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für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

GIZ compass

Issue 1/2020

IN FOCUS:
STEERING
THROUGH
THE CRISIS
WITH GOOD
GOVERNANCE

Dear readers,

The year 2020 has undoubtedly been dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. It is the worst global health crisis in decades and has been impacting the daily lives of hundreds of millions of people worldwide for many months now.

Good governance means participatory, transparent, efficient structures, with integrity. These lay a strong foundation for economic growth and create trust in good times as well as in difficult times.

Indeed, it is in times of crisis that good governance becomes particularly important. During this current pandemic, we as citizens are all dependent on needs-oriented social services, reliable health care and transparent political decisions.

An essential element of good governance is access to information. It is a topic that all the contributions in this newsletter touch on: whether it is to strengthen public financial administration, make supply chains more transparent, empower investigative authorities, detect cases of illness early on or curb the spread of disinformation online. And not least, this newsletter itself is our information service to you, dear readers.

In this newsletter, you will get an insight into what our global commitment to good governance, anti-corruption and strengthening integrity looks like as well as how we are supporting efforts to contain the effects of the pandemic.

We hope you will find it informative.

Stay healthy,
Your GIZ compass editorial team

In this issue:

In focus

» **South Caucasus: Civic participation, e-governance and decentralisation**

» **Tunisia: Working together against corruption**

» **Worldwide: United for global transparency and integrity**

» **Madagascar: Detection, prevention and 'big fish'**

In brief

» **Forewarned is forearmed**

» **Combating coronavirus fake news on Facebook**

» **When travel is possible again: Wanderlust in the Balkans**

In focus

Civic participation, e-governance and decentralisation
The South Caucasus is turning its administration on its head

Photo: © GIZ/Azatuhi Mnatsakanyan

How can the state and administration ensure that public investment goes where it is needed? How can civic participation on a local and regional level enhance political processes and strengthen trust in the state? And how can we ensure that citizens in rural areas can also access public services? On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ is advising Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia on these and other questions. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), USAID and the EU are also involved in financing parts of the programme.

Here is an insight into what has been achieved to date in the various countries:

At the heart of local self-government are the budgets of the municipalities. But are the municipalities even in a position to perform financial tasks independently? Can they stimulate development on their own? Traditionally, for example, the 69 Georgian municipalities have been close to running out of money. Until recently, they also had little incentive to change anything without external help since any transfer payments from the state budget were reduced if they generated additional revenue. With support from the programme, the Ministry of Finance developed a new transfer formula, which came into effect in 2019. As a result, the municipalities received 13 per cent more state funding than in the previous year. If they generate additional

revenue, this will give them more leeway in the future. More money in the municipal budget benefits the citizens and local businesses, for example by covering the cost of repairs to roads and kindergartens.

A look at Armenia shows how citizens profit from innovations such as e-governance. It has resulted in modern citizen service centres, which guarantee basic administrative services in all localities – and their quality is also better. Equipped with e-governance tools such as electronic data management and processing systems, almost half of the country's population outside of the capital Yerevan is already benefiting from more efficiency and transparency in local administration. These tools are particularly important during the current coronavirus pandemic as they enable people to continue to request and obtain services without having to appear in person.

However, improved infrastructure alone is not enough to create sustainable growth in rural areas. This is why, for example, 11 administrative districts in Azerbaijan with a total of one million inhabitants are receiving help in introducing participatory methods in regional planning. Employees from local authorities and administrative districts are learning how to apply planning procedures which suit their needs and also how to strengthen the role of various interest groups in society in these processes. In addition, over 3,700 people, who are to act as multipliers, were trained on topics such as starting a business, promoting tourism, participatory planning and regional planning, to be able to contribute to local economic development. The results: the value of economic potential is easier to realise and trust in municipal and regional institutions increases.

What makes the regional approach of this programme special is the cross-border cooperation between the countries in the South Caucasus region. Not only does the regular dialogue between the experts and managers foster mutual learning, it also makes an important contribution to building trust between the actors on both sides of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and in the entire region.

