



For a life of dignity

Strategy 2021+

Member of
actalliance

Brot
für die Welt

This strategy was developed in collaboration with Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, the sister organisation that provides humanitarian aid worldwide to people who find themselves in existential hardship following a disaster.

Cover: 17-year-old Huma lives with her mother Nargis in a New Delhi slum. The educational work of ANKUR, a partner organisation of Brot für die Welt, gives Huma self-confidence and strength for a life of dignity.

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Foreword

Making the world a better place



Dear reader,

Global development should leave no one behind. People experiencing poverty and exclusion must get their fair share of economic growth, political participation and natural resources. This is what we are working towards every day with our partners all over the world. It is a mission that is becoming ever more critical as the world risks slipping back from development successes already achieved. Humankind has stretched the Earth beyond its ecological limits. The destruction of livelihoods is causing immense hardship – especially to disadvantaged population groups. At the same time, dwindling resources are exacerbating conflicts over distribution. In addition, the consequences of the pandemic will continue unfolding for many years to come.

In terms of the urgently needed socio-ecological transformation, all countries are developing countries. We all need to continue moving forward – policymakers, businesses, private individuals, institutions, and societies as a whole. We pledge to do this with all our strength and determination in our Strategy 2021+. Together with our partners, we are working to bring about the changes necessary for a sustainable global community – in Germany, Europe, and worldwide. We want to make the world a better and safer place – so that a life of dignity is possible for all.

God's promise of a just and peaceful world without hunger, poverty, and violence is what drives us on this journey. We share this vision in particular with Christians all over the world. Especially in our network of churches and ecumenical organisations such as the ACT Alliance, we work to defend human rights, ensure compliance with internationally agreed climate objectives and implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. New forms of partnership – concerning the distribution of resources, knowledge and ideas – should help to drive change more effectively.

But however carefully elaborated our plans are, in the end it always comes down to goodwill, determination and credibility. And to being part of a strong community. Therefore, to all employees of Brot für die Welt and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, our partner organisations, and to all donors and supporters in churches, in politics and in society: thank you for your great commitment!

Yours sincerely,

Dr Dagmar Pruin

President of Brot für die Welt and
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe

Development work in challenging times

How can we make it possible for everyone to enjoy a good life, while at the same time preserving the Earth for future generations and protecting God's creation? This is the key question of our time, as the world stands on the brink of immense upheaval. The answers we find today as a global community will set the course for the lives of many future generations. Our Strategy 2021+ shows how we see the road to an alternative future and what we will do to help achieve it.

The situation we are currently living in can be viewed from two perspectives. The first perspective is that the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated a trend that had already begun with the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009. While there had been progress in the fight against extreme poverty, hunger, child mortality and social inequality up to that point, a steady decline set in afterwards, which is now picking up speed. Despite the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 having been signed into international law, greenhouse gas emissions are continuing to increase unchecked. We can no longer shut our eyes to the harm being caused to humankind and to nature. Moreover, the pandemic that swept across the world last year has even more mercilessly exposed the social, ecological and financial fault lines.

The second perspective is that people often excel during times of crisis. They find unconventional solutions to urgent problems and inspire others to get involved. Thus, the dramatic pressure of this pandemic is also driving long overdue processes of change – such as digitalisation – that will increase resilience to external shocks in the future.


A crisis of such historic proportions as the coronavirus pandemic reminds us only too clearly that we cannot let up in our efforts to bring about socio-ecological change. The countries of the Global North in particular have a special responsibility in this regard. Over decades, they have established an economic consumption-based model that is based on continuous growth, exploitation of resources and people, and shifting the social and environmental impacts onto others. The United Nations Agenda 2030 must now be the basis for all our actions. Its 17 goals for sustainable development are not just about improving people's living conditions: they are also

about dignity and humanity – the foundations for coexistence in our one world.

In Germany, Europe and around the world, we are working to bring about a change in mindset towards a fair and sustainable global community: through our work in development education, through our political action, and through our engagement with our partners and for their concerns.

We have to halve global greenhouse gas emissions within the next 100 months. In light of the challenges this target poses, we have developed our strategy with a time horizon that spans the whole decade. To achieve our goals, we have to be a trustworthy and reliable partner: globally and in Germany. We have therefore made it our mission to try out new types of collaboration with partners and in networks. We want to inspire more and more young people about the areas we are involved in and work with them to make socio-ecological change possible. We are bringing fresh ideas to the increasingly difficult financial environment and are continuously improving the way we work. We will regularly check if we are on the right track.

