

## FOOD AND NUTRITION ACTIVITIES OF GTZ IN AFRICA

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The "Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)" is a German company whose objective is to assist developing countries with technical expertise in various fields on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Food security programmes are an essential element of the development cooperation policy of the German Government, constitute an important priority area within German development assistance and are closely linked to the international commitment of poverty reduction. Policy approaches towards food security have changed over the years, reflecting many of the shifts in the international debate. Accordingly, over the last twenty years, differentiated strategies and program approaches have been developed for appropriate interventions in the continuum from relief to development.

Depending on whether the motives for food security measures are short-term, longer-term or preventive, the measures are classified according to the following types:

- **Emergency food aid** is used in the event of natural disasters, wars, and civil wars to alleviate and counter unforeseen or exceptional food supply shortages or food deficits. The speed of delivery is crucial. GTZ has been involved last year in emergency operations in Kenya, Ethiopia, Mali and Madagascar.
- **Integrated Food Security Programs (IFSPs)** contribute to improving the situation of groups who do not enjoy food security for structural reasons. IFSPs consider aspects of food availability, access to food, sanitation and health, as well as nutritional

advice. The interventions are generally based on the results of base-line studies, planned and implemented in joint effort with the affected communities, and their impact is measured continuously. Important is that the programs are strictly self-help oriented and can be continued by the local people when the external support ends.

- **Food security policy advice** supports the formulation of national food and nutrition strategies to enable aspects of food and nutrition security to be incorporated in the national policies of Germany's partner countries, in particular those with chronic food deficits.

The GTZ is actively involved in many parts of the developing world, but has a strong focus on Africa. Integrated food security programs are actually supported in Malawi, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique and Ethiopia.

Considering the importance of national economic settings, laws, and other framework-conditions on food security, the German Federal Government attaches great importance on the assistance to the formulation and implementation of food security strategies at the national level. The GTZ, therefore, offers a project type called "Food Security Policy Support". A strong point in these projects is to create a network with all organizations, national as well as international, so that all their efforts contribute to food and nutrition security. One of these projects is actually implemented in Mozambique; another will start in Ethiopia soon.

The food security activities of the GTZ in Africa have produced encouraging results, showing impact on the nutritional and poverty situation of the target populations. On government request, the GTZ is ready to enter into long-term cooperation with countries in need to improve the food security in Africa and contribute to the goal of the World Food Summit of halving the number of hungry people by the year 2015.

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