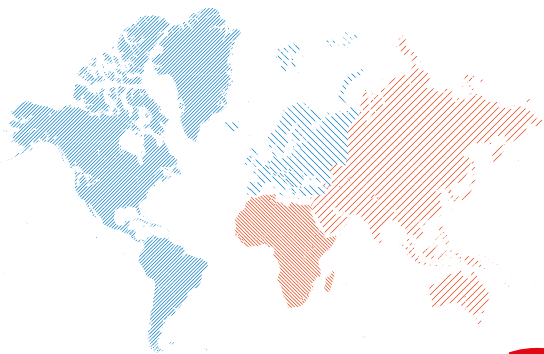


Switzerland's contribution

The achievements of SDC in 2006–2010



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
 Confédération suisse
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 Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
 and Cooperation SDC

Editorial

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Director-General SDC
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Switzerland's contribution: The achievements of SDC in 2006–2010

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In many respects the world is a better place today than it was 20 years ago or at any other time in history. So says the 2010 UNDP Human Development Report. Switzerland has made important contributions to this progress.

While many of SDC's objectives have been reached, there is still a need for the qualities that characterise Swiss development cooperation: perseverance, innovation and a consistent commitment to a more dignified existence for disadvantaged groups.

I have been growing maize, beans and other crops through irrigation in the hope of harvesting enough to feed my family and to sell. Thus, I have been sacrificing a lot in terms of minimising expenditure in order to buy fuel only to find my crop stolen from the shamba.

This kind of theft was unheard of in the period before 2007. It has been brought about by lack of food since those that steal do it to feed themselves and their families and not for commercial purposes.

A farmer in Kenya

The reason for wanting to have a good life is to later on help my relatives and, being the eldest sister, to help my brothers and sisters. I would wish to continue with vocational training, for example tailoring or electrical skills. Instead of my grandparents depending on me I am depending on them.

A 20-year-old woman, Tanzania

We are not using the forests in an adequate and proper way. We cut trees and burn down woods every day, we are plundering nature... Climatic changes are occurring for which we are to be blamed for our activities... The seasons don't follow one another properly, so the crops get spoiled.

Eliany, a 15-year-old girl, Peru

Money speaks louder than words. If you do not have money at the regional hospital, then you are nobody.

An old man, Tanzania

Sources

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Rural Poverty Report 2011
IFAD, 2011

I get up in the morning at about 4 A.M. I run to my garden to pluck fresh vegetables (leaf, tomatoes and onions). I put the vegetables in a sack and carry it on my bicycle and take them to Mpika main market. The buyers arrive at about 6 A.M. so I have to be there to sell my produce. There are few people engaged in vegetable production, so I price my vegetables high, customers of course negotiate for lower prices but I only go down when I want to quickly sell off the produce. I also sell some vegetables within the community. I have even constructed a small shed to protect the vegetables from the heat. There is high consumption of leafy vegetables and so I grow more of these now than a year ago.

A woman from Zambia

My hope is that the rains would fall. Yes if the rains come, I will plant and all those evil thoughts in my heart will vanish. Then I will plant and get something from that, get a harvest, and get some chickens. If the harvest is plentiful, I'll be able to have sheep, have goats, and take care of my family.

Ranotenie, a 46-year-old woman with 12 children, Madagascar

Now we buy inferior flour, less meat. For our family of 6 people we take 1,2 kg of meat per month, and we add a bit of it to our daily meals, just to pretend there is meat. The whole family's income now goes to food, very rarely do we buy clothes for our children. When the electricity prices increase frankly, I don't know what we will do. I got a lot of debts already!

A woman from Kyrgyzstan

The worst thing for me is when it rains at night. The roof leaks so badly that I can't lie down on the ground and we have to stand up throughout the night.

A 10-year-old boy, Tanzania

I love school but I have never been. When you stay at home you become ignorant. If I went to school I would know how to grow peas, beans and maize.

A 10-year-old boy, Tanzania

Education makes a good human being. If we can save even a straw we will definitely educate our children. In our village the children that study now are around 600. There is one government school with two teachers. How will they be able to educate all our children?

Shazia, a woman in her mid-30s, Pakistan




Amongst the consequences of drought and poverty you have the breakdown of traditional solidarity systems. It is essential to revive these, if not...it is the strong who will eat the weak, as happens in the aquatic world. But we are humans and those who have should come to the rescue of the have-nots... There are simple ways of helping. I can lend my bulls to my neighbour instead of watching him cultivate his field with his own hands. Some households don't have boys, only girls. If you have a lot of boys in your house, why not let one of them go help where help is needed.

Abdoulaye, a 59-year-old man, Senegal

We will always be farmers. However, agriculture has become increasingly risky with changing weather conditions. There were good harvests before... the fields were full of food, but last year, though we planted, it all died from no rain. This year also, the fields have no value, there's been no rain.

Suzanne, a 23-year-old woman, Madagascar



-  Priority countries and regions
-  Special programmes
-  Humanitarian Aid countries

Dear Reader

To coincide with the forthcoming parliamentary discussions on the 2013–2016 Parliamentary Dispatch on Development Cooperation, we present this report on the results of selected SDC programmes between 2006 and 2010. We have limited the report to eight fields of intervention which illustrate the contributions Switzerland has made to global poverty reduction.

The question of aid effectiveness is of great importance to us. It is relatively easy to demonstrate the major progress made worldwide in health, education and other fields of intervention. More difficult is to measure development aid's contribution to it. It is ultimately a multifaceted process, which is influenced by many different factors.

Multilateral cooperation does not have a dedicated chapter. Information is integrated in the eight thematic parts of the report. We are convinced that bi- and multilateral interventions mutually strengthen and complement each other. By asking how our efforts have in fact brought about change, and by throwing light on the actual results rather than merely documenting our aims and efforts, we will be able to benefit and improve from lessons learned. We have therefore drawn up this report to provide an account of our effectiveness not only for Parliament, but also for ourselves. Indeed, only if we can determine exactly what works and what doesn't, can we further improve the quality of our work. This is all the more important in a rapidly changing world and against the backdrop of complex social change processes. Happily, as you will see, our achievements so far have made a difference.

I wish you an interesting read!

Sincerely,

Martin Dahinden

SDC Director

A

Health



Health is a fundamental human right that is beyond the reach of more than a billion people, despite global investments in healthcare having more than doubled over the past ten years.

Switzerland is working to reach the Millennium Development Goals by supporting its partner countries' own efforts and investing in the development of effective health systems. It promotes in particular the health of mothers and children and combats diseases such as malaria and AIDS.

Closely related and contributing to better health is the improved access to drinking water and hygiene.

Based on the Dispatches approved by Parliament on Cooperation with the South and Eastern Europe as well as on humanitarian aid, SDC concentrates its operations on particularly vulnerable, low-income groups and on health care services in transition countries. SDC dedicated CHF 100 to 110 million per year to the health sector between 2006 and 2010.

Health is a sensitive indicator for the state of a society. Economic crises and ecological disasters, armed conflicts and the growing gap between rich and poor are reflected in the health of the population as well as the state of health care.

Even in the absence of additional crises, weak or deficient health systems are the norm in many developing and transition countries. In recent years SDC has increased its financial contribution for health programmes and, in doing so, also contributed to international efforts. As part of its programmes in the South and in Eastern Europe, SDC promotes health systems that primarily benefit the poor and reduce inequalities in terms of access to health care services.

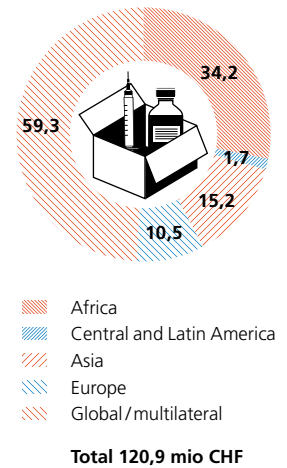
In addition to these programmes, Switzerland supports long-standing UN agencies and programmes as well as more recent funding mechanisms such as the *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*, so as to achieve a broader impact.

To ensure maximum efficiency in resource utilisation, SDC concentrates on three priority areas:

- improving health services at national and local levels through structural reforms
- improving maternal and child health
- combating major communicable diseases

Despite constantly new challenges in SDC's countries of operations, progress has been achieved. SDC's technical expertise, its many different partnerships, efficient deployment of resources and years of experience have significantly contributed to the results achieved. In SDC's priority countries of Tanzania and Mozambique, child mortality has fallen by one third in the past ten years and in Moldova by 40%. In sub-Saharan countries, a third less children became newly infected with HIV/AIDS in 2009 than in 2004, and in eleven African countries new cases of malaria have decreased by more than 50%.

Expenditures by region in 2009, in mio CHF



Strengthening health care

A good health care system that covers all members of the population is key to poverty reduction and the transition process. Poor people are particularly vulnerable to illness as a result of inadequate nutrition or lack of sanitation. Yet often it is this very group that has no or only limited access to health care services.

At the same time, local administrations lack the resources to improve medical care, drinking water supplies and sanitary conditions. Since corruption and deficient organisation are also at the root of inadequate services, structural reforms are just as essential as preventive measures.

For many years, Switzerland has helped to improve basic health services in villages and communities through a wide range of projects. Practical approaches such as strengthening decentralised health centres or launching vaccination and information campaigns directly benefit the population and lead to visible results (e.g. global reduction in child mortality).

To ensure that such local successes achieve as wide an impact as possible, SDC pursues policy dialogue at national and international levels to include effective approaches in national health systems. In recent years such approaches have gained in importance and donor countries are increasingly opting for budget support to strengthen state capacities in the health sector.

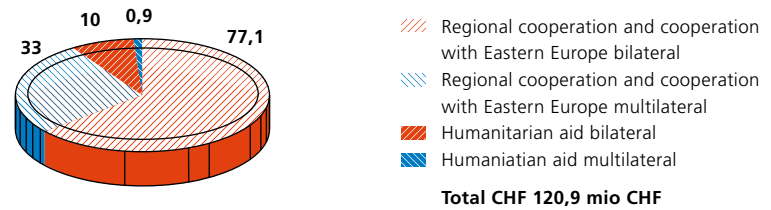
Budget support – selectively implemented – an effective tool

In Mozambique, international donors are financing parts of the national health sector budget rather than funding stand-alone projects. In the 1990s, Switzerland played a pioneering role in setting up budget support. Today, 14 international donors take part in it, totalling USD 90 million per year, including an average CHF 4 million from SDC over the past few years.

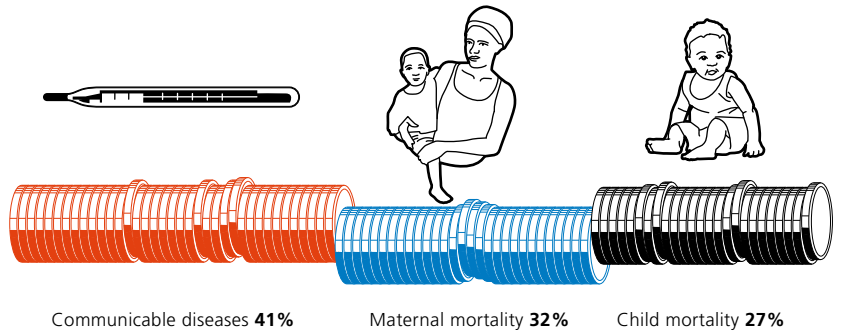
Despite its limited contribution, SDC has achieved a great deal, primarily because it participated actively in thematic working groups and assisted the government of Mozambique in defining health care objectives and in formulating strategies. Switzerland promoted in particular primary health care. Budget support presupposes an acceptable level of budgetary transparency and discipline on the part of the recipient government.

The Mozambican health indicators clearly show that the coordinated budget support has sustainably strengthened the health system. Thanks to improved basic health care in rural areas, the infant mortality rate has fallen by 30% between 1997 and 2008, while in the same period maternal mortality has dropped from 15 to less than 5 deaths per 1000 births. In 2009, 94% of infants have been vaccinated against diseases such as polio, diphtheria and hepatitis, and 50% of all HIV-positive individuals who relied on medication have had access to appropriate treatment – twice as many as in 2007.

Health, expenditures per domain 2009, in mio CHF



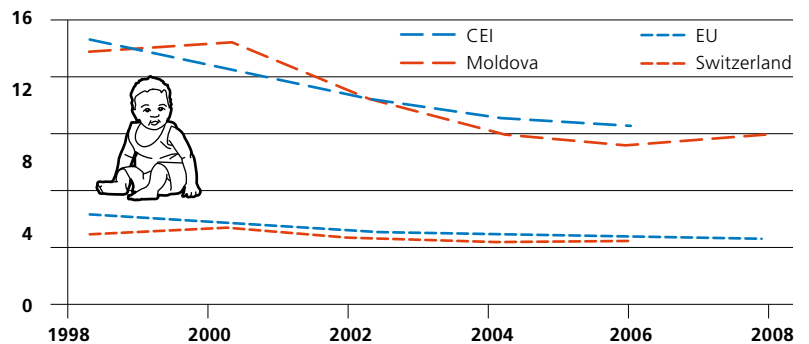
Health, expenditures by Millennium Development Goals 2006–2009



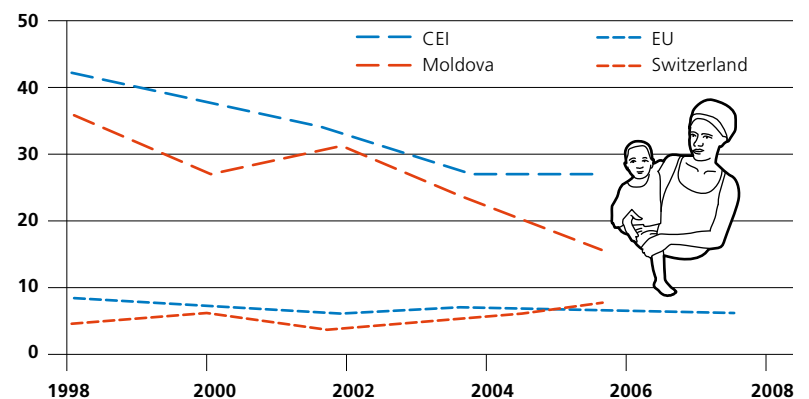
Mother and child mortality in Moldova in comparison to other countries

SDC provides modern equipment to regional maternities in Moldova and contributes to always more children surviving their first day and less mothers dying while giving birth.

Child mortality ratio: Number of deaths pro 1000 live births



Maternal mortality ratio: Number of deaths pro 100 000 live births



Source: European health for all database, WHO, January 2010

Example

Health centres mobilise village communities

In Rwanda and Burundi, Switzerland was involved in rehabilitating and upgrading seven hospitals and 76 health centres, in close collaboration with the local population. The villagers' active cooperation motivated health advisors as well as medical staff, traditional midwives and young people to join in and participate in the project. More than a million people in the Great Lakes region benefit today from better medical services and health education, which in turn improve their overall health status.

Maternal and newborn health

Pregnancy can be more or less risky, depending on where an expectant mother lives. Maternal and child mortality rates are largely dictated by whether appropriate medical care is available at all, and if so, administered in good time.

The lack or poor quality of health care remains one of the main reasons for deaths during pregnancy or complications during birth. Switzerland therefore supports the provision of better basic antenatal care, so that mothers enjoy greater health and fewer babies die.

In sub-Saharan Africa as well as in transition countries of Eastern Europe, SDC has worked to improve health care infrastructure and equipment, and provide training courses for doctors, nurses and midwives. By strengthening basic health care, SDC together with partners has contributed to increasing the share of births attended by skilled health workers in sub-Saharan Africa from 53% to 63% between 1990 and 2008. Simultaneously, maternal mortality has declined. In partner countries in the East too, progress in maternal and child health has been recorded.

Progress in Moldova

In the Republic of Moldova, the poorest country in Europe, many more mothers and infants die during pregnancy or birth than in the rest of Europe, on average. Starting in the mid-1990s and with international support, the Moldovan government launched sweeping reforms in the health care sector, which have already ushered in significant improvements: between 2000 and 2009, maternal mortality fell by 40% and infant mortality by more than 27%. In 2000 the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births was 18, whereas in 2008 this had fallen to 12 – still three times as many as in Switzerland.

SDC supports these ongoing reforms and has provided modern equipment for poorly-equipped maternities. Progress has also been achieved in terms of quality of care

standards and cooperation between medical disciplines. To date, 3300 medical specialists have been trained. 88% of general practitioners as well as 32% of nursing staff have attended practical seminars on pregnancy risks. Thanks to technical equipment and improved staff know-how, patients at risk can now be referred in good time to specialised centres.

Moreover, as part of the project, the *Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute* (Swiss TPH), one of SDC's many partners for health care, set up an internet platform which is now used by more than 70 doctors to obtain advice from colleagues in the event of complications.

Example

Better population health through the "Family Medicine Project" in Bosnia Herzegovina

In Bosnia Herzegovina, about 1 million people have today access to quality, decentralised medical care. The SDC "*Family Medicine Project*" has made an important contribution in the fields of information, decentralisation of health care, training and renovation of primary care infrastructure. Community nurses conduct about 13 500 home visits to vulnerable persons and families every month. Health staff qualification is today significantly better than before. Health prevention has also been integrated in the curriculum of kindergartens and primary schools. Thanks to the project, about 800 doctors and health professionals have been trained in family medicine and 150 community centres have been renovated since 2001, newly built and equipped with medical devices.

The objective of the project is to improve the quality and access to health care and prevention services. Vulnerable populations are a particular focus of the project. Between 2001 and 2010, SDC has invested CHF 11,3 million. These successes could only be achieved thanks to a close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, local authorities, different civil society organisations and a solid partnership with the University Hospital in Geneva.



Switzerland has engaged in the construction of hospitals and health centres in the Great Lakes region.



Maternal and newborn mortality have been reduced in Moldova.

Combating major infectious diseases

The example of Malaria

Every year, more than 300 million people are infected with malaria. For more than a million, the disease ends in death. Children under the age of five are particularly at risk. Since the 1990s, SDC has been supporting innovative projects in Tanzania to combat this dangerous tropical disease. One particularly successful approach has been the systematic distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets. Wherever such nets have been used, cases of malaria and child mortality have fallen.

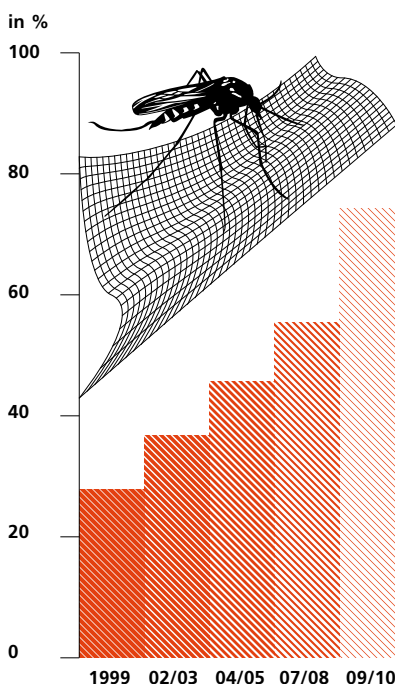
These encouraging results have attracted interest outside the framework of the original project and beyond Tanzania's borders, prompting broader calls for the use of impregnated mosquito nets. Today, other international organisations and partner countries also support the wide diffusion of this preventive method.

Over the past five years, SDC has invested CHF 11 million per year in the fight against malaria. In doing so it contributed to the distribution of 88 million impregnated mosquito nets in sub-Saharan Africa in 2008. Whereas only 20% of households used impregnated mosquito nets in 2006, thanks to this campaign one third of all households owned at least one net by 2008.