We firmly believe that the key to change lies in a strong civil society. We are encouraged by how many people share the belief and hope that change can succeed – and how many are getting actively involved. Around the world, people are taking a stand against racism. Women are defending their rights and their freedom to act. Also, growing numbers of people and organisations are campaigning for policies oriented towards the common good, for an economy of solidarity suited to a climate-friendly future – especially the younger generations. Day by day, this strengthens us on our chosen path, where our Strategy 2021+ will guide the way.

 [bfdw.de/strategy](https://www.bfdw.de/strategy)

At a glance

Strategie 2021+

Our strategic priorities and strategic focus



New poverty and hunger crises

- Fighting poverty
- Eradicating hunger
- Leaving no one behind



Climate change

- Fostering the achievement of global climate goals
- Limiting the impacts of climate change
- Promoting climate justice



Violence, fragility and resource conflicts

- Promoting peace efforts
- Mobilising civil society
- Remaining capable of action in fragile contexts



Empowerment and women's rights

- Strengthening women's social position
- Securing women's rights and integrity
- Supporting international women's networks



Digital change

- Enabling digital participation on a global scale
- Strengthening civil society in the digital world
- Enhancing digital empowerment



Fatuma Abdullhai (35) boils water for tea in her house in Tarama, Kenya.

For a world without poverty and hunger

New poverty and hunger crises



Strategic focus

- Fighting poverty
- Eradicating hunger
- Leaving no one behind

The situation

In many countries around the world, economic and social inequality is worsening. Although the number of people living in extreme poverty had fallen to around 10 per cent of the global population in recent decades, lately this success is eroding. Large sections of the population in the countries of our partner organisations still live below the absolute poverty line of 1.90 dollars a day – while at the same time extreme wealth is increasing.

The Covid-19 pandemic will drastically worsen the situation. The World Bank predicts that the current loss of jobs and income will completely dwarf the impact of the financial crisis. The United Nations is also warning of a new food crisis of historic proportions. It fears the number of people in extreme hunger worldwide will double. Declining production in agriculture and speculation in food prices are just two of the reasons for this.

Poverty and hunger are a particular problem in rural areas, where the livelihoods of many families, especially of small-scale farmers, are increasingly at risk from the

impacts of climate change. This loss is being exacerbated by the uncontrolled expansion of industrial farming and mining.

More and more people are being forced to migrate to the cities but often experience undignified living and working conditions there and plunge deeper into misery. This is because increasingly aggressive competition for resources and unequally distributed opportunities on free markets lead to more and more people being classed as ‘redundant’. This has an impact on migrants as well as all population groups affected by poverty and exclusion. They are increasingly being forgotten by policy-makers.

Our vision

Brot für die Welt strives for development that enables sustainable livelihoods for all and secures future prospects while respecting the limits of the natural environment. To “leave no one behind” is not just the Christian, ethical and political motive that drives everything we do. It is also a pledge that is enshrined in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

No one should have to go hungry or live in extreme poverty anymore. Everyone must be able to exercise their universal human rights to food, health, education and social security – irrespective of their origin, religion or gender. This is the prerequisite for a life of dignity and self-determination. National and international policy must create the right conditions for this. The rights and the equitable participation of the population groups that suffer most from poverty and are structurally discriminated against and stigmatised are our highest priority. These include, in particular, indigenous peoples, small-scale farmers, people in conflict or disaster zones, refugees, migrants and stateless persons. They must no longer be denied the necessary support or be deprived of basic civil rights.

Our way

We call for and support, together with our partners, innovative solutions for climate-friendly, environmentally and socially sustainable as well as regional agriculture and food. This also includes better access to social security systems and basic services, for example in health-care, and greater resilience to severe emergencies, such

William Patricio Chunga Rojas
small-scale farmer from Pueblo Nuevo de Colán/Peru



“When we began growing bananas, we knew how to sow and to harvest, but we didn’t know anything about how to work effectively together as a group, how to write a business plan, how to conduct negotiations. The team from the NGO Cedepas Norte taught us how to do these things. Now we organise our own cooperative.”

as natural disasters and their social and economic consequences. Because overcoming hunger and extreme poverty requires new approaches. We work closely together with Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in this area and are increasingly adopting approaches that link humanitarian aid and sustainable development cooperation (nexus).

We campaign more intensively on a political level for the development and expansion of social systems – especially for those affected by poverty in rural areas and on the margins of large cities.

