

# Swiss International Cooperation

Annual Report 2015



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

State Secretariat for  
Economic Affairs SECO

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# HIGHLIGHTS



## ALLEVIATING AND PREVENTING HUMAN SUFFERING

In 2015, the number of people forcibly displaced worldwide topped 60 million for the second time since the Second World War. Switzerland works on the ground to deliver emergency aid, promote peace and create long-term prospects for local communities. (p.8)



## A GOOD EDUCATION: THE FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Education equips people to improve their living conditions and those of society as a whole. However, education must be accessible to all and of sufficiently high quality if it is to make a long-term contribution to combating poverty and preventing conflicts. (p. 14)



## THE RIGHT BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR MORE – AND BETTER – JOBS

Nine out of ten jobs worldwide are in the private sector. An attractive and sustainable business environment can only be built if there are effective state institutions, good public service delivery and corporate responsibility in place. (p. 26)



## CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In many former Communist states, such as Kyrgyzstan, years of corruption and curbs on personal freedom have eroded citizens' trust in their governments. Switzerland promotes democracy through a series of local initiatives. (p. 32)



## MOUNTAIN FARMERS WEATHER THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

In the Andes, the effects of global warming are already clearly visible. The SDC's Adaptation to Climate Change Programme (PACC) is a response to this situation and seeks to help the authorities and communities of the Peruvian Altiplano to become more resilient to the effects of climate change. (p. 38)



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**1** NO POVERTY

**2** ZERO HUNGER

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION

**5** GENDER EQUALITY

**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**13** CLIMATE ACTION

**14** LIFE BELOW WATER

**15** LIFE ON LAND

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

  
**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

*In 2015, the international community launched the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the centre of this new framework to promote global development, human well-being and environmental protection are 17 Sustainable Development Goals comprising 169 targets. The goals are 'universal'; all countries are expected to help achieve them according to their capacities.*





**MARIE-GABRIELLE INEICHEN-FLEISCH**  
STATE SECRETARY, SECO DIRECTOR

**MANUEL SAGER**  
AMBASSADOR, SDC DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**Dear reader,**

Swiss international cooperation can look back on 2015 as a year of great advances and major successes. Specialised programmes and projects, a results-driven approach and targeted quality assurance have once again enabled the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) to honour their commitments to poverty reduction and the mitigation of global risks.

In 2015, the international community adopted the 2030 Agenda, an important new framework for global sustainable development. One major difference between the new Agenda and its predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals, is its integrated approach. Not only do the 17 new goals knit together the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, but they are also universally applicable. This means that all state, civil society and private stakeholders – whether from the South or the North – have a role to play in the attainment of these goals. International cooperation is a tangible expression of Switzerland's commitment to the 2030 Agenda. The adoption of national measures will also help advance these goals. We too can make a contribution in our day-to-day lives. The recognition that each and every one of us has a part to play in sustainable development makes us realise that our actions have enormous worldwide potential and considerable persuasive power.

In recent months, the SDC and SECO reached another milestone: the publication of their joint reports on the results of the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2013–16. They show not only what has worked well, but also where difficulties lie and areas that could be improved. The achievements made during the previous legislative period are encouraging and show, as the work undertaken in the last year also does, that Switzerland gets the desired results. Thanks to its neutrality, humanitarian tradition, economic power, democratic values and the quality of its commitment in bilateral programmes

and projects and in multilateral fora, Switzerland is a competent, reliable and highly valued partner.

But the last year has also seen tremendous suffering and human tragedy. The heart-rending plight of people in need, living in poverty or fleeing their countries spurred us into action. Swiss international cooperation not only provided emergency aid but also pledged to use its development cooperation resources to tackle the causes of crises and conflicts.

Aid and assistance in times of emergency and sustainable development continue to be focal points of the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017–20, which was formulated by the SDC, SECO and the Human Security Division (HSD) and submitted to Parliament in 2016. The document is testimony to the fact that cooperation between public authorities helps bolster effective and coherent commitment.

The report provides an insight into the different ways in which over the past year the SDC and SECO have demonstrated their commitment at both partner-country and multilateral level to ensuring a life lived in dignity, free from want and violence and with economic prospects – a world without poverty and in peace, for sustainable development.