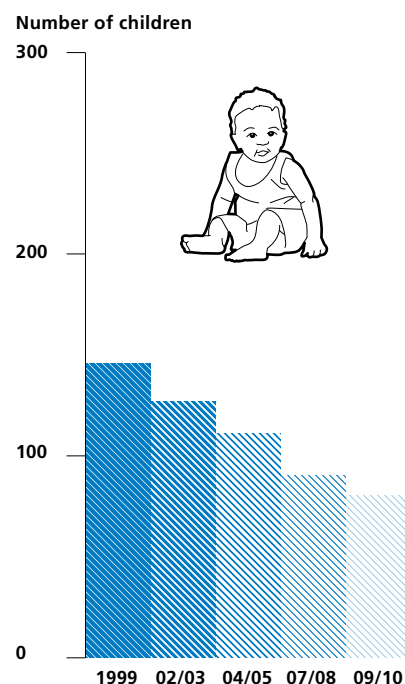
The mosquito nets have had a positive impact not only on the health of the population but also on Tanzania's economy. Today, two large companies in Tanzania produce 30 million mosquito nets per year, corresponding to a market value of USD 150 million, and employ 6,200 people. Whereas only a few years ago Tanzania had to import mosquito nets, it is now the leading exporter and supplies nets to countries throughout Africa.

Mosquito nets reduce child mortality in Tanzania

Percentage of households in Tanzania with mosquito nets in %



Under-5 child deaths per 1000 live births



Milestones in the fight against malaria



In Tanzania, two firms produce every year 30 million mosquito nets for the African market.

Use of impregnated mosquito nets in sub-Saharan Africa

2004: 14,7 million people
2008: 45,3 million people

Access to treatment against malaria in sub-Saharan Africa

2004: 1,2 million people
2008: 62,6 million people

The bicycle ambulance



In Mozambique, 30 bicycle ambulances allow the transport of patients from distant villages to health centres. Given the high demand, the government has decided to extend the project to all provinces of the country.

HIV/AIDS: SDC's engagement

In 2009 the under-25 age group accounted for 50% of new cases of HIV infection: around 3700 young people a day were infected with the virus (UNAIDS 2010).

SDC has been helping to combat HIV/AIDS since 1997. Between 2005 and 2009 it spent 30% of its health budget – equivalent to around CHF 40 million a year – on HIV/AIDS and malaria programmes. SDC is active in 13 countries in eastern and southern Africa alone, with an emphasis on alleviating the psychological and social consequences of HIV/AIDS for children and young people. In addition to concrete efforts to improve the lives of those affected (for example, "Mobile Farms" to introduce AIDS orphans to agriculture), preventive measures hold major importance. Information is provided on how to use condoms correctly, the consequences and risks of child marriage, teenage pregnancies, drugs and harmful traditional practices. More than 3 million children have been reached to date.

Since 2009 an additional "HIV Prevention Programme" has been operating for children and young people in southern Africa in collaboration with regional and local partner organisations. The programme has reached some 29 000 young people in Zambia and Swaziland. Lessons and information on "Health and Sexuality" are provided in schools and health centres. The Zambian Ministry of Health has adopted this SDC approach and replicated it in many parts of the country. In collaboration with the authorities, the programme has also developed and broadcast a radio show on the subject of "HIV and Sexual Health". According to the latest surveys, this show regularly reaches 700 000 listeners. Wherever possible, the programme involves the powerful traditional village headmen and works successfully with peer educators.

Young people between the ages of 15 and 24 accounted for 40% of new HIV infections in 2008.

Source: UN MDG Report 2010

In Mozambique, 50% of people living with HIV/AIDS had access to medical treatment – twice as many as in 2007.

Health is a fundamental human right that SDC works to protect. It alleviates the consequences of disease, provides clean drinking water and devotes special attention to mothers and children. Today, although there are one billion more people on earth than in 1998, the number of children dying each year has decreased by 4 million. 42% of people living with HIV/AIDS receive the treatment they need. A committed engagement in healthcare is vital. Now and in the future.

B

Employment and income



Unemployment and under-employment are one of the main causes of poverty. SDC helps poor segments of the population in its partner countries to secure an income. Equally important is the commitment to vocational training and improvements in financial services.

Based on the Dispatches on the South and East, SDC concentrates on rural areas and poor small businesses, where the greatest development benefits can be expected. In Eastern Europe the programmes are aligned with the transition process and focus on new poverty and social exclusion as well as on structural reforms.

Between 2006 and 2010 SDC invested CHF 297,2 million in employment and income, with wide-ranging impacts: according to estimates, 900 000 farmers as well as micro and small enterprises received direct support, 200 000 people were given vocational training and 800 000 jobs were created.

Poverty can be sustainably alleviated if disadvantaged members of the community are able to play a greater role in economic life and increase their chance of earning a living. Therefore, SDC focuses on three key fields of activity:

- promoting the private sector to create sources of employment and income
- improving access to financial services for disadvantaged groups
- furthering access to vocational training and continuous education

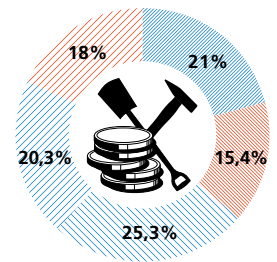
These three areas are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Poor people who gain better access to financial services and training increase their chances of participating in the informal and formal economy. And without a properly functioning private sector, poor producers would have no markets or opportunities to exploit. This is true both for countries in the South and in Eastern Europe.

The importance of promotional measures becomes clear against the following background: 2,6 billion people must make ends meet with less than USD 2 a day and around one billion are underemployed. Moreover, three billion people have no access to telecommunications and are cut off from the globalised world as we know it. In addition, the financial and economic crisis has left its mark around the world and is reinforcing current trends towards poverty and social marginalisation.

As a result, the need for a large number of employment opportunities in the formal and informal sector remains undiminished in developing countries. SDC addresses these issues across different thematic areas. For example, agriculture and rural development play a key role in terms of employment since poverty is highest in rural areas where it affects up to 70% of the population.

SDC is well placed to address these tasks, best through its experience in the thematic area, knowledge of specific countries or effective cooperation with local partners (primarily private actors but also NGOs and governmental departments). A good part of the projects are carried out by Swiss development organisations.

Expenditures per region
2006–2010, in %



- Latin America
- Africa
- Europe, Mediterranean, Central Asia
- Global / multilateral
- South and East Asia

Total 297,2 mio CHF

Mobile phones are becoming ever more prevalent in developing countries, and are increasingly being used for non-voice applications such as mobile banking and disaster management. By the end of 2009, more than 60 out of every 100 people were mobile phone subscribers.

Source: UN MDG Report 2010

Creating incentives for private sector development

SDC helps poor segments of the population in its partner countries to secure an income in the private sector. The focus is mainly on micro-businesses and small enterprises that alleviate poverty by creating jobs and income opportunities. Informal employment such as the sale of home-baked bread is also of major importance – indeed 70 to 80% of non-agricultural workers in Africa are active in the informal sector.

The agricultural sector plays a critical role in combating poverty in rural areas. Support to small farmers not only generates income but also makes an important contribution to food security.

Success through value chains

SDC's efforts to develop the private sector increasingly focus on systemic approaches. Various policy components and measures are connected within a single, needs-oriented strategy.

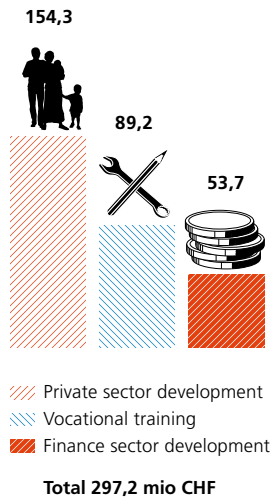
Support to value chains has proved effective in this context, as in the case of potato production. Assistance is granted to poor individuals or groups of producers to cultivate their crops (e.g. by providing improved seed varieties), local processing is encouraged (e.g. to make potato chips), and marketing is stimulated (e.g. by enabling supermarket chains in cities to offer selected varieties of potato to a broad customer base).

The *Katalyst* programme co-founded by SDC in Bangladesh is also geared towards value chains. It seeks and develops market opportunities specially aimed at poor people, focusing on the eight product areas with the most promising potential: maize, vegetables, potatoes, fish, prawns, furniture, jute and tourism.

Between 2002 (the year of its foundation) and the end of 2009, *Katalyst* reached 453 000 SMEs and farming businesses in around 15 different value chains, creating some 183 000 jobs across the country and generating USD 729 million in additional income. Developed by SDC as a pilot project, *Katalyst* is now also supported by the United Kingdom, Canada and the Netherlands. Switzerland has invested CHF 6,7 million in the project, or 10% of the total cost between 2006 and 2010.

SDC is also involved in similar projects in East Africa, Latin America, the South Caucasus and the Western Balkans. All are primarily aimed at developing rural agricultural markets.

Expenditures per domain 2006–2010, in mio CHF



Employment and income, fields of intervention

Private sector development

Generating employment and income through the promotion of micro and small enterprises as well as the agricultural sector in the framework of value chains.

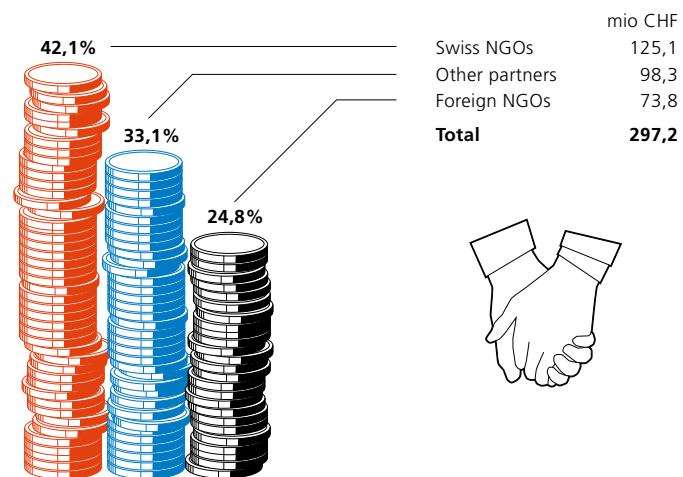
Vocational training

Increasing employment opportunities for the poor in the formal and non-formal private sector through vocational training oriented towards the demand of the labour market.

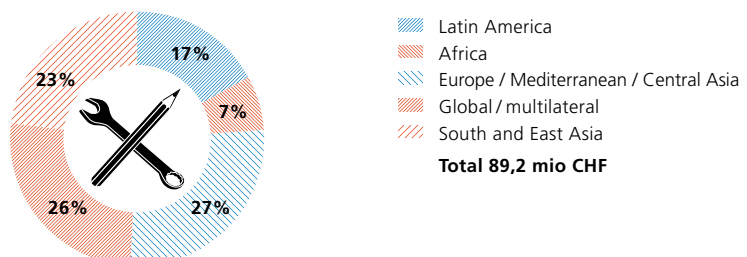
Finance sector development

Improving access to financial services for poor households, farmers, small and medium enterprises, through development of a demand-oriented finance sector.

Employment and income, the most important implementing partners, 2006–2010, in %



Vocational training, expenditures by region 2006–2010, in %



Fund for SMEs in Southeast and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

The *European Fund for Southeast Europe* (EFSE) is today the world's largest microfinance investment fund and the most important financial institution in Southeast Europe, with activities that extend to Ukraine, Belarus and the Caucasus. Given that private investors consider these regions as high-risk, the Fund fills an important gap. It ensures that small enterprises that need financial services can turn to appropriate institutions.

A network of 62 financial institutions provides small enterprises with loans of several thousand francs to set up and expand their business activities. The innovative public-private partnership structure of the EFSE has enabled it to raise EUR 760 million so far, half of which from private investors. Since the Fund was set up, in 2005, 215 000 jobs have been created. According to a detailed independent study conducted in 2007, every euro invested generates an average follow-up investment of EUR 12.

SDC has been actively involved in the foundation of the Fund and is one of the eight public shareholders. It also supports the Fund by providing financial resources and experts.

Vocational training models to meet market demands

SDC and Swiss NGOs have developed vocational skills for more than fifty years because when geared towards market needs they improve formal and informal employment opportunities for the poor and reinforce businesses at once. Demand for support in this area has risen again in the wake of the economic downturn.

The poorest and most socially vulnerable groups, including many women, young people and members of minority groups can play a greater role in economic development when they improve their qualifications. At the same time, by gaining access to employment and income they can take better control of their lives. Switzerland's experience in the vocational skills development area is characterised by an approach based on practical experience that allows young people to be gradually integrated into economic life. This model has helped to create sustainable employment prospects and structural reforms in several countries.

Professional expertise made useful worldwide

Working with Swiss research institutions and NGOs with proven expertise – for example the Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, *Enfants du Monde*, *Swisscontact*, *Helvetas* – Swiss development cooperation is involved in vocational skills development projects in Eastern Europe, South and East Asia, Africa and Latin America. Total expenditure for the period between 2006 and 2010 has reached CHF 89,2 million.

This has enabled a great number of people to receive training and for many of them subsequently to be hired. The success of these efforts is illustrated by SDC's programme in Southeast Europe where young people under the age of 25 suffer from an unemployment rate of 60 to 75%, with no prospects or opportunities for vocational skills development. Against this background SDC, in conjunction with the educational authorities in Kosovo, developed vocational training courses with a high practical content and implemented them in 12 vocational training colleges. The courses included technical modules in electrical installation, car mechanics, heating technology and agriculture.

In addition, more than 100 female and male instructors were trained and practical internships were integrated in the courses with the cooperation of sectoral organisations. 3500 students a year now attend such specially adapted courses and 37% of them have gone on to find a job despite the high unemployment rate. The project is funded by SDC and implemented by Swisscontact. Similar programmes have also been carried out in Albania.

Example

Vocational skills development for disadvantaged young people in Nepal

Every year, 350 000 people enter the job market in Nepal, one of the poorest countries in South Asia. Yet the opportunities for employment are few and far between. In 2003, to help disadvantaged young people increase their chances of finding employment, SDC and Helvetas jointly launched the F-Skills project to offer vocational training geared towards the needs of the local job market. Today, F-Skills is a private Nepalese enterprise that grants franchises for these successful training methods to other providers, and in so doing has substantially increased the number of qualified personnel.

This success is also due to the *Employment Fund* founded in 2008 by SDC, to which other donors have also contributed. SDC has invested CHF 1,5 million in this fund between 2008 and 2010. In 2009 alone, the *Employment Fund* has been instrumental in providing training for around 14 500 people, 80% of whom have subsequently found employment guaranteeing them an income above the minimum wage. 57% of the trainees were women and 95% came from disadvantaged population groups.



Small and micro-enterprises are particularly important sources of employment for the poor.



A market in Kampala, Uganda. Non-formal employment offers about three quarters of all non-agricultural occupations.



Fish-farms cooperatives promoted through the *Katalyst* project in Bangladesh

Access to financial services for all

Stable, efficient financial systems are basic elements of any national economy. If poor households, farmers as well as small and medium-sized enterprises gain access to financial services, they can participate more effectively in economic life and reduce their vulnerability. Yet for 90% of the population this is not the case, particularly in rural areas, which are largely excluded from the formal financial sector. It is for these people that SDC has been steadfastly developing financial sectors, for more than 30 years.

After much attention given in recent years to microfinance and its many successes around the world, funding small enterprises is once more gaining prominence, particularly in rural areas. SDC is committed to the sustainable development of a demand-driven financial sector that meets the specific needs of SDC's various target groups. This covers, for example, support for poverty-oriented financial institutions or financial sector reforms. Between 2006 and 2010, SDC has invested CHF 53,7 million in projects to develop the financial sector. It is also increasingly developing innovative partnerships with Swiss enterprises, e.g. micro-insurance products with *Zürich Financial Services* (ZFS).

Example

A savings and credit association in Ecuador

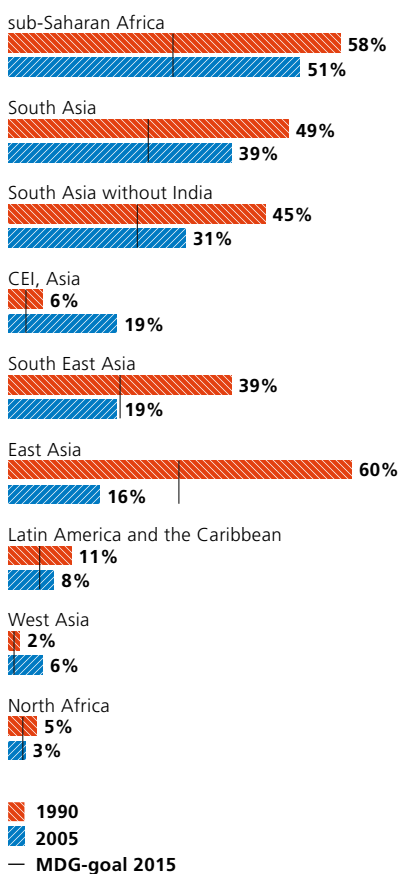
The *San José* savings and credits association based in the province of Bolívar, one of the poorest regions of Ecuador, has been supported by a local partner organisation *Coopfin/Crear* between 2001 and 2009. *Coopfin/Crear* has relied on the support of SDC and the assistance of *Swisscontact*. In the course of this collaboration, the co-operative not only increased its client base from 5000 to 30 000 but has also progressively targeted more rural clients, reduced risk-burdened loans and enhanced the quality of its portfolio.

Microfinance programmes supported by SDC in Central and Latin America, 2008

	No. of microfinancing institutions supported, incl. savings and loan societies	No. of customers served by supported microfinancing institutions	Average loan in USD	Income growth of end customers per year
Profin (Bolivia)	19	415 000	800	35–125%
Promifin (Central America)	70	500 000	1000	35–100%
Coopfin/Crear (Ecuador)	38	1 000 000	2700	20%
Total	127	1 915 000	800–2700	20–125%

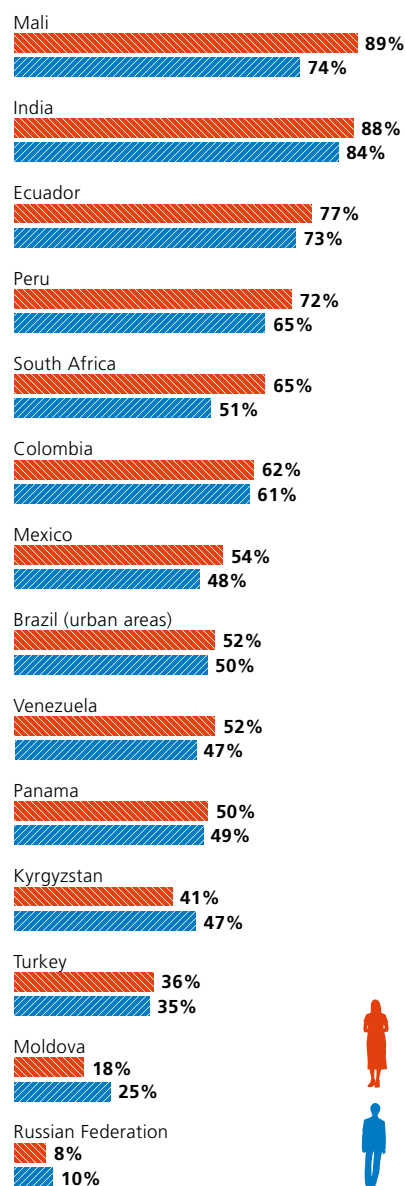
Numbers are provided by the programmes and completed by SDC estimates

Number of people who live on less than USD 1,25 a day in 1990 and 2005, in %



Proportion of non-formal occupation in selected countries in %

Informal employment as a percentage of non-agricultural workers



Source: United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*

What has been achieved in terms of employment and income?

SDC's investments in private sector promotion, vocational training and financial services have achieved impressive results between 2006 and 2010. Conservative estimates give the following picture:

- 900 000 farmers, small and micro businesses have received direct support
 - 100 different value chains have been promoted, leading to higher income
 - 8,5 million poor clients have benefited from financial services
 - 200 000 people have received vocational training
 - 300 training centres have been strengthened and improved training courses have been introduced
 - In total, around CHF 3 billion in additional income has been generated and 800 000 jobs created
-

People who are unemployed and have no source of income are generally unable to meet their most basic needs. SDC efforts in this area focus specifically on the promotion of education and employment so as to create jobs for hundreds of thousands, primarily in rural areas. A success worth pursuing further.

C

Basic and further education



Education is a human right, yet millions of children are denied access to school and education. Although education is essential for poverty reduction and development, it is given too low priority in many countries as well as in state and development budgets. Public education services are often of poor quality and ill-equipped to address the real needs of the population, for example that of the working children.

