



Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association

Key elements of our work



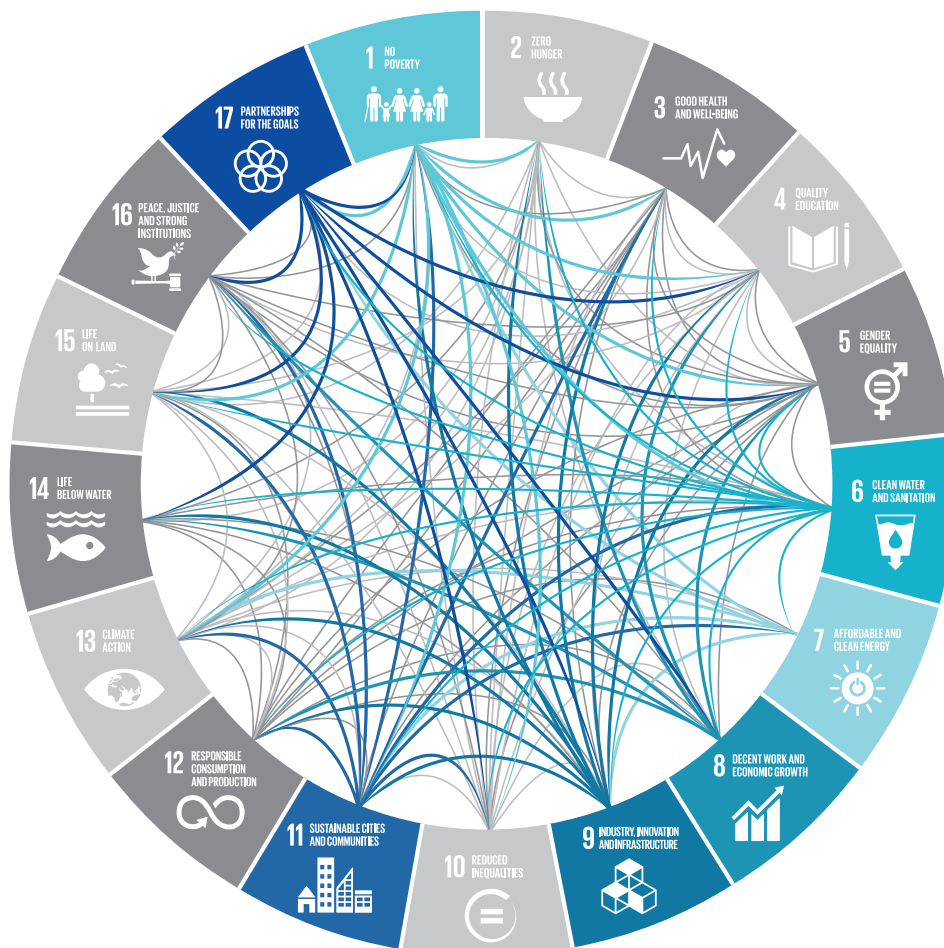
PREAMBLE

Today more than 50 % of the world's population lives in urban areas. Due to the rapid pace of urbanization, it is expected that the global urban population will almost double by the year 2050. Peri-urban and marginalized areas in particular will expand quickly. 80 % of global economic output is created in urban areas whilst benefits of it are distributed unevenly. How can poverty be alleviated? How can each human realize her or his full potential - regardless of the place of birth? How can inclusive social and economic development be achieved, and the impact of climate change be minimized? How can the planet be preserved as a liveable space for all living beings? Such global challenges must be resolved primarily in cities and their greater metropolitan areas.

BORDA e.V. (Bremen Overseas Research & Development Association) was founded in 1977 as a civil society expert organization by urban planners, engineers, private sector professionals, social scientists, and cultural activists.

BORDA e.V. emerged from the spirit of the first World Settlement Summit of the United Nations (HABITAT I), organized in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976. Since then, BORDA has contributed to the implementation of global initiatives, such as the "Agenda 21", the "Agenda for Development and Environment Policy" adopted in Rio de Janeiro, in 1992. Current guiding resolutions are the 2015 New York "Transformation of the World: the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development", the "Paris Agenda" on climate change from December 2015 as well as the "New Urban Agenda 2016" which was agreed upon by the international community in Quito in 2016 during the HABITAT III conference.

Today, BORDA e.V. is active outside Germany in over 20 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Its activities focus on achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



VISION

- ▶ All people are able to make their community a comfortable place to live in. They can develop their full potential in liveable cities and settlements, and actively shape their environment - regardless of income, gender, origin, place of residence, culture, or religion.
- ▶ Municipalities and local authorities are able to provide their citizens with basic needs services in liveable spaces. Using holistic and sustainable urban and regional planning approaches, they are able to ensure efficient, reliable, and affordable water, sanitation¹ and energy services.
- ▶ BORDA is an internationally recognized civil society expert organization which rightly aspires to opinion and innovation leadership. Thanks to its professionalism it is a valued partner of political, public, civil society, scientific and private institutions.

