

## Current Topics

### Water

#### Essential for development

Water is a vital component of life and thus a core resource for many areas of our lives, primarily for health and hygiene, but also for agriculture and food security, trade and industry. Some 2 billion people do not currently have safe access to clean drinking water – and around 3.6 billion people do not have access to safe sanitation. In light of the "human right to water" (United Nations, 2013), Agenda 2030 therefore included a goal to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The KfW water sector portfolio makes a broad-based contribution to achieving the goals of Agenda 2030.

#### Current situation

The demand for water will continue to increase in the coming years, while the available fresh water resources are limited. Global population growth combined with a rapidly increasing pace of urbanization and an overall higher standard of living in many countries are causing water consumption to increase further. There is an additional shortage of water availability due to climate change, especially in regions that are already suffering from water stress. Crises and conflicts are further exacerbating the situation, particularly because they often lead to migration.

According to forecasts, water demand will increase by up to 30% until 2050. Even though the Millennium Development Goals have given many people access to drinking water in recent years, 2 billion people still have not been reached. Where access exists, water quality often does not meet minimum hygiene standards and the continuity of supply is not always guaranteed.

The situation is even more critical when it comes to sanitation and waste-water disposal. Currently 3.6 billion people do not have reliable access. They have to use latrines at home or community toilets far away – often in

unspeakable structural and hygienic condition – or they defecate in the open. Diarrhea or cholera are the results; every day, 700 children under the age of five die due to diarrhea because of these conditions around the world.

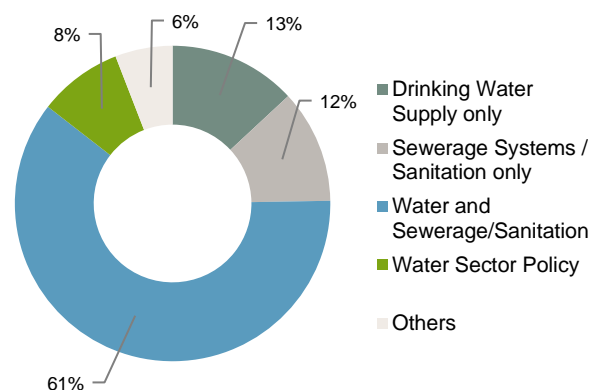
Water therefore remains a scarce commodity; without sanitation and waste-water disposal, the necessary hygiene is lacking. This puts the health of particularly the most vulnerable people at risk. Progress and development are rooted in opportunities for education and economic activity. And clean water and sanitation are indispensable prerequisites.

#### The KfW development approach

Through its activities KfW Development Bank contributes to meeting the human right to water and sanitation and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). With these efforts, KfW addresses global challenges such as urbanization, climate change, crises and migration. It attaches special importance to ensuring that good

#### Commitments in the water sector 2017 - 2021

Total: 5.01 bn.



quality drinking water and sanitary facilities are continuously available and affordable for an ever-growing number of people. Furthermore, partners are supported in the protection of water resources, e.g. by ensuring long-term reduction of water wastage or by ensuring water cycles through the reuse of treated wastewater. These projects also contribute to the development of sustainable institutions such as water

utilities or regulatory bodies. Technological solutions allow addressing issues of energy demand optimization, use of renewable energies wherever possible or to recourse to water resources which have not been tapped on so far, such as rainwater or seawater. Simultaneously partners are supported for reaching their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) for climate protection.

KfW committed around EUR 800 million to this sector in 2021, including grants, loans from the German federal budget and loans from KfW's own funds. With those funds KfW expects to ensure



Access to sanitation and wastewater disposal for **3.0 million people**,



Access to drinking water supply for **9.3 million people**,



protection of **247,000** people against floodings and



mitigation of emission of **50,624 tons** CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents per year.

Regionally, support in 2021 focused on the regions of the Middle East as well as Latin America which together accounted for over half of the share of KfW's commitments in the water sector.



Help for the Zambian population, symbolic image.

Photo: KfW image archive / Johnny Miller

### Zambia – Fund increase as Covid-19 response

The goal of the project is the improvement of the water, sanitary and hygiene services for the mainly poor and malnourished rural population in six provinces of Zambia. The access to clean drinking water and appropriate sanitation together with appropriate hygiene are key factors for the reduction of malnutrition, child mortality and contribute to the mitigation of water induced diseases. The project is implemented by the United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF.

The project started with a volume of EUR 8 million and was raised by additional EUR 19 million as response to the COVID-19 pandemic to primarily maintain and expand the water supply and sanitation meanwhile in the whole country. Thanks to the existing contract structures the funds rapidly create a visible impact. For example, the water utilities in the country are supplied with chemicals for drinking water purification in short-term and wells for schools and health centers are drilled. Furthermore, the Zambian health care system, which heavily suffers from the pandemic, is strengthened by the supply of medical and laboratory diagnostic goods. COVID-19-test-kits, safety equipment, oxygen concentrators and essential medication are provided as well.

In addition, this project contributes to the reduction of the burdens of supplying water of women and girls, basic education and gender equality.

More than 4 million people in rural areas as well as urban areas profit from the project.

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