We hope that you will find the report a fascinating and informative read.

M.-G. Ineichen-Fleisch

Manuel Sager

## 2015: A MILESTONE ON THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The global interdependence of social, economic and environmental issues was particularly evident in 2015. A firm commitment to sustainable development is key to effectively tackling the root causes of crises and poverty.

The partner countries of Swiss international cooperation have to contend with increasingly tough economic conditions. Although the global economy grew slightly in the first half of 2015, the rate of economic growth in many regions was much slower than expected. Falling commodity prices, lower capital flows in emerging and developing countries and increasingly volatile financial markets are dimming global economic prospects. This downturn hits developing countries particularly hard.

2015 was dominated by ongoing and emerging crises. In Syria, five years of civil war have left around 90% of the country's 18.2 million people dependent on international humanitarian aid. In Yemen, which has seen an escalation in hostilities over recent months, over 60% of the population require humanitarian assistance. At the present time, 1.6 million Yemenis, including 850,000 children, suffer from acute malnutrition. While the eyes of the media are focused on these humanitarian disasters, many forgotten conflicts rage on in countries like South Sudan, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq, exposing the population to the most brutal violence.

### Crises force people to flee

In 2015, the impact of political crises and humanitarian disasters in the Middle East and Africa was felt more strongly in Europe. The number of displaced persons and those seeking protection in European states reached a record high. According to figures issued by the United Nations (UN), the number of people forced to flee their homes in 2015 totalled some 60 million. However, it is the countries of origin and their neighbouring states – not Europe – that bear the brunt of this exodus. Often, the suffering of refugees does not end when they leave their homeland. Many transit countries, for example, are unable to provide them with adequate protection and access to basic vital services. The response to these humanitarian crises must involve not only the provision of acute

emergency aid but also efforts to address their root causes. This is why one of the long-term goals of Switzerland's international and economic cooperation is to assist countries of origin with their efforts to establish an environment which offers their people the prospect of a better future at home.



Prevention and preparedness are key to mitigating the risks of natural disasters. The third UN Global Summit on Disaster Preparedness in 2015 saw the signing of a new international framework in which Switzerland played an instrumental part. Tragically, the devastating earthquake in Nepal once again demonstrated the importance of disaster preparedness efforts. The mitigation and management of humanitarian risks in the future depends on far-sighted measures.

### From the Millennium Development Goals to the 2030 Agenda

2015 also saw the international community take stock of the progress that has been made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Major advances have been made in many areas. According to the UN, the number of children who are not in school has fallen from 100 million in 2000 to 57 million in 2015, and this despite population growth. Global primary school enrolment rates over the same period rose from 83% to 91%. Welcome progress has been made in other areas, too. Take access to water, for example. In

1990 only 76% of the global population had access to improved drinking water sources. By 2015, this figure had risen to around 91%. The share of people in developing countries living on less than USD 1.25 a day, i.e. in extreme poverty, fell from 47% in 1990 to 14% in 2015. While this is a welcome development, the eradication of poverty is still a long way off: some two billion people around the world still live on less than USD 2.00 a day.

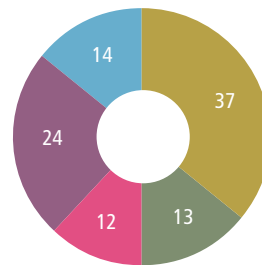
These are indeed encouraging signs, but international cooperation is far from being surplus to requirements. In September of last year, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda was another milestone on the road to global sustainable development. The centrepiece of the Agenda is a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This new integrated international framework for sustainable development took three years to draft and negotiate. Switzerland played a major part in this process. There are many reasons why the 2030 Agenda can be considered an historic achievement. As well as taking the three pillars of sustainable development – social, environmental and economic – into account, the 2030 Agenda is also universally applicable. In other words, every single country and every single public, civil society and private stakeholder has a role to play in the attainment of these goals. For example, it recognises the interaction between states, both in times of trouble and in the search for solutions. It is also an endorsement of the multilateral system itself, which is increasingly called on to help find solutions to global challenges that transcend national borders.