We work systematically with partner organisations that are committed to opposing precarious employment, especially of women and children.

We support growing numbers of national and international advocates, networks and ecumenical initiatives in their work to end statelessness.

We step up our political campaigns to protect and promote the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons.

bfdw.de/poverty



In Zimbabwe, the dry spells are getting longer and longer. Kuda Gudyanga (46) and his wife NoMatter (39) from Nyanyadzi risk major crop and livestock losses.

For climate justice and a sustainable transition

Climate change



Strategic focus

Fostering the achievement of global climate goals

Limiting the impacts of climate change

Promoting climate justice

The situation

Global warming poses an existential threat to humans and nature. If we do not succeed in limiting the increase in temperature to 1.5° Celsius compared with pre-industrial levels, we risk an unstoppable spiral of climate change with dramatic effects. The rise in sea levels and persistent natural disasters such as droughts will render many regions of the Earth uninhabitable.

We are already feeling the effects of the climate crisis today. It is accelerating the loss of biodiversity and endangering the Earth's natural equilibrium. Fertile land is being lost. This causes new poverty and hunger, fuels conflict over land and water, and forces whole communities to leave their homes. The climate crisis is a crisis of justice that calls into question the fundamental values of social coexistence and human rights. Those who will bear the brunt of this development are the people in the Global South – in other words, those who are already hard hit by the effects of climate change.

Our vision

By 2030, global greenhouse gases must be halved and by 2050 they must be almost completely eliminated. To wean ourselves off the use of fossil fuels, we all need a change in mindset – society, the economy, politics and every individual. The Global North, in particular, has a duty to take action.

Climate change demands that we shape our lifestyles and economies in a way that is in harmony with the needs of the whole world. The climate-friendly restructuring of the economy and society must be based on the principles of shared responsibility, mutual solidarity, and justice. In future, all states must contribute their fair share. Churches and partner organisations are also planning their route to climate neutrality.

We have to permanently protect our natural ecosystems, switch to sustainable energy sources, and facilitate the transition to a sustainable economy. Clear regulatory frameworks at national and international level must support the countries of the Global South so that they are also given the chance of meeting 100 per cent of their energy needs from renewable sources. Towns and cities must be designed so that current and future generations can live sustainably. In rural regions, climate-friendly and adapted forms of agriculture are needed.

At the same time, the countries and communities affected must be strengthened so that they are better able to mitigate the impacts and risks of climate change. This requires sufficient international funds – including compensation for the loss and damage already suffered.

The world needs a climate policy that is founded on human rights. This must be based on climate justice, ambitious climate targets, a global energy transition and appropriate international funding for climate action. Because everyone should be able to live in a sustainable and just society and with dignity.

Our way

We develop concepts, together with local actors, that allow them to adapt the way they live and work to climate

Abdul Rahim (45)
former fisherman from Padma/Bangladesh



"I lost my boat and my nets in Cyclone Sidr. I didn't know how I would feed my family, so I went to the capital, Dhaka, where I worked on construction sites as a day labourer. When the team from the NGO CCDB came to our village I returned home. I tried out a wide variety of farming methods that have been adapted for our region and produce good harvests despite climate change. Now I have a future here."

change. We do this in close consultation with Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and in cooperation with researchers and scientists.

We step up the expansion of renewable energies in collaboration with the local population and are looking for solutions that are appropriate for their region. Our partner organisations, the scientific community and churches work hand in hand.

We assess, together with our partners, the climate relevance of projects. These joint efforts are building substantial resilience to climate change.

We encourage churches and church-based networks in particular in the Global South and in Germany to act in a climate-sensitive manner and to meet the challenge of climate change politically and from a moral and theological perspective.

We initiate educational processes in Germany for the socio-ecological transformation of society. Across the world, we are working with our partners to raise awareness among policymakers and societies about the global consequences of climate change.

 bfdw.de/climate



Landless farmers demonstrate for a fairer distribution of land in Madhobati Village, Bangladesh.

For a life of peace and dignity

Violence, fragility and resource conflicts



Strategic focus

Promoting peace efforts

Mobilising civil society

Remaining capable of action in fragile contexts

The situation

Around the world, conflicts are intensifying and revealing new dimensions of violence. The number of violent conflicts is also rising sharply. The number of people affected by conflict has doubled in the last ten years. Alongside climate change, these conflicts are key reasons why hunger, poverty and inequality are not just entrenched in many places, but are even increasing. The most vulnerable groups of society in particular are practically defenceless against systematic violations of their human rights.

