



Bundeskriminalamt

## **Global Crime Hotspots - Impact on Germany**

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### **Understanding Security and Development as a Single Issue – Lessons Learned by GTZ from its Work in Crisis Regions**

Summarised Presentation

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The situation in crisis regions is moving higher up the agenda in the international activities of the German Government and its institutions and organisations. In GTZ's view, the BKA has selected a highly topical theme for this year's autumn conference, and I am grateful for this opportunity to add our perspective to the debate.

## **I. The link between development and security**

When we speak of crisis regions we generally mean regions where constellations conducive to violence have become firmly established, because the state itself is in crisis and unable to act. This weakening of the state monopoly on the use of force means that local conflicts can affect neighbouring states, which may also be fragile, and thus destabilise the region as a whole. Regional networks for the smuggling of weapons, drugs, diamonds and people are one characteristic feature of this phenomenon of inter-regional economies of violence. And here, a further key element of crisis regions comes into focus: the parallels between political and criminal violence. The perpetrators of this violence often not only enter into an unholy alliance, but also add to the complexity of the constellation of (violent) governmental and non-governmental actors. In other words the multiple causes of conflict in crisis regions make for highly complex scenarios whose problems cannot be successfully tackled through isolated approaches.

A further catalyst of such processes is globalisation, a dynamic and diverse phenomenon that is bringing the regions of the world closer together. The processes involved are far from purely economic – they are also political, cultural and technological. What is crucial to today's topic is the resulting pressure on Germany to compete and adjust in the face of growing mutual regional dependencies.

This change in the wider international setting entails a change in the demands placed on international cooperation in crisis regions, and on Germany's role in it. If the defined strategic objective of averting danger where it arises is to be achieved, then the elimination of the structural causes of poverty and violence in the crisis regions in question must be an important element of the German strategy. One thing is therefore clear: To achieve this strategic objective we will need to deploy a combination of civilian, police and military instruments.

## **II. Consequences in Germany**

Germany has responded to this change in the international setting and has assumed an active role in international crisis management (as in former Yugoslavia, the Congo and Afghanistan). A growing focus on the mutual compatibility of foreign, security and development policy has emerged and led to a paradigm shift within the policy fields: 'Cooperation, not competition' has become the watchword. Conceptual approaches were defined in the inter-ministerial 'Action Plan for Civilian Crisis Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Post-Conflict Peace-Building' (2004) and the 'White Paper on German Security Policy and the Future of the Bundeswehr'

(2006). In German development policy, great importance has been attached to the new understanding of this policy field as a component of preventive security policy. Concrete inter-ministerial cooperation has also been practised in crisis countries for a number of years, and has met with a positive response. At the same time, it is also evident that this interplay of forces can and must be further developed.

In recent years GTZ has expanded significantly its cooperation with the Bundeswehr and with police forces at national and federal state level. This includes not only cooperation in countries of assignment, such as Afghanistan, but also increased cooperation in Germany, for instance on joint training activities. My presence here today also reflects this growing cooperation.

### **III. The role and contributions of GTZ**

GTZ is a federally-owned international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations. It operates on behalf of the German Government as well as other public and private clients, both national and international. GTZ's sectoral and regional capability are a strategic element of Germany's commitment to countries and regions experiencing crisis and instability. This includes its regional expertise, gathered through many years of on-site work, its knowledge of informal power structures and relations, and its methodological expertise in evaluating the results of international activities. This expertise can help strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of Germany's international engagement.

The volume of GTZ's work at the interface between development and security has increased considerably in recent years – especially that carried out on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg) and the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI). As a result, it has developed a portfolio of themes that include support for security-sector reforms (SSR), transitional justice and construction/infrastructure services. In order to better meet the requirements of these new clients in the future, GTZ has developed its competencies and scaled up the capability of the relevant operative units (for instance by creating an Office for German Public Sector Clients). At the same time, GTZ is also preparing measures for its main client, BMZ, which include crisis prevention, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DD&R), and small arms and light weapons control. GTZ, as implementing organisation, can thus help put the overall policy of the German Government into practice.

The regional focuses of our activities in this context are Afghanistan and Pakistan in Central Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and the Horn of Africa, Colombia and Peru in Latin America, and Indonesia and the Philippines in South-East Asia.

### **IV. GTZ – an actor at the interface between development and security**

GTZ offers an array of options for delivering its core services in contexts of crisis, ranging from rapid support measures through to long-term reconstruction of the state, the economy and social institutions. GTZ possesses operational experience in the following areas:

- Economic, social and cultural development as the foundation and prerequisite for greater security: The structural causes of conflicts, such as social inequality and poverty can be reduced through projects for sustainable natural resource management (water, land), capacity building for public structures, local conflict transformation/reconciliation to promote peaceful solutions, or through direct work with security institutions.
- Prevention as a measure for greater security of life and limb: This includes disaster risk management measures, measures to tackle acute emergencies arising in reconstruction scenarios, and measures to preserve vital resources and services. All of these create scope for development activities.
- Regional integration for greater collective security: This involves the promotion of collective mechanisms at regional level to increase development opportunities. Examples of this are the support for the African Peace and Security Architecture of the African Union (AU) and for collective natural resource management (as provided to river commissions).
- Averting threats from crisis regions: Non-military instruments to avert dangers are playing an increasing role in protecting security interests – and here the traditional development focus on the local level and people is gaining ground.

## **V. Lessons learned by GTZ from its work in crisis regions, outlook**

It follows from the above that Security needs Development, and Development needs Security if work in crisis regions is to succeed. This fundamental lesson learned is confirmed time and time again in the work of GTZ. Crucial is our responsibility toward people – regardless of whether that is motivated by development, foreign or security policy. It is important to remember that human security can only be guaranteed if the international community cooperates with all the relevant actors on the ground. Stability and security, and therefore development, can only be sustainably achieved if local actors in crisis regions also want and work for this as partners.

Through the work of GTZ we have also recognised that the international community often reacts to crises that are a result of inequality and disadvantage rather than pursuing a preventive approach designed to tackle the structural causes. Given the complexity of these situations, it would seem prudent to adopt a realistic and modest approach such as this in order to maintain clarity as to the likelihood of success. This approach is a hallmark of GTZ's work and underpins the credibility of our organisation both in the eyes of policymakers and in the eyes of the public – in Germany and crisis regions alike.

In the future, GTZ will continue to develop its capacities at the interface between development and security, and enter into new cooperation arrangements cutting across the policy fields in order to deliver an effective contribution in crisis regions. The growing cooperation between BKA and GTZ is sending a positive signal!