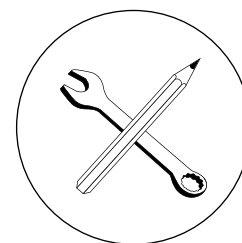
In view of the precarious global situation in education, SDC has continuously increased its contribution to the sector since 2005. Funds are allocated primarily to priority countries and multilateral programmes, and between 2005 and 2009 totalled CHF 283 million.

Based on the mandates formulated in the Dispatches approved by Parliament, SDC has concentrated its support mainly on out-of-school education and its linkages to vocational skills development.

Switzerland's projects in the education sector have focussed primarily on Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Benin and Chad, where basic and further education have been priority themes of SDC programmes. In addition, Switzerland has contributed around CHF 100 million to educational programmes run by other organisations and aid agencies, including *the United Nations Children's Fund* (UNICEF).

SDC also supports non-formal (out-of-school) education programmes in Bangladesh, Serbia, Macedonia and Albania. The formal education system in these four priority countries does not address the needs of the population. Its quality is poor and it does not even reach parts of the population. Using innovative approaches, SDC has been able to contribute to increasing enrolment rates. School structures and curricula have also been adapted to the specific social and cultural settings of disadvantaged groups. For example, between 2006 and 2010 Swiss programmes have supported the Roma in Eastern Europe, improved educational opportunities for street children in Bangladesh, and provided mobile schools for nomadic groups in the Niger Delta region of Mali.

All projects have directed special attention to women and girls, as well as groups and ethnic minorities neglected by the state. Generally speaking, educational content has also become more relevant, which has resulted in attracting an above-average high number of students, who graduated and went on to find work. Concentrating on a selected few countries, SDC has been able to invest more resources per project and achieve a broader impact. Basic education is most effective towards development if it is linked to the acquisition of practical skills. Therefore, SDC has promoted practical skills development methods that combine basic education with vocational training.



Financial contributions to basic education represent less than 2% of bilateral aid, worldwide.

“Every person – child, youth and adult – shall be able to benefit from educational opportunities designed to meet their basic learning needs. These needs comprise both essential learning tools (such as literacy, oral expression, numeracy, and problem solving) and the basic learning content (such as knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes) required by human beings to be able to survive, to develop their full capacities, to live and work in dignity, to participate fully in development, to improve the quality of their lives, to make informed decisions, and to continue learning.”

Extract from the World Declaration on Education for All, Jomtien, Thailand, 1990.



A student from the *Center for Mass Education in Science*, Bangladesh

Promoting and adapting schools

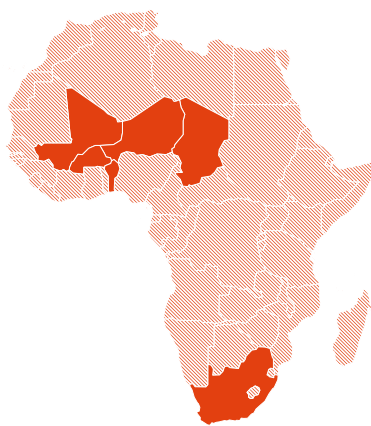
The education situation is particularly precarious in countries south of the Sahara, where 43 million children still do not attend school. Addressing the *Education for All* objectives is a particularly challenging task in Africa's poor rural regions. New, flexible approaches are called for in order to meet the needs of the many different ethnic groups, some of whom are widely dispersed or lead nomadic lives.

In several countries in West Africa SDC therefore supports modified forms of education such as basic schooling in local languages or – as already mentioned - instruction in mobile schools that accompany nomads wherever they move.

To ensure the success of such projects, teaching staff must be instructed and further trained in non-formal education services. Equally important is the need to incorporate such education services in the state education system. SDC advocates for this in its policy dialogue.

In the 2006-2010 reporting period, SDC's bilateral commitment to education in West Africa amounted to CHF 68 million. In view of the major need for education in Africa, SDC contributed an additional CHF 2,8 million to the global *Fast Track Initiative* in 2008-2009 as part of its multilateral cooperation efforts. The goal of the global Fast Track Initiative is to enable an additional 20 million children in sub-Saharan Africa to start their schooling.

Successful outcomes of SDC-supported projects



Benin

60 000 adults becoming literate in rural regions

Niger

1000 literacy centres set up, attended by 30 000 adults and young people. In establishing these centres, SDC contributed to improving the literacy rate by around 10% over 10 years.

Mali

3000 craft workers taught in urban areas. A vocational skills development specially designed for women reached 1200 young women.

Chad

200 community schools set up. The number of schoolchildren rose from 6000 in 2000 to more than 43 000 in 2009, with the number of girls attending school increasing from 1000 to 26 000.

Burkina Faso

The government's financial contribution to the FONANEF literacy fund increased from 1 to 10% between 2000 and 2008.

South Africa

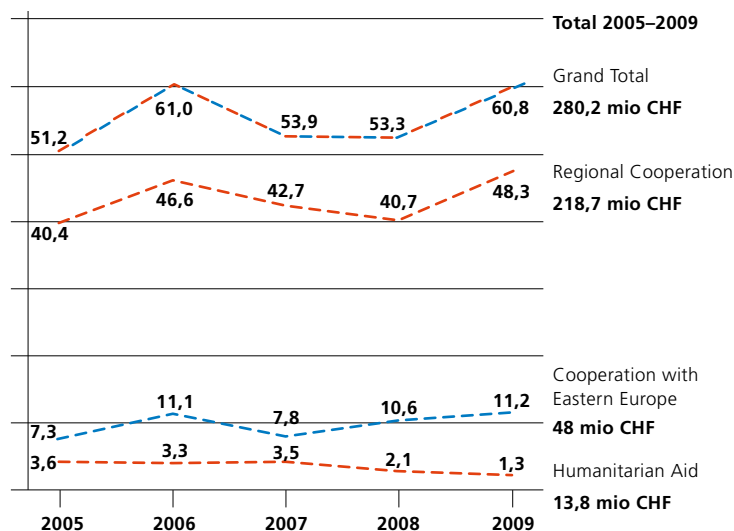
Around 6000 young adults completed their training in technical and handicrafts professions and earned a well-recognised diploma.

Burkina Faso: FONANEF literacy fund

In Burkina Faso, the joint commitment of the government, SDC and other partners led to the foundation of the national *Fonds pour l'Alphabétisation et l'Éducation Non Formelle* (FONAENF), the implementation and financing instrument of the national literacy and non-formal education policy. The objective of the fund is to provide more people with access to education and to improve the management and quality of the education system.

Since FONAENF was founded in 2002, Switzerland's support to the fund has helped around 500 000 people – 60% of whom are women – to learn to read and write and has therefore directly contributed to improving the literacy rate. Those attending class were able to acquire knowledge and skills that have helped to improve their day-to-day lives. The Swiss contribution also increased the pool of teaching staff by 1648 (including 591 women) and supported educational innovations such as the introduction of the "Pedagogy of the Text", or literacy courses in the workplace.

Basic and further education, bilateral expenditures per domain 2005–2009, in mio CHF



Education reform in Serbia

SDC is a valued partner when it comes to educational reforms, thanks not only to its wealth of experience but also to the achievements of the Swiss education system. In Serbia, Switzerland has supported the education system's reform since 2000. It is the leading bilateral donor in the sector and as such an important partner in the dialogue over the country's educational policy. Education is to be given higher priority in state policy and gradually brought into line with EU standards. Key components of the reform include extending the compulsory schooling period from eight to nine years, elaborating new curricula and adopting new teaching materials and methods. The aim is to improve education at all levels.

SDC has focused on the following three areas since 2006:

- supporting the Ministry of Education's reforms
- setting up a decentralised teacher training system, based on predefined quality standards
- integrating marginalised children in the school system

Initial results are promising and suggest that the quality of education as well as development opportunities for marginalised schoolchildren are continuing to improve. SDC programmes have provided training to 45 000 teachers up until 2008 to this end. 12 000 children in more than 60 communities benefited from inclusive education (i.e. the integration of marginalised children), an important pillar of the reform process. The number of children enrolling for school in these communities has risen by around 20% and virtually all of them have reached the next level of education.

Example

Integration through education

In Serbia, an estimated 80 000 children of school age do not attend school, and most of these belong to minority groups. *The Roma Education Fund* (REF) has been set up to address this situation and reduce the education gap between Roma and non-Roma in all countries of the Balkans. Switzerland is one of its main bilateral donors, with an investment of CHF 2,1 million per year (until November 2009) and is represented in its steering committee.

As a result of its participation in the project in Serbia, Switzerland has gained valuable experience in furthering educational opportunities for the Roma, which in turn has had a positive impact on its bilateral programmes in other countries. In December 2006, a first evaluation of REF projects found that 19 000 Roma children, 2300 teachers, 500 schools and 60 communities had benefited from the projects, and by December 2008 these numbers had doubled.

With a project contribution of CHF 5 million for the 2009–2011 period, SDC cooperates with the Swiss Red Cross, UNICEF and the local NGO *Pomoc Deci* on yet another project to improve the integration of Roma children.

School for working children

Global strides in the enrolment rate for schools belie the fact that many children attend school only irregularly or leave before finishing their education. In Bangladesh, as in various countries in sub-Saharan Africa, more than one third of all primary schoolchildren drop out of school because economic necessity forces them to work. Schools are often so inadequate that poor families feel it is not worth investing time and money in them.

Wherever schools bring little to students and their families, education is not a priority.

SDC therefore supports educational services that focus on children, young people and adults who have dropped out of school due to poverty or have never before attended school. In a range of different projects it has promoted access to vocational training without any formal course, so as to break the vicious circle of no schooling, no training, no development. The aim of the SDC supported *Skills Development Project* in Bangladesh is to make vocational training more flexible and better able to respond to the needs of the market and employers. One of the NGOs involved in this project works in primary school education as well as vocational training and the development of SMEs. This strengthens the ties between education and SME development and the skills acquired in the process can have a sustained impact and boost development. Cooperation with the private sector has been shown to generate long-term effects on employment.

In the first phase of the *Skills Development Project* (2008–2013), SDC supports a range of institutions and educational services in the non-formal sector under the motto "Developing Capabilities", specially designed to meet the needs of the poorest and disadvantaged members of the population. The objective is to integrate the resultant approaches in the national education system of Bangladesh.



Trainees in metal work in Bangladesh



Non-formal education in Burkina Faso

Poverty and unequal access to schooling perpetuate high adolescent birth rates, jeopardizing the health of girls and diminishing their opportunities for social and economic advancement.

Source: UN MDG Report 2010

Since its establishment in 2002, the Swiss support for FONAENF has benefited the literacy skills of about 500 000 people, of which 60% are women.

Child labour and schooling

In Bangladesh an estimated 8 million children are obliged to work to help feed their families. This corresponds to almost one fifth of all children aged 5 to 17. They work an average of 48 hours per week, usually for a starvation wage.

SDC contributes to improving the lot of these children and young people by providing them with opportunities to go to school and acquire professional qualifications. It has collaborated since 1980 with the national organisation *Underprivileged Children Education Programme* (UCEP), which has developed an education model that enables working children to attend school and vocational training. Its financial support to the projects amounted to CHF 1,25 million between 2007 and 2010.

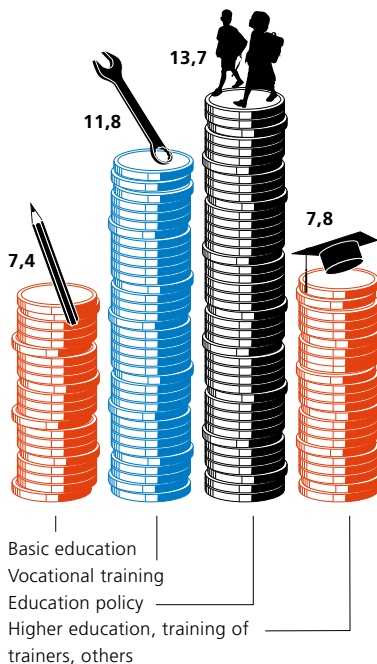
UCEP schools offer daily lessons in three shifts, so that working children can attend school in their free time. The content of the curricula is the same as that of state schools but concentrated over four years instead of eight. On completing their UCEP basic education, many school-leavers continue their education. The UCEP also offers them the opportunity to attend vocational training in a technical subject to increase their future prospects: unsurprisingly, only a few drop out since 95% go on to find employment in industry or with small businesses.

Illiteracy: still much to be done

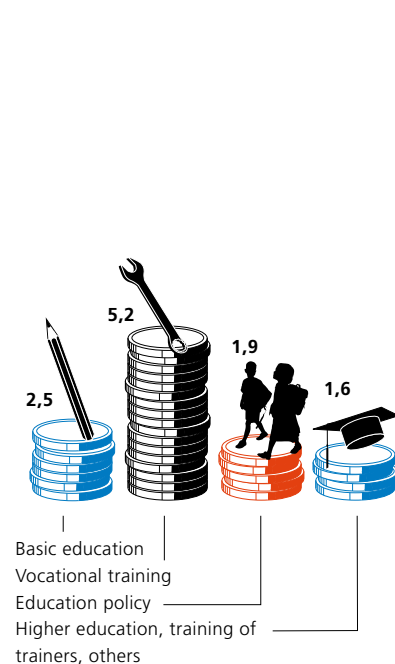
- According to the *UNESCO World Education Report*, 774 million adults and youth lack the most basic literacy and numeracy skills. Of those, 70% are women and girls.
- In 1999, approximately 96 million children had no school education – today there are still about 72 million, of whom 57% are girls.
- If the global engagement for education does not strengthen but remains the same, there will still be 56 million children who do not attend school in 2015.
- Over half of all illiterates live in Bangladesh, China, India and Pakistan.
- Illiteracy remains particularly high in sub-Saharan Africa. The rate is around 70% in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and Niger.

Detail of the basic and further education expenditures 2008, in mio CHF

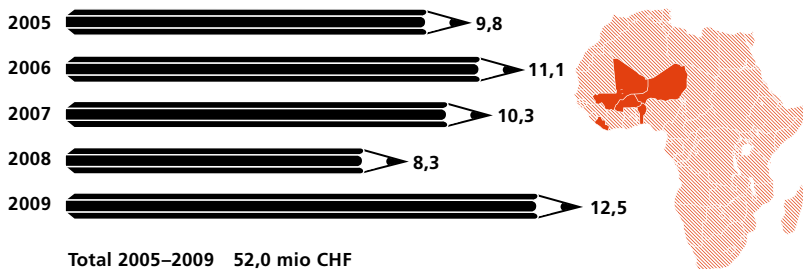
Regional cooperation Total 40,7 mio CHF



Cooperation with Eastern countries Total 11,2 mio CHF



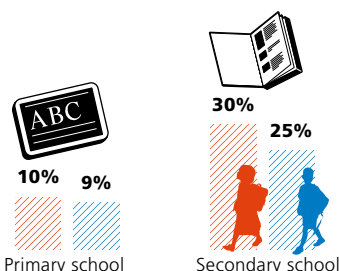
Basic and further education, SDC total expenditures in West Africa in mio CHF



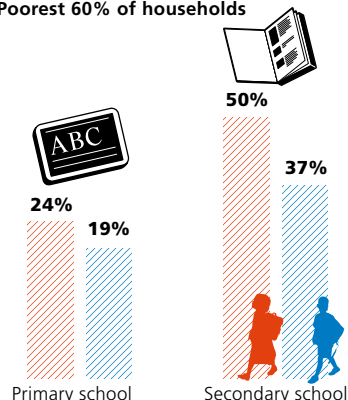
Number of girls and boys who do not attend school

Percentages by level of education and household income

Richest 40% of households



Poorest 60% of households



Survey in 42 countries, 2001 and 2008

Source: United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*

Here in Switzerland, schooling is an obligation, but elsewhere it is a sheer luxury. In many SDC partner countries, more than 70% of the population is illiterate. SDC and its partners work to promote basic and further education. Thanks to these interventions, hundreds of thousands have learned to read and write, thousands of young people and women have received vocational training and tens of thousands of teachers have undergone further training. For a growing number of people, this represents an opportunity to overcome poverty. And for SDC, a reason to continue to score further successes.

D

Agriculture



The majority of malnourished and undernourished people work in agriculture. This is precisely why rural development is so critical to the fight against poverty.

SDC has consistently attached great importance to rural development and poor farming families. This has been translated in the past Parliamentary Dispatches, in a commitment to support food security, agricultural services as well as access to markets. The latest financial and food crises have but reinforced this commitment in recent years.

Between 2006 and 2010, SDC invested CHF 133 million per year in long-term rural development in the South and the East. Millions of poor farming families benefited from this assistance, whether through direct cooperation or via the support to international agricultural research centres which generated, for example, drought-resistant varieties of crops.

More than 900 million people do not eat two meals a day and most of them live in rural areas. Wherever hunger is commonplace, there is little strength left for shaping the future.

Rural development therefore has a twofold relevance. It is a key factor in ensuring sufficient food and at the same time it plays a pivotal role in fighting poverty, including new poverty in transition countries. A great deal is at stake because life in rural areas is becoming increasingly difficult: the population continues to grow while soil, water and energy are growing scarce and prices for basic commodities are rising.

While small farms suffer from poverty, they are believed to have major potential. The 2008 State of Food and Agriculture report published by the *Food and Agriculture Organization* (FAO) found that family-run business structures are the best guarantee for local food security and for national as well as regional food sovereignty. Supporting them has always been a top priority at SDC, and this commitment has been extended over the years in recognition of the fact that small businesses account for 60% of the world's agricultural enterprises, and as much as 90% in Africa.

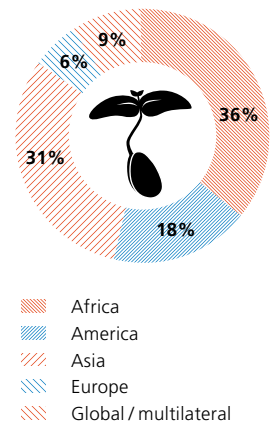
Swiss-supported projects have produced many positive outcomes. Farmers have learned new methods, such as the application of high-yield, environmentally friendly cultivation methods, resulting in greater productivity and higher income. These are sustainable successes, based on SDC's long-standing principle of help for self-help. But they are also due to efforts in a completely different area: comprehensive, long-term investments by Swiss development cooperation in agricultural research.

SDC's commitment to improved framework conditions and structural reforms also had a positive impact, allowing farmers to take a greater part in economic life. For instance, access to loans has become easier, and better basic infrastructures have been built in rural areas. Both are instrumental in ameliorating the situation of individual businesses as well as enhancing income and food security for entire communities. Finally, agricultural programmes are closely linked to efforts to foster employment and income.

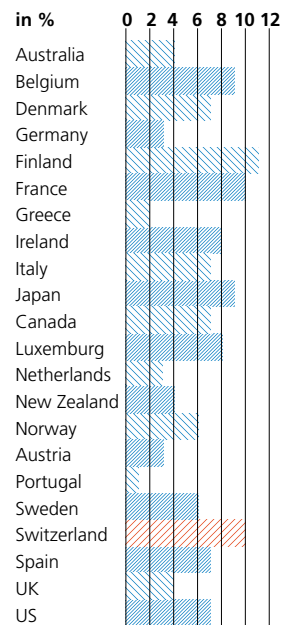
SDC has earned a good reputation in the policy dialogue over framework conditions, in particular as an active member of the *International Fund for Agricultural Development* which it has supported since its foundation in 1977, with contributions totalling more than USD 120 million.

Here, too, it is apparent that efforts to promote agriculture call for long-term capacity building, extensive experience and strong networks: all of which are SDC's strengths.

Bilateral expenditures in agricultural sector (rural development, economic development, Humanitarian Aid) 2003–2008, per continent, in %



Proportion of bilateral cooperation in agriculture to total development aid budget, in international comparison 2007–2008, in %



Switzerland invests about 10% of its aid budget in agriculture (including expenditures in Humanitarian Aid and Eastern Europe).

