



Utility Platform

For strengthening partnerships of municipal utilities worldwide

The Utility Platform supports 31 Utility Partnerships to improve municipal services worldwide

The Utility Platform is facilitating a collegiate peer-to-peer exchange at eye level

31 Utility Partnerships:

- utility partnerships in the **water sector**: 13
- solidarity utility partnerships in **Ukraine**: 14
- utility partnerships in the **solid waste sector**: 4

Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Jordan, Moldova, South Africa, Tanzania, Ukraine and Zambia

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 emphasise 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 utility 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 31 utility partnerships between Germany and eight countries. 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 shadowing, 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 optimisation 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 around 38,600 EUR**.

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 14 partnerships with Ukrainian utilities are procurements of necessary technical equipment and an accompanying peer-to-peer exchange for the maintenance and sustainable organisation 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.

- **Stadtentwässerung Dresden (Dresden, Germany) – Lvivodokanal (Ukraine):** Two weeks after the start of the full-scale war, a **relief convoy** with **urgently needed generators and chemicals** for water purification was organised for Lviv. Without this equipment, maintaining operations would not have been possible.
- **Oldenburgisch-Ostfriesischer Wasserverband (Brake, Germany) – Chernihvodokanal, Miskvodokanal (Ukraine):** Procurement of essential goods, such as a **robot vehicle** for sewer inspection **to localise 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.
- **Logistics Hub for Ukraine:** The logistics hub is still active. So far **7050 goods** with a total value of **over 7.5 million EUR** have been donated and procured by 57 donors for 76 different Ukrainian recipients.

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