



Günter Meier on an assignment at an inclusively working organisation in Honduras. He contributed to the implementation of 7 SDGs.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Internationally active for the sustainability goals of the United Nations

The world of the United Nations is teeming with abbreviations. One of these abbreviations has a special significance – for us too. We’re referring to SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals. These are also collectively known as Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, or simply Agenda 2030.

The SDGs are the successors to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and they came into effect on 1 January 2016 for a period of 15 years. By 2030 – this is what the world community aims to achieve – a total of 17 goals and their 169 targets are to be implemented.

These are related to a major international undertaking: to ensure sustainable development on economic, social and ecological levels – in every state in the world, not only in development countries but also in industrial and emerging ones. This is the major difference from the MDGs.

Germany is also using the SDGs as a guideline for its domestic and foreign policies. They form the matrix for Germany’s sustainability strategy and apply in

particular to the country’s collaborative development work. Therefore, these goals are also a top priority for us.

Of course, in terms of content, this has always been the case. Long before the SDGs were formulated and given catchy slogans, we were already active on their behalf with our assignments abroad, for example in reducing poverty (goal 1), providing education (goal 4) and clean energies (goal 7).

Today we classify our assignments in the global South directly in accordance with the SDGs, thus following the standard practice in collaborative development work. Read more about our contribution to implementing Agenda 2030 in this issue of SES today.

Dear readers,

if you go searching the internet for SDGs, you’ll soon end up on their Wikipedia entry, where you’ll find the SDG icons – 17 logos, one for each goal.

We use these logos at SES too. You’ll have seen them in our latest annual report, in our image brochure, and maybe because you follow us on Facebook, where we’ve just completed a whole SDG series with examples of our work.

You can see a number of these icons on the right of our main photo here. Seven of them, to be precise. This means that we – or rather, our expert Günter Meier – has contributed to the implementation of seven sustainability goals with just a single assignment. Not universally, of course – that would be impossible – but in terms of a specific project.

Specifically, Günter Meier’s assignment in Honduras was about income generation, sustainable, climate-friendly cultivation, and the corresponding training for the benefit of an inclusively working organisation that takes care of children with cerebral palsy and wants to keep growing for their sake.

One example among many. It shows what we are doing to achieve the SDGs: very practically and in specific cases, and thus with great precision and relevance.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Michael Blank
Executive Director, SES GmbH

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



BANGLADESH

When you're ill, you go to the doctor – for us, it's very straightforward. And it's generally not very far to the nearest practice or clinic. In the remote regions of Bangladesh it's an entirely different story. Very often, no medical treatment at all is available. Semi-skilled workers look after a rural population living under the most basic conditions. Their workplaces are mobile ambulances, such as those of the non-governmental organisation MATI, where our expert Jörg Wahl is working. For years the general practitioner has been training the MATI paramedics according to the guidelines of the World Health Organisation (WHO). This is helping the poorest of the poor.



Agenda 2030:

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

With all of our international assignments we are making a contribution to Agenda 2030. Many assignments help implementing multiple SDGs simultaneously.

For 2021 we calculated proportions for the contribution that our assignments abroad made to the individual sustainability goals.



End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Assignments abroad 2021: 26,9%



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Assignments abroad 2021: 10,4%



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Assignments abroad 2021: 8%



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Assignments abroad 2021: 1%



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Assignments abroad 2021: 28,9%



Reduce inequality within and among countries
Assignments abroad 2021: 16,4%



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Assignments abroad 2021: 0%



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Assignments abroad 2021: 3%



MOROCCO

The women in Ait Oumdis in the High Atlas have always been weavers, making Berber carpets, for example – for their own use. Then a road came to the region in the Moroccan mountains and a new era began. “The road will bring tourism, and tourism means customers!” So thought the women, and they were right. They have since formed a co-operative that runs a small carpet factory. Right now a storeroom is being converted into a shop, and there are plans to start an online business. Little by little the Berber women have built a new foundation for their lives. They have been helped by our expert Susanne Döbler.



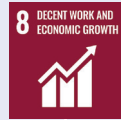
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Assignments abroad 2021: 26,4%



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Assignments abroad 2021: 38,8%



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Assignments abroad 2021: 3%



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Assignments abroad 2021: 35,8%



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Assignments abroad 2021: 9,5%



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Assignments abroad 2021: 14,4%



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Assignments abroad 2021: 5,5%



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Assignments abroad 2021: 14,9%



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
Assignments abroad 2021: 5,5%

Source for definitions of SDGs: sdgs.un.org/goals

We're always looking, everywhere Experts from all professions

For assignments abroad

- all sectors
- developing and emerging countries
- foreign language skills desired

For assignments in Germany

Schools programme

- coaching
- general and vocational training schools
- all over Germany

VerA initiative – keeping trainees from dropping out

- mentor programme
- trainees in all professions
- all over Germany

Registration:



As a partner of the African-German Youth Office (AGYO) we can also offer you joint assignments with young skilled workers from Africa and Germany.

Further information:

www.deutsch-afrikanisches-jugendwerk.de/en

dajw@ses-bonn.de

SDG series on Facebook

17 goals – 17 assignments: the selection was difficult, but we succeeded. In the period from 20 July to 8 November 2022, we published an SDG post every week and briefly explained the respective goal using an example assignment. Take a look for yourself:

www.facebook.com/SeniorExpertenService

We look forward to your likes and of course to new followers.



Publishing details

Publisher:

Senior Experten Service (SES)
Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft
für internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft
Postfach 2262 – 53012 Bonn

Responsible for text:

Dr Heike Nasdala
+49 (0) 228 26090-51
presse@ses-bonn.de

Design: www.pinger-edon.de

Photos: SES, if not stated otherwise

Editorial deadline: 1 December 2022

Further information: www.ses-bonn.de

New members of Team Germany

We welcome the new voluntary colleagues in our German representations: from 2023, Thomas von Rekowsky is your man in Berlin and Brandenburg. Already at work: Dr Thomas Kleineidam in Dresden, Marita Erhardt-Albrecht in Hamburg, Wolfgang Butenschön in Saarbrücken, Almut Lüpkes in Schwerin and Jürgen Steinhauser in Stuttgart.

Best wishes and many thanks to their predecessors for all the years of support: Ellen Fröhlich, Ingrid Ludwig and Ulrich Röhren in Berlin, Dr Wolfgang Petzold in Dresden, Michael Gehrke in Hamburg, Martin Zewe in Saarbrücken, Angela Preuß in Schwerin and Karlheinz Hauber in Stuttgart. And the same goes for Dr Udo Pohl, who leaves his voluntary position in our Mainz representation at the end of the year.



Supported by the

