



SDC

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE FUTURE



**The Swiss Agency for Development and
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FACTS AND FIGURES



Remo Gautschi (left) and Walter Fust

Partnership-based development cooperation is an investment in the future

In our quadrilingual country, cooperation based on partnership has always been vital. And just as Switzerland practices this form of cooperation in its own country, so it would like to do at the international level. Each year, our country invests some CHF 220 per head of population in development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Much of this investment benefits projects coordinated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). However, it is not so much about making financial resources available as transferring knowledge. Development aid has been replaced by cooperation with equal partners because we are convinced that sustainable development can be successful only when founded on partnership and mutual respect. That is why we work with partners who take personal responsibility. We also support the development of partner organisations which act on their own initiative in shaping the future of their countries. The SDC is a reliable partner, whose concern is to ensure continuity.

Walter Fust,
Director-General
Remo Gautschi,
Deputy Director-General

One world – we are all in the same boat

Poverty, destruction of the environment and migration are just a few of the most pressing global problems of our time. A quarter of the world's population is living on less than one euro a day. One in nine people suffers from chronic malnutrition. And, one in every four inhabitants of our planet drinks polluted water. Even a rich industrialised country like Switzerland is affected by such harsh disparities because where there are large poverty gaps and no prospects, there is a greater risk of conflicts, and in a globalised world conflicts no longer remain within national borders.

Where people can look to the future with confidence, conflicts are rarer. That is why we must work with these people, so that they can live in peace, freedom and security. It is in our interests, too, that future generations have sufficient resources for their development.

**Future generations,
too, must have
adequate resources.**

**Switzerland is part
of a global system.**





Solidarity and our own interests

Switzerland is part of a global system. This is why our commitment is needed more than ever – out of solidarity, but also in our own interests. Switzerland has the resources and, as a member of the UN, can live up to its responsibility in a variety of ways. Poverty and need have many causes. These include structural weaknesses, as well as natural disasters and wars. International cooperation with partners in countries of the South and East creates the preconditions essential to sustainable, forward-looking development.

Emergency humanitarian aid, on the other hand, alleviates the severest need. Nevertheless, it should also lay the foundations on which people hit by disaster can rebuild their future.

Development cooperation is not a panacea. It cannot replace efforts by the partners themselves. Sometimes, projects fail. Sometimes, aid is ineffective. However, there is no alternative, because the many positive results give hope. And hope gives people a future.



Where there are large poverty gaps, there is a greater risk of conflicts.

Examples of projects

Rural credit services in Bangladesh

Supporting savings and credit services for women from ethnic minorities

Type: bilateral
Partner: NGO

Total budget:
CHF 3 million for four years (only SDC)

Results: 44 000 families in northwest Bangladesh are using the microfinance systems

Disaster relief in Goma (Congo)

Emergency and rebuilding aid after the volcanic eruption

Type: humanitarian aid (emergency aid, rebuilding, coordination, prevention)

Partners: ICRC, WFP, UN-OCHA and UNDAC (United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination)

SDC contribution:
CHF 1.4 million (2002–2003)
Results: basic supplies of drinking water and food, medical aid, accommodation, strengthening local structures

Federal centre for international cooperation

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its role is that of a specialised body, which implements international development cooperation programmes in coordination with other federal departments. Its objective is to improve the living conditions of the most disadvantaged groups. To do this, it has an annual budget of around CHF 1.3 billion. Its activities are based on the Federal law of 19 March 1976 on development cooperation and international humanitarian aid and the Federal decree of 24 March 1995 on cooperation with the states of Eastern Europe.

In total, around 500 people in Switzerland and abroad work for the SDC, as well as more than 600 local employees in SDC project countries. Of the 700 active members of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit, around 100 specialists are on mission at any one time.

The SDC consists of four operational departments: "Bilateral Development Cooperation", "Cooperation with Eastern Europe and CIS", "Multilateral Cooperation" and "Humanitarian Aid". In addition, there are the departments "Thematic Resources" and "Corporate Services".

Fighting poverty and conflict management

In terms of resources employed, development cooperation with the countries of the South is the most significant. Around 40 percent of the budget is used for this purpose. Fighting poverty takes priority. That is why, above all, the SDC encourages economic independence, by helping to improve production conditions and create jobs. It helps overcome environmental problems and promotes better access to education and basic health care facilities.

