Germany is one of the largest donors in the water and sanitation (WASH) sector worldwide. In recent years, German commitments in the WASH sector have more than doubled from 402 USD millions in 2005 to 1,041 USD millions in 2011 of which around 50% has been allocated to the sanitation sector. An estimated 80 million people benefit from ongoing activities in the WASH sector. Germany aims at providing at least 25 million people in Sub-Sahara Africa with sustainable access to drinking water and 5 million people with access to sanitation by 2015.

Germany’s Water Sector Strategy (2006) adopts Integrated Water Resources Management principles and focuses on reaching the MDGs, highlighting pro-poor approaches and a stronger focus on sanitation. Germany successfully promoted the recognition of access to water and sanitation as a human right through initiatives in the UN Human rights council and has adopted a human rights based approach to development cooperation.

German Development Cooperation is also one of the main actors in the sanitation sector. As an early champion of the International Year of Sanitation, Germany took advantage of the IYS to analyse its activities and strengthen support, particularly for basic sanitation. Germany co-initiated and hosts the secretariat of the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA), which rallies more than 191 partners to promote sustainable approaches to sanitation and wastewater management and is partner in the Sanitation and Water for All Initiative (SWA).

Germany plays a leading role in promoting water for peace through its support to transboundary cooperation, institutions and initiatives such as the Petersberg and Berlin processes. Ongoing activities include support to 19 lake or river basin commissions and regional organizations in Africa, Central Asia and Southeast Asia.

FOCUS AREA
Water in Africa

Germany’s Africa Strategy prioritizes water and sanitation as a key sector and puts particular emphasis on Transboundary Water Management. Germany contributes to strengthen the Africa-G8 and Africa-EU Partnerships on Water and Sanitation and focuses its bilateral cooperation on support towards the implementation of the ‘Sharm el Sheikh’ declaration. Germany provides support to the African Union Commission and AMCOW in the development of implementation strategies to translate commitments into action. In the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) Germany agreed to take up the role as the ‘Champion for Water’ with a view to raise the profile of water for increased investments in water infrastructure and protection of water resources. Germany supports one Regional Economic Organization as well as 11 lake or river basin commissions in the application of integrated water resource management. Germany is the regional lead donor in the Southern African Development Community and contributes to better donor coordination in SADC by the development and annual update of a donor mapping in the water sector.
BMZ supports a broad range of international institutions and multi-lateral initiatives to improve access to drinking water and sanitation worldwide and to contribute to the realization of the human right to water and sanitation.

- BMZ supports the ‘Sanitation and Water for All – A Global Framework for Action’ initiative and engages actively in the discussions about this new international framework.

- As a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio 2012, Germany hosted the “Bonn2011 Conference” on the “Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus - Solutions for the Green Economy” (www.water-energy-food.org) that brought together policy makers from all three fields to develop a common agenda to achieve water, energy and food security. Conference participants stressed that the nexus perspective helps to better understand the linkages between water, energy and food and opens they eyes for mutually beneficial solutions. The Conference webpage will now be transformed in a resource platform on nexus issues.

- Within the UN System UN Water is responsible to coordinate and foster synergies between the more than two dozen UN Institutions working in the water sector. The German Government supports these efforts through the UN Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) with one million Euro per year.

- The UN Secretary General’s Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) advises the Secretary General on solutions for mobilises for international responses, such as the UN Sanitation Year. Germany supports the work of the Vice Chair of UNSGAB, Dr. Uschi Eid. Current focal areas include school WASH, and the UN Watercourses Convention.

- Germany supported the World Commission on Dams (WCD) and made, as one of the first governments worldwide, the final report’s recommendations (2007) binding for its development cooperation. Germany also supports the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum, a Multi-stakeholder Initiative to measure social, environmental and economic performance of hydropower projects.

- To monitor MDG progress, to promote water integrity and to advocate for Integrated Water Resource Management BMZ financially supports the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), the Water Integrity Network (WIN) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP).

### Overview of Partner Countries where water and sanitation are priority cooperation (Status as of August 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Saharan Africa</th>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>Latin America</th>
<th>Central, East and Southeast Europe</th>
<th>Middle East and North Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin Burkin Faso</td>
<td>Afghanistan Bolivia Nicaragua Peru</td>
<td>Albania Bosnia-Herzegovina Kosovo Serbia</td>
<td>Algeria Egypt Jordan Morocco Palestinian Territories Syria Tunisia Yemen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi DR Congo</td>
<td>Kenya Mali</td>
<td>South Sudan Tanzania Uganda Zambia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### FOCUS AREA

**Water in Middle East, North Africa, Turkey and the Balkans**

In the context of extreme water scarcity in most countries of the region and increasing environmental problems, BMZ supports numerous water projects in Middle East, North Africa, Turkey and the Balkans. German Development Cooperation focuses on ecological sustainability and aims at securing the long-term availability and quality of water resources and, hence, preserving the natural resource base of the population. Germany supports the development of the Water Strategy for the Union for the Mediterranean. More than 20 Million people in the region benefit from tangible improvements in their living conditions and environmental situation.