Source: OECD 2010, *Measuring Aid to Agriculture*

Agricultural research and innovation for the future

Agriculture relies on research and innovation. So does SDC's commitment to rural development, where new solutions are particularly important. The growing world population presents a great challenge to agriculture, as does climate change. It will therefore need to become more productive, apply more environmentally friendly methods, and manage dwindling resources more sustainably. This calls for a change of mindset and a concerted effort on the part of many partners. SDC cooperates therefore to this end with NGOs in Switzerland and partner countries as well as farmer organisations, universities and other research institutes.

Agricultural research centres at the basis of innovation

The most promising and sustainable approaches are those that combine the know-how of farming communities with leading-edge research. For example, new farming methods, heat- and drought-resistant crop varieties and irrigation technologies will be needed over the next few years. International agricultural research centres are preparing the groundwork for it. Major partners in that field are members of the *Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research* (CGIAR). This network of international agricultural research centres has benefited development cooperation much, especially since its research belongs to the public domain, allowing poor farmers to gain directly from progress. This also prevents the findings from being patented and thus profiting only the agricultural industry. Switzerland has supported the CGIAR network since its establishment, and with an annual contribution of around CHF 20 million, it is one of the five most influential donor countries.

CGIAR research results

Kenya and other East African countries

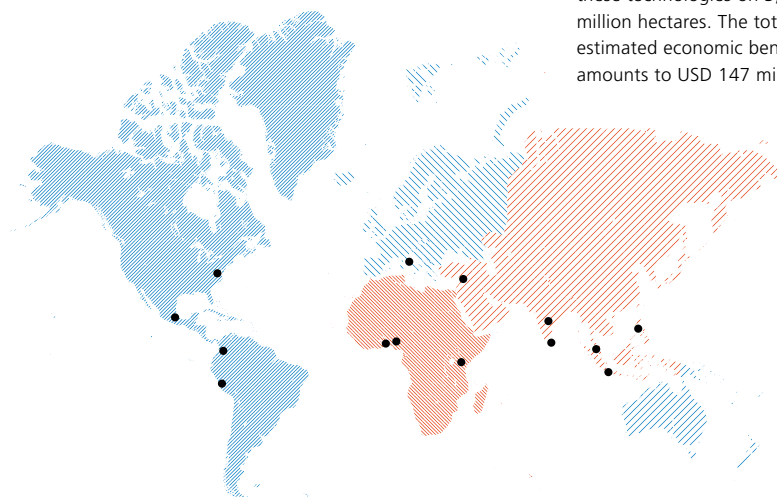
More than 2 million households (an estimated 10 million people) grow higher-yield varieties of beans.

Nigeria

New manioc production and processing technologies are directly creating 6000 jobs. The collective income of farming families and small enterprises has risen by USD 50 million.

Philippines and other countries in South Asia

New ploughless farming methods are protecting the environment and reducing rice and wheat production costs by an average of 10%. Half a million farmers use these technologies on 3,2 million hectares. The total estimated economic benefit amounts to USD 147 million.



The 15 CGIAR Research Centres

IFPRI — Washington DC, USA
CIMMYT — Mexico City, Mexico
CIP — Lima, Peru
CIAT — Cali, Colombia
Bioversity International — Rome, Italy
Africa Rice Center-WARDA — Cotonou, Benin
ILRI — Nairobi, Kenya

World Agroforestry — Nairobi, Kenya

ICARDA — Aleppo, Syria
IITA — Ibadan, Nigeria
IWMI — Colombo, Sri Lanka
ICRISAT — Patancheru, India
IRRI — Los Banos, Philippines
CIFOR — Bogor, Indonesia
World Fish — Penang, Malaysia

What impact does the CGIAR network have on international agricultural research?

For every dollar invested in CGIAR research, USD 9 worth of food is additionally produced where it is needed most: in developing countries.

Without public investment in the CGIAR network:

- world agricultural production would be 4–5% lower
- developing countries would produce 7–8% less food
- world food and grain prices would be 18–21% higher
- 15 million more children would be malnourished



The potatoes from the Andes that have conquered the World. SDC supports cultivation methods in such diverse countries as Bolivia, Rwanda, Bhutan, Mongolia and North Korea.

Example

Papa Andina – the potato project

In 1998, SDC launched the *Papa Andina project* in co-operation with the *Centro Internacional de la Papa (CIP)* in Lima, Peru. The initiative brought Andean farmers together with middlemen and supermarket representatives in the capital, with the result that 30 traditional varieties of potato have found their way to the city and are now regarded as a delicacy.

These potatoes are grown by around 1500 small farming families located far from the capital at an altitude of more than 3500 metres. This example illustrates the way in which research conducted by the CIP international research institute can benefit the rural poor. Thanks to this project, farming families today enjoy a higher and more regular income. What is more, this ancient plant once despised by urban dwellers has become a premium produce and a source of national pride. The President of Peru has declared May 30th as Potato Day, and the project has received the *BBC World Challenge Award* in 2007.

Example

An innovation that pays off

Between 2005 and 2008, around 1900 farming families in Kosovo have been taught new farming methods, with support from SDC. Strawberries, watermelons or medicinal plants as well as their further processing and marketing have generated additional income for these families. At the same time, 88 new full-time jobs have been created in the participating farms and another 200 people, mostly women, have found full-time employment collecting medicinal plants. The annual income of 1500 harvest workers has risen by EUR 700 and 350 farming families have earned on average EUR 2500 more per season than before.

Climate change and extreme conditions call for a long-term engagement

In 1999 and 2001, Mongolia suffered from severe climate conditions as an extremely dry summer was followed by a harsh winter with extremely cold and heavy snowfalls. Eleven million animals died, robbing 63 000 herder families of their livelihood. More than 8000 severely affected families in the project regions received a one-off cash grant of between CHF 180 and 200 via a Swiss project to help them recover. As a result, three years later, 84% of the recipients were once more able to earn their living largely from livestock farming. Grain production and livestock numbers grew and poverty was reduced. At the same time, however, sparse pastures once more came under pressure from overgrazing. Although the short-term aid programme was completed in 2005, SDC remains active in the field of livestock husbandry and intends to ensure the sustainability of this programme. Livestock farming, so vital to the people of Mongolia, is at risk from the climate change and extreme weather conditions; in the winter of 2009–2010 it suffered another disaster, this time leading to a loss of almost 8 million animals.



In Kosovo, innovative farmer families have implemented new production methods with support from SDC. This has increased their income as well as created new jobs.

Photo: Jean-Louis Gonterre / IICP

From pilot project to successful regional model

Once crops have been harvested, new concerns rise: up to 20% of the harvest are lost because food is stored in unprotected locations, infested by pests or fungus, or eaten by animals. Such losses are critical for many small farmers as they threaten their livelihood. Since the 1980s, SDC has been working with local partners on an agricultural project in Honduras to find a solution for post-

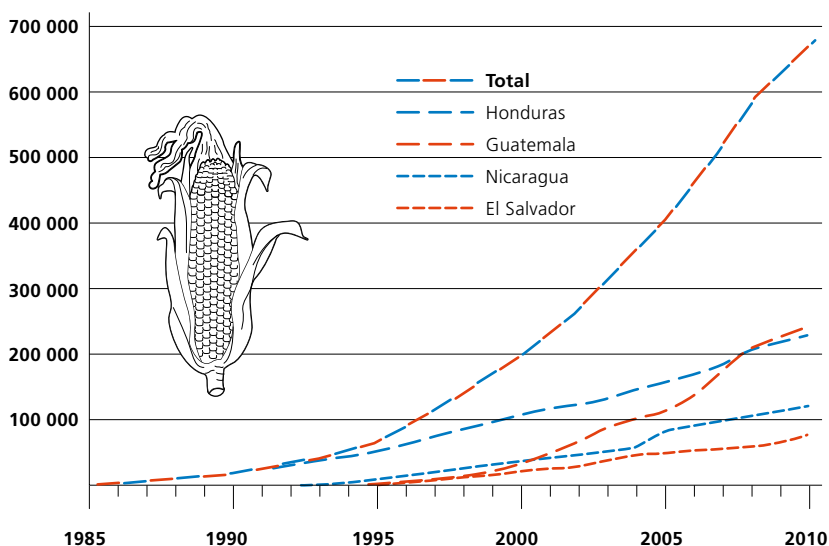


Simple metal silos are produced locally by handcraft businesses and have an immediate impact: crop losses after the harvest drop from up to 20% to a minimum.

Perseverance – success does not happen overnight

International comparison has shown Swiss Development Cooperation to be a reliable partner that has consistently promoted agriculture over the years. Since its beginnings in the 1960s, SDC has been active in this essential area for poverty reduction and has set its own priorities. Yet even if this commitment has achieved a wide range of positive impacts, success is never guaranteed. It takes usually a large number of years to create the right framework conditions. Sustainable development calls for continuity and perseverance, but no matter how careful the planning, it is also subject to a great many unforeseeable factors.

Increase of number of metal grain silos in Central America 1985–2010



harvest losses. Encouraging results have been achieved at first with easy-to-build metal silos. Over time, the early prototype silos have been refined, and the initiative has given birth to the regional *Postcosecha* project.

Thanks to the silos, farmers have been able to minimise their losses. Consequently they are better able to feed their families and earn more – not only because they suffer fewer losses but also because they can store their harvest securely and sell it whenever they can obtain a good price on the market. Because the silos are manufactured locally, local handicraft businesses also benefit from the project. The *Postcosecha* project has thus both contributed to food security and stimulated the local economy. Due to their success in Honduras, silos have now extended to neighbouring countries and even as far as Cuba and Paraguay.

Since the end of the 1990s, the *Postcosecha* method has penetrated the regional market to such an extent that it is now spreading without any further support from SDC. Nor does the story end here: SDC is currently supporting a pilot project in East Africa and looking into the possibility of using the metal silos there too, to prevent massive post-harvest losses.

Improving food and income hand in hand

Switzerland has consistently supported sustainability in the agricultural sector, and this was true even when agriculture had become less of a priority for other donors and partner countries. Today Switzerland still makes important contributions in the agricultural sector towards reducing poverty and increasing food security. These objectives are reached by a range of different strategies, which are adapted to local conditions.

Better living conditions in poor regions of Madagascar

In Madagascar, Switzerland has supported a project aimed at improving the living standards in several poor regions. Since its beginnings in 2000, around 150 000 people have taken part in 1500 sub-projects and increased the production of strawberries, fish, honey and silk. A further 8000 households have been able to increase their income, thanks to improved access to the market and enhancements in production quality. Among those families specialising in growing strawberries for example, the average production of a single household rose by 11%, as did operating profit, from around CHF 148 in 2001 to CHF 170 in 2004. Similar results were achieved during the 2006–2010 reporting period, during which the project continued to operate. Beekeepers, for example, increased their honey production by at least a

Agriculture, expenditure per domain, number of beneficiaries

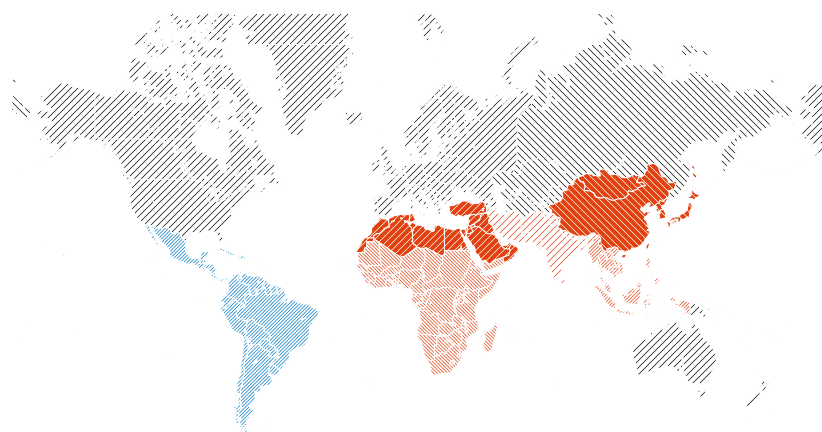
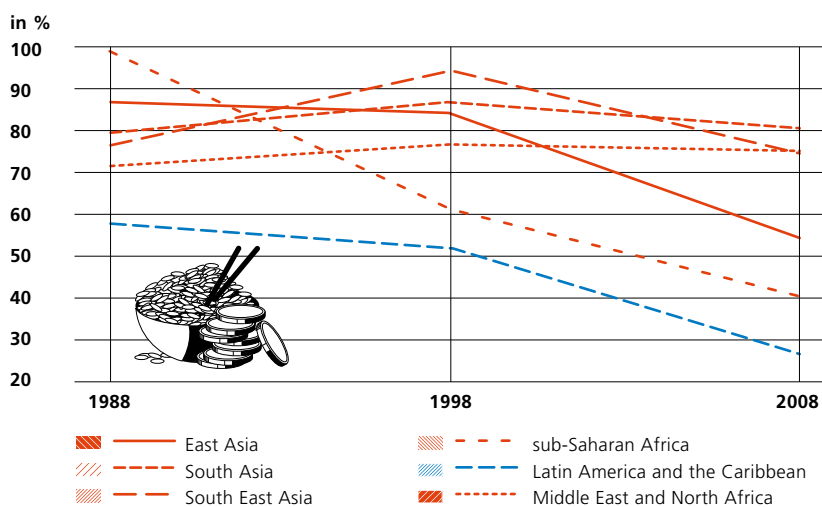
Domains	current projects basis 2009	investments per year in 1000 CHF	directly supported families cumulated	number of beneficiaries cumulated
Improved farming methods, increased productivity ¹	40	40 762	250 605	1 503 632
Access to sales markets, improved product marketing	28	27 530	77 427	464 562
Sustainable farming methods, soil and water protection measures	14	13 427	44 280	265 680
Agricultural research and development ²	18	30 929	44 933	269 600
Measures to improve the framework conditions	14	27 612	24 933	149 600
Total	114	140 260	442 178	2 653 074

¹ Includes CHF 7,1 million for the *International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)* – excludes the CHF 6,4 million Swiss core contribution to FAO, which is financed by the Federal Office for Agriculture.

² Includes CHF 12,5 million for the CGIAR.
Source: DEZA, 2009

Rural share of total poverty in %

Rural people as percentage of those living on less than USD 1,25 a day.



Source: IFAD Rural Poverty Report 2011

third, thanks to modernised techniques. Throughout the project area, periods of food scarcity are shorter today than before. As a result, households are less dependent on private moneylenders and their usurious interest rates. This in turns impacts positively their overall level of income.

The Pan African Bean Research Alliance (PARBRA)

The Pan African Bean Research Alliance (PARBRA) is an African research programme operating in more than 25 countries south of the Sahara. SDC has been supporting PARBRA since 1993 to the tune of CHF 1,5 million a year. More than 6,5 million households and some 30 million people have directly benefited from the project. Around 130 new seed varieties have been developed since 2003. Farming methods have been adjusted to changing environmental conditions and new pest control techniques have been developed. By combining the latest research findings with traditional knowledge, harvest yields have been massively increased: by 68% in Malawi, 265% in Uganda, 150% in Ethiopia and 40% in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The body mass index of a selected group of 12 000 people has significantly improved thanks to a better, regular diet of food from the PABRA programme.

Again and again, approaches developed in the framework of SDC projects have had spillover effects far from their original set-up. Successful methods, adapted and further developed according to the context, can be replicated in other projects. Lessons learned from SDC long-term engagement in the sector influence national and global agricultural regulations and policy debates. SDC relies on its strong collaboration with international organisations and multilateral programmes to this end.

Despite setbacks due to the 2008–2009 economic downturn and food and energy crises, successes have been achieved in the fight against poverty.

Source: UN-MDG Goals Report 2010

Investment in agriculture is worth it. Growth in the agricultural sector reduces poverty twice as much as growth in other economic sectors.

Source: World Development Report 2008, The World Bank

Paradoxically, hundreds of thousands of farming families suffer from hunger even though they cultivate the land. With the support of SDC, they learn new farming methods, work with better seed varieties and have a better access to markets. Food security is thus ensured and poverty reduced. An achievement that speaks for itself.

E

Rule of law and democracy



Poverty is often tied to helplessness, discrimination or arbitrary governments. Switzerland therefore promotes legal systems on which people can rely and have a voice in the shaping of their environment.

Switzerland is a credible partner in this context. As a federally organised democracy, it can help solve problems by drawing on its own experience and in so doing, support processes such as decentralisation.

Based on the Parliamentary Dispatches on the South and the East, SDC has defined priorities in the reform of the state, rule of law, human rights and democracy. In the 2006–2010 reporting period, SDC's commitment in this regard, both in partner countries and multilaterally, amounted to CHF 337 million. The greatest progress was achieved in Eastern Europe, where countries aiming for EU accession had to bring their legislation in line with constitutional and democratic standards.

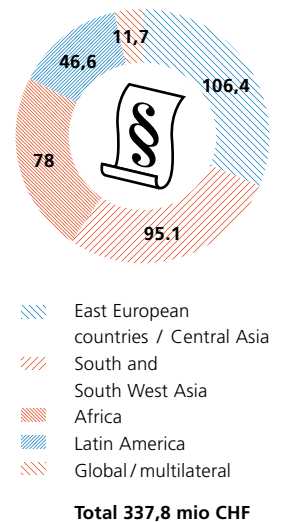
According to the *World Bank Institute* (WBI) the per capita income of a country can increase by up to a factor of three if it succeeds in improving governance. Democratic conditions reinforce checks and balances and allow people to evaluate and sanction the performance and conduct of their elected representatives. On the other hand, weak governments, lack of legal certainty and corruption can nullify development successes. In all its projects, Switzerland aims to promote democratic structures and more efficient state and civilian institutions. This calls for cooperation with a range of different partners such as human rights and citizens' organisations, local and regional committees as well as administrations, parliaments and governments.

Between 2007 and 2010, an average of 48% of bilateral funds towards transition countries were invested in projects and programmes aiming at establishing and improving local governance and decentralisation. In Asia and Latin America, 10–25% of the portfolio were allocated to such efforts.

SDC's various operations towards the rule of law and democracy are primarily characterised by their pragmatic approach. In addition, Switzerland has a strong comparative advantage: the country's own direct democracy and applied principle of subsidiarity with functioning community structures, combined with a diverse civil society. In other words, Switzerland offers many case studies of how a federal-democratic system works in practice.

This is appreciated by bilateral and multilateral partners alike. Even as a small donor country, Switzerland has repeatedly made significant contributions. In Bolivia, Switzerland headed the thematic group on decentralisation between 2008 and 2010 and in Mozambique, it performed important functions in the auxiliary group on budget support and public sector reforms.

Expenditures by region 2006–2010, in mio CHF



Poverty is not only a lack of material goods, but also of dignity, representative participation and protection.

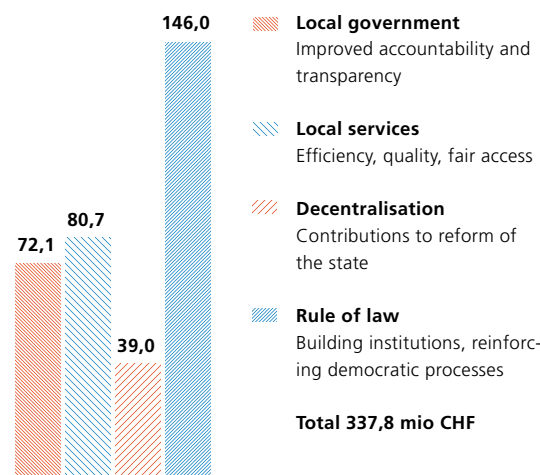
"Poverty is the absence of the freedom to utilise one's own capabilities."

Amartya Sen, economist and Nobel laureate 1998

"Good governance is the most important precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty."

Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, 2005

Expenditures by theme 2006–2010, in mio CHF



Empowering citizens

In any given place, the local population knows best what form of development it needs and where priorities must be set. For this reason SDC is committed to ensuring that the local population has a say in the planning and implementation of infrastructure and development projects. This increases the impact of projects as they address the actual needs of those affected. Moreover, it enables projects to be more sustainable since their implementation is the product of a concerted effort and the population is involved, for example, in project maintenance and operations. This participatory approach to communal planning is now attracting growing recognition and gaining increasing acceptance.