In the countries of South-East Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the SDC supports its partners

Improving the living conditions of the most disadvantaged.





along the road to democracy and a market economy. The top priorities are conflict management and strengthening society and its institutions. In particular, major concerns are promoting small and medium-sized enterprises, improving infrastructure and supporting reconstruction measures in war-torn regions.

Roughly one-third of the SDC budget is spent on multilateral cooperation within the framework of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Fifteen UN organisations, the World Bank and the regional development banks are amongst the multilateral cooperation partners.

The SDC's humanitarian aid division uses almost a quarter of the funds. It moves in to help in the event of natural disasters, armed conflicts and social crises abroad. It saves lives and alleviates suffering, provides people in need with emergency aid and helps them to rebuild. At its disposal in this task are qualified specialists in hu-

manitarian missions working with the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA). Disaster relief is in the media spotlight but a large proportion of the funds are spent on work behind the scenes, namely long-term rebuilding projects.

The SDC supports its partners along the road to democracy and a market economy.

Examples of projects

Ombudsman in Peru

Promoting and protecting human rights in the rural population, monitoring the lawful behaviour of the public authorities, protecting the population against arbitrary action by the state, authorities and public services

Type: bilateral
Partner: Ombudsman
Total budget: USD 6.5 million annually
SDC contribution: USD 1.9 million (1998–2005), USD 0.7 million (1998–2002)
Results: around 50 000 interventions annually

“Cash-for-Shelter Programme” in Serbia

Financial support for host families to take in internally-displaced people

Type: humanitarian aid
Partners: Federal Office for Refugees, Principality of Liechtenstein
Total budget: CHF 7.8 million (1999–2001)
SDC contribution: CHF 3.9 million (1999–2001)
Results: more than 11 000 host families have received support to take in 52 000 displaced persons. The areas of health care, education and culture have also been strengthened

Pooling the strengths of individual priorities

Development also means unlocking peoples' creative potential. This can be done only through cooperation based on partnerships. The SDC strives to make its partners more independent, so that they can make progress in the development of their country, through their own initiative. The key to this is technical competence and working structures within the partner organisations. Transparency and open communications form the bases of a partnership and are also guiding principles for the SDC.

The SDC especially supports countries making specific efforts at their own initiative.

To have maximum effect, we must pool resources and establish a longer-term presence in the field. That is why the SDC concentrates its activities on selected geographical and thematic priorities. In particular, it supports countries in which the government and other social institutions are making specific efforts to promote development.

Creative potential can be unlocked only through cooperation.





Criteria for involvement

The choice of partner countries is geared – except for humanitarian aid – towards certain criteria. In particular, the following are taken into account: need (mass poverty, precarious subsistence living, crisis-prone), the basic conditions (will to develop, rule of law, good governance), the point of departure for the SDC (effective partners in the country, thematic competence) and the political interests of Switzerland (involvement in international peace programmes, measures to prevent migration).

Humanitarian aid is not limited by either geographical borders or specific criteria. It is provided wherever there is a real need.

Only the pooling of resources and a longer-term presence in the field bring lasting change.

Examples of projects

Global Knowledge Partnership

Network for knowledge, information/communications technologies for development: "ICT for Development" (ICT4D)

Type: multilateral

Set up: 1997

Partner: Global Knowledge Partnership

Director: SDC Director-General Walter Fust

Results: promotion of ICT4D and its efficient use to benefit disadvantaged groups

Regional water and sewage coordination network in Central America

Training and exchange of know-how and technologies in the field of water and sewage, hygiene education

Type: bilateral

Partners: governments of four countries, UNICEF, CARE, and others.

Total budget: CHF 1.7 million (2001–2003)

SDC contribution: CHF 560 000 (2001–2003)

Results: coordination of activities between Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala

Strong presence in the field

The SDC is involved in some 1000 projects around the globe, cooperating particularly closely with 21 countries in the South and 11 countries and regions in the East. These are Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Chad, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Nicaragua, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam, West Bank/Gaza, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Russian Federation, Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Romania, Ukraine, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. There are also geographical priorities for humanitarian aid, such as Angola and Afghanistan.

The SDC directs its activities in the field from 32 offices, which represent all of Switzerland's international cooperation activities. In countries where there is no Swiss embassy, such as Benin, Mali and Kyrgyzstan, they also perform consular tasks.