**Implementation – the true test of commitment to the 2030 Agenda**

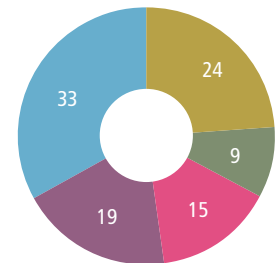
After several rounds of negotiations, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development was held in Addis Ababa in mid-July 2015, with a view to mobilising the resources needed to implement these bold goals. The outcome document – the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – establishes a comprehensive funding framework for both state and private-sector stakeholders. It lays the foundations for domestic resource mobilisation, aid for trade and greater private-sector involvement.

The success of the 2030 Agenda will be measured by the implementation of its goals. All stakeholders therefore must play their part. With the pending adoption of the new Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017–20, 2016 is set to be another important year for Swiss international cooperation.

**SDC BILATERAL GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN 2015<sup>1</sup> (IN %)**



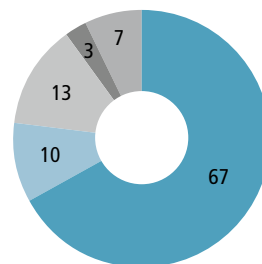
**SECO BILATERAL GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN 2015<sup>1</sup> (IN %)**



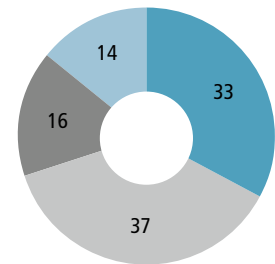
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- North Africa and the Middle East
- Latin America
- Asia
- Eastern Europe and the CIS

<sup>1</sup> Excl. geographically unclassified contributions and contributions to EU enlargement

**SWISS OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) 2015 (IN %)**



**SWISS MULTILATERAL ODA 2015 (IN %)**



- SDC
- SECO
- Asylum seekers in Switzerland (SEM)
- Peace and security (HSD/DDPS)
- Other
- United Nations organisations
- International Development Association (IDA)
- International Financial Institutions (excl. IDA)
- Other international organisations





*Refugees journey along railway tracks in the rain. According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, in 2015 more than 700,000 people – mainly from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq – took the Western Balkans route on their way to Central and Northern Europe. Switzerland's assistance focuses on different aspects: the SDC is working in crisis-torn countries of origin and is cooperating with the State Secretariat for Migration to provide support in transit countries.*



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## ALLEVIATING AND PREVENTING HUMAN SUFFERING

In 2015, the number of people forcibly displaced worldwide topped 60 million for the second time since the Second World War. Switzerland works on the ground to deliver emergency aid, promote peace and create long-term prospects for local communities.

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Armed conflicts, violations of human rights, infringements of international humanitarian law, and worsening living conditions are forcing millions of women, men and children into exile. Many are Syrians, of whom 6.5 million are internally displaced and 4.3 million have sought refuge in other countries. Despite their protracted and considerable efforts, reception countries now find themselves at the limits of their absorption capacity. With no prospects in sight, Syrian and Iraqi refugees therefore have set themselves a new goal: reaching Europe. In summer 2015 hundreds of thousands took the Balkans route to reach European Union countries, often risking their lives in the process.

### **Forgotten crises**

While the Syrian crisis and its repercussions were dominating the headlines in Europe, many stories of human suffering around the world went untold. In South Sudan, fighting has left 2.8 million people, i.e. one-quarter of the population, facing unprecedented levels of food insecurity, and the number of people dependent on humanitarian aid is now in excess of 6.1 million. The situation is also critical in the Central African Republic, where thousands of civilians are suffering as the result of the religiously motivated conflict that has rocked the country since 2013. In Iraq, 10 million people, one in every three inhabitants, are dependent on humanitarian aid. In Yemen, the figure is 21 million. Humanitarian needs in other countries like Sudan and the occupied Palestinian territory have also reached worrying levels.

### **Impact of natural disasters**

2015 was also dominated by major natural disasters, including the violent earthquake on 25 April which devastated large swathes of Nepal. Myanmar was hit by severe flooding in the summer of the same year. Landslides, cyclones, drought and other weather phenomena disrupted the daily lives of millions of people around the world. The arrival of El Niño magnified the scale and intensity of these phenomena.