For instance, with the support of SDC, numerous multi-year and annual plans have been drawn up at the community level in Central and South America. Civil society organisations have made an important contribution to these plans, and preparing them for this role has been part of project work. In Nicaragua, for example, some 60% of the communities have adopted a procedure that encourages women in particular to participate. In each case, up to 40% of the population have taken part in the process, and in so doing, have set development priorities themselves.

Example

Villages empowered to set their own development priorities

Residents of 2600 villages in Laos have the opportunity to decide themselves whether they need support for water supplies, health care or education. The final decision on the proposals is made by village representatives at the district level. Thanks to this initiative, to which SDC and the World Bank have contributed USD 6–7 million a year since 2004, the districts now have a guaranteed budget for implementation of the selected projects. To date this has benefited around 900 000 people, mainly in the country's poor mountainous region. Based on the results achieved to date, there is a good chance that the government will extend the participatory approach to the entire country in the future.

Adjusted projects – multifaceted results

Bolivia

A national human rights plan was created and its implementation supported by several ministries.

Mali

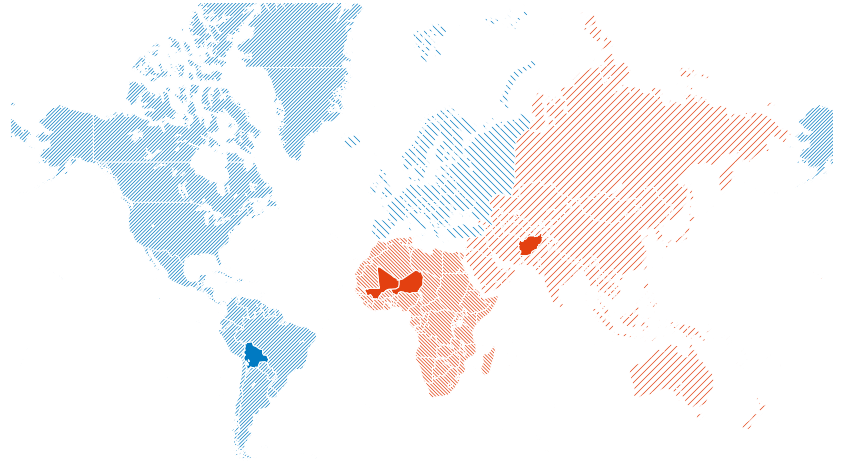
The number of female candidates for public offices is steadily growing.

Afghanistan

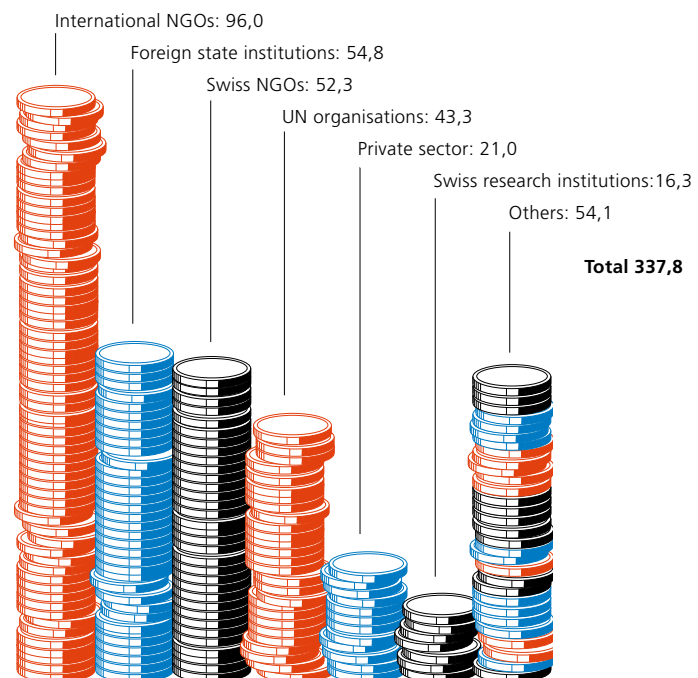
The number of phantom wage-earners in the police force has fallen due to computerised salary systems.

Niger

The efficiency of the judicial system (number of cases dealt with per year) has improved by leaps and bounds.



Expenditure by partner 2006–2010, in mio CHF



Efficiency, quality and ownership

Former centralised states often find it difficult to build efficient grassroots infrastructure and administration. As soon as decisions are made at the local, decentralised level, financial powers need to be delegated and administrative as well as organisational competencies need to be developed. This is where Switzerland can provide valuable support, drawing on its own experience of multifaceted planning procedures. For example, infrastructure projects in particular contain “soft” factors, which can easily be overlooked in the technical planning process but are nevertheless key to sustainable success. Examples of such “soft” factors include education, organisational development and project management. Switzerland has been quick to recognise the significance of these soft project components and has long pursued them as a priority. They have even grown in importance in recent years, based on the following: to sustain an infrastructure, every project needs a sponsor or group of sponsors to guarantee maintenance and funding. This applies to water supplies, hospitals, schools and road construction projects, making sponsorship one of the most important soft factors. Since those are complex, multifaceted factors and cannot be directly measured, it is often difficult to determine the extent to which they contribute to a project’s success (or failure). Although their impact only becomes apparent in the long term, soft factors often dictate whether, for example, a school has the means to survive after external support has ended or can even be used as a model for further development.

From development project to model

In the context of cooperation with Eastern Europe in particular, SDC’s commitment to promoting the rule of law and democracy has had a wide-ranging impact and has been repeatedly integrated into national policy. As part of a local water project in Bosnia-Herzegovina, guidelines have been drawn up for the planning of communal developments, approved by the government and recommended as a template for all communal administrations throughout the country. The main thrust of these guidelines is to promote the participation of citizens, particularly those groups who are frequently excluded: minorities, returning displaced persons and women.

In 2009, development plans formulated by communities in Albania have been officially recognised for the first time by regional authorities. In a next phase, a regional development plan will be elaborated and integrated in community plans. With support from SDC, seven communities in Western Serbia have set up local tax administrations. Whereas the local tax base was still zero in 2006, by 2009 these communities have already been generating revenue from local taxes and charges equivalent to 5–25% of their budget.

Example

Contribution to strengthening local self-government in Ukraine

For the past ten years SDC has been helping to strengthen local governance in Ukraine and provide small towns and rural regions with better public services. The *United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP) and national partners are involved in the implementation process.

The project to support decentralisation efforts has been launched in 2006 at the behest of the then Ukrainian President and implemented by a Swiss consulting firm. Combined with a complementary UNDP project, impressive results have been achieved over the past four years:

- Some 350 000 people have gained access to improved water supplies and other communal services. SDC has contributed around CHF 1 million to selected infrastructure projects in this context.
- Around 1000 local and regional government officials have been trained in participatory planning, budgeting and the management of public services.
- Technical consulting has made a valuable contribution to the formulation of concepts for the reform of the administrative-territorial system and for local self-government.
- SDC has assisted the National Academy for Public Administration in training civil servants.
- During times of political instability in recent years, the SDC cooperation office in Kiev has also conducted regular policy dialogue with the central government, and been involved in coordination between the government and other international donors.



Community of forest users group meeting in Nepal



Community council voting in Kosovo

Reform of the state and decentralisation

Since the 1990s, all SDC partner countries around the world have been undergoing decentralisation processes, with varying degrees of impact and success. In many cases, promoting decentralised administrations has necessitated sweeping reforms of the state, accompanied by efforts to strengthen autonomy at the community level as well as citizens' participation. Such processes last for decades and frequently entail risks since political interests, influence and access to resources are at stake.

Fiscal reforms play an important role in decentralisation processes, since communities often have no tax system or revenue of their own yet need such funds to manage their tasks. Drawing on its experience of federalism, community autonomy and financial equalisation mechanisms, and using the Swiss system as a role model, SDC has made an important contribution to enhancing the quality of discussions on reform in its partner countries in the East and South.

Success has mostly been reached in small steps. During the reporting period, the Swiss contribution to Rwanda, Burundi and Mozambique has achieved well-recognised impacts. In Rwanda, for example, SDC has been responsible for the introduction of Switzerland's principle of subsidiarity, while in Mozambique SDC has assumed a leading role in the water/sanitation sector and directly advised the Minister for Decentralisation in Burundi.

Human rights – the basis for democracy

A properly functioning democracy calls not only for organisations and institutions that safeguard the rule of law but also for citizens who know their rights and obligations and are able to exercise them. SDC has provided practical assistance at various levels and in a range of different areas. Training and further education for elected people's representatives and civil servants is an important instrument with which SDC has repeatedly achieved success. SDC has also supported training in governance and citizenship for the population.

During the 2008–2010 period, 169 courses on governance and citizenship were held in Vietnam. In the Indian state of Maharashtra, where 30 000 people and 4000 village development organisations attended information events on community administration, major progress was made in terms of electing women to community legislative organs. As a general rule, SDC's response to demand is flexible and pragmatic. As a result, a wide range of institutes and organisations have benefited from development grants: for example, grass roots organisations (Chad), legislative organs (Burundi), the judicial system (Rwanda), the national police service (Afghanistan), the Council for Human Rights (Bolivia), human rights organisations and the Council of Ministers (Peru), and organs entrusted with the decentralisation of the Act of Settlement (Nicaragua).

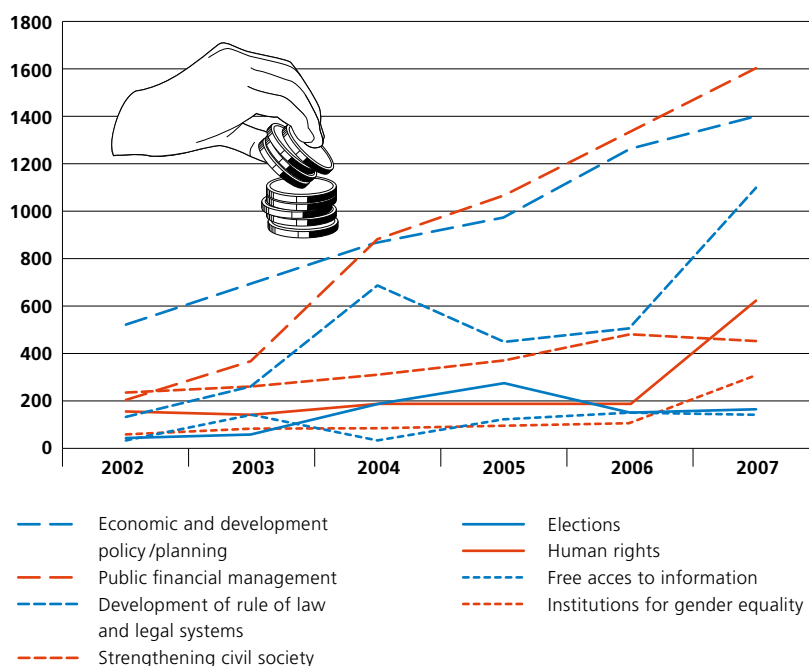


Villagers registering on electoral roll in West Africa



Nicaraguan roads maintenance committee in practice

DAC donors expenditures for governance 2002–2007, in mio USD



Source: OECD DAC Development Report 2010

Example

Over the past 25 years, SDC projects in Bolivia have been instrumental at many levels in promoting democratisation

As part of the decentralisation process in Bolivia, SDC has provided one third of the communities with support in educating small farmers and other disadvantaged groups. The objective was to enable such groups to play a more active role in political and economic processes and, in doing so, improve their standards of living. In the 2006–2010 period, CHF 420 000 have been committed to a Bolivian citizens' organisation that has actively participated in formulating the national human rights plan. In parallel, 8200 people have received training, 40% of whom are civil servants, and members of the police force and army.

Switzerland also helped Bolivia to draw up the first report on civil society for the *UN Human Rights Council*. When it comes to the rights of indigenous peoples, SDC is an important partner for the government as well as the donor community. It also pursues policy dialogue in this area. Thus, for example, national and international attention was drawn to the problem of forced labour and modern slavery among the indigenous Guarani. As a result, citizens' rights have been restored to around 2000 families and a good 150 000 hectares of land pledged to them. Moreover, hundreds of farm labourers have received a salary for the first time in their lives. As a concrete step towards implementing the national human rights plan, SDC has signed agreements with six ministries, including the Ministry of the Interior (police force), the Ministry of Labour (conditions of employment for plantation and migrant labourers) and the Ministry of Justice (minority rights).

Poverty can be reduced in the long term only if the rule of law, human rights and legal systems are promoted. As a representative of democratic Switzerland, SDC is a credible partner when it comes to nation-building, reinforcing human rights and enabling life to be lived in dignity. This engagement is important today and will remain so tomorrow.

F

Water



SDC supports a fair access to water and basic sanitation for the poor. Both are fundamental human rights and key to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

The focus of SDC's efforts corresponds to the mandate outlined in the Parliamentary Dispatches, which also aim to strengthen institutions, protect water resources and build or restore infrastructures.

The combination of emergency aid, reconstruction and longer-term activities entails close collaboration between development cooperation in the South and East and Humanitarian Aid.

During the reporting period Switzerland invested an average of CHF 68 million a year in the water sector. As a result, at least 370 000 people a year gained secure access to drinking water, lessons in hygiene, and basic sanitation. More than 30 000 people gained access to irrigation.

In July 2010 the *UN General Assembly* declared the right to water and sanitation as a human right. Moreover, the Millennium Development Goals to which Switzerland is a signatory aim to halve the number of people with no secure access to clean drinking water or sanitation facilities by 2015. Water is also a vital resource for the community of all living creatures and plants and for a properly functioning natural ecosystem.

SDC's support in the water sector focuses on four main areas:

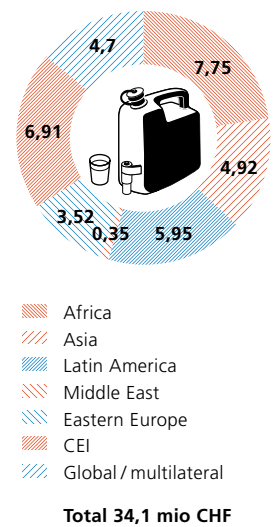
- drinking water supplies
- basic sanitation
- provision of water for food production and cattle raising
- protection of water-based ecosystems and of the associated catchment areas

Priority is given to fair access to water. The majority of SDC funds (70%) for this sector are allocated to rural regions, where water-related programmes have the greatest impact in terms of improving living conditions and food security. SDC also cooperates on seeking international solutions for the global shortage of water and for international conflicts over resources.

By setting up water supply systems, Switzerland has improved the lives of thousands. Over the past 25 years, 285 000 people in Nicaragua gained access to drinking water. Since 1978, when Swiss projects started in Niger, 700 000 people have benefited from SDC's efforts. In many cases this has resulted in important improvements for women in particular. Since it takes them less time to fetch water, many girls are able to attend school on a regular basis. Thanks to SDC programmes, women have had a greater say in community matters, for example as members of water committees. Switzerland has also played a pioneering role in promoting basic sanitation, having been quick to recognise that it needs to be ameliorated together with drinking water supplies.

SDC's Humanitarian Aid has also made important contributions to the water domain, engaging in efforts to prevent disasters such as floods and providing immediate aid in the event of emergencies. Wherever feasible, such efforts are gradually migrated to sustainable development programmes following a disaster. SDC achieves impact through cost-effective measures. A study of ten Swiss water programmes in nine countries (2008 SDC Report on Effectiveness) showed that each Swiss franc invested generated a social and economic benefit of at least CHF 3–5.

Water expenditures by region, 2007–2008 in mio CHF. Average bilateral expenditures and earmarked multilateral programmes



An estimated 2,6 billion people around the world had no access to improved sanitation in 2008. If the current trend continues, this number will rise to 2,7 billion by 2015.

Source: UN MDG Report 2010

According to household surveys conducted between 2005 and 2008, the richest 20% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa is almost 5 times as likely to have access to improved sanitation than the poorest 20%.

Source: UN MDG Report 2010

Cost-effective technology for humanitarian missions

Switzerland has responded swiftly to the disastrous floods in Pakistan in the autumn of 2010, among other things by deploying the *Swiss Humanitarian Aid unit* to provide emergency relief and launch water distribution and disinfection projects. These efforts have reached around 250 000 people and involved the use of 70 "WATA" devices. Developed by a Swiss NGO, the devices use saltwater electrolysis to produce chlorine – still the simplest and cheapest way of disinfecting water. Since they are battery-powered, they are ideal for use in remote areas. After a brief instruction course, Pakistani staff was able to produce chlorine at minimal cost to disinfect reservoirs, wells and pipes. WATA devices will continue to prove useful since, despite the progress achieved, broad sections of the Pakistani population still have no access to clean drinking water even in the absence of floods.

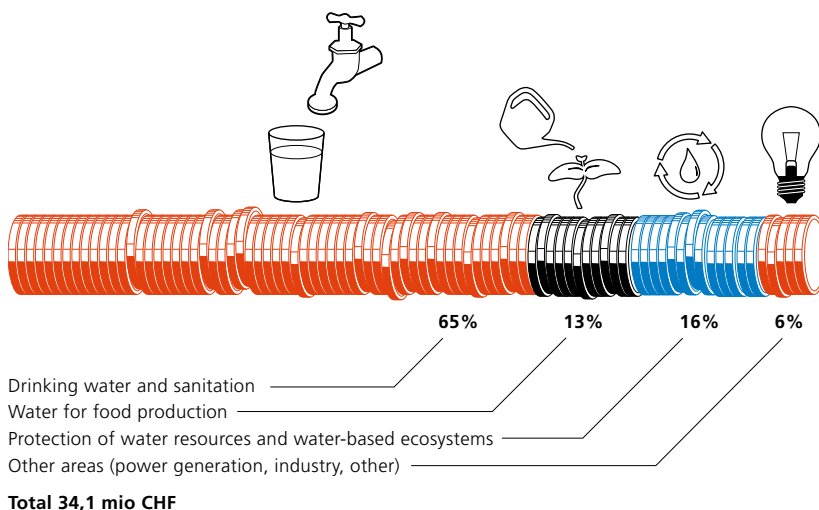
Comprehensive local solutions

SDC supports the development and introduction of simple technologies, which can be adapted to local needs, are affordable for users and can be maintained by them. Cooperation with local private enterprises ensures the efficient market launch and distribution of such technologies. Within the framework of its projects, SDC works closely with the local population as well as local and national organs (e.g. water authorities and water suppliers), and by providing targeted trainings for specialists, it is helping to enhance the professionalism of the sector. In Niger, Switzerland builds institutional capacities, water supplies and sanitation facilities. Between 2008 and 2010, 300 water supply points were set up in the regions supported, providing water for 75 000 people and countless livestock. Working with local project partners, SDC has succeeded in empowering communities to make their own decisions on investment priorities. Up to 40% of their investment costs go towards water supplies. The projects have been funded directly at community level, and important decision-making responsibilities have been decentralised from central government ministries to the communities, enabling a great many water supply systems to be set up within a short period. Local craftsmen have been involved in the construction. The whole process has thus generated further benefits for the communities, beyond the provision of water and sanitation, as they have become successful examples of the state reform process and the move to decentralise infrastructure projects.

As a result of SDC projects, 30 000 people in Moldova and 40 000 people in Nicaragua have received information on the relationship between drinking water quality, hygiene and health, as well as tips on efficient water management. In Mozambique, long-term training courses

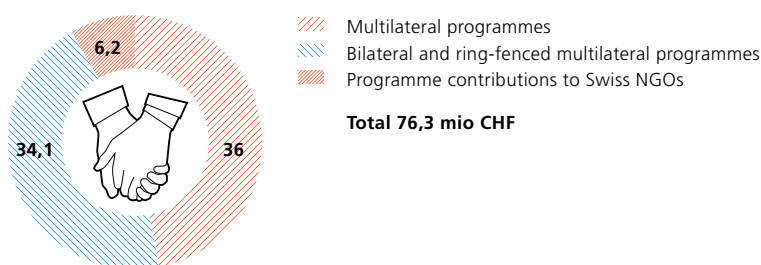
Expenditures by domain 2007–2008, in %

Average bilateral expenditures and earmarked multilateral programmes



Expenditures by actor 2007–2008, in mio CHF

Average expenditures



Expenditures by type of support 2008, in %

Education, institutional support ("software")	53%
Infrastructure	47%

To implement its objectives in the water activity area, the SDC promotes improvements in infrastructure and software. Over the next few years, the SDC will step up its educational and institutional capacity-building efforts.

have been held for water sector specialists, financially supported by grants. The impact of this approach has been better than short training courses: 730 people received training and 60% went on to find a job.