- Priority countries
- Special programmes

Examples of projects

UNAIDS – worldwide campaign against HIV/AIDS

Type: multilateral
 Since 1996
Partner: UNAIDS
Total budget: USD 70 million annually
SDC contribution: CHF 4 million (2002)
Results: spreading knowledge of prevention and reducing rates of infection in many countries

Swiss-South African Cooperation Initiative

Improving employment opportunities for young people in South Africa through training projects

Type: public-private partnership with Swiss companies
Partners: 10 Swiss companies
Total budget: CHF 10 million (2001–2006)
SDC contribution: CHF 5 million (2001–2006)
Results: 185 young people trained in the first 18 months; 110 have already found jobs and eight have formed their own small companies



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 vironnement, Cotonou, Bénin, Association pour
 y, Niger, Banque africaine pour le développement (BAD),
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 o de Cooperación Internacional (INECI), Quito, Ecuador, Janpath Citizen's Initiative,
 of Agriculture and Food Security, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Ministry of Health, Republic
 e Cuencas (PROMIC), Cochabamba, Bolivia, Rural Advisory Development Service, Kyrgyz
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 ad, India, Ministerio Agropecuario y Forestal, Managua, Nicaragua, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security,
 n, Programa Manejo Integral de Cuencas (PROMIC), Cochabamba, Bolivia, Rural Advisory Development Service,
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 Consommateurs, Niamey, Niger, Agence Béninoise de l'Environnement, Cotonou, Bénin, Association pour la
), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Center for Nuclear Safety (CENS), Bratislava, Slovakia, Comisión Centroamericana
 CND), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Defensoría del Pueblo, Lima, Peru, European Children's Trust, Chisinau,
 Partnership, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Helvetas, Zürich, Schweiz, Instituto Ecuatoriano de Cooperación
 agropecuario y Forestal, Managua, Nicaragua, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Dar es
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 egral de Cuencas (PROMIC), Cochabamba, Bolivia, Rural
 NAIDS, Genève, Suisse, United Nations Children's
 ment Program (UNDP), Unites Nations
 NFPA), World Bank,

Examples of projects

Environmentally friendly technologies in India

Demonstration facility for small foundries, which reduces emissions of harmful substances by up to 65%

Type: bilateral
Partner: NGO (Tara Energy Research Institute)
Total budget: CHF 2.1 million (1994–2004)
SDC contribution: CHF 1.69 million (1994–2004)
Results: “Environmental Excellence Award 2000–2001”

UNRWA – Support for Palestinian refugees

The UN aid organisation UNRWA is the most important multilateral organisation working on behalf of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East

Type: humanitarian, multilateral
Partners: UNRWA and Palestinian authorities
Total budget: USD 300 million (annual basic budget)
SDC contribution: CHF 11 million (2002, general humanitarian programme for Palestinian refugees)
Results: improvement in the precarious living conditions of refugees (including the areas of health care, social welfare and education)

Empowerment, not charity

The work of the SDC is geared towards encouraging partner countries to take the initiative because in the long term, helping people to help themselves is the only effective method. Only through empowerment and by taking independent action can disadvantages be combated. To organise this support efficiently, the SDC has the following five priorities:

Conflict prevention and management

Often, regional conflicts are a cause of poverty and underdevelopment. Development cooperation and humanitarian aid support people in preventing crises, while also helping with reconstruction and the reintegration of victims of war.

Encouraging independent initiative has priority.

The SDC concentrates on five priorities.

Good governance

Good governance is a prerequisite for sustainable development. That is why the SDC is involved in projects in the areas of democratisation, rule of law, decentralisation, human rights, fiscal policy and press freedom.





Social development

Poverty and social injustice usually go hand in hand. That is why empowerment measures have high priority for the SDC: strengthening the self-awareness of the poor. The aim is to support people in recognising their rights and unlocking their potential. This includes access to social services in the areas of education, health care, infrastructure, municipal hygiene, land reform, equal opportunities for women and men and the strengthening of cultural identity.

Work and income

Insufficient basic conditions and economic structures prevent adequate levels of employment in many countries. That is why the SDC encourages the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, agricultural production and marketing, vocational training and the creation and expansion of infrastructure.

Environment

The protection and appropriate use of natural resources are a prerequisite for improving living conditions. They ensure the production basis for the future. That is why the SDC focuses so closely on protecting biodiversity, soil and water and combating desertification.

Helping people recognise their rights and unlock their potential.

