Qualitative growth describes a development process, which is aimed at sustainable economic, ecological and social progress. Qualitative growth means increasing macroeconomic prosperity, which can be expressed through an increase in distributive justice, an improvement in equal opportunities and social security, peaceful coexistence, or the preservation of natural resources.
central topic in the design of KfW’s water projects. A large number of advisory and promotion services are provided in this regard. Amongst other things, the aim is to ensure sustainable operations.

- Corporate governance is another topic: transparency and accountability towards users and government supervisory bodies are both part of resource protection.

- The principle of cost-covering tariffs is an important tool for managing water demand, especially in water-impoverished countries. A price for water, which covers costs controls consumption and limits water wastage. The price of water is an important topic in all of the countries where KfW promotes investments. Political resistance to tariff increases in partner countries is often strong, and a tariff policy, which completely covers costs is rarely achievable.

- Appropriate technology and technology transfer can make an important contribution to reducing water and energy consumption and alleviating the environmental burden.

- All projects of KfW are examined at an early stage with regard to their climate protection significance and so that they can be adapted in line with climate change considerations (climate audit). Numerous water programmes and projects also have climate-related objectives.

- The development of structures for the financing of communal infrastructure is becoming increasingly important. Access to water supply and sanitation is improved by means of water funds which focus on poverty (e.g. in Kenya and Zambia) and the strengthening of development banks and promotion of private investment in this sector.

### Lack of data

The correlations between investment/reforms in the water sector and the desired qualitative growth are complex. Quantitative data, which could guide development policy is, however, scarce. This is currently the subject of international work.

### On the international agenda

Water and green growth are on the international agendas of the Global Water Forum and the United Nations Environment Programme, amongst others.

### Future challenges

The challenges placed upon the water sector and its contribution to qualitative growth have changed. In addition to the enduring requirement for improved access to an adequate water supply and sanitation, other topics have increased in significance, such as the following:

- Reduction of water consumption in food production and other industrial sectors
- Promotion and preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity
- Development of new sources of water through water recycling, the use of rainwater, seawater desalination etc.

### Summary

The water sector has numerous facets, which make a comprehensive contribution to the preservation of natural resources and qualitative growth seem realistic. This requires framework conditions for a sustainable, forward-looking water policy. KfW Development Bank is partly responsible for the modelling of this policy.

### Project Example: Water recycling in Jordan

The shortage of water is an ever-present problem in Jordan. Across the country, water is only provided a maximum of twice a week according to a published rationing scheme. The water supply is also inefficient – almost half of the water is lost as a result of leakages in the pipes – and requires a high amount of energy. A programme financed by KfW Development Bank is being launched in these areas to help save water and energy by improving the supply infrastructure.

Agriculture is responsible for most of the water consumption in Jordan. It already uses a good two thirds of the water, and yet the need for water still cannot be met. The water resource management programme finances the infrastructure required to transport more than ten million cubic metres of purified water per annum from the largest sewage plants in the north of Jordan to the Jordan Valley. The water can be used for agriculture there instead of the precious drinking water which was previously used for irrigation. Resources saved in this way can be used to improve the supply of perfectly hygienic drinking water to the population in Amman.

### Further information

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