Example

Simple, effective water technologies for Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, Switzerland has supported the introduction of easy-to-build hand pumps. This has resulted in a nation-wide reduction in water-borne diseases (including diarrhoea and cholera). As a side effect, absences from work have fallen and their cost to the economy decreased. Because the equipment is manufactured by local entrepreneurs, this has created local value chains based on affordable products which need supporting only in the start-up phase.

SDC has also promoted the distribution of treadle pumps for agricultural use, in Bangladesh. 1,3 million of these pumps have since been sold, each of which generates additional income of around USD 100 per season. Since the pumps cost only USD 25 and are easy to produce and install, their distribution is self-supporting. As a result, the fight against poverty can also stimulate business.

Broad impact and international resonance

Despite a comparatively low budget, SDC is able to bring water-related issues of global and regional importance into political discussions. As an example, in 2010 it has worked with the *Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)* to launch the *Water Security in the Middle East* initiative. As with its water projects in the Fergana Valley in Central Asia and in southern Africa, the aim of Switzerland's involvement in this initiative is to contribute to the gradual easing of international conflicts and tensions over water.

In many countries, including Peru, Niger, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Kosovo, Nicaragua and Mozambique, SDC has taken the lead in water-related issues amongst development organisations. In this capacity, it promotes the development of national strategies and laws and fosters the harmonisation of donors' activities. It also conducts dialogues between all relevant stakeholder groups, including local governments and grassroots organisations. In addition, SDC spearheads strategic networks for decentralised water supplies and wastewater treatment in small towns, leads the policy dialogue and fosters the exchange of knowledge and transfer of expertise.

Another example is lobbying for sanitation facilities. After years of preparation and thanks to financial support from SDC, the *Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)* has been established. The aim of this network is to improve basic sanitation. Similarly, SDC provides substantial support to the World Bank's *Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP)*. In recent years, SDC has also allocated more funds to its own projects to address this issue.

Organisation of water distribution and efficient water management

In the Fergana Valley, which is shared by Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, agriculture is dependent on irrigation. Due to the outdated canal network, poor water distribution and its illegal diversion for irrigation purposes, end users – particularly those at the furthest reaches of the canals – used to be able to access only 50–60% of the water to which they were entitled.

As part of an integrated SDC water project covering irrigation, drinking water and sewage systems, water consumption has been reduced by 20% and water distribution has sustainably ameliorated by working with the responsible institutions to set up transparent water management processes. Despite the general reduction in irrigation water per unit of land, the income of affected farmers has increased by 10–15% in Uzbekistan and up to 100% in Tajikistan. Moreover, these improvements have proved effective at halting the gradual salinisation



Communities deciding by themselves over investment priorities. In this way, many water supplies can be realised in a short amount of time.



Locally produced manual pumps are inexpensive and support the local economy.



Local population contributing to the construction of a wastewater disposal line in Moldova.

of the region's soil. Thanks to transparent regulations governing water use, conflicts between water consumers have declined sharply. Between 2003 and 2008, an estimated 150 000 people in the Fergana Valley gained access for the first time to an irrigation structure. All in all, an estimated 680 000 people spread over 1700 square kilometres benefited from this project. Nevertheless, since only 56% of water consumers pay fees to the canal authorities, the problem of sustainable funding for the new systems remains unresolved. The Swiss project tries to sensitise water user groups and local businesses in this regard, but such efforts will bear fruit only in the longer term.

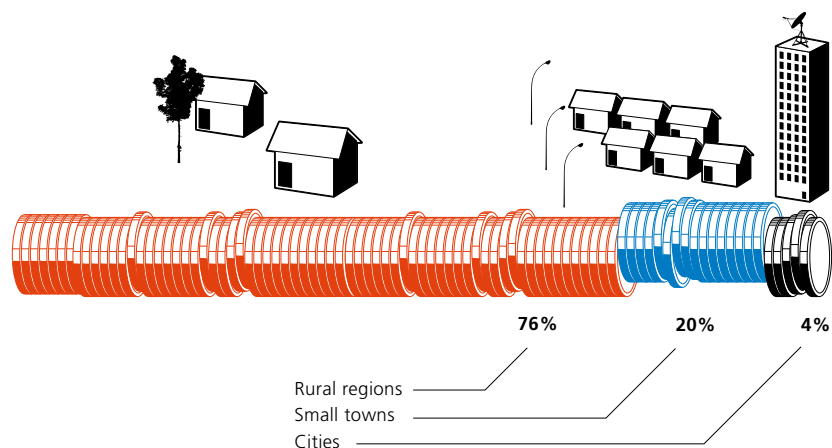
Switzerland initiates an integrated water management system

SDC focuses on *Integrated Water Resource Management* (IWRM), which it has helped to develop and advocate on the international stage, for example as a founding member of the *Global Water Partnership* (GWP). Today the IWRM is globally implemented based on the premise that, when it comes to water, a wide range of factors need to be taken into account in order for a project to achieve sustainable impact. This is illustrated by a project in the Sahel, where SDC ties well construction to the adaptation of a legal framework (for example, rules governing water rights) and institutional criteria (for example, the establishment of a citizens' committee that can influence investment decisions and subsequently take over responsibility for maintaining the installations). At the same time, it has boosted the local economy by awarding contracts to local businesses and has ensured the sustainable operation of the systems by training technical staff and promoting institutions. Measures have also been taken to ensure that the wells do not encourage overgrazing and damage the ecology, thereby jeopardising water supplies in the long term.

Water and Health

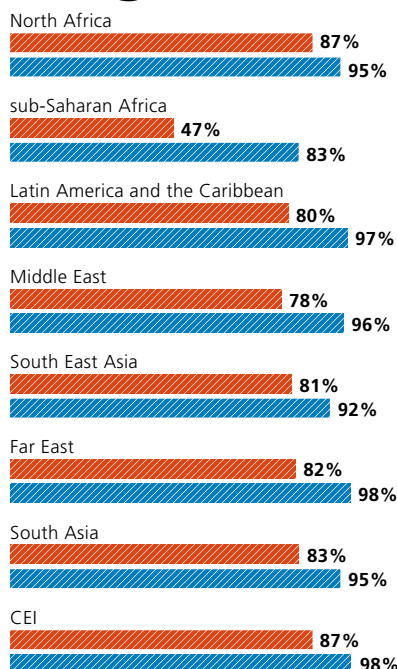
- 80% of the diseases in development countries are linked to the lack of drinking water and insufficient sanitation
- 1,8 million children die annually due to unclean drinking water and insufficient sanitation, 5000 daily
- 800 million people do not have access to safe drinking water
- 2,6 billion people do not have access to proper sanitation

Water, urban-rural distribution of expenditures 2007–2008, in %



Investments go predominantly to projects in rural areas. In the last few years, they have increased for small towns but remain very limited for cities.

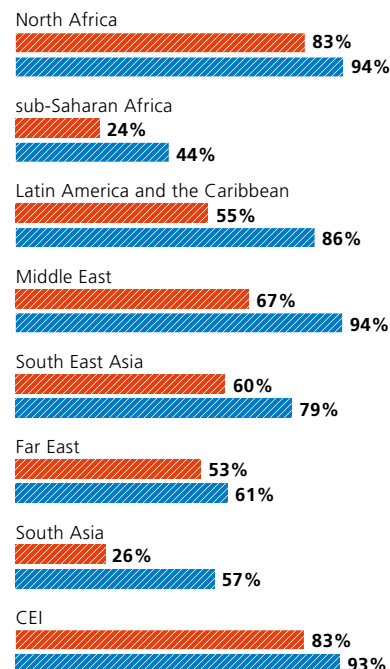
Percentage of the population with access to improved water supplies 2008



■ Rural
■ Urban

Source: United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*

Percentage of the population with access to improved sanitation 2008



The human right to clean water and basic sanitation:

On 28 July 2010 the United Nations General Assembly recognised the right to clean water and basic sanitation as a fundamental human right. The resolution proposed by Bolivia was unanimously approved, with 41 of the 163 states present abstaining. Switzerland was instrumental in drafting the proposal, which it then approved along with Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Norway.

Water is the support basis of all life, including in particular drinking water and water for irrigation and food production. It is therefore an essential factor in global sustainable development. But not all of humanity has access to clean water. Remedying this situation is therefore one of the principal tasks of development – and thus of SDC. As a result of SDC's contribution, every year some 370 000 people receive drinking water and live more healthy lives. At SDC, water remains an inexhaustible theme.

G

Humanitarian Aid



Switzerland provides assistance to victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters around the world, within the framework of its humanitarian aid mandate. In January 2010, SDC launched the greatest emergency relief operation in its history, following the earthquake in Haiti. In accordance with the Federal Council's 2006 decision, SDC's humanitarian aid interventions also cover prevention and risk reduction, reconstruction and advocacy on behalf of victims.

Recent years have seen an upsurge in natural disasters, making protection of the population and risk reduction ever more relevant. Here, SDC can draw much on its hands-on experience in the field and develop new, internationally recognised instruments and processes for disaster prevention.

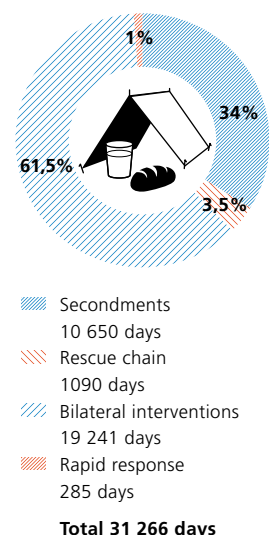
Between 2006 and 2010, CHF 300 million per year were allocated to SDC's Humanitarian Aid. Two thirds of this budget was committed to international organisations' operations, and one third was spent on SDC's own interventions.

The core task of SDC's humanitarian aid effort is to save lives and alleviate suffering worldwide, using an unbiased, non-partisan approach free from political conditions. In implementing its activities it draws on its extensive experience of humanitarian missions and a large network of partners that reinforces its international standing. In this area, SDC works in four interconnected fields of activity designed to address the phases before, during and after an event:

- disaster prevention has grown in importance in recent years, and SDC draws on its experience of emergency aid missions when elaborating prevention concepts
- emergency aid protects and saves human lives under severe threat
- the first steps towards reconstruction are often taken during a humanitarian aid mission. Often, the short-term measures taken at this point are subsequently transferred to longer-term development cooperation projects
- special attention is paid to serve as advocates for the victims of violence and disasters and represent their interests

The *Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit* (SHA) is a special characteristic of Switzerland's humanitarian commitment. Based on a "militia" system, a corps of more than 600 qualified experts in various professions stands ready for deployment on international missions. This pool of expertise enables rapid, professional interventions in the field. During the 2006–2009 reporting period, the SHA was deployed for 117 376 assignment days. In other words, 80 members of the SHA were deployed on average every single day during these four years, increasing even to 100 in 2010. In addition, SDC underwrites the application of general quality standards for emergency aid and the necessary coordination of missions among the various actors.

Deployment of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit abroad 2009, in days and %



Members of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit spent the most days on assignment on long-term direct interventions, followed by secondments to UN organisations. Missions by the Swiss Rescue and Emergency teams last a maximum of 10 days, respectively 3 weeks.

Secondments

In the event of disasters, large international organisations have a high demand for personnel and appreciate the professionalism of the SHA. Needless to say, the Humanitarian Aid puts its SHA experts at the disposal of these organisations wherever possible. These secondments are an important instrument for Switzerland's emergency aid. The total number of days spent on secondments in 2010 amounted to 34 full-time equivalents.

Emergency aid – a major relief operation in Haiti

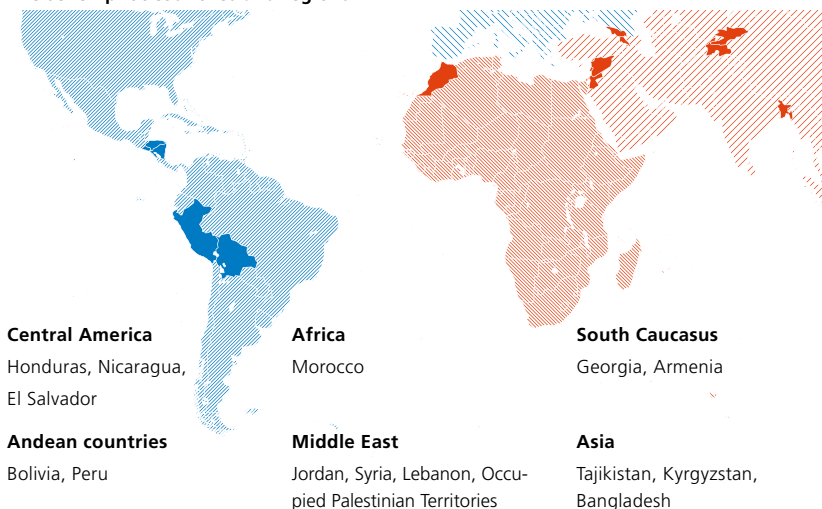
The Haitian earthquake of 12 January 2010 left 250 000–300 000 dead and as many injured. More than a million people lost their homes. SDC defined its priorities on the basis of rapid assessments on the ground, in coordination with other aid agencies, and focused on providing emergency medical assistance to mothers and children. Over the space of three months, 49 medical specialists from Switzerland treated around 800 patients, including 245 pregnant women who gave birth to their children under Swiss care.

SDC's emergency aid programme for drinking water was launched at the end of May 2010, providing up to 50 000 people a day with clean drinking water supplies. Coordinating closely with Haitian authorities and in co-operation with local relief organisations, SDC distributed building materials to more than 2000 families, who used them to erect shelters for about 10 000 people. In addition, 435 family tents were distributed to earthquake victims, also via partner organisations.

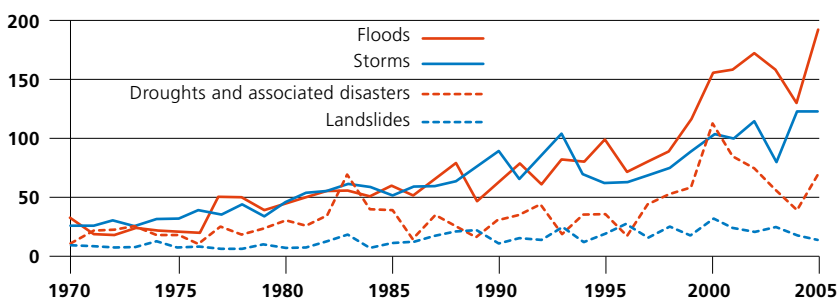
Interventions conducted by SDC's emergency aid between 12 January and 31 March 2010 cost a total of CHF 11,7 million. As is the norm for such operations, this amount also covers the cost of deploying Swiss experts in international organisations such as the *Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* (OCHA), the *World Food Programme* (WFP) and the *United Nations Children's Fund* (UNICEF). Six months after the earthquake, an independent external team of evaluators confirmed the appropriateness of the intervention strategy selected by the Humanitarian Aid, asserting that Switzerland had achieved a disproportionately large impact relative to its size as a donor, thanks to its professionalism, technical know-how and excellent coordination with other actors. Continuity is an important aspect of such efforts. With the Federal Council's decision from 24 March 2010, Switzerland has expressly committed to assist Haiti in the medium-term. The SDC joint 2011–2013 programme focuses on the reconstruction of social infrastructures, food security and disaster prevention.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

The seven pilot countries and regions



Number of hydro-meteorological disasters 1970–2005



Source: IFAD Report on Rural Poverty 2011/ISDR

Expenditures by partner 2009, in mio CHF

Organisation	mio CHF
United Nations organisations	104,3
World Food Programme (WFP)	43,9
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	27,2
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Middle East (UNRWA)	12,9
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)	11,2
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	2,6
Other UN organisations	6,5
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	105,7
Bilateral interventions and administrative costs	93,7
Swiss NGOs	22,1
International organisations and foreign NGOs	13,9
Direct assignments of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) and Rescue Chain	22,6
Operating and personnel costs as well as investments in materials	35,2
Total Humanitarian Aid	303,7

The Swiss Confederation's Humanitarian Aid works closely with international partners and multilateral organisations around the world. Two thirds of its budget goes towards international organisations and partners such as the *International Committee of the Red Cross* (ICRC) and the *UN High Commissioner for Refugees*, in line with international commitments and internal directives.

Post-conflict emergency aid and reconstruction

Emergency aid for victims of war in the Gaza Strip

According to the UN, the 22-day conflict in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Hamas at the turn of 2008–2009 left more than 1300 Palestinians dead and 5300 injured – mainly civilians, a third of whom were children. 18 000 people lost their homes, and drinking water as well as electricity supplies were severely damaged.

Since the Israeli army had blocked off the Gaza Strip, access was extremely difficult for humanitarian aid workers. Thanks to its longstanding presence in the region, SDC was able to draw on a network of partners to provide quick and efficient assistance. Two rapid response teams immediately assessed the most urgent needs, mainly related to water, food, medicine and shelter.

A third team set up a logistics base in Cairo, where it purchased around CHF 1 million worth of relief goods (food, sanitary products, mattresses and plastic sheeting). The materials were then shipped to Gaza via a transport channel set up by the UN. Counselling was also offered, particularly for children. In addition to this bilateral assistance, Switzerland contributed CHF 3 million to the *United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees* (UNRWA).

The relief goods distributed even before the ceasefire was declared alleviated the suffering of an estimated 50 000 people, and the distribution of more than 4000 mattresses and blankets improved the circumstances of at least 7500 people.

Reconstruction of basic infrastructure in Liberia

Today, years after the 1989–2003 civil war, much of Liberia remains devastated and in urgent need of reconstruction. Following the return of refugees and displaced persons, one of the main priorities in Liberia is to rebuild the basic health care infrastructure.

Switzerland took over the responsibility for the reconstruction of Tellewoyan hospital in Voinjama. Following an intensive planning phase, works for the 120 beds facility that lasted two years, were completed in mid-2008. Most of the fixtures and fittings were locally manufactured or purchased on the national market. For the procurement of special medical equipment, the project was also able to benefit from the sale of second-hand Swiss military material (e.g. hospital beds). The responsibility for the running of the hospital was transferred to the *International Medical Corps* (IMC), a non-governmental organisation that works closely with the Liberian Health

Ministry, in order to ensure the hospital's long-term operation and integration in the national health care system. Thanks to the reconstructed hospital, some 280 000 residents of Lofa district once more have access to an excellent range of medical services. Between the resumption of operations in May 2008 and the end of 2009, more than 19 800 patients were treated by the emergency unit, and some 5750 of this number were hospitalised. More than 1300 major surgical operations were carried out and more than 770 babies were brought into the world in the new Tellewoyan Hospital. The hospital's quality is attested to among other things by its mortality rate of 4,5%: a remarkably low rate for a rural hospital.

Protection from natural disasters

In recent years, development cooperation has increasingly been focusing on reducing the risk of natural disasters (Disaster Risk Reduction, DRR). During the reporting period, SDC's Humanitarian Aid invested more than CHF 10 million in disaster prevention, thereby safeguarding against damage amounting to CHF 40–70 million.

Switzerland was heavily involved in setting up the *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction* (ISDR), a UN umbrella organisation based in Geneva. It chaired the international *ISDR Donor Support Group*, contributed USD 1 million to setting up the organisation, and spearheaded the elaboration of the international *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015*.

Natural disasters cannot be avoided, therefore the *Hyogo Framework* seeks ways to better prepare communities and individuals for them. Since people in poor countries are particularly vulnerable to the effects of natural hazards, the *Hyogo Framework* links disaster protection closely with poverty reduction.

