Public awareness
ZEF communicates its research work and outcome to an audience beyond academic peer groups by means of workshops, events and lecture series as well as newsletters and reports. In addition, ZEF keeps you up to date via its Website and its social media channels Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Youtube.

Policy dialogue and advice
ZEF provides advice to policy-makers, business, institutions and non-governmental organizations on issues of development policy.

Finances
The main funding partners of ZEF’s research and its doctoral program are: The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the European Commission (EC), the Robert Bosch foundation, the Volkswagen foundation, the German Research Foundation (DFG), and foundation fiat panis.
ZEF has a strong focus on human, academic, and institutional capacity building. Following up on its long-term research activities, the Center has been establishing capacity development partnerships with academic institutions and networks in its research regions over the years.

With its international Doctoral Program (BIGS-DR), ZEF aims to educate a new generation of academics as well as decision makers for international development policy. Its international and interdisciplinary set-up in addition to its size make this program unique in Germany and Europe.

Doctoral students at ZEF complete their theses within 3.5 years on average. Around 140 doctoral students participate in the program, with an intake of 20-30 new students per year. More than 600 students from around 90 countries have taken part in the program since its inception in 1999. In the meantime, ZEF has set up a world-wide alumni network of former graduates.