

Notice Development aid

External transactions

In the field of development aid, the German government and other donors make sizeable payments to domestic and foreign recipients. Both the KfW banking group and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) are involved to a large extent in the allocation of contracts and financing of services provided by German companies in developing countries (eg construction and engineering).

The Bundesbank is obligated to record all external transactions fully and accurately in the balance of payments. In addition, the development aid provided by Germany is to be properly shown at the international level and in comparison with other countries and donors. The Bundesbank therefore requires precise information on the accomplishment provided and transactions conducted.

Like all other domestic entities, firms active in development aid are obliged to report their cross-border services and transactions to the balance of payments statistics (pursuant to section 67 et seq of the Foreign Trade and Payments Regulation). Accordingly, firms are also obliged to report incoming payments for engineering and other work performed for non-residents irrespective of whether the payments are received directly from non-residents or from the German government, the KfW, the GIZ or other domestic agencies.

In general, the amount, the type of payment and the recipient country for which the payment is being made are to be reported. Annex Z4 to the Foreign Trade and Payments Regulation is to be used for this purpose. Individual figures relating to individual organisations are kept confidential; only aggregated data are published in the balance of payments.

Information on the foreign trade and payments reporting system

Hotline: 0800 1234 111 (freephone – only available if call is made from a German landline)
Internet: www.bundesbank.de under Service/Reporting systems/External sector statistics
Newsletter (in German): www.bundesbank.de under Service/Newsletter (category: Meldewesen Aussenwirtschaft)
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