Examples of projects

Advising farmers in Kyrgyzstan

Setting up an agricultural consulting service

Type: bilateral

Partners: Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Kyrgyzstan, Helvetas, World Bank, IFAD

Total budget: USD 7.6 million (2002–2004)

SDC contribution: CHF 6.7 million (2002–2004)

Objective: creation of a national, self-administered consulting service for farmers

Hospitals/Ambulances in Romania

Modernisation of emergency medical facilities and rescue services in Romania

Type: bilateral

Partner: Romanian ministry for health

Total budget: CHF 0.9 million (2002–2004)

SDC contribution: CHF 0.9 million (2002–2004)

Results: extending efficient emergency medical services to the entire country

Cost consciousness, efficiency and quality

Usually, the impetus for bilateral development projects for the most part comes directly from the partners in the respective countries or from the SDC cooperation offices in the field. Once Head Office in Berne has reviewed and approved the project outline, the local cooperation office takes over the operational planning and implementation of the project. The Head Office retains responsibility for country strategy. The SDC can also pass on projects to aid organisations or specialised companies. As a rule, this involves inviting tenders for the project.

Each project is split into phases with specific goals and accompanied by progress checks (monitoring). Comprehensive evaluations are carried out to test the effectiveness of the campaigns.

Within the framework of multilateral cooperation, the international partner organisations are responsible for carrying

out the projects. Switzerland brings its influence to bear through its presence in the supervisory bodies or through active participation.

In the event of natural disasters and wars, swift and unbureaucratic action must be taken. That is why the Delegate for Humanitarian Aid has the competency to decide whether and when the Rescue Chain and the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) will be deployed. Humanitarian Aid also regularly reviews its missions and, if necessary, adapts them.

Each project is split into phases with specific goals and accompanied by progress checks.





Increasing knowledge – and using it productively

Knowledge is capital. This capital is passed on in workshops and training courses both within the SDC, and between the partner organisations. However, know-how is also put to good use through staff rotation. Every three to five years, employees who deal with operational tasks switch jobs. The SDC also regularly taps into external knowledge resources, frequently bringing in external experts at the project design and realisation stages, as well as when evaluating projects.

Rigorous checks of SDC work

The most senior supervisory body is Parliament, which also decides the SDC's budget. The non-parliamentary "Advisory Committee for International Cooperation" meets four to six times a year and advises the Swiss Federal Council (Swiss government) and the SDC on their development policy plans. The SDC has an efficient internal audit system, which regulates tasks,

competencies and responsibilities at Head Office and at the cooperation offices. The appropriateness and comprehensiveness of these tasks, competencies and responsibilities are regularly reviewed. Besides this, every three to four years, the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) conduct a mutual review of development cooperation. This review takes place within the framework of the "Peer Reviews" and is carried out by different member countries each time. The development committee of the OECD secretariat is responsible for carrying out the review.

The OECD countries mutually review development cooperation.

Examples of projects

Aid after floods in Europe and Asia

Major campaign decided by the Swiss Federal Council with special credit

Type: bilateral und multilateral

Partners: international organisations and authorities, Swiss federal offices

Total budget: CHF 50 million (2002–2003)

SDC contribution: coordination and implementation (2002–2003)

Results: emergency aid, rebuilding, prevention, protection of cultural assets and support for families affected by the floods in 13 countries

Safety of nuclear energy installations in Eastern Europe

The Centre for Nuclear Safety in Central and Eastern Europe (CENS) in Bratislava is the hub of a network of nuclear inspection authorities in Eastern Europe for training purposes

Type: bilateral, developing into multilateral

Partners: regulatory authorities for nuclear energy in Eastern Europe and CIS

Total budget: CHF 2.5 million (2002–2006)

SDC contribution: CHF 1.2 million (2002–2006)

Results: nuclear energy authorities in Eastern Europe and CIS are competent to perform their tasks

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**Cooperation with Eastern Europe
and CIS:**

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Multilateral Cooperation:

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Thematic Resources:

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Humanitarian Aid:

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Human Resources:

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Media and Communications:

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- Development policy
- Facts and figures on Swiss official development assistance
- Vacancies at the SDC
- Project tenders
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Numbers**Budget** (in mil. CHF)

SDC	1244
– Development cooperation	869
– Humanitarian aid	273
– Cooperation with Eastern Europe	102

Employees at Head Office, Berne	350
Field staff	150
Local employees in partner countries	600
SHA members on stand-by	700

Partner countries with a local SDC office	32
Priority countries	28
Special programmes	4
Ongoing projects	approx. 1000
Humanitarian missions	approx. 360

**Distribution of budget according
to region**

(without multilateral cooperation and cross-
regional projects)