This is also in line with SDC's risk and disaster management principles. At present, SDC is focusing its activities on *Disaster Risk Reduction* in seven pilot countries and regions, where DRR is being integrated in its bilateral cooperation strategies. In addition, SDC furthers the establishment of national risk management systems and reinforces intervention resources at the local level, so that partner countries can prepare more effectively for forthcoming natural disasters. In the longer term, Switzerland wishes to see prevention measures incorporated in the policy agenda of the pilot countries.

Preventing disasters – for example, in Tajikistan

Tajikistan is situated in a mountainous region with high seismic activity. There is a major risk of natural disasters such as earthquakes, landslides or floods, and this is compounded by non-earthquake-proof construction practices and the uncontrolled settlement of vulnerable regions. The highly developed Soviet seismic monitoring



SDC committed to a medium term support in Haiti after the emergency phase.



A victim of the earthquake in Pakistan signs the receipt for a tent.



In the aftermath of the disastrous floods following Cyclone Sidr in 2007, SDC and the World Bank jointly financed the construction of "shelter islands" (stable constructions with a raised shelter platform), offering safe shelter for 5000 poor families and their livestock in coastal regions in the event of future disasters.

system collapsed after the breakup of the Soviet Union and the civil war at the end of the 1990s. When SDC started working on DRR in Tajikistan in 2003, disaster prevention was virtually non-existent in the country. Switzerland decided to lend support in setting up a DRR system. A national monitoring system with seven seismic stations was set up, and training was provided in data management. Not only do these stations permanently monitor seismic activity, they also provide an important decision basis for settlement and infrastructure planning. Based on the measurements, special standards can be drawn up for earthquake-proof buildings. SDC also promoted measures to protect against flooding. Working closely with the Ministries for Education and Health and the national committee for disaster protection, it implemented various projects between 2004 and 2011 to raise awareness of natural hazards among 12 000 schoolchildren in 1100 schools, and provided practical training to 8600 staff at 220 health centres.

Example

Proven in practice

In 2005, in the wake of Hurricane Gamma in Honduras, SDC helped provincial and community authorities in the Colón region set up and expand their civil protection capacities. In a pilot project, early-warning systems and shelter islands were set up between 2006 and 2008 in ten communities, accompanied by evacuation plans and training and efforts to raise awareness among the population. During the tropical storms of October and November 2008, the project passed the practical test with flying colours. Unlike with earlier storms of comparable dimensions, around 8000 people were evacuated in good time to the new shelter islands. No one suffered damage, and Colón was the only affected province to withstand the storms without any deaths. Based on this experience, the state now recommends it as a model for all communities.

Advocacy – protecting victims

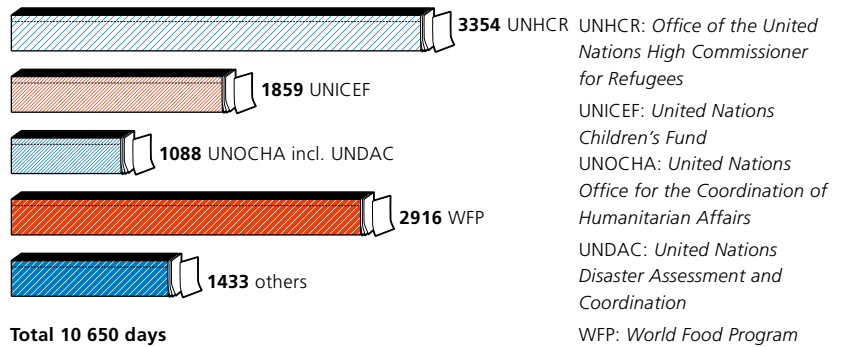
Over the past ten years, SDC has stepped up its assistance to victims of violence and disasters, whether by raising awareness for their cause or by addressing the root causes of emergency situations that claim new victims time and again. This commitment to advocacy is incorporated in all the areas addressed by Humanitarian Aid. One example is the *Femmes et enfants, victimes de violence* project in the Great Lakes region of East Africa. In October 2002, following the mass rape of around 2000 women in the town of Uvira in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a group of women requested assistance from the SDC cooperation office. SDC responded by providing initial emergency aid to victims in the area and setting up a special programme to care for the many rape victims in the war in the eastern DRC. It

The SHA nine expert groups

Members of the SHA belong to one or more of the nine expert groups.

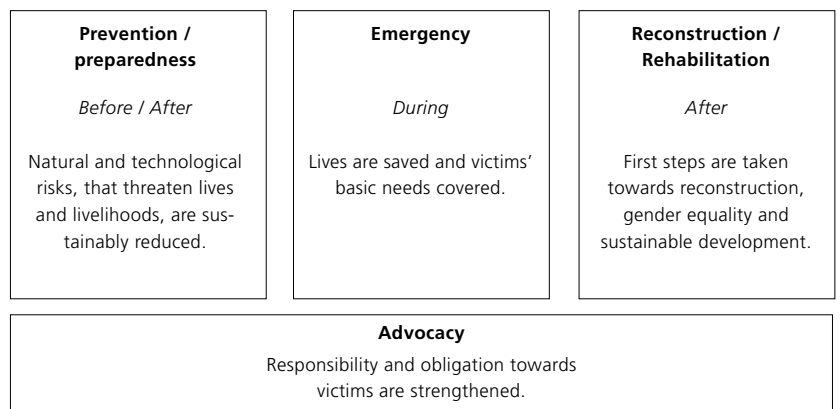


Humanitarian Aid and SHA, secondments to international organisations 2009, in days



In the event of disasters, SDC Humanitarian Aid helps multilateral organisation to be operational and fill in staff shortages with SHA members. Longer secondments are an important instrument to support UN organisations in long-lasting crises.

The four strategical areas of the Humanitarian Aid



also launched an international campaign to raise awareness on the victims' situation and on the use of rape as a weapon of war.

The disbursement of a total of CHF 3,8 million between 2002 and 2010 has mobilized international attention. The SDC regional programme attracted major interest from local, Swiss and international media who repeatedly reported on the humanitarian crisis in the Great Lakes region. The donor community became more attentive to the issue of violence against women and since 2002 various international conferences have been held on the subject. Finally, in June 2008 the UN Security Council approved the UN Resolution 1820, declaring sexual violence against women and children in armed conflicts, a war crime.

Reconstruction of schools in Pakistan

The devastating earthquake in Pakistan on 8 October 2005 claimed an estimated 80 000 deaths and left some 3 million homeless. In the area affected by the earthquake, much of the public infrastructure was completely destroyed or severely damaged.

Following the emergency aid phase, SDC's Humanitarian Aid pledged to assist the government of Pakistan with its long-term plans for the reconstruction and restoration of the educational and health infrastructure. The aim is to build or restore schools and health centres to a better standard and, above all, make them earthquake-proof. By the end of 2009, the Humanitarian Aid had built 71 new schools with a total of 225 classrooms in the rural regions of Mansehra and Battagram districts. Concretely, this means that educational infrastructure was constructed or reconstructed for more than 9000 primary and secondary schoolboys and girls. All buildings are now earthquake proof. The high quality of restoration prompted UNICEF and the *UK Department for International Development* (DfID) to provide the SDC's Humanitarian Aid with funds for another 20 schools.

Global food supply was relatively good in 2008 and 2009. But higher food prices, reduced employment and income meant that the poor had less access to it.

Source : UN-MDG Goals Report 2010

Most assignments in longer term bilateral operations:

By far, the greatest number of days spent by members of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit on assignment is devoted to long-term bilateral interventions, followed by secondments to multi-lateral organisations.

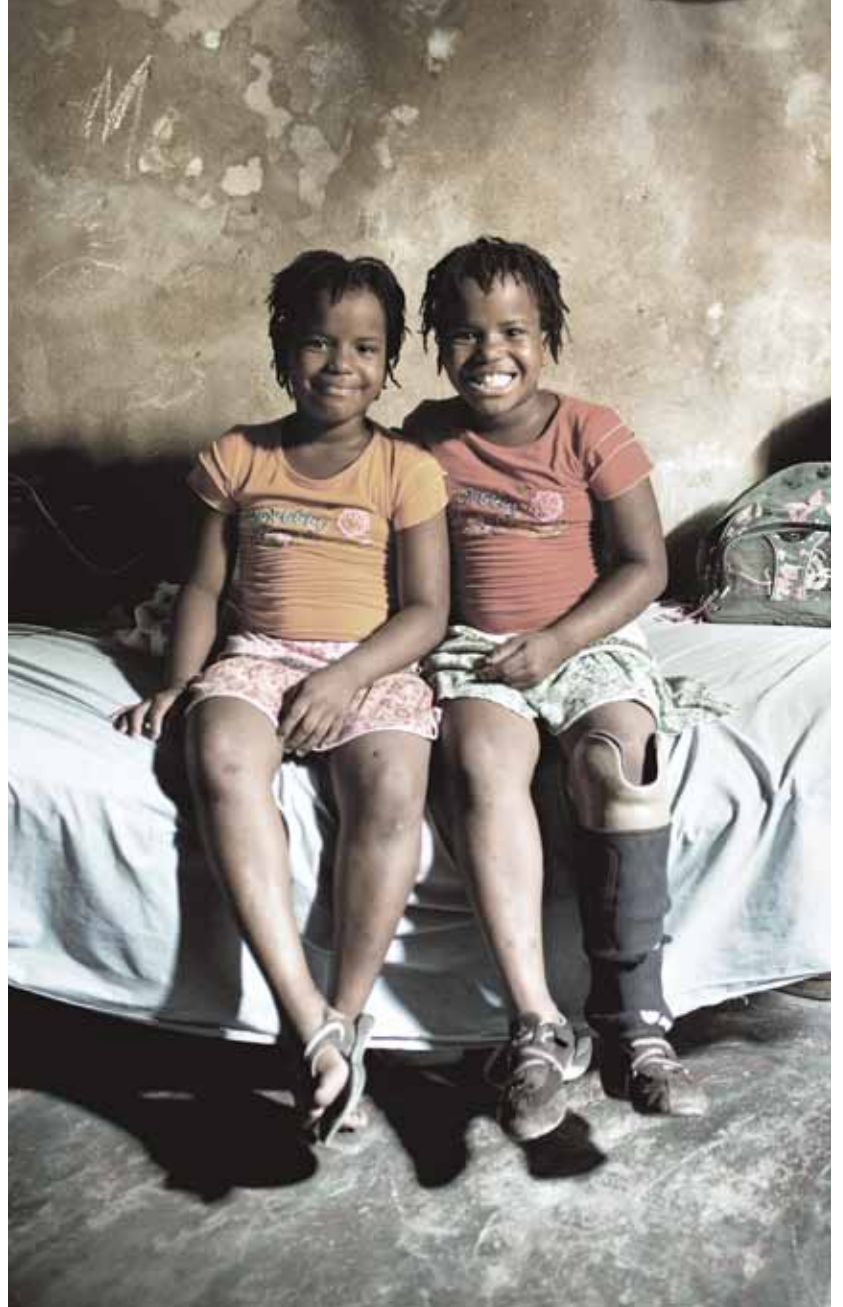


Victims of the drought in Mozambique. The population receives vouchers to purchase seeds.

Disaster aid and prevention are among SDC's core competencies alongside long-term aid. The professionalism and comprehensive know-how of SDC's Humanitarian Aid guarantees a rapid and efficient provision of aid. Bilateral and multilateral instruments complement each other. Comparatively modest resources can have a major impact. And this is set to continue.

H

Partnering with NGOs



SDC works closely with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), amongst which the main aid organisations in Switzerland. They distinguish themselves by their competence, the quality of their work and their local networks. The Dispatches approved by Parliament support such cooperation, since it strengthens the impact of development aid.

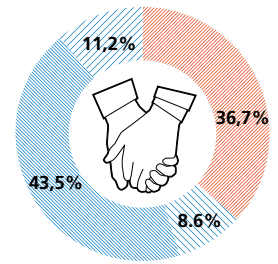
Sustainable development calls for the cooperation of many diverse partners. Across the world, the importance of organisations, which belong neither to the state nor exist to generate profit has grown in recent years. A strong civil society is an important precondition for the development of an equal society.

Among the many partnerships into which SDC enters and which it promotes, those with private Swiss development organisations carry special value due to the organisations' traditionally close ties with the population, their high level of acceptance as well as major support from donations. Swiss NGOs give much heed to the fight against poverty and are for this reason too important for SDC. Through their work, they build a bridge between people in Switzerland and people in the partner countries in the South and East.

Because the work of Swiss NGOs is internationally regarded as innovative and of very high quality, these private aid agencies are an important signpost for Swiss development cooperation. Not only do they demultiply the effects of official aid, they also generate and collect substantial funds, and work with a variety of different actors to implement their programmes for the poor. In the partner countries Swiss NGOs cooperate primarily with local grassroots organisations, fostering local capacities so as to empower people to act independently. In many areas SDC collaborates closely with private Swiss relief agencies so as to achieve an even greater impact than it would on its own.

Because NGOs work more intensively and more directly with the local population than SDC, they often perform a complementary function and implement practical local solutions jointly with their partners. Wherever feasible, these projects are subsequently supported by government agencies such as SDC, as a result of which they can be disseminated and benefit a greater number of people. SDC and Swiss NGOs dialogue regularly to exchange ideas and experiences and develop new approaches.

SDC contributions to Swiss NGOs for bilateral interventions 2009, in %



- Programme contributions:**
 - 73 mio CHF
- Contributions to specific mandates:**
 - Humanitarian Aid: 17,1 mio CHF
 - Development Cooperation: 86,6 mio CHF
 - Cooperation with Eastern Europe: 22,4 mio CHF
- Total contributions to Swiss NGOs: 199,1 mio CHF**

SDC contributed CHF 199,1 million to Swiss NGOs and aid organisations in 2009. About a third of it, or CHF 73 million, took the form of a general contribution. The rest, about CHF 126,1 million, went to special contributions and mandates.

Swiss NGOs specialise in various activities across the world, in some cases working closely with SDC. They help Switzerland to broaden its impact and gain recognition for its development policy in areas such as human rights, rural development, health, education, income generation and disaster prevention.

Grassroots work to combat poverty

The traditional strength of NGOs lies in their direct collaboration with affected persons and beneficiaries. Like SDC, Swiss development organisations place great emphasis on alleviating poverty and value the independence of their partners. To improve the quality of their work, private aid agencies have also specialised in selected areas in which they have acquired extensive expertise. The most important fields in which Swiss NGOs are active are:

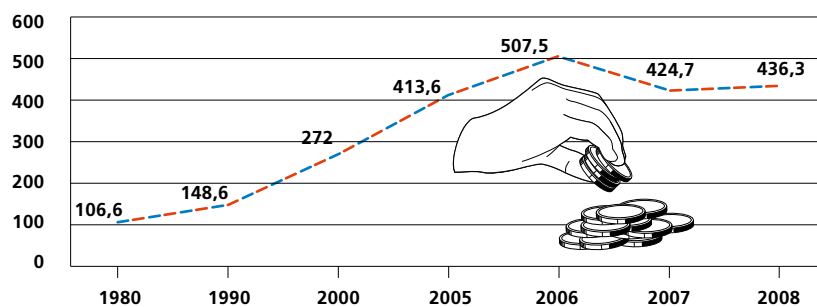
- global support to the respect and enforcement of human rights
- establishment and promotion of health care with particular emphasis on basic services and hygiene
- education, with increasing focus in recent years on disadvantaged groups, women and girls
- food security and agriculture, specialising in specific areas such as methods to improve infrastructure in rural regions
- income generation through economic development, i.e. fostering small businesses and developing practice-oriented vocational skills
- emergency aid and support for reconstruction following disasters and conflict

Innovative education projects

In the field of education, Swiss NGOs support non-formal education. Working with local partners, they devise innovative approaches to provide underprivileged groups with access to education. For example, the *Kinderdorf Pestalozzi Foundation* developed multilingual educational programmes for ethnic minorities in Eastern Europe, as well as pre-school courses and curricula for children who start school at a later age due to poverty.

The Pedagogy of the Text (PdT) was developed by *Enfants du Monde* especially to address the needs of underprivileged students. Because this method is based on the real-life situations of the students, the educational content generates a direct practical benefit. This method has attracted worldwide interest: PdT is now taught at universities in Burkina Faso and Brazil, and the Ministry of Education in Niger has adopted the approach for several teacher training courses.

Development of private donations to Swiss NGOs 1980–2008, in mio CHF

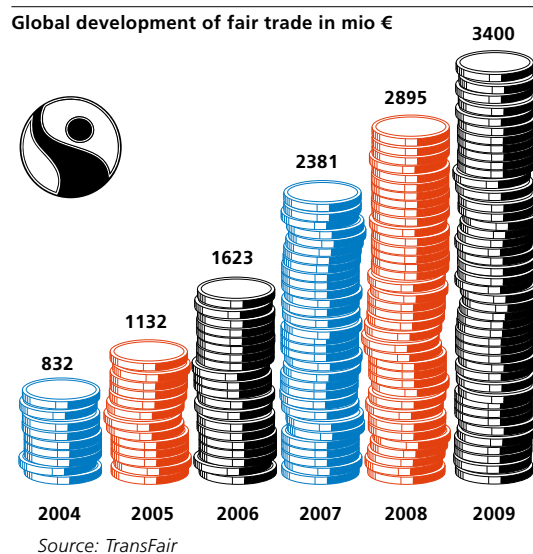


Core competencies of Swiss NGOs



Fair trade pioneer – a success story also in Switzerland

The total revenue from fair trade has quadrupled between 2004 and 2009. Switzerland is not only a pioneer country from fair trade, it has also an important market share. Up to 50% with bananas. The sales volume of certified fair trade products in retail business and gastronomie has increased by 2,9% in 2009 and reached CHF 271,9 million.



Comprehensive primary health care

Swiss NGOs work within the frame of national health policies, to ensure that the poorest groups obtain access to health care, water and hygiene. For many years they have been instrumental in driving forward the provision of country-wide essential health services, and these efforts are now bearing fruit. More and more provinces, districts and communities are taking responsibility to prevent infectious diseases and provide water and sanitation.

Water and sanitation projects operated by the Swiss Red Cross in Bangladesh, for example, focus on strengthening local governments and village communities. As a result, the needs and concerns of the local population are taken into account in the planning process, contracts are awarded to private construction companies in a transparent manner, and even the poorest members of the population are given a say.

Water experts

In addition to their professional and methodological competencies, Swiss NGOs distinguish themselves primarily by their knowledge of specific themes, as a result of which they can add major value in their respective fields of expertise. *Helvetas* has made water the priority in its project and information work. Thanks to the experience *Helvetas* has acquired over a number of decades, more than one million people in Africa, Asia and Central America gained access to clean drinking water as part of a large infrastructure project carried out in the period under review. Grassroots organisations have moreover been strengthened through collaboration with local partners. Thanks to their newly acquired know-how, local experts can now ensure that the concerns of the population are addressed by national policies in the future. SDC has supported these objectives in these countries and elsewhere, in using policy dialogue and transferring knowledge.

“Honour to whom honour is due”

In India, the society still discriminates against the dalits or “untouchables”.

Even among the dalits themselves discrimination presents a problem. For instance, women repeatedly suffer maltreatment at the hands of their husbands. Further education seminars held by the NGO *SPMM*, an Indian partner organisation of *Swissaid*, helped to change the attitudes of men who formerly beat and raped their wives. Women for their part learned to no longer tolerate violence. The project owes its success to the fact that all cases of violence are documented and made public. Activists denounce the wife-beaters and lend support to victims. “Honour to whom honour is due” is the message, which has now spread to 100 villages and has reached 20 000 people directly and another 20 000 indirectly. The project was adopted as a model and has been replicated.

Focus on human rights

There are certain prerequisites for a community to develop socially and economically – respect for human rights belongs to them. As civil society organisations operating at grassroots level, NGOs play an important role in this context. Thanks to their close relations with local partners and the affected population, they can advocate their interests and lend voice to the underprivileged. This is particularly useful when it comes to persuading governments or large companies to respect human rights. Governmental development agencies such as SDC must give due consideration to their partners in governments and multilateral organisations.

