



# Swiss Economic Cooperation and Development Ghana

2017 – 2020

## Objective 2: Improved competitiveness and diversification of the economy

Under the second objective, Switzerland focuses on improving the competitiveness and diversification of the economy.

### Challenges

A competitive, productive and diversified private sector with access to regional and global markets is the driving force behind a more resilient and inclusive economic development through lowering the dependence on few economic sectors and providing more and better income and job opportunities to a wider segment of the population. Improving the competitiveness and diversification of the economy requires addressing the triple challenges of removing basic structural impediments to growth, improving the competitiveness and productivity of the private sector and building human capital.

### Focus

Switzerland proposes to respond to these challenges with a combination of measures. Switzerland will prioritize three business lines: efficient business environment (i), greater international competitiveness of SMEs and facilitated market access (ii) and dynamic entrepreneurship, strengthened expertise and flexible labour markets (iii). Contingent on the reform commitment, Switzerland will engage with the government to address structural constraints to growth by supporting regulatory reforms of the general or sector-specific business environment with an emphasis on easing business regulations, formalizing SMEs, facilitating trading across borders and improving access to capital.

Switzerland will continue to promote the competitiveness and productivity of SMEs and facilitate their access to domestic and global markets by developing and expanding sustainable, integrated value chains such as in the agricultural sector, while also encouraging the more efficient and climate-friendly use of productive resources to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Switzerland will support skills development by strengthening the professional and technical expertise, facilitating access to professional training, and building the entrepreneurial and technical capacities of SMEs.

### SECO contributions

- Dynamic entrepreneurship, strengthened skills and flexible labour market
- An efficient business environment
- Greater international competitiveness of SMEs and facilitated market access Stable and deep financial sector
- Access to long-term capital
- Favourable framework conditions for sustainable trade
- Resource-efficient private sector



Mobile solutions make financial services accessible for more Ghanaians.

## Intervention areas

### Dynamic entrepreneurship, strengthened skills and flexible labor market

The private sector creates 90% of all jobs worldwide and plays a major role in reducing global poverty. Dynamic and growth-oriented entrepreneurship needs specialized know-how and skilled workers. SECO plans to strengthen skills development and facilitate access to professional training through market-based approaches in Ghana.

### An efficient business environment

The private sector is the engine of economic development. A business-enabling environment is necessary for entrepreneurs to start up, expand and sustain a new business. This concerns all the regulations and laws governing company foundation, business operations and liquidation. In Ghana SECO support investment-climate reforms with a focus on easing the regulatory burden.

### Greater international competitiveness of SMEs and facilitated market access

SECO wants to maximize the number of producers and SMEs in developing countries that gain from globalization, i.e. the progressive opening up of markets and the internationalization of value chains. The key here is to make companies more competitive and facilitate their market access. In Ghana SECO supports the development of sustainable, integrated value chains for selected products including agricultural commodities and fosters the uptake of voluntary sustainability standards.

### Stable and deep financial sector

Businesses and individuals alike need a stable economic and financial environment to maximize their potential. In Ghana SECO assists in strengthening the legal and regulatory framework and builds the capacity of selected regulatory institutions.

### Access to long-term capital

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) need reliable financing partners to guarantee investment capital on affordable terms. In Ghana, SECO focuses on improving the financial infrastructure and expanding access to finance through strengthening digital financial services and establishing an electronic warehouse receipt system.

### Favourable framework conditions for sustainable trade

To gain from international trade, countries have to apply international conventions effectively at the country level, for which they need competent technical institutions. In Ghana SECO supports compliance with international trade standards of selected export products in order to facilitate access to foreign markets. Another intervention of SECO aims at an appropriate protection of intellectual property rights in Ghana.

### Resource-efficient private sector

Innovative, resource-efficient production benefits not only the economy but also, with lower greenhouse gas emissions, the general population and the environment. Therefore SECO promotes resource efficiency and sustainable waste management along supply chains, for instance in the field of electronic waste in Ghana. SECO also engages in the rolling out of green building standards to Ghana.



Innovation and know-how transfer can unlock new sources of growth.



Recycling of electronic waste contributes to a more resource efficient private sector