KEY ELEMENTS OF OUR WORK / MISSION

“What the world needs“

Livable and inclusive settlements require the active participation of society; integrated spatial and / or city planning; infrastructure development; strong local decision-making processes; and partnerships based on cooperation between different social and sectoral status groups.

Disadvantaged communities have the right to have access to water, energy, and sanitation services. Their environment should meet adequate hygienic standards. Due to extremely rapid urbanization, it is necessary to integrate water management and community hygiene into strategies of polycentric and decentralized urban development.

Sustainable development of local structures can only be successful if all stakeholders such as municipalities, public institutions, neighborhood groups, civil society, utilities, and service providers work together in the preparation and life-cycle management of these structures. To create decisive impact, innovative approaches are needed to address specific situations on the ground, to serve as best practice models for urban transformation in the respective contexts.

“What we do“

Competence portfolio Our professional profile and portfolio combine expertise in planning, technology, social sciences, finance, and communication to form a holistic approach.

Technical focus Our work focuses on promoting effective decentralized municipal services related to urban waters. This includes sanitation, from a municipal perspective, incorporating key elements into integrated city planning. For the safe management and operation of these structures we support the development of operator competencies.

Holistic approach We collaborate with an extensive network of partners worldwide and offer support as required in innovation and implementation processes through urban development, technological development, community and economic development, business advice, organizational and policy advice, and capacity development.

¹ Sanitation includes the safe management of faeces, sewage and solid waste and the reuse of their products with value added in the form of water, nutrients, raw materials, and energy.

“What the world needs“

The professional and political decision-making processes, for implementing Agenda 2030 take place at local, regional, national, and international levels. To be successful, appropriate supporting legal and regulatory frameworks must be developed.

To make the development process more efficient, it is essential to use knowledge and experience acquired globally and to selectively impart it to the relevant stakeholders.

Time and human and financial resources are limited to reach the goals of the Agenda 2030. Within these parameters, transparent, effective, efficient, participatory, and creative actions are essential. High quality standards are benchmarks in international cooperation.

Whilst the spread of internationally structured organizations, over a wide range of countries, with diverse framework conditions, brings many opportunities, they face some challenges too. The division of work between central units and implementation units in the respective partner countries enables a high degree of innovation competence; the generation of synergetic effects; an efficient use of funds; and the generation of extra funding. On the other hand, activities must necessarily be coordinated thoroughly for maximal impact within common objectives.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it is essential that civil society, and private and public financiers work closely together.

“What we do“

Network partnerships We are a member of global, regional, and national networks. Together with partners from business, science, and civil society, we contribute to the formulation of effective policy recommendations, legal regulations, as well as product and process standards.

Knowledge exchange Our organizational structure enables us to mobilize existing experience, research knowledge and expertise from municipalities, application-oriented science, and expert associations worldwide. We make this knowledge accessible to local actors.

Standard of quality Our processes, organizational culture and cooperation promote a high degree of creativity, transparency, and participation. In our daily work, we have high standards in terms of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. We follow country and content-specific quality management systems whereby we continually review the outcomes and impacts of project activities.

Decentralized organization Our regional organizations work independently under a common organizational strategy. They ensure our success in implementing our activities. They keep our word to our donors and sponsors that we can perform and deliver. They react promptly and flexibly to both the need for action and opportunities on the ground. Our units in headquarters carry out tasks such as strategic cooperation; knowledge and science management; and administrative services. They are responsible for the coordination of cross-regional activities; the adaptation of the range of BORDA activities; and representation of BORDA at a global level. They take the lead in making strategic decisions in coordination with the regional organizations, specify processes, and give direction.

Funding Sources As an honest broker, not committed to any particular interest group, we finance our work in partnership with local, national, and international public and private actors. These partnerships are built on the principals of trust, transparency, expert competence, and professional administration.

“What the world needs“

The combination of various proven forms of work and approaches enables smart organizations to motivate staff, to address the general public, and to achieve the best possible results.

The application of private-sector methods also makes it possible to accelerate the achievement of higher-level, non-profit-oriented goals and to increase their impact.

To achieve and maintain the highest possible capacity for implementation, a broad and relevant base of passionate supporters is needed at all levels of society.

“What we do“

Work methods Our professional work carried out in Germany, and in the regional offices, is combined with the spirit of voluntary commitment. We offer young people the opportunity to gain firsthand experience in development cooperation and to support our association. Approaches from the private sector are examined to see if they can help in achieving the organization's goals, and are then applied to our work.

Communication Our professional expertise in communication allows us to make the results of our programs accessible to the public in the respective countries and to tailor this information to target groups worldwide.