



# Water is life

Human beings and nature cannot survive without clean water. It is indispensable as a nutrient and as a basis for functioning ecosystems.

Safe handling of drinking water from source to use, is crucial for a healthy life and so are toilets and proper hygiene practices.

Nevertheless, almost 800 million people lack access to safe drinking water supply. 2.5 billion live without or with inadequate sanitary facilities. Every year worldwide, 1.9 million people die of diseases caused by contaminated drinking water and lack of hygiene.

Since 2010, access to drinking water and toilets has been a human right. To assure this right worldwide, large investments need to be made in basic infrastructure. But operating these systems is a major challenge for Austria's partner countries in the global South and East as well.

## Austria's engagement

With its extensive experience and know-how, Austrian Development Cooperation supports its partner countries in building up structures and institutions for a sustainable water sector. The programmes are planned for the long term and coordinated with other development partners.

### Uganda

Austrian Development Cooperation has been engaged in the Ugandan water sector since 1996. An initial pilot project has advanced to become a nationwide programme for joint investment in basic water supply and sanitation. Today, Austria helps in building institutions for investment planning, for sound operation and maintenance, for sustainable water resource planning and conservation and awareness-raising. Special attention is given to water supply and sanitation and improved hygiene in small towns.

Austria has an acknowledged international reputation in the sector, which is why Austrian Development Cooperation also conducts projects on behalf of the European Union (EU) in Uganda, Albania and Moldova.



## Sustainable programmes

Sustainable water supply means more than just installing wells and pumps, tanks and pipes. For long-term functionality of new facilities

- awareness-raising of consumers,
- competent planning and execution,
- viable tariffs and willingness to pay,
- professional operators with trained personnel,
- strong institutions and a clear set of regulations

are fundamental.

This is why Austrian Development Cooperation takes operation and maintenance into account during planning and conducts specific programmes to strengthen water service providers.

### Albania

With international support, Albania is modernising its infrastructure. In collaboration with the EU, Austria aims at improving management in municipal water companies and central water authorities and upgrading the required technical and managerial know-how.



## Water and more

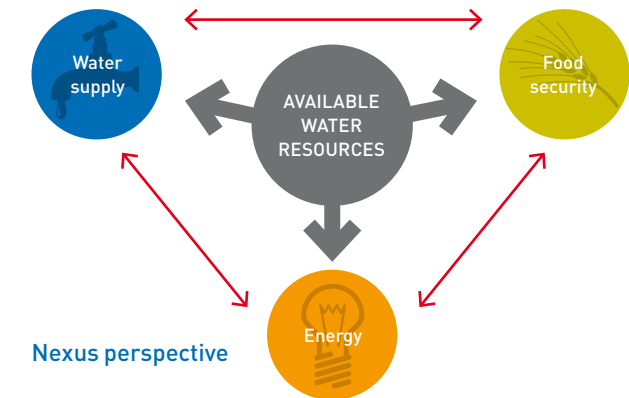


Water is also essential for the economy. Agriculture and power supply above all depend on water. This has far-reaching implications for this valuable resource.

To feed the steadily growing world population, agricultural production will have to increase by an estimated 70 per cent before 2050. By 2030, the world will need 40 per cent more energy and a freshwater deficit of 40 per cent is forecast. Due to all these developments, demand for land will also grow and thus become a critical issue.



In its programmes and projects, Austrian Development Cooperation therefore takes into account the nexus between water, energy and food security: The prudent use of natural resources in the interests of society as a whole is crucial to ensure sustainable development and bring about stability and security.



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## Water services need investments

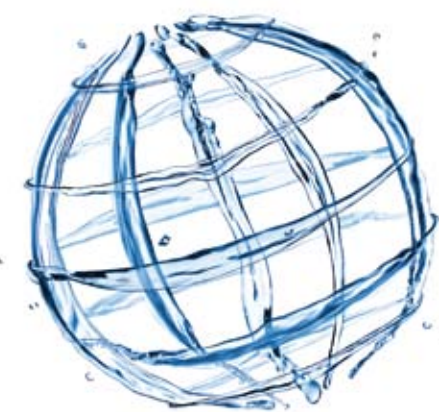
Securing water supply and sanitation facilities are costly. In Austria alone, an average of about EUR 1 billion is spent on this every year – roughly the equivalent of the joint assistance of the European Commission and the EU member states for the water sector in Sub-Saharan Africa.

There is a large need for investment in countries of the global South and East. Development assistance cannot meet this on its own, but it can mobilise additional capital investments through the targeted allocation of funds.

### African Water Facility

Soft loans are available for investment projects in the water and sanitation sector. They are granted for well planned projects with meaningful business plans. This poses a large challenge for many countries.

The African Water Facility, to which Austria also contributes, helps to plan projects that are eligible for loans. With success: Every euro that went into such project applications mobilised EUR 20 in investments.



## International cooperation

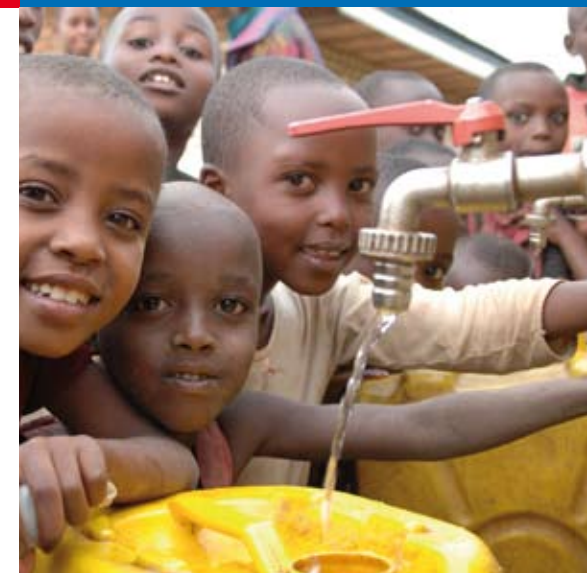
Austria is part of an extensive global network in the water and sanitation sector and contributes to the international policy dialogue.

Bundling the activities of different agencies enhances the impact of the funds allocated. Austrian Development Cooperation is therefore engaged in consultative procedures in the European Union and in policy discussions in partner countries. Austria also plays an active role in international initiatives. Exchange on good practices fosters sector development.

### Global Water Partnership

Ensuring sufficient water supply despite climate change calls for farsighted planning. With its Water, Climate and Development Programme the Global Water Partnership since 2011 has been supporting African countries in framing strategies for sustainable resource use.

The Global Water Partnership was one of the first organisations worldwide to deal with integrated water resource management. Several international donors, including Austria, finance this international network.



## Water and development

Austrian  
Development Cooperation