



Utility Platform for strengthening partnerships between municipal utilities worldwide

25 Utility Partnerships to improve municipal services worldwide

The Utility Platform for strengthening partnerships between municipal utilities worldwide comprises 25 utility partnerships in the water and solid waste sector in Zambia, Tanzania, South Africa, Jordan, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Albania, and Germany

- 11 partnerships in the water sector
- 11 solidarity utility partnerships in Ukraine
- 3 partnerships in the solid waste sector

The Utility Platform for strengthening partnerships between municipal utilities worldwide is being implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Utility Platform is being developed and implemented in cooperation with the German Association of Municipal Enterprises (VKU), German Water Partnership (GWP) and Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW).

Context

In many countries, municipal utilities providing public goods and services such as water and waste disposal are in poor economic shape. As a result, their service provision is frequently unreliable or does not reach the entire population. Due to the Russian full-scale invasion, utilities in Ukraine are finding it particularly difficult to maintain operations, restore destroyed technology and bring new plants up to European Union standards. In the face of climate change, growing cities and digitalisation, utility companies in Germany and its partner countries are facing similar challenges in order to continue providing their services.

The Agenda 2030 (in particular SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation and SDG 17 Global partnerships for sustainable development) and the United Nations' New Urban Agenda emphasize the development of functional infrastructure and efficient services of public interest at municipal level for the development of sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient cities and settlements.

Objectives

The overarching goal of the Utility Platform is to create the conditions for the sustainable anchoring of operator partnerships as an instrument of German development cooperation. The Utility Platform is supporting partnerships of German operators with operators in partner countries. Currently, the platform comprises 25 utility partnerships between Germany and 7 countries: Zambia, Tanzania, South Africa, Jordan, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Albania. The platform is active in several sectors of municipal service provision: water supply, wastewater disposal and waste management.

Approach

The platform promotes close exchange on e. g. corporate management and on operating, reconstructing and maintaining plants. Technical advice, mutual visits, job shadowings, virtual meetings and the procurement of technology, particularly for Ukraine, form the core of the cooperation between the utilities.

Reliable feedback from the partners shows, that this long-term peer-to-peer support effectively contributes to improving management and increasing the quality and efficiency of operation and maintenance measures in the partner companies:

- **Gelsenwasser (Gelsenkirchen, Germany) – LgWSC (Lukanga, Zambia):** Relaunch of a **wastewater treatment plant** in Kapiri Moshi, which had been shut down for 10 years (for approx. **6,000 people**) and rehabilitation of the **pumping station** at Mushimbili Dam in Kapiri Town **servicing 65,000 people**.
- **Hamburg Wasser (Hamburg, Germany) – Miyahuna (Amman, Jordan):** While working on the optimization of drinking water production, the dosing points for chemicals, and filtration were improved. Among other technical impacts, this also resulted in **monthly average cost savings of more around 38,600 EUR**.
- **Stadtentwässerung Dresden (Dresden, Germany) – Lvivvodokanal (Ukraine):** Two weeks after the start of the full-scale war, a **relief convoy with urgently needed generators and chemicals** for water purification was organized for Lviv. Without this equipment, maintaining operations would not have been possible.
- **Oldenburgisch-Ostfriesischer Wasserverband (Brake, Germany) – Chernihivvodokanal, Miskvodokanal (Ukraine):** Procurement of essential goods, such as a **robot vehicle** for sewer inspection **to localize war-related damage in the pipe network**, including a training on how to interpret the images. As a result, the operator in Sumy can now carry out repairs more reliably and accurately.

Approach in Ukraine

When the full-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine started in February 2022, the platform established solidarity utility partnerships. The focus of these 11 partnerships with Ukrainian utilities are procurements of necessary technical equipment and an accompanying peer-to-peer exchange for the maintenance and sustainable organization of service provision and the rehabilitation of critical infrastructure.

Furthermore, the project has also established a logistics hub that dispatches donations and procurements from German utility companies to their Ukrainian counterparts.

- **Logistics Hub for Ukraine:** The logistics hub is still active. So far **7227 goods** with a total value of **well over 7.4 million EUR** have been donated and procured by 59 donors for 66 different Ukrainian recipients.

Project website: www.utility-platform.de/en

Implemented by



On behalf of



In cooperation with



and



with its



Published by:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered Offices
Bonn und Eschborn, Germany

Potsdamer Platz 10
10785 Berlin, Deutschland
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Berlin, October 2024

Editor:

Lisa Engler, Potsdamer Platz 10, 10785 Berlin

Photo credits:

© KREATIV