### **Closing the gap between needs and resources**

In 2015, humanitarian organisations sought nearly USD 20 billion to fund vital assistance for more than 70 million people worldwide. Despite the high degree of urgency involved, aid programmes remain considerably underfunded: the USD 9.7 billion dollars pledged by donors constitute slightly less than 49% of the funding required. One possible reason for this shortfall is that the protracted nature of these crises has led to a certain degree of donor fatigue.

As a result of this chronic funding deficit, millions of people saw their daily food rations cut, and found themselves deprived of medical care and access to basic services. With each passing day, their living conditions deteriorated until the only alternative left was emigration. Given the enormity of this tragedy, it is vital that the gap between needs and resources is filled. At the same time, we must continue to work towards resolving the political conflicts that spawn these crises.



*Internally displaced people in a refugee camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the population is still exposed to violence.*

### Extra resources for crisis-hit regions

In light of these events, the Federal Council decided, on 18 September 2015, to allocate an additional CHF 70 million to the 2015–16 humanitarian aid budget for crisis-hit Syria, Iraq and the Horn of Africa. In 2015, CHF 30 million was used to fund the aid operations of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in Syria and Iraq.

*“Swiss Humanitarian Aid puts the needs of people affected by crisis at the heart of all its activities.”*

A further CHF 19 million was used to fund the activities of these three humanitarian organisations in the Horn of Africa, another region with many refugees and internally displaced persons. The remaining CHF 20 million have been earmarked for direct action by Swiss Humanitarian Aid, development cooperation measures and civilian peacebuilding efforts during the course of 2016.

Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis, Switzerland has allocated in excess of CHF 250 million to fund humanitarian aid efforts. Over half of this budget was used to fund humanitarian activities in Syria, while the remainder went towards efforts in neighbouring countries which are hardest hit by the refugee crisis. As well as supporting its multilateral partners and aid organisations, Switzerland also carries out its own projects in the region. In Lebanon and Jordan, it runs a project which renovates kindergartens and schools attended by Syrian refugee children. It also has several projects aimed at building the water management capacities of the Syrian and Lebanese authorities. In addition, Switzerland sends experts from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) to assist SDC projects and UN organisations.

### On and off the refugee routes

In 2015, Switzerland supported the Western Balkan states, a transit route used by thousands of refugees and migrants. In response to an initial request by Slovenia and Croatia in the last week of October, Switzerland agreed to assist civil

protection and civil society organisations in both countries. Alongside aid supplies, it sent several SHA experts to help with efforts to improve the sanitary facilities in these transit centres.

Switzerland provided support in other trouble spots. Its efforts focused on providing the most vulnerable communities with protection and access to basic services. In South Sudan, for example, the SDC set up or rehabilitated around 50 wells in order to provide clean drinking water to the many thousands of people displaced by the war since 2013. In Yemen, where the situation has deteriorated dramatically, Switzerland provided CHF 11 million to fund emergency aid measures, particularly those aimed at reinstating the water supply.

#### **Geneva: a global hub of humanitarian aid**

These mounting crises led the international community to rethink its humanitarian approach. In 2015 Geneva hosted two key events on the matter. The first was the Global Consultation in October. The outcome of these discussions will help shape the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016.

In December, Geneva hosted the 32nd Conference of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent. Two of the resolutions adopted at the conference deal specifically with efforts to

strengthen international humanitarian law. In the first resolution, the states pledge to take part in negotiations, led by Switzerland and the ICRC, on the work, functions and tasks of the Meeting of States on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law. The second resolution deals with the increased protection of people deprived of their liberty in armed conflicts.

#### **Prevention is better than cure**

The rising frequency of sudden-onset crises during 2015 once again provided proof of the importance of investing in prevention efforts in order to save human lives and limit material damage.

*“The SDC reapplies the experience it gained in its partner countries at the international level. This is how it was able to play a prominent role in drafting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.”*

Switzerland reiterated this point at the Sendai Summit in March 2015, which saw the international community adopt a new 15-year action plan. Switzerland was instrumental in ensuring that vulnerable local communities will also benefit from preventive measures.