Further information
» More about the project

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Working together against corruption
On behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office, GIZ is supporting Tunisia in the fight against corruption with information and education

"Tunisia has a young and strong civil society – and it is precisely young people who demand that corrupt practices are finally removed from everyday life in the country," says Katharina Niederhut, manager of the "Preventing and Fighting Corruption in Tunisia" project, financed by the German Federal Foreign Office and implemented by GIZ. The parliamentary elections in October 2019 showed that the desire for structures with integrity is an important concern for young people: they voted overwhelmingly for Kais Saied, a president who stands for the fight against corruption. One thing is certain for David Loew, Desk

Photo: © INLUCC

Officer for Tunisia at the Federal Foreign Office: "Fighting corruption is part of crisis prevention and is essential for consolidating democracy and the rule of law in Tunisia."

Ending rampant corruption was in fact one of the central demands of the so-called Jasmine Revolution of 2010/2011. However, the expectations have not yet been met. Quite the reverse is true: almost 88 per cent of Tunisians feel that corruption has risen since the revolution. This is something that people are

no longer willing to accept.

The national anti-corruption agency – l'Instance Nationale de Lutte Contre la Corruption (INLUCC) – was founded immediately after the revolution and plays a special role. The agency has grown considerably since it was founded – in 2011, five investigators worked for the authority, while in 2019, this had already risen to 60. The Federal Foreign Office is helping INLUCC to deal with this rapid growth and, in this regard, has commissioned GIZ to support not only the development of the organisation but also the expansion of its investigative capacity.

To address the approximately 9,000 suspected cases of corruption that INLUCC receives annually in a competent and comprehensive manner, the investigators of INLUCC need specialist knowledge and expertise. GIZ is supporting this capacity building through various training programmes.

An awareness of corruption is an important step in the fight against corruption; INLUCC also works in this area to raise awareness among the population. There is already one success story – according to representative surveys, 45 per cent of Tunisians have confidence in the work of INLUCC. But corruption is still the norm in the police, customs, public administration and the health care sector.

This is why the programme is also promoting awareness of the issue. For example, the programme is training students to become anti-corruption ambassadors to raise awareness at universities. Almost 140 journalists have also been trained in journalistic work. They learned how to research, uncover and communicate information about cases effectively. The project also trained local political representatives on how to introduce measures in municipalities to prevent corruption. These are the first steps on a long road.

Further information
» More about the project
» Website: Tunisian anti-corruption agency

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United for global transparency and integrity
How two initiatives ensure more transparent supply chains and revenue streams

Photo: © GIZ

Corruption not only undermines trust in political and economic institutions, it also poses a major obstacle to the sustainable development of a country. Corruption is therefore particularly problematic as its effects are felt across sectors as well as borders. This is why global collective initiatives are necessary to foster transparency effectively and comprehensively.

One such coalition against corruption is the Alliance for Integrity. It was initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Federation of German Industries, the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) and the German Global Compact Network. GIZ organises the Alliance. The Alliance promotes increased transparency and integrity in global supply chains and is now active in 13 countries.

The Alliance for Integrity provides two digital solutions to actively support companies when implementing compliance measures: small and medium-sized companies can carry out a self-evaluation of their compliance capacities with the aid of *TheIntegrityApp*. The app then suggests tools that the company can use to build its compliance capacities. The Online Support Desk provides participants of compliance training courses offered by the Alliance for Integrity a subsequent virtual consultation to implement compliance

systems in their companies.

Around 1,000 companies have benefited from the app worldwide. In Brazil, for example, a pilot version of the app for the public sector is also available to around 185 federal authorities. Overall, the initiative has already trained approximately 3,000 small and medium-sized enterprises worldwide in fighting corruption.

A further example is the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a voluntary global initiative for financial transparency and accountability in the extractive sector. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), GIZ has been supporting the implementation of the EITI in Germany (D-EITI), together with representatives from the German Federal Government, federal states, the private sector and civil society, since 2014. The aim of the EITI is to generate information and data about the extractive sector for each member state, which is then published in an annual report.