Conflicts in failed or failing states are also increasing, and create the conditions for further violence. Often, the rules of war and international law are deliberately and systematically violated in such conflicts. Those caught up in the violence frequently have no choice other than to flee. Many seek sanctuary in neighbouring countries, which can increase social tensions there. The link between hunger, climate change and the resulting struggle for scarce natural resources leads to ever more protracted and intractable conflict situations. This also creates

new challenges for the interaction between long-term development cooperation and acute humanitarian aid.

One consequence of the global competition for resources is that in resource-rich areas, the local population is often forcibly deprived of the right to use their ancestral land, forest, water or marine areas. And where there is a shortage of natural resources, those that do exist are fiercely fought over. The hunger of new industries for resources – such as in some parts of the digital economy – is adding to the problem.

Our vision

The potential of churches and of interfaith cooperation to shape peace processes must become an even more important focus of peace work. Particularly in countries affected by crisis and fragile states where governments are unable to protect their population, it is non-governmental actors and especially churches that secure basic needs, offer people agency and open up new perspectives. A sustainable commitment to peace also requires sustainable prevention of violence: Causes of conflict are tackled using non-violent means and solutions are developed. In a world where resources are becoming increasingly scarce, the peaceful and fair balancing of interests is hugely important. Women in particular have a special role to play as peace actors.

Victims of violence, displaced persons and refugees must receive protection and support and must be integrated into their host societies. This will give them a voice and allow them to exercise their rights. This requires Germany and the EU to be further strengthened as peace actors.

Our way

We support actors – such as churches and church-based partners – that campaign for peaceful cooperation, including interfaith cooperation, and constructive visions of the future.

Akiieh Cham (23)
from Gog Depach/Ethiopia



“My parents fled with us from South Sudan when I was eight. We lived in a refugee camp for seven years before coming here. At first, the children in the village were very mean to me. They teased me and called me names. Things began to change when refugees and villagers started attending courses together run by the Mekane Yesus church. Now I feel accepted by everyone.”

We empower people who are affected by violence and conflict over resources – legally, economically and psychosocially. We also promote the integration of refugees into their host countries, even if their stay is only temporary.

We support activists who are persecuted because they campaign for peace, human rights or environmental protection.

We work with Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe to establish stronger links between development work, peace work and humanitarian aid.

We are more politically involved in the further development of the international system of human rights and the international prosecution of crimes. The focus here is on a fair distribution of resources, among other aspects.

We are committed to an international “raw material shift” – especially in Germany and the European Union. The focus here is on reducing the consumption of raw materials to a globally fair and ecologically sustainable level.

 bfdw.de/humanrights



Women small-scale farmers at the meeting of the cooperative in Kottur, India.

For the empowerment of all women

Empowerment and women's rights



Strategic focus

- Strengthening women's social position
- Securing women's rights and integrity
- Supporting international women's networks

The situation

Women are structurally disadvantaged and discriminated against in all areas of life. In many places, they have no access to education, careers or social participation and are unable to exercise their rights for themselves. Around the world, women are suffering in greater numbers and more systematically from sexualised and gender-based violence – particularly in conflict regions. Women and girls who have suffered abuse are often excluded from their communities, driven into poverty and left with no home, no rights and no protection.

Regardless of the political achievements for women – such as at the level of the United Nations – the power relations between the sexes are anything but balanced. Together with other social inequalities, they shape social institutions, family, state and even partners.

For a number of years, conservative and fundamentalist factions in churches, societies and states have been trying to push back on the women's rights that have been achieved so far. Their aim is to end the participation of

women in the economy, politics and society – in short: their right to self-determination and gender equality.

Our vision

Everyone should be able to lead a dignified and self-determined life – irrespective of their gender. Women need greater freedom for this. They will then be able to actively shape the development of their societies and countries – for their own benefit and for the benefit of democracy and the freedom of all.

Gender-based and structural violence and repression have no place in enlightened societies. Therefore, it is important to recognise the structural patterns of inequality faced by women in comparison to men and to dismantle the repressive structures. We contrast anti-feminism, as expressed in radical right-wing, anti-democratic and intolerant ideas, with the self-determination and social and political participation of women and women's organisations – these must become the norm.

The empowerment of (young) women is a particular focus for us. They should be able to demand their rights confidently and grow into leadership roles within their societies. Global cooperation between organisations and defenders of women's rights is essential for this.