### **CRISIS PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY AID**

- Humanitarian aid
- Work in fragile contexts
- Resilience to crises
- Respect for human rights

Switzerland provides assistance to help population groups affected by armed conflict, crises and natural disasters. This includes preventing and reducing the risks associated with natural disasters, reducing the causes of conflict, preventing violent conflict, providing humanitarian aid in emergency situations, conflict management, statebuilding and reconstruction as well as reform of the security sector and promoting greater respect for human rights.

Support is mainly short term; emergency aid is provided for as long as it is needed. Priorities are set for longer-term humanitarian commitments (reconstruction) and for development measures (employment, social services, statebuilding), which primarily aim to strengthen government structures and facilitate a transition to sustainable development at the local level.



## DRINKING WATER FOR THE PEOPLE OF EASTERN UKRAINE

*The ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine continues to claim victims and cause untold damage. Vital goods like water are in increasingly short supply.*



Voda Dombass, a water company operating in the Donetsk region, was no longer able to distribute drinking water to

communities living on either side of the line of contact. The conflict had prevented shipments of water purification

chemicals reaching the factory. The number of Hepatitis A infections in the region rose considerably due to the consumption of unsafe water.

Following a request for aid, in 2015 Switzerland dispatched three humanitarian convoys carrying the necessary water treatment products. Lorries carrying several tonnes of chemicals successfully crossed the line of contact unhindered. The shipments also contained medical supplies and medication destined for hospitals across the region.

Switzerland became the first and only third state to deliver aid on this scale to communities living on either side of the line of contact. Over three million people benefited from Swiss aid and there was a considerable fall in the number of illnesses caused by the consumption of unsafe water. Another benefit was that these operations bolstered the position of Voda Dombass as a public service provider.

## NEPAL: FROM EMERGENCY AID TO RECONSTRUCTION

*Switzerland immediately delivered emergency aid to Nepal after the devastating earthquake in 2015. Later, it contributed its extensive experience in rural infrastructure, agriculture and vocational training to assist reconstruction efforts.*

On 25 April 2015, the long-feared earthquake finally struck, razing the Gorkha region, north-west of Kathmandu, to the ground. As it was a Saturday, children were not in school and most people were outside working. Otherwise, the death toll would have been even greater than 8900. Some 3.2 million people lost their homes. Hardest hit were poor rural communities, many of whom were left completely cut off from the outside world as a result of the ensuing landslides.

The Swiss embassy in Nepal promptly arranged the first round of emergency aid and, together with Swiss Humanitarian Aid, organised vital aid supplies. It also worked closely with Switzerland's partners in Nepal to decide how this aid was to be distributed.



Switzerland immediately offered its extensive experience in rural infrastructure, agriculture and vocational training to assist reconstruction efforts. Existing bridge- and road-building programmes were extended to help the government reinstate damaged transport infrastructure. The already successful Swiss vocational training programme was supplemented with special construction courses.

Since then, Nepal has launched a national programme for the reconstruction of earthquake-resistant houses. Given the large number of semi-skilled workers needed, Swiss Humanitarian Aid experts were on hand to share simple earthquake-proofing construction techniques. The programme will enable locals, especially socially disadvantaged young people, to earn a much-needed income, and help prevent earthquake losses in the future.



## SELECTED RESULTS 2015



► **Emergency aid and reconstruction measures supported by Switzerland directly benefit around 3.5 million people a year.**

It is estimated that around 1 million people in conflict zones benefit from Swiss support to the ICRC. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which also receives Swiss support, in turn provides assistance to almost half of the world's 67 million displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers. Each year, Switzerland appoints 80 to 100 specialists from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) to support its UN partners.

► **Reconstruction measures concentrate on the poorest communities with the greatest need. An estimated 1 million people benefit every year.**

In **Sri Lanka**, where Switzerland's engagement came to an end in 2015, more than 5000 families affected by civil war in the provinces of Jaffna and Kilinochchi benefited from Swiss support in rebuilding their homes.

► **Switzerland possesses vast experience and enormous innovative drive in disaster risk reduction, which is a key part of the SDC's programmes.**

In **Nicaragua** and **Honduras**, for example, Switzerland is partnering with 10 universities to support 34 communes numbering 40,000 inhabitants in identifying and mapping the locations that are particularly susceptible to natural hazards and drawing up adequate prevention measures.