This EITI report forms the basis for a public dialogue in each of the member states and gives citizens the opportunity to inform themselves extensively about the extractive industry in their own country. In this way, payments by companies and corresponding state revenue and their use are made transparent and accountability is increased.

Further information
» More about the Alliance for Integrity
» TheIntegrityApp: Alliance for Integrity
» Website: Alliance for Integrity Online Support Desk
» More about D-EITI
» Website: Resource transparency information portal
» Website: EITI in Germany

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Detection, prevention and 'big fish'
Madagascar's anti-corruption agency is contributing to good governance and sustainable development

Corruption in Madagascar is a consequence of poverty, a self-contained political elite and a lack of awareness of the development policy impacts. It is present in almost every area of the public sector in Madagascar. But how can corruption in the country be reduced sustainably and for the long term? Here is a look at how it can be done.

GIZ supports the anti-corruption agency BIANCO (Bureau Indépendant Anti-Corruption) in three areas: investigation, prevention and strengthening partnerships with civil society, investigative journalists and the justice system. In order to be able to fight corruption effectively,

Photo: © BIANCO

the anti-corruption agency relies on informants who shed light on the corrupt behaviour in the first place. With this in mind, BIANCO has created an anonymous system that enables whistleblowers to submit information.

These approaches are showing results. In 2018, for example, BIANCO received 2,689 reports of corruption, carried out 666 investigations and handed over 179 cases involving a total of 415 people to the law enforcement authorities. The whistleblowing system has also proved successful – 43 reports with 36 pieces of evidence were already received in the two-month pilot phase. Numerous corruption scandals uncovered

by BIANCO show that the agency is now also attempting to go after 'big fish' and people close to the government – for example, an important donor and advisor to the then-President was arrested and sentenced by BIANCO in 2017, and in 2018 charges were brought against dozens of members of parliament.

Further information
» More about GIZ's work in Madagascar
» Website: Bureau Indépendant Anti-Corruption (BIANCO)

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In brief

Forewarned is forearmed
How an open source tool is helping contain the coronavirus in Ghana and Nigeria
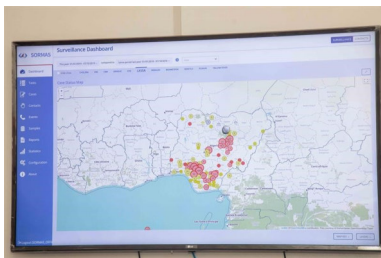
Photo: © GIZ

Fever along with fatigue and a dry cough are some of the main symptoms of the lung disease COVID-19. While an elevated body temperature may not appear until some days after becoming infected and, even then, is not a clear indicator of this disease, the systematic collection and control of health data helps with early detection. The earlier cases are detected, the easier it is to control the spread. This is particularly true in countries with insufficient testing capacities and reduced means of communicating the risks. Since February, the software SORMAS (Surveillance, Outbreak Response Management and Analysis System), developed by a consortium around the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, has been collecting data to monitor the disease and manage COVID-19 in Ghana and Nigeria. How does it work in practice?

Using various devices – such as the SORMAS app on smartphones and tables, via computer applications or over the phone – medical staff can transfer information on cases of fever and other suspected cases in real time to a central system. The data is checked to make sure it is complete and reviewed if necessary. If an infection is confirmed in a region, those who are sick are treated, potential chains of infection are followed up and further measures are initiated to stop the spread of the virus. SORMAS is being used in over 400 districts in Nigeria and Ghana, in health care centres as well as at airports and seaports.

Back in 2017, SORMAS already put its usefulness to the test during a number of epidemics, such as the monkeypox epidemic. This is why GIZ, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and with co-financing from the EU, is supporting the implementation and further expansion of SORMAS in Nigeria and Ghana. "COVID-19 hasn't changed what we do," says Project Manager Sabine Ablefoni. "On the contrary – it has shown everyone how relevant our work is."

