

Swiss Development Cooperation

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Development policies

Switzerland's 2013–2016 International Cooperation Strategy hinges on five clearly defined objectives: (i) preventing and dealing with crises, conflicts and disasters, (ii) promoting sustainable economic growth, (iii) fair access to resources and services, (iv) democratic and economic transition, (v) promoting globalization favorable to sustainable development. They are all in keeping with the same vision: to promote sustainable global development with a view to reducing poverty and global risks.

Priority countries

Swiss development cooperation works with countries across four continents. The priority countries and focus regions for Swiss Development cooperation include many UNECE countries.

- Bilateral development cooperation (priority countries and regions): Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Great Lakes, Horn of Africa, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Southern Africa, Tanzania, Northern Africa/ Palestine, Hindu Kush(Afghanistan/Pakistan), Bangladesh, Mekong, Nepal, Mongolia, Bolivia, Central America, Cuba and Haiti.
- Cooperation with Eastern Europe and the CIS (priority countries and regions): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central Asia, Kosovo (S/RES/1244), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, South Caucasus, Ukraine.
- Contribution to the enlarged EU (partner countries): Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta.
- Humanitarian aid: Central African Republic, DRC Congo, Horn of Africa, Sahel, South Sudan, North Africa, Liberia (Ebola), Sri Lanka, Myanmar, North Korea, Colombia, Haiti and Middle East.

Priority areas

In general, Swiss development cooperation has the following sectoral priorities:

- Health
- Agriculture and food security
- Water
- Climate change
- Migration
- Conflict transformation and resilience to crisis
- Basic education and vocational training
- Private sector and financial services
- State reform, local government and civic participation

Coordination and implementation

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), which is part of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), is responsible for coordinating all development cooperation activities. Important contributions to development cooperation are also made by other federal agencies: the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), which is part of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, the Federal Office for Migration (FOM), which is part of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, the various Political Affairs divisions of the FDFA and many nongovernmental organizations. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) implements the Federal Council's foreign policy strategy in the areas of humanitarian aid, development cooperation and cooperation with Eastern Europe, as well as in regional and global cooperation. It is also responsible for Swiss cooperation with the UN development agencies.