► **Switzerland makes a pertinent contribution to reducing the root causes of conflicts and increasing crisis resilience in targeted fragile contexts.**

In the **African Great Lakes region**, Switzerland supports seven social organisations that manage "maisons d'écoute", centres that provide refuge, care and counselling for victims, primarily of sexual violence. The SDC covers the cost of these support and legal services. To date, these efforts have allowed more than 19,000 victims of sexual violence, 87% of whom are women, to receive psychosocial support and legal advice.



*Children in Rwanda working on school computers. High quality education is one of the SDC's priorities. Education is a key factor for independence, and allows people to take part in society and access employment. It is therefore essential for development, to reduce poverty and prevent conflict. In its basic and vocational education projects the SDC places particular emphasis on responding to the social and economic needs of its partner countries.*

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## A GOOD EDUCATION: THE FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Education equips people to improve their living conditions and those of society as a whole. However, education must be accessible to all and of sufficiently high quality if it is to make a long-term contribution to combating poverty and preventing conflicts.

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The number of children in school worldwide has reached record levels. According to UNESCO, nine out of ten children now enjoy access to a primary education. Despite these advances achieved as part of the Millennium Development Goals and the global 'Education for All' campaign, many challenges remain. An estimated 250 million children still cannot read, write or count after four years of schooling. 760 million adults worldwide are illiterate, of whom two-thirds are women. The situation is particularly dire in 14 African countries, where over half of the adult population can neither read nor write.

### **The 2030 Agenda sets its sights higher**

The adoption of the new 2030 Agenda in 2015 has created new opportunities. Goal 4 concerns education and includes UNESCO's Education 2030 Framework for Action. Goal 4 takes account of the link between basic education and vocational training, emphasises the need for equitable, quality education, and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all. The aim is to guarantee all children, young people and adults access to a general and vocational education that is adapted to their needs and reflects the environment in which they live. Switzerland is a staunch supporter of this new agenda. Its efforts in the field of education are geared primarily towards the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups, which include girls, women and minorities.

### **Quality education – a priority issue in Afghanistan**

Since 2001, over 9 million schoolchildren, 40% of whom are girls, have started school or have re-entered the school system. These figures are particularly encouraging given that it was virtually impossible for girls to attend school in 2001. Although the numbers are impressive, the quality of the teaching dispensed in Afghan schools still falls short. Inadequately trained teaching staff, the use of unsuitable or outdated materials and methods, as well as a weak ministry of education have stymied efforts to improve the education system.

The SDC supports two projects in Afghanistan aimed at improving the quality of education: a nationwide project run by the German International Cooperation Agency, GIZ, and one launched by the Aga Khan Foundation, which is active at local level. It also works with the Teacher Training Directorate of the Afghan Ministry of Education to mainstream gender equality in the national education system. The number of girls not in school in Afghanistan remains high at 60%. The reason for this is that girls entering puberty are often taken out of school, particularly when there are not enough female teachers. 40% of the 30,000 teachers who benefit from Swiss support are women.





Young people learn a trade in the hospitality industry at a training centre in Laos supported by the SDC.

Switzerland believes that a quality education can only be achieved if the system itself is improved. Consequently, it shares its expertise and experience on matters such as bilingual teaching, bridge-year courses and the involvement of parents and local government. Through a generous contribution to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which provides valuable assistance to Swiss education efforts, the SDC helps its partner countries to draft and implement a national education policy. For example, the GPE is currently working with the Afghan Ministry of Education on the development of a national education policy.

#### **Access to education for child refugees and marginalised communities**

Access to education is another priority of Swiss international cooperation. Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis, more than 250,000 school-aged children wrenched abruptly from their everyday lives have found refuge in Jordan. However, integrating these children in the education system is not only a priority for Jordan, but also a challenge. The SDC assists the Jordanian Ministry of Education with its efforts to enrol Syrian child refugees in schools as quickly as possible. Many

schools have been renovated and furnished in order to offer children a healthy, safe and age-appropriate learning environment.

