

The Inequality Challenge

Innovative Solutions to a Global Issue

What is it about?

Despite significant progress in poverty reduction in the past decades, inequality has constantly risen. Even where inequality has been reduced, it remains on a considerably high level. This global trend threatens sustainable development in all its dimensions and the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Consequently, there is a crucial need for targeted measures in order to reduce inequality globally (SDG 10) and in a sustainable manner. The 2030 Agenda's principle 'leave no one behind' (LNOB) thereby puts the spotlight on those who have not yet been able to benefit from past progress.

In this regard, new challenges arise: How can international cooperation contribute to reducing inequalities and at the same time targeting the overarching principle of 'leave no one behind'? Which policies and strategies promise the highest leverage?

The Inequality Challenge in a nutshell

Against this backdrop, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has initiated the Inequality Challenge – a fund that supports innovative approaches, methods and tools that focus on inequality and on the poorest and most marginalised people. The fund supports projects with up to 100,000 EUR in partner countries of German Development Cooperation.

Ultimately, the objective of the Inequality Challenge is to integrate and upscale innovative approaches for the reduction of inequality and the LNOB principle into German Development Cooperation's portfolio, as well as strengthening the mainstreaming of these subjects.

The projects of the Inequality Challenge

The Inequality Challenge supports ten projects from all around the globe. The projects started in July 2018 and will run until September 2019.

LNOB Benchmarking (Mexico)

Implemented by GIZ, 2030 Agenda Initiative



The project aims at provoking a benchmark competition for the best LNOB-performance between local governments by developing and disseminating a digital platform, which allows the user to rate the LNOB performance of municipalities.

Fair Share (Brazil)

Implemented by Oxfam Brazil



The project will develop a tax calculator, which provides basic information on citizens' current tax burden and simulates fairer scenarios in connection with progressive tax reforms. By this means, the project seeks to sensitise the public for such tax reforms, thereby shifting the discussion from 'less taxation' to 'fair taxation'.

Gender Sensitive Theatre (Serbia)

Implemented by the Serbian Association for Reproductive Health and Rights (SRH)



The objective of the project is to change discriminating gender related attitudes and behaviour among youth in an open, participative way by using theatre-based education. All female roles are played by men; all male roles by women.

Locations of the Inequality Challenge's projects:

- 1 Mexico, 2 Brazil, 3 Serbia, 4 Jordan, 5 Nigeria,
- 6 Mauritania, 7 Mongolia, 8 Cambodia, 9 Bangladesh,
- 10 Bangladesh & India





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Closing the Gap (Jordan)

Implemented by GIZ, Improving Access to Remittances and other Financial Services



The project will form a network and train women to become mobile money agents and thereby giving more women the chance to gain access to finance and empower them to develop their own businesses.

Narrative Geographies (Nigeria)

Implemented by Collaborative Media Advocacy Platform (CMAP)



The project aims at mapping the slums of Port Harcourt and use specific places for radio dramas in order to give the marginalised waterfront communities a voice in urban development. It will also create a community space for discussions with local authorities.

From Trash to Cash (Mauritania)

Implemented by GIZ, Financial Decentralisation Programme



By combining crowdsourcing and local economic development approaches, the project wants to improve the quality of local waste management and boost employment creation in poor communities of Mauritania.

Better Access to Vocational Schools (Mongolia)

Implemented by GIZ, Cooperative Vocational Training in the Mineral Resource Sector



The projects aims at improving accessibility of vocational schools for people with disabilities. To reach this goal, it will develop a digital platform for schools to conduct a self-assessment and initiate a renovation competition ('Buildathon') among students.

Disability Data App (Cambodia)

Implemented by GIZ, Social Health Protection Programme



The project will raise awareness about service utilisation and unmet needs of people with disabilities. It will develop an app together with Disabled People's Organisations to improve data collection and close the information gap, so these organisations can better represent the needs of people with disabilities.

Accessible Health Loans (Bangladesh)

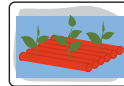
Implemented by BRAC University



The project aims at expanding the existing Medical Treatment Loan Programme of BRAC. It will assess the current programme and test several new features to make it more inclusive and accessible for very poor and marginalised communities.

Water Farming for more Resilience (India/Bangladesh)

Implemented by South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE)



The project's objective is to increase food security and sustainable livelihood for marginal indigenous communities inhabiting the floodplains of India and Bangladesh. The project will train farmers in hydroponic farming, crop cycle planning and fish farming.

More Information

Please visit www.inequality-challenge.com for further information on the fund and the projects.

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