

ROSA-LUXEMBURG-STIFTUNG

Franz-Mehring-Platz 1, 10243 Berlin, Germany

AFRICA DEPARTMENT

HEAD: DR. ARNDT HOPFMANN

Telephone: +49 30-44310-444, hopfmann@rosalux.de

PROJECT MANAGER SOUTHERN AFRICA

BRITTA BECKER

Telephone: +49 30-44310-403, becker@rosalux.de

PROJECT MANAGER WEST AFRICA

CAROLA DIALLO

Telephone: +49 30-44310-445, diallo@rosalux.de

PROJECT MANAGER EAST AFRICA

ANDREAS BOHNE

Telephone: +49 30-44310-461, bohne@rosalux.de

More information on the work of the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung in Africa may be found at: www.rosalux.de/

SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

HEAD: DR. ARMIN OSMANOVIC

237 Jan Smuts Avenue, Parktown North, Johannesburg 2193

Postal address: P.O. Box 3156, Parklands 2121,

Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa

Telephone/Fax: +27 11 4475222/-224

info@rosalux.co.za, www.rosalux.co.za

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

HEAD: DR. CLAUS-DIETER KÖNIG

Dakar-Mermoz, Lot 43, Sotrac Mermoz

Postal address: B.P. 25013, Poste de Fann, Dakar, Senegal

Telephone/Fax: +221 33 8697519/-8241995;

info@rosalux.sn, www.rosalux.sn

EAST AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

HEAD: SIEGFRIED SCHRÖDER

Dar es Salaam, Mikocheni B, 47 Ndovu Road

Postal address: P.O. Box 105527, Mikocheni B,

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Telephone/Fax: +255 777 903894/+255 22 2774597

eastafrika@rosalux.de, www.rosalux.co.tz

IN WEST AFRICA

the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung works with partner organizations in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana, Guinea, Niger, and Nigeria. As of 2010 the regional office for coordinating these activities is located in Dakar.

Although the population structure in this region is young with relatively high growth rates, young adults are often not involved in the political process on a basis of equality. The reasons for this – apart from the deep-rooted traditional veneration for age – lie in poor schooling and widespread functional illiteracy. Health care generally leaves a lot to be desired, while access to clean water and electricity is inadequate. In most societies women do not enjoy equal rights, often having less access to educational opportunities and political participation.

The often extremely poor situation of large sections of the population as regards basic public services, such as food security, access to drinking water, health, education and electricity, is particularly acute in rural areas. The promotion of rural development is thus of paramount significance for the partner projects the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung supports in the region. Therefore the Foundation cooperates with youth and women organizations and supports farmer associations and trade unions advocating for the interests of their members. In addition Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung fights together with its partners against slavery and the exploitation of mineral resources but for food security; access to information and education; alternative economic and social policies as well as protecting or improving the management of natural resources. Together with community radios the Foundation makes a particular effort to raise the level of information by means of special broadcasts and events as a prerequisite for an effective participation in the democratic decision-making process.

IN EAST AFRICA

the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung began its activities in the second half of 2009. It opened a regional office in Dar es Salaam in 2012 and cooperates with partner organizations in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

East Africa has many problems – disadvantaged women and youth, rural areas that are classic cases of socio-economic underdevelopment, exclusion of large sections of the population from access to public goods – which also afflict Western and Southern Africa. There are two overlapping and interacting challenges that are in the forefront of the activities of the Foundation's partners in the region. The first is the participation of civil society in the process of negotiating an Economic Partnership Agreement between the East Africa Community and the European Union. The activities aim at creating transparency, ensuring participation, assessing the consequences and proposing alternatives that protect the interests of the weaker sections of the population and strengthen the position of civil society. The second is to tackle the question of human development in rural areas as a combination of securing access to basic public services and sustainable resource-management; land rights and the effects of climate change are important points of reference here.

This is keeping in line with the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung's aim of securing access to the basic benefits of a self-determined life in the sense of sustainable self-development for each and every individual. Particular support is given to initiatives which improve the actors' ability to shape their destiny independently in a way that goes beyond the mastering of one special problem. For the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung and its partners it is important to promote the capability for political interventions.

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung has been represented with a regional office in Johannesburg since 2003. It is currently cooperating with more than 20 non-governmental organizations, scholarly institutes and (union-affiliated) educational institutions in the Republic of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Mauritius, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia.

Since 1994, the year of the first democratic elections, the Republic of South Africa has developed into a democratic, politically stable market-economy. Nevertheless the past still continues to cast its long shadow over the present, particularly as regards coming to terms with the human rights violations of the Apartheid era. Furthermore, this process is accompanied by neo-liberal economic concepts involving the commercialization and privatization of public goods, thus making access to the latter a function of cash income. Far too many people who were systematically disadvantaged by colonialism and Apartheid are still waiting for an improvement in their social and economic circumstances.

Although the neighbouring states in which the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung works together with civil-society partners are relatively stable politically. They are still marred by high levels of social inequality. In Southern Africa the Foundation focusses on supporting transformation processes in the interests of a socio-economic development based on justice and solidarity. Cooperation with labour-affiliated research and educational institutions is of particular importance for the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung in the region.



THE ROSA LUXEMBURG STIFTUNG IN

AFRICA

WWW.ROSALUX.DE

ROSA LUXEMBURG STIFTUNG



ENCOURAGING DEMOCRATIC CO-DETERMINATION FROM BELOW AND ENFORCING HUMAN RIGHTS

Africa south of the Sahara is a subcontinent with very different societies and systems of governance. In many countries democratic participation rights are enshrined in the constitution. However the gap between constitutional provisions on paper and constitutional reality is often still very wide. The necessary knowledge of democratic participation rights is not yet universal. Large sections of the population lack the basic necessities for actively exercising their political rights – such as literacy or official documents and identification papers. In addition, discrimination on the basis of sex, age or ethnic identity is widespread. Liberal democratic models repeatedly fail because they are not able to achieve co-determination and participation in everyday life. Thus they will have to be conceived on a more comprehensive scale if real democratization and self-determination are to be attained.

In many countries civil-society organizations have been formed in order to overcome these difficulties. The Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung works with such organizations in the field of civic education in an effort to incorporate the concerns and interests of marginalized groups in political decision-making and convey to them a better understanding of how they can actively participate on all levels of governance.



PROVIDING AND DEFENDING ACCESS TO PUBLIC GOODS

As in Europe, but also in other states of the northern hemisphere, public services are being privatized or commercialized in Africa too. The consequences for the poorer sections of the population are generally devastating as the introduction or increase of user charges, fees or levies seriously impedes their access to education, electricity, drinking water, courts and information much more difficult. They are frequently even excluded from the use of those goods and services which are indispensable for a self-determined life under decent conditions.

In Africa, the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung cooperates with networks, organizations, community radios and newspapers, journalists or even individual activists who are fighting against the exclusion of the poor from access to basic public services. The Foundation and its partners in Africa operate in worldwide networks – such as the Social Forum Movement – in order to strive at global level for assured access to public goods and hence secure the chances for a decent life for everyone.

IDENTITY, PAST AND FUTURE - STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

History – or rather its interpretation – is the subject of intellectual and sometimes even physical disputes, not just in Africa. In Africa, however, it is not uncommon for the interpretation of historical events to serve as a justification for actions which in turn can lead to violent conflicts. Ethnicity, tradition and identity are deliberately constructed from history in order to shape the future to serve one's own interests. Thus historical understanding and historical awareness not only affect the present, but also have consequences extending far into the future – by laying, for example, the foundations for peaceful co-existence or by serving as a justification for future conflicts. Above all, in states which only recently experienced profound changes in their systems of government and/or constitutional framework, the reassessment of the past and the dissemination of an amended view of history – both in schools and in public life – are of vital significance to identity formation.

In Southern Africa in particular the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung supports initiatives and organizations that are struggling to come to terms with the most recent history. The results of this work are reflected both in school curricula and (adult) civic education. In addition, the Foundation is engaged in the documentation of human rights violations and promotes the publication of relevant information.



MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION

«FREEDOM IS ALWAYS THE FREEDOM OF THE ONE WHO THINKS DIFFERENTLY
FREEDOM IS ALWAYS THE FREEDOM OF DISSENTERS» ROSA LUXEMBURG

The Centre for International Dialogue and Cooperation (ZID), together with its partners around the globe, conceptualises and implements the international work of the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung.

WE VISUALIZE FOR THE FUTURE

a democratic socialist society in which the free development of every individual is the foundation for the free development of all. This society is characterised by emancipation, equal rights and multiple forms of democratic participation as a valued practice; a meaningful and good life is permanently possible. Therefore, our vision aims at overcoming racist, sexist, colonial and imperial relationships of power and exploitation and is aimed at enabling everybody to access those assets of freedom essential to a self-determined life.

IN COLLABORATION WITH OUR PARTNERS

we strive for a socio-ecological restructuring of society which builds on concrete enhancements made here and now. We operate in the spirit of internationalism, based on the experiences and scientific knowledge of the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung and its partners worldwide. Exchanges, in solidarity and open for critique, on common challenges and divergent interests are the basis for dialogue and co-operation on an equal footing.

WE ENABLE AND FACILITATE

emancipatory changes towards a transformation of our civilizational values. Democratic participation, education, health and social security are fundamental common goods; decent work is part of a fulfilled life; freedom is more than the absence of war. We advocate a sustainable relationship between human beings and nature.

WE EXPLORE AND TEST

socially and ecologically sustainable alternatives to capitalist society models. Drawing on various experiences and practices of left actors, we critically scrutinise and analyse social processes in their complexity. Along with our partners we utilise our findings to foster a non-violent transformation of society.

WE NETWORK AND OPEN SPACES

together with emancipatory, democratic organisations, institutions and individuals to achieve global changes through local and regional action. As part of internationalist networks we open spaces for dialogue and co-operation to stimulate interaction based on mutual trust. We understand exchange on left politics and strategies – open for a dialogue based on critique in solidarity – as a chance to learn from each other and to jointly shape a prosperous future.