Swiss NGOs have developed approaches specifically designed to address human rights issues and advocate the rights of workers, landless groups, women and children as a central element in the fight against poverty and for a fairer world. Their work is informed by the definition of human rights as enshrined in international conventions and national constitutions. For instance, the right to food obliges governments to create the right conditions for food self-sufficiency. This in turn requires access to productive land, yet in many countries the land reforms required to meet this condition are implemented only rudimentarily, if at all. In such cases small farmers are obliged to take legal action to enforce their ownership claims, and for such a challenge they need to rely on partners who can provide expert advice and support.

Swiss development organisations have a long tradition of providing support to farmers and landless organisations in their bid to exercise their fundamental rights and improve their economic situation. NGOs who campaign for the rights of disadvantaged groups have long cooperated with local social action groups. Concrete progress is achieved by strengthening such grassroots organisations, systematically training advocates, raising awareness and initiating regional and national policy debates.



Children are often particularly vulnerable. Swiss NGOs campaign for their rights.
Photo: Rocco Rorandelli/Terre des Hommes



Children in Eastern Europe hold better chances for the future.

Photo: Pestalozzi International Village Trust



Civil rights are high on the NGOs agenda.

Photo: Swissaid

Combating human trafficking

Caritas works with local partners in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and Ukraine to protect young people and women who are particularly vulnerable to the risk of human trafficking. Between 2006 and 2009 an awareness-raising and prevention campaign directly touched more than 45 000 people. Thanks to the media presence, the number of people actually reached is likely to be much higher. As part of the same programme, 590 victims of human trafficking received assistance in returning and settling back in their home country; in Ukraine, 80% of those supported were able to reintegrate successfully into society.

Farmers' rights

Because the *Swiss Protestant Relief Agency* (HEKS) views access to land as a crucial element in assuring the human right to food, it is strongly committed to the fairer distribution of property and land. Nevertheless, access to a plot of land is by no means a guarantee of income. People who have been landless for years need support until they are able to master farming methods, have sufficient knowledge of seed varieties and are capable of processing and marketing their produce efficiently. Hence, more than half of the projects run by HEKS are devoted to the development of rural communities.

Protection for children

Poverty, disruption and hopelessness are often the catalysts for child trafficking and exploitation. Therefore, the *Fondation Terre des Hommes* (TdH) has developed internationally recognised approaches to strengthen the family and community. These include child protection policies to prevent trafficking where the child originally comes from. They also address the help for victims of child trafficking, and the national as well as international cooperation to combat the exploitation of children and child trafficking. In 2009, TdH strived to protect more than 250 000 children: children in need, victims of violence, exploitation and mistreatment, or children at high risk of becoming victims.

SDC programme contributions to Swiss NGOs 2010, in mio CHF

NGO	mio CHF
Bethlehem Mission Immensee	1,4
Bread for All	5,4
Brücke - Le Pont	0,9
Caritas	5,5
E-Changer	1,6
Enfants du Monde	1,1
HEKS	4,5
Helvetas	10,7
Interteam	2,5
Pestalozzi International Village Trust	2,4
SolidarMed	1
Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund	3,6
Swiss Red Cross	3,8
Swissaid	5,6
Swisscontact	4,5
Terre des Hommes Foundation	6,1
Terre des Hommes Switzerland/Basel	0,9
Terre des Hommes Switzerland/Geneva	1
The Swiss Labour Assistance	3
Unité, the Swiss association for the exchange of personnel in development cooperation	1,3
Total	66,8



Involvement in Switzerland

Swiss NGOs also campaign in the North, and in particular in Switzerland, to ensure that human rights are respected worldwide. Programmes and campaigns are organised to provide information, draw attention to cases of abuse and show how they can be addressed. In so doing they obligate governments and administrations in industrialised countries as well as private enterprises and consumers to take responsibility. All these efforts are focused on labour rights and women's rights and on the protection of children. A much respected instrument, which owes its origins to an initiative by Swiss NGOs and has since found its way to the shelves of large retailers is the Fair Trade label certifying production methods which respect human rights and support sustainable and fair commercial conditions.

Public denouncement of companies that violate human rights is also an effective tool. Through more than 160 political motions to local governments in Switzerland, the *Swiss Labour Assistance* (SAH) has ensured that social standards are discussed and taken into account when carrying out public procurement. As a result, various local authorities have banned the purchase of paving stones from regions where child labour is rife.

A project by *Bread for all* demonstrates the impact information campaigns can have. As a result of an information offensive against precarious working conditions in China's electronics sector, electronics giant Hewlett Packard launched a pilot project in two of its Chinese factories to inform 4000 employees of their labour rights. This initial independent employee training programme is set to become a test case for other projects.

Local roots – international network:

NGOs cooperate with a network of local, national and international organisations, whether platforms, specialist networks, associations or umbrella organisations. Christian relief agencies such as *Caritas*, the *Swiss Protestant Relief Agency* (HEKS), the *Catholic Lenten Fund* and *Bread for All* reach millions of people thanks to their anchorage in ecclesiastic organisations.

The *Swiss Red Cross* also works with a global network of national Red Cross and Red Crescent organisations, enabling it to respond rapidly, particularly in the event of disasters. Together with local organisations, it applies innovative and effective approaches in health.

SDC works with first-rate partners:



The ZEWO seal of approval distinguishes non-profit organisations, such as SDC's partners, that manage the funds entrusted to them in a conscientious manner. It certifies that the donations will be used economically, effectively and for their designated purpose. It stands for organisations which offer transparent information and true and fair financial reporting, have independent and appropriate control mechanisms, provide open communications and which procure their funds in a fair manner. Organisations, which carry the ZEWO label, are regularly inspected to verify that they adhere to the criterias.

Solid partnerships – and particularly partnerships with Swiss non-governmental organisations – are a key success factor for SDC. They broaden the impact of results, enable target groups to be better reached and consistently anchor development cooperation in the Swiss population. Such partnerships will remain a major factor of success in the years to come.

Imprint

Publishing

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
3003 Bern
www.eda.admin.ch / www.deza.admin.ch

Concept and production

Geonex

Layout

gut&schön and Rahel Arnold

Text

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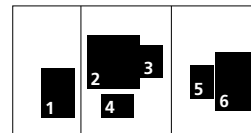
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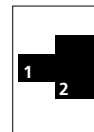
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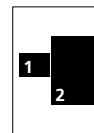
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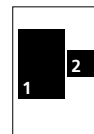
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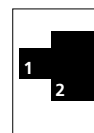
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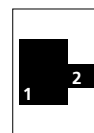
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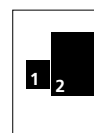
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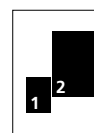
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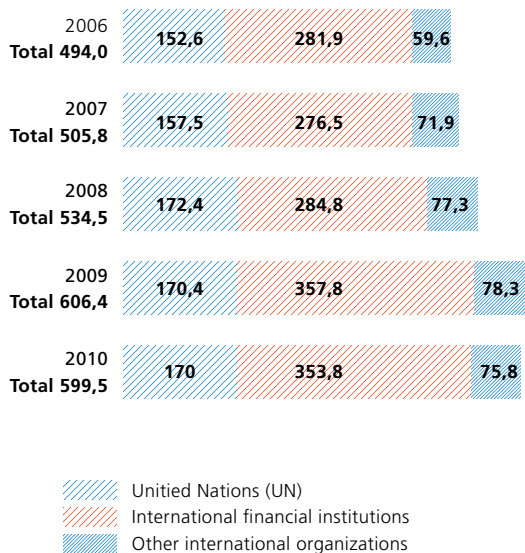


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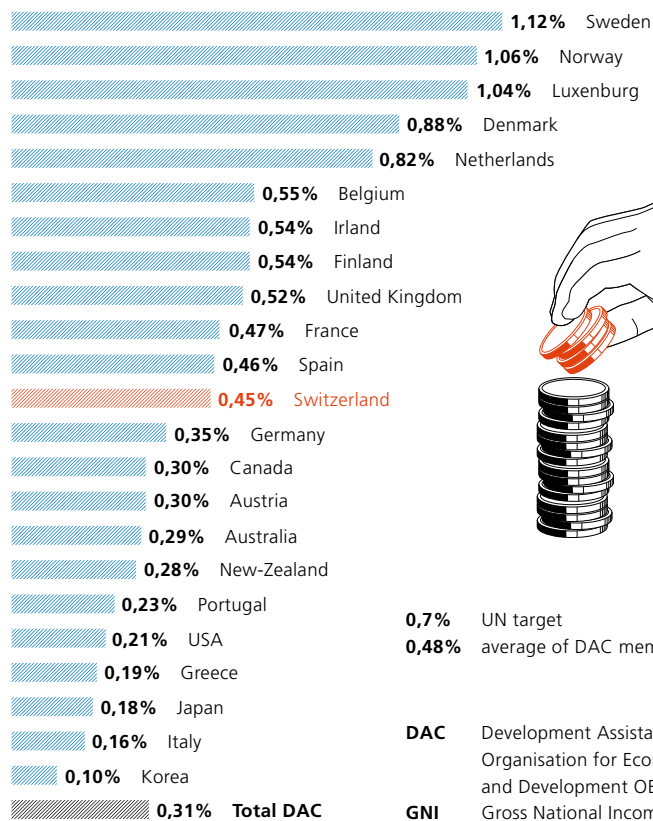
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Multilateral ODA of Switzerland 2006–2010 in mio CHF



The public ODA (official development assistance) consists of the total of public contributions (federal administration, cantons and communes).

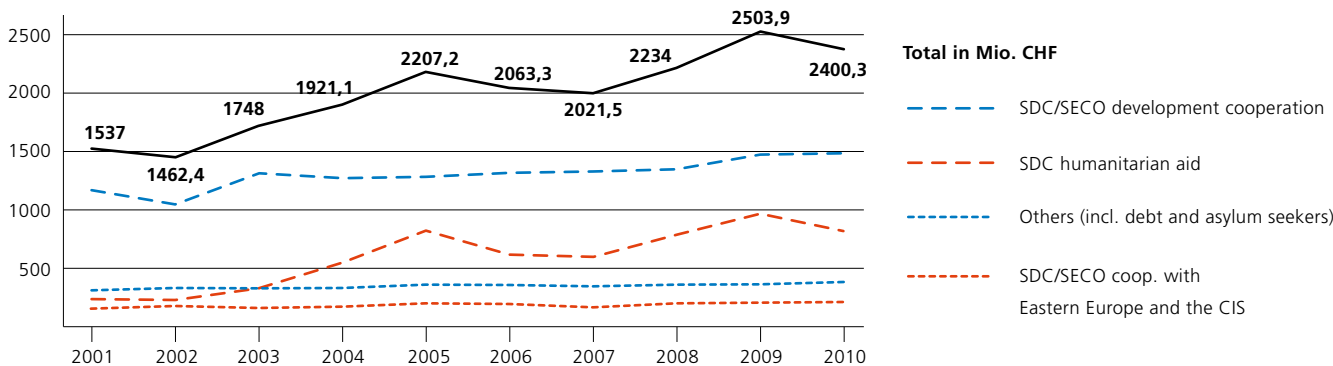
ODA in 2009 – in % of GDP



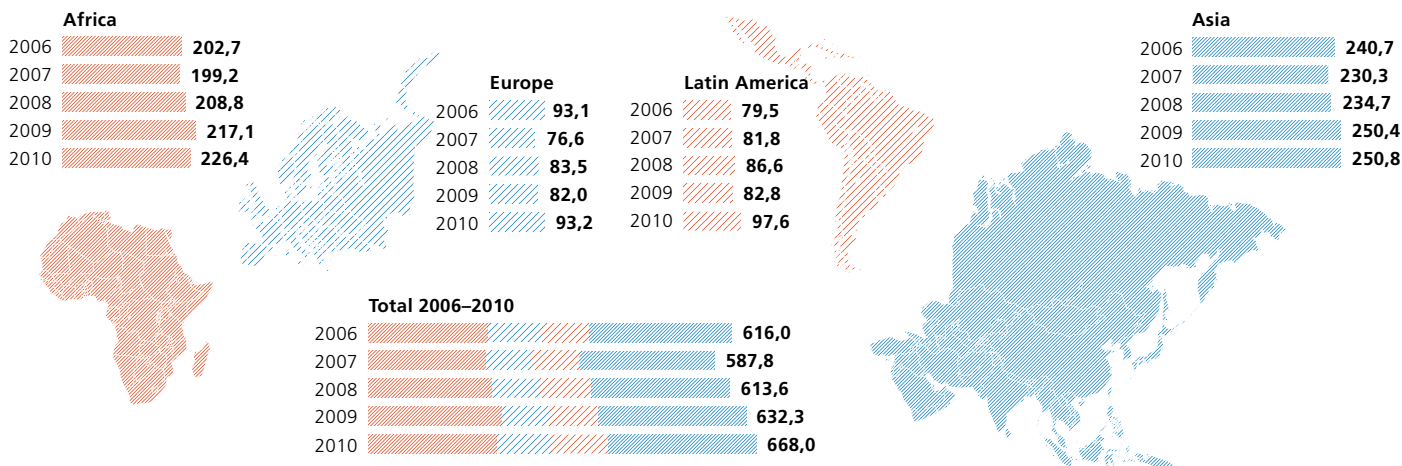
0,7% UN target
0,48% average of DAC member states

DAC Development Assistance Committee, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
GNI Gross National Income

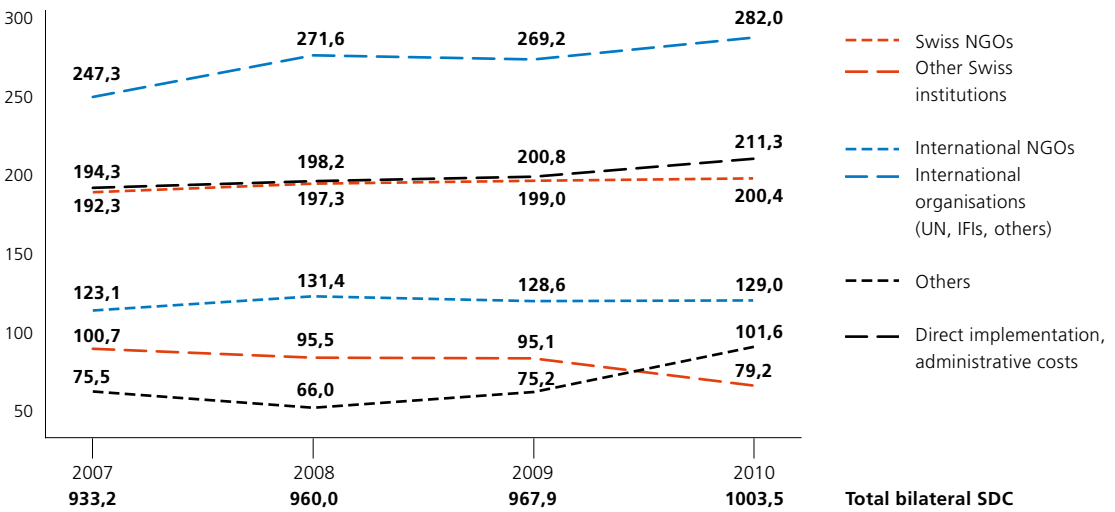
Swiss ODA by aid category 2001–2010 in mio CHF



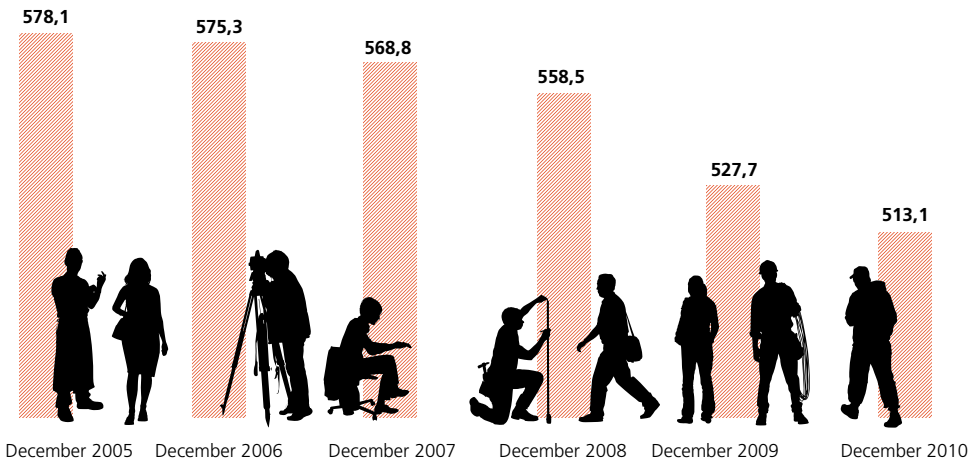
Breakdown of bilateral ODA of SDC by continent 2006–2010 in mio CHF Without "global/multilateral"



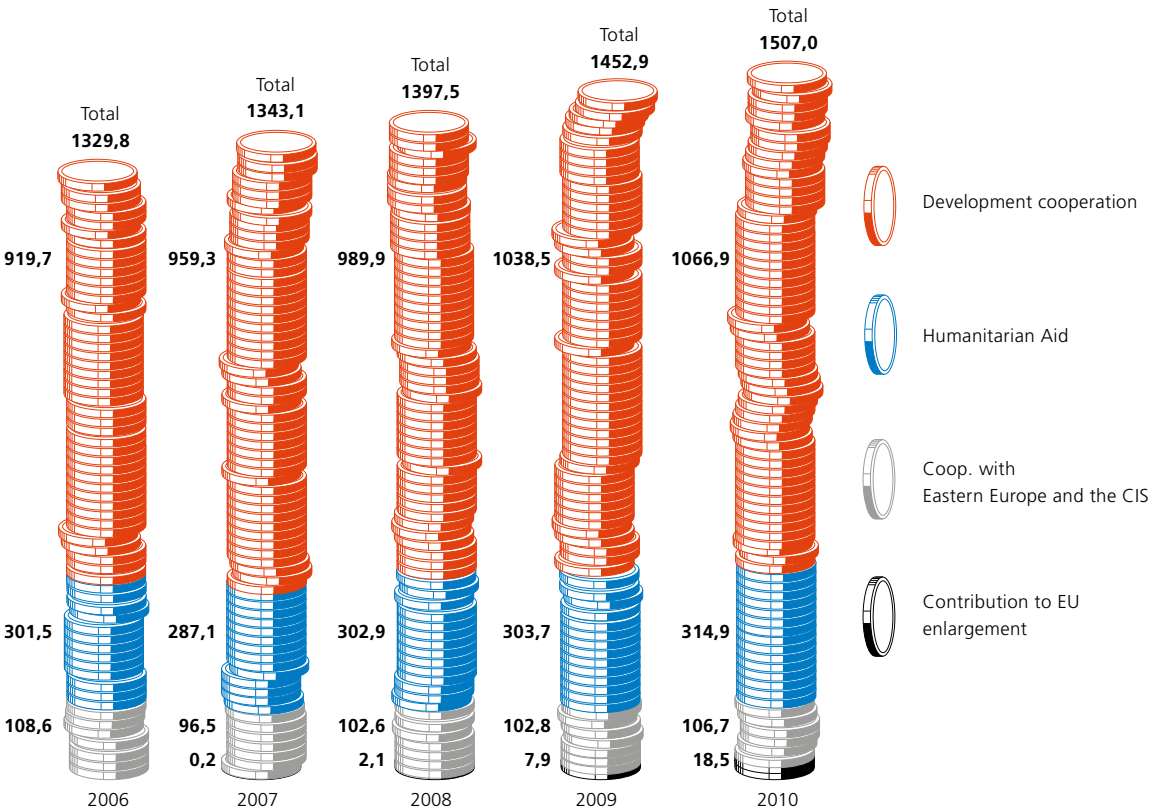
SDC partners in bilateral activities 2007–2010 in mio CHF



Personel SDC 2005–2010 Full time equivalent



Total expenditures SDC 2006–2010 in mio CHF



Day after day and year after year, Switzerland's engagement beyond its borders helps millions of people. They gain access to clean water and adequate food supplies, learn to read and write, live in safety, receive aid in the event of disasters, find employment and generate income. A great deal has been achieved, much remains to be done.

