

»»» 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 2.1 billion people do not currently have safe access to clean drinking water – and around 4.5 billion people do not have access to sustainable 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 urbanisation 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 could increase by 40% in the next 15 to 25 years. Even though the Millennium Development Goals have given many people access to drinking water in recent years, 2.1 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 4.5 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. Diarrhoea or cholera are the results; every day, 2,200 children under the age of five die because of these conditions around the world.

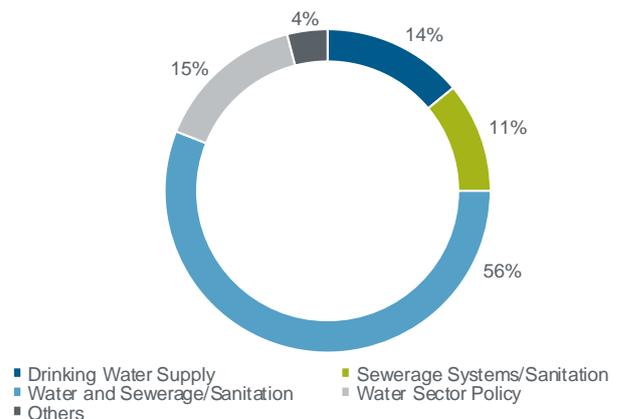
Water therefore remains a scarce commodity; without sanitation and waste water disposal, the necessary hygiene is lacking. This puts the health of particularly the most vulnerable people at risk. Progress and development are rooted in opportunities for education and economic activity. And clean water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

Commitments in the water sector 2014 – 2018

Total: EUR 4.15 billion



Source: own data

urbanisation, climate change, crises and migration. It attaches special importance to ensuring that good 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.

KfW committed over EUR 1.3 billion to this sector in 2018, including grants, loans from the German federal budget and loans from KfW's own funds. With some 490 ongoing projects in the water sector, KfW has a total financing volume of around EUR 8.7 billion and thus making a significant contribution to ensuring that Germany remains one of the largest donors in the water sector.

The regional focus of government funded FC is clearly on Subsahara Africa with 33% (approx. EUR 136 billion) of budget funds followed by North Africa/Middle East with 29% of budget funds. As far as KfW's own funds are involved, emphasis is on the North Africa/Middle East region and on Latin America. Close to 60 million people benefit from the 52 new projects, e.g. through increased supply and disposal capacities, improved water quality and more efficient systems. At the same time, the partners are supported in achieving their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) for climate change mitigation.

>>>

Contact

KfW Group
KfW Development Bank
Infrastructure and Natural Resources Competence Centre
Palmengartenstrasse 5-9
60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Telephone +49 69 7431 8809
Elke.Peetz@kfw.de



Help for the people around Gulu. Source: KfW photo archive, photographer: photothek.net

Uganda – guaranteeing water supply

For a long time, the region around the city of Gulu in north-western Uganda was the centre of the armed conflict between the Ugandan military and the Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel group. As a result of the armed conflicts, the infrastructure was destroyed and hardly any new investments were made. After the conflict ended, internally displaced refugees returned home, leading to rapid population growth, particularly in informal urban areas, which already had poor infrastructure. The present water shortage is exacerbating the supply situation additionally.

This is where KfW Development Bank can help to rapidly improve water supply. The informal settlements in particular will be supplied with safe drinking water at reasonable prices through the construction of a water dam, among other things. The aim is not just to make toilets available in public spaces, but also on premises in private households. In addition, hygiene will be improved by a functioning waste disposal system. The rainwater, which in the past led to floods during heavy rainfalls, will be collected, treated and used for the city's water supply. The urban infrastructure is being planned with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.