Further information
» More about the measure
» More about the project

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Combating coronavirus fake news on Facebook
In Cambodia, we are taking measures to stop false information where it is spread the most

Social media is an important source of information – including during pandemics. Unfortunately, it can also be a mouthpiece for half-truths, false information and conspiracy theories and thus complicates the fight against the virus.

Therefore, it is particularly important in times of crisis for people to counteract this resolutely and provide correct and reliable information to the population. After all, the best medicine against fake news is transparent communication. "In Cambodia, Facebook is by far the most widely used form of social media and it is being used most often to report hysterical and false information about transmission routes,

Photo: © GIZ Cambodia

avoiding infection with coronavirus and the COVID-19 complication rates," says Project Manager Bernd Appelt. This is why GIZ, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is supporting the Cambodian Ministry of Health in curbing misinformation and in providing the population with comprehensive information on Facebook. The measure is being implemented in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO).
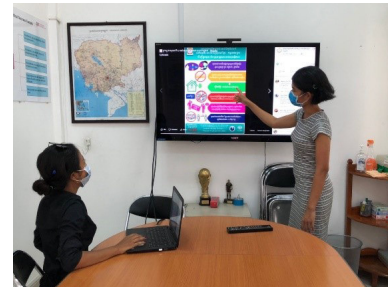
The first step involves identifying competent and trustworthy partners who will support the Ministry of Health in expanding the reach of reliable Facebook pages. Messages are being developed that reference the rumours and fears circulating in the population and refer instead to available diagnostic and treatment options. Clear messages about the not-so-simple measures are crucial to prevent COVID-19 cases, from correct hand hygiene and the right way to use face masks, to rigorous observance of social distancing.

Further information
» More about the project

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And finally, an encouraging look to the future:

When travel is possible again: Wanderlust in the Balkans
Tourism brings employment prospects to a region that is battling an exodus from the countryside

Experienced hikers often turn to the Alps or the Black Forest for beautiful hiking destinations in Europe – the fact that the Balkans is also an option is probably not on most people's radar. A new route intends to put the spotlight on the Balkans as a tourist destination for hikers, namely the High Scardus Trail, created as part of the "Future Prospects through Mountain Tourism" project in North Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo. The project was financed by the German Federal

Photo: © GIZ/Jovan Bozinosk

Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The border region between Kosovo, Albania and North Macedonia is battling a lack of economic viability and an exodus from rural areas but it also offers truly beautiful natural sights. "The area boasts mountains over 2,500 metres high, five national parks and a UNESCO biosphere reserve – therefore, the border region offers the ideal conditions for a tourism destination," says Anica Palazzo, GIZ staff member in the project. Tourism is an opportunity to bring jobs to structurally weak regions and thus create new prospects for the residents. However, at the start of the project, the region was still lacking hiking infrastructure such as paths, signs showing the way, restaurants and accommodation.

The project earmarked a network of over 300 km of hiking trails distributed over 16 routes. A training programme on rural tourism has been set up for the population, which has helped 170 people from the neighbouring regions. The topics covered on the programme included hospitality, accommodation and guided hiking tours. Funding was provided for new entrepreneurs and long-standing hosts, as well as investments to build overnight accommodation along the trails.

Tourists can plan their own routes by contacting small agencies – but you can also find maps in the area in tourist offices, at information points in national parks and online. "If you love unspoiled nature and don't want to share it with other tourists, then hiking here is perfect for you," says Palazzo. The High Scardus Trail is therefore a real insider tip for when travel is possible again – at least for now that is: the trail has already been selected by Lonely Planet as a top destination for 2020.

Further informationen
» More about the project

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Partnership with the EU and events in Brussels

You can find more information about GIZ's partnership with the EU and on the latest events and news from Brussels online at www.giz.de/eventsbrussels and, from July, in the context of Germany's EU Council Presidency at www.giz.de and akzente.giz.de.

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About GIZ

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a global service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development and education work with 20,726 employees in around 120 countries. GIZ is a public-benefit federal enterprise. It supports the German Government and many public and private sector clients such as the European Union in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment, energy and the environment, and peace and security.

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