

Education

Ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

That is Goal number 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the international community has committed itself to. In order to improve the educational situation in emerging economies and developing countries, KfW has been supporting universal access for all to basic education for over 40 years on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and empowers young people through vocational and high skills education to a self-determined life.

Context

Despite intense efforts by the world community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of 2000 (basic education for all boys and girls by 2015) and the new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 – ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning, the World Report Education for All (UNESCO 2017/2018) shows that there were still 264 million primary and secondary school age children who did not attend school in 2015. The lowest enrolment rates are in conflict regions. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 32.6 million primary school children did not receive primary education in 2015 and this has improved only little or not at all over the last years.

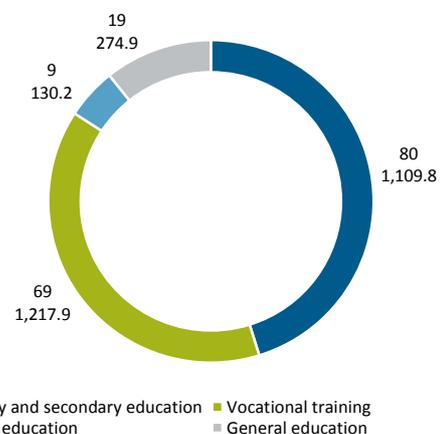
With the investments of the current projects, KfW reaches about 18 million children and adolescents. Because learning facilities and teaching materials are also used by future generations of students, the number of beneficiaries over the lifetime of the provided infrastructure is still multiplying.

However, education for all means not just basic educa-

tion. It is also important to offer early childhood programmes since the development during this age is necessary as the brain is still developing. As a result, they bring long-term benefits, especially for children from socially disadvantaged families. Secondary education is also relevant because it builds a bridge to vocational or higher education. The riots in North Africa showed the importance to integrate young people into the labour market, giving them a perspective for a self-determined life. Building on the achievements of primary and secondary education, vocational education has become increasingly important. Since 2010, therefore, the financial commitments of Germany have almost quadrupled.

KfW is currently addressing all subsectors of education in 177 ongoing projects worldwide, with a funding volume of EUR 2.7 billion in 46 countries and 5 supra-regional projects. The target group of the projects consists mainly of elementary and secondary school pupils, including pre-school children and young adults. More than half of them live below the poverty line. The most important goals of KfW in the education sector are to facilitate the access of the target groups to education and to increase the quality of teaching.

Current education projects sorted by sector
Number of projects, volumes in million EUR



Source: own data

The KfW development approach

In order to achieve the goal of "education for all", KfW Development Bank contributes to strengthening education systems in the partner countries. In the area of basic education, FC funds are used for the construction, rehabilitation and equipment of schools. Structural measures improve the learning environment for all children, but they are particularly meant to benefit disadvantaged groups (girls, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities) and facilitate their access to education. On the other hand, KfW – in consultation with other donors – promotes the reform of national education systems by participating in sector-wide programmes: these use a systemic approach to simultaneously (a) facilitate access to schools, (b) improve teaching quality and (c) make education management more efficient. In vocational training, KfW supports state institutes in the construction, renovation and equipping of training facilities. It also promotes measures to improve management and educate teachers. Cooperation with business plays a major role here.

Higher education and research projects should provide qualified graduates to the labour market and promote young researchers so that they can contribute to solving development problems in society and the economy. Financing is provided on both the supply and the demand side. In terms of supply, KfW promotes the development of educational infrastructure as well as the provision of teaching and learning materials. In addition, the project executing agencies are supported during the implementation phase, including the development of sustainable maintenance concepts. On the demand side, KfW finances scholarship programmes for talented but poor students or voucher systems to train employees of small enterprises in the informal sector. In addition, scholarships and student loans are awarded to students who otherwise could not afford to study due to

a lack of financial resources.

Mali – Mobile schools for nomadic children

The life of traditional nomadic peoples in Mali such as the Fulbe, the Tuareg, Moors and Bellah has been determined for centuries by the rhythm of the seasons. They move from place to place to provide their animals with sufficient water and pasture. Their children go with them and therefore cannot attend a traditional school. Among nomadic people, the rate of illiteracy is therefore high. In order to learn to read, write and calculate, in the regions of Mopti and Ségou in Mali "mobile schools" have been set up for some years.

Unlike usual, the "mobile schools" are not in a fixed location, but the teachers and the classrooms follow the families on their hike through the remote desert region. Therefore, mobile schools do not consist of solid clay bricks, but of a framework of pastures or strong branches, which are covered with straw, tarpaulins and skins on the sides and on the roof. The schools can be set up, dismantled and transported at any time. Thus they correspond exactly to the habits of the nomads. Especially girls benefit from these "mobile schools". Their enrolment rate has risen rapidly.

KfW Development Bank has been financing the mobile schools together with Welthungerhilfe and local NGOs since 2011.



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