

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION: SUPPORTING PARTNER COUNTRIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS AGREEMENT

The climate crisis poses enormous challenges for the international community. German development cooperation (DC) therefore supports its partner countries in implementing the Paris Agreement by promoting Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). In the NDCs, the contracting states specify the degree to which they plan to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to what extent they want to adapt to climate change. The NAPs incorporate the national adaptation policy into the development plans. Against this backdrop, in the course of the evaluation of interventions for climate change adaptation, DEval examined how effectively German DC supports NDCs and NAP processes. This Policy Brief presents the findings and recommendations of the evaluation.

Key findings:

- Adaptation interventions of German DC to support NDCs and NAP processes are largely effective.
- Today, most countries have at least one adaptation plan and the number of NDCs with adaptation components is also increasingly continuously.
- Up to now, however, only a few of these interventions have focused on the least developed countries (LDCs).
- So far, almost all of the support for NDCs and NAP processes is technical cooperation; financial cooperation instruments are hardly used.

The objectives of adaptation interventions to support NDCs and NAP processes (see Box 1) in the partner countries of German DC include the integration, implementation and funding of a national adaptation policy. Between 2015 and 2020, German DC

supported its partner countries through a total of 27 interventions amounting to a sum of EUR 260 million (16 bilateral interventions as well as six global projects, one sector programme and five regional projects) in the scope of technical cooperation and one policy-based financing intervention (with a volume of EUR 350 million). Regional focuses are in South America, North Africa and West Africa. Only four interventions are in direct cooperation with LDCs.

Discussion

With a view to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Federal German Government also sees a need for action for much more ambitious climate policies in the partner countries (BMZ, 2021). In light of this, German DC has also set new objectives. By 2025, the NDC partnerships should provide direct or indirect support to over 50 developing and emerging countries in implementing their NDCs. NAP processes are to be expanded and LDCs supported more comprehensively.

Considering the generally positive findings of the evaluation, it is reasonable to extend the existing engagement to support NDCs and NAP processes. However, it is also rather ambitious in view of the small number of interventions with direct NDC and NAP support up to now. This is particularly a result of the lack of suitable financial cooperation interventions, which are almost never used in NDC and NAP support, but which could potentially become increasingly important in the face of increasing needs in the implementation and funding of NDCs and NAP processes.

The findings of the evaluation also support the expansion of cooperation with LDCs. Many of these countries are already disproportionately affected by the negative effects of climate change today and can therefore benefit particularly from

integrating climate adaptation into their national policies. Up to now, however, the generally low engagement with this group of countries takes place primarily through information and knowledge management as part of global projects and sector programmes.

Recommendations

The evaluation gives rise to the following recommendations:

- In order to achieve the objectives of directly supporting NDCs and NAP processes and, ultimately, reach more countries, German DC should increase its funding of bilateral adaptation interventions in LDCs and integrate these countries into the knowledge and experience exchange of the NDC Partnership (NDCP) and the NAP Global Network (NAP GN).
- In order to achieve the objective of increasing ambitions in the partner countries and contribute to expanding the existing engagement, German DC should check the use of policy-based

financing to directly support NDCs and NAP processes and – taking the results into account – strengthen it.

NDC Partnership and NAP Global Network

- The **NAP GN** was founded in 2014 during the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties. The network promotes South-South exchange, short and long-term technical support at national level and the development of knowledge products relating to the NAP process. It also promotes donor coordination and helps to ensure that the country priorities defined in NAP processes are taken into account in development cooperation interventions.
- The **NDCP** was initiated by the German Federal Government in 2016. It aims to enable developing and emerging countries to bring together their national climate and development goals and coordinate their implementation with the support of bilateral and multilateral donor programmes.

Literature

BMZ (2011), *BMZ-Kernthemenstrategie: "Verantwortung für unseren Planeten – Klima und Energie"*, Strategy Paper, No. 6, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Bonn/Berlin.

Noltze, M. et al. (2023), *Evaluation of interventions for climate change adaptation. Agriculture, water and environmental protection, Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans*, German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval), Bonn.



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