upheaval

Helping people, preventing crises,
resolving conflicts, building peace





The volunteers of the Syrian Civil Defense – the White Helmets – in action. Germany supports their work. © SCD

Stabilisation is a policy for peace

The world is in upheaval: States are failing, conflicts are escalating, economic and climate crises are changing the international order. Events taking place in the arc of crisis stretching from Libya to Syria to Afghanistan are no longer just news. Terrorist threats are a cause for concern worldwide, including in Europe. Refugees are coming to Europe in search of shelter. Helping to overcome these crises, to alleviate suffering and promote peace is not only a humanitarian imperative, but is also in our very own interest.



Germany is supporting the population that fled IS, such as here in a camp between Mosul and Erbil. © Jens Kalaene

Crisis engagement from a single source

Modern foreign policy encompasses more than just traditional diplomacy. With this in mind, the Federal Foreign Office established Directorate-General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Assistance. Since 2015 it is pooling personnel, resources and competences, thereby providing crisis engagement from a single source. For this purpose the Directorate-General has developed instruments that allow for aid and support to be tailored to the country or crisis region in question. Stabilisation efforts are primarily focused on crises and conflicts that have a particular bearing on German and European security interests, such as North Africa, the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as crisis affected states in sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, Germany is committed to people around the world who depend on humanitarian assistance. In 2017, the Directorate-General received nearly two billion euros from the federal budget for its programmes.

Our objectives

→ Preventing crises

Often enough crises emerge because people feel they are not being heard or are not represented while parties to conflicts find no way to enter into a dialogue with one another. Promoting social dialogue and political participation is therefore a focus of our Directorate-General. It is likewise important to strengthen state structures that serve the interests of the population.

→ Detecting crises early

While no one can predict the future, careful analyses can help to detect crises at an early stage – and to counter them. How likely is it, for example, that a border dispute between two countries could lead to war? Can mediation help to stabilise the situation, or is effective border management the answer? The Directorate-General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Assistance uses scenario planning, and analyses a wide range of data in order to ascertain whether and how crises could develop.



Mediation is worth it. Colombians demonstrating in 2016 for the peace agreement between the Government and the FARC rebels after fifty years of civil war. The agreement was concluded soon afterwards. © Jorge Sanz

→ Stabilisation

Only if people regain confidence in their government after a conflict, if they feel secure and are able to rely on basic services such as electricity and hospitals, will peace be about more than just the absence of war. This is where the concept of stabilisation comes into play. The Directorate-General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Assistance seeks to facilitate political processes to resolve crises peacefully. To this end we often strengthen legitimate partners such as the Iraqi, Malian and Afghan governments, in order to make peace tangible for the population and to allow internally displaced persons to return to their homes. Sometimes we also support a moderate opposition in order to prevent the emergence of political vacuum and to ensure that humanitarian supplies reach the people, for instance in Syria, as people who do not flee their homes are particularly dependent upon functioning infrastructure and reliable public administration. Stabilisation can therefore also help to tackle the causes of refugee flows.

Publication details

Publisher: Federal Foreign Office, Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin
Tel: +49 30 1817-0, website: www.diplo.de

Cover photo: Since the outbreak of conflict in Syria, the Federal Foreign Office has been promoting assistance measures in cooperation with the German Red Cross and the Syrian Red Crescent. The distribution of food, medical care and the provision of basic hygiene necessities is improving the situation of the civilian population. © SARC Aleppo Branch

Corporate Design: Atelier Hauer + Dörfler, Berlin, www.hauer-doerfler.de
Printed by: Silberdruck, Niestetal • Design: www.kiono.de

Post-conflict peacebuilding

Crises recur when the root causes of problems are not being addressed. The Directorate-General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Assistance therefore supports post-conflict peacebuilding via its project partners. Sometimes it is important to investigate past injustices in a truth commission, such as in Mali. In other cases, former fighters must be reintegrated and political dialogue initiated – Colombia is a case in point – in order to create trust and security. New structures of coexistence, such as a federal state structure, can also help to put an end to a crisis once and for all.

Humanitarian assistance

More and more people are dependent upon humanitarian assistance in the face of wars, crises, natural disasters and epidemics. Germany, as one of the world's largest donor countries, is taking responsibility for people in need. Anyone is entitled to humanitarian assistance, regardless of their political conviction, origin or religion. The decisive factor is solely the need of those affected. Principal focuses of Germany's assistance are the humanitarian crises in the Middle East and Africa.



Distributing relief aid to children in Irbid, Jordan. The aid funded by Germany is also received by the youngest people in need. © DRK/René Schulthoff

How do we work?

The Federal Foreign Office does not implement any projects on its own. Instead, we offer financial support for the work of established and experienced organisations. Two thirds of these funds go to our international partners such as the United Nations and the Red Cross; with around a third of the funds, the Directorate-General supports national partners such as the *Welthungerhilfe* or the Berghof Foundation, an organisation which specialises in peace mediation.

What sets us apart?

The support provided by the Federal Foreign Office generally comes into play in an acute crisis. It aims to ease suffering and to bring peace to the people as swiftly as possible. Development cooperation with its sustainable goals builds on these foundations. We coordinate closely within the Federal Government in order to promote peace jointly and with other partners. Inter-ministerial actions are based on the Federal Government's guidelines "Preventing Crisis, Resolving Conflicts, Building Peace". ([diplo.de/policy_guidelines](https://www.diplo.de/policy_guidelines))

Is this assistance effective?

What matters is not so much the quantity of the aid provided, but that it is used in an effective way. Our projects are subject to regular critical assessments in order to ascertain that public funds are spent properly. The Federal Foreign Office has established a dedicated evaluation unit to this end, which is supported by a panel of experts.

Further information about specific projects is available here:

[diplo.de/clearance_of_explosives_Iraq](https://www.diplo.de/clearance_of_explosives_Iraq)

[diplo.de/reconciliation_Mali](https://www.diplo.de/reconciliation_Mali)

[diplo.de/insulated_tents_Lebanon](https://www.diplo.de/insulated_tents_Lebanon)

[diplo.de/humanitarian_aid_Tripoli](https://www.diplo.de/humanitarian_aid_Tripoli)