Violence against women and girls as well as sexualised and gender-based violence must be visibly condemned and fought against. Women and girls affected by violence – especially in conflict zones – receive protection and safe spaces for the necessary and comprehensive healing and rehabilitation.

Hien Khuong Thi (50)

small-scale farmer from Bai Kinh/Vietnam



“Since the women's union in our village started a project for small animal breeding, my life has changed completely. Normally the men decide everything. They also earn the money. Through our meetings I have become much more confident. I have learnt so much! I now breed chickens and have set up a business supplying food. It's going really well.”

Our way

We support women and women's rights organisations in standing up for their own rights and forming networks.

We promote equal access to education for girls and young women. They are encouraged and empowered to contribute and to take on leadership responsibilities.

We are especially committed to the protection of women, girls and children fleeing violent conflicts and wars. Together with churches and church-based networks, we are providing increased support for medical and mental health services for victims of sexualised and gender-based violence.

We promote culturally sensitive critical examination of male-dominated structures of power. A key element of this involves working with men on their role and gender perceptions.

We support the development of the churches' theological positions on equality, gender justice and violence against women. We support churches and church-based partners in their role as change agents.

[bfdw.de/genderequality](https://www.bfdw.de/genderequality)



Margarita Baca (19) with her smartphone in Zona Reina, Guatemala.

For fair global digitalisation

Digital change



Strategic focus

Enabling digital participation on a global scale

Strengthening civil society in the digital world

Enhancing digital empowerment

The situation

Only a small number of people in the Global South have been able to benefit from the digital transformation so far, due to lack of literacy, inadequate technical skills or lack of online access. At the same time, many services in areas such as healthcare and education are only available digitally. The same is true of access to many markets. The necessary infrastructure and skills in dealing with digital media are therefore essential prerequisites for a self-determined life – as well as for political involvement. Global movements have begun in the digital space – such as those for climate protection and for women's rights. Today, sustainable development and an active global civil society are barely conceivable without digitalisation.

At the same time, we must also be vigilant when it comes to the downside of digitalisation. Left unchecked, the digital transformation will further accelerate the consumption of resources and energy and thus the damage to the environment and climate. In addition, digital technologies increasingly allow authoritarian govern-

ments to monitor and repress their citizens. We are already seeing civil society's freedom of action being further constrained in many countries through surveillance and through severe restriction of digital rights. Independent media are also coming under pressure, and targeted disinformation is eroding trust.

Digitalisation can also have negative effects on the labour markets in developing and emerging countries. Studies predict that digitally driven automation could destroy up to two thirds of all current jobs. Without state intervention, the number of precarious jobs on the informal labour markets is likely to rise further. As a result, existing inequalities within countries and between industrial and developing nations will continue to increase.

Our vision

Everyone should be able to make full use of the opportunities of digitalisation to participate in society and in politics. This requires a functioning infrastructure and acquisition of the necessary skills. Digitalisation must be fair, sustainable and climate-neutral and must respect human rights. Digitalisation offers opportunities for realising the 2020 sustainable development agenda and a globally connected civil society. These opportunities must be seized.

We also have to counter the negative side effects of digitalisation. Wherever rights to freedom, digital rights and participation are at risk, we raise our voice and thus help to mitigate the growing social and economic inequality.

At international level, the acceleration of digitalisation must be accompanied by government regulatory frameworks, including in the labour market. We are pushing for internationally binding regulations to ensure that everyone has control over their own data. Regarding these data, there must not be an excessive concentration of power in the hands of few players.

Dewi (35)
farmer from Buntu Datu/Indonesia



"I meet other farmers from the village at the rice and chilli-growing workshops. We do agricultural experiments together. For example, we are finding out what type of fertiliser produces the highest yields. I especially like the fact that the project has scientific backing. We can use our smartphones to send our questions to the people from the university at any time and share information with them."

Our way

We develop with our partner organisations project approaches for development cooperation and for the role of civil society in the digitalised world. These should provide ethical guidance and promote digital participation.

We push increasingly for local digital solutions. At the same time, we support digital networking at international level as well as the sharing of knowledge or successful projects between partners.

We facilitate – together with our partners – fair digital participation that ensures the protection of digital rights and human rights in the digital space, so that vibrant civil societies can develop freely and safely.

We specifically foster the development of digital skills and digital leadership in civil society. We provide competent, long-term and reliable support for people to become actively involved in society and politics in the digital space.

We also strengthen our own internal digital know-how.

 bfdw.de/digitalisation

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