*“The SDC is committed to promoting vocational education and training opportunities that are accessible to all. Its activities are aimed at the poorest and most socially vulnerable sections of the population, young people and women as well as rural populations.”*

Equitable access to education also means the inclusion of marginalised groups. Over 60% of the Roma community in Serbia have no access to basic education. Switzerland is active at all levels to ensure these children as well as children with disabilities are able to attend both preschool and primary school.

#### **A good basic education – a guarantee for a successful apprenticeship**

“I wanted to do a tailor apprenticeship because it would allow me to build a future for myself. But I was told that I didn’t have the skills to talk to customers, read or write. So, I enrolled in



evening literacy classes. Now I can read, take customers' measurements and talk to them." Kader Kouanda is a tailor and night-school student from Burkina Faso. His experience shows the importance of key skills like reading, writing and numeracy when it comes to learning a trade.

*"Acquiring knowledge and skills is vital for every individual to make choices, study, participate in society and in professional life, and exercise his or her rights as a citizen."*

A good basic education is a guarantee of a successful apprenticeship and future job prospects. The SDC supports a project in Burkina Faso to develop education programmes that provide students with both a basic formal education and vocational skills. Many young Burkinabe now have the opportunity to learn a trade, which in turn provides them with employment opportunities and an important source of income.

In Laos the SDC has launched a project which combines a basic education with the acquisition of vocational and technical skills. It is targeted primarily at disadvantaged young people and ethnic minorities, who have no or limited

access to education. These students are awarded scholarships; 70% of the beneficiaries are young women. As Andrea Siclari, an SDC delegate in Laos, explains: "Tourism and hospitality are growth industries and are a source of enormous potential for sustainable job creation. But there are not enough qualified staff." The SDC supports the reform of the vocational training system in Laos. It sponsors training centres with in-house restaurants, which let young people put what they have learnt into practice. One of these centres is in Luang Prabang, a major tourist destination.

*"Together with training and educational institutions, companies and associations as well as with state and private employment services, the SDC identifies the occupations most in demand on the market and the specific skills required."*

Switzerland firmly believes that basic education and vocational training are key to independence and development. Through its international cooperation efforts, Switzerland seeks to build bridges between basic education and vocational training. It also promotes a quality education for all through its support for efforts to improve education systems.

## PROVIDING ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND SERVICES

- Health
- Sustainable water use and sanitation
- Basic education and vocational training
- Sustainable use of land

The primary aim of improving access to resources and services is long-term sustainable poverty reduction. 'Resources' refers to the availability of shelter, sufficient food, clean water and job opportunities. 'Services' refers to a country's education and health systems.

Long-term cooperation is required in order to tackle poverty effectively. In the interests of effective and cost-efficient cooperation, Switzerland sets geographical priorities, and concentrates on selected priority countries and regions.

## RESTORING THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN CRISIS-HIT AREAS

*Cash transfer programmes (CTP) provide victims of conflicts or natural disasters with money to cover their individual basic needs.*



In crisis-hit regions, CTPs include local vendors and markets in humanitarian efforts. By shifting the place of purchase from the global to local market, it

enables shop-owners and local farmers to keep their businesses running despite all the suffering that has been created by the war or natural disaster in their region. For their part, the beneficiaries can buy food, water and other urgently needed items that they can choose themselves.

As well as running its own CTP projects, the SDC supports those of its multilateral partners by seconding Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) experts. In 2015, 11 SHA personnel worked on cash transfer programmes run by UN agencies. These activities not only benefited the communities in need, but they also contributed to the wider adoption of this practice within the UN agency involved.

For example, the World Food Programme relies heavily on CTP as a way of getting help to Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

## MONGOLIAN GRASSLANDS ON SHOW AT EXPO MILANO

*Mongolia is a role model when it comes to the sustainable management of natural resources. Its efforts were rewarded in 2015 at the universal exposition, Expo Milano.*

The collective management of rangeland by livestock farmers is the centrepiece of the Green Gold project. Pastureland covers four-fifths of the surface area of Mongolia and is the mainstay of its rural economy. One third of the population live from livestock farming. Overgrazing was the result of excessive pressure from humans and livestock following the transition to a market economy in 1999. It led to soil depletion, which in turn jeopardised food security in the country.

To tackle this phenomenon, the project encourages the creation of groups of herders to jointly manage these resources. So far, these associations have adopted techniques such as rotational grazing plans