

An Initiative of the Federal Ministry of  
Education and Research

# GRoW

WATER AS A GLOBAL RESOURCE



## Breakout Session 1

# GRoW transfer-region Africa

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# Breakout Session 1 – GRoW transfer-region Africa

## Key challenges, opportunities, recommendations

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### **Expectations of research & development:**

- Where are we in the development continuum?
- Overlapping interests of German donors
- How to measure project impact?

### **Political framework conditions:**

- Political contexts (corruption, discontinuity, concrete partnerships)
- „African Water Vision“ (AMCOW) – key framework vision that research can relate to (outline contributions)

### **Technical framework conditions:**

- Internet connectivity (bandwidth and speed)
- Look for existing innovations (e.g. from satellite to smartphone payment)
- Often technical tools are not transferable and/or don't consider future resources
- Technology (often) good but challenge to get into government processes

### **Social framework conditions:**

- Trust and understanding of research results
- Lack of understanding of African contexts (on our side)

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## Key challenges

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- Trust and understanding of research results
- Overlapping interests of German donors
- How to measure project impact?
- Political contexts (corruption, discontinuity, concrete partnerships)
- Lack of understanding whom we are actually addressing
- Identifying the „right“ stakeholders (those of relevance, „door openers“)
- Internet connectivity (bandwidth and speed)
- Often technical tools are not transferable and/or don't consider future resources
- Technology (often) good but challenge to get into government processes
- Lack of understanding of African contexts (on our side)

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### Key opportunities

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- „African Water Vision“ (AMCOW) – key framework vision that research can relate to (outline contributions)
- Many different local ways of solving problems and use which can be supported
- Look for existing innovations (e.g. from satellite to smartphone payment)

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### Recommendations

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- Involve key stakeholders early on (in project design), identify actual needs of stakeholders
- Build ownership
- Partner with African (research) colleagues (identify entry points, AU)
- Develop local capacities
- Incentivise/encourage local problem-solving
- Institutionalize networking beyond individual research projects
- Cross-ministerial collaboration in funding-countries
- Include project phase dedicated to applying research results (restructuring research programs)
- Develop tools that are transferable and usable in local context