

## **What is development?**

### **Who needs to develop, and how?**

The term “development aid” first appeared after the end of the Second World War. Wealthy states set themselves the goal of supporting the “development” of poorer countries and thereby put an end to worldwide poverty.

Today the term “development aid” has been replaced with “development cooperation”. The idea behind this is that wealthy countries should not set requirements for “developing countries” but rather work together with them.

The term “development” is controversial as it is based on the one-sided assumption that poor countries ought to develop, while wealthier countries are already developed. Considering that high-income countries endanger the planet with their wasteful ways of life, the question of who should learn from whom emerges.

In 2015 the UN member states adopted the “Sustainable Development Goals”. These goals are guided by the idea that all countries of the world need to make a contribution in order to improve the living conditions of the world population in a durable and sustainable way. For sustainable development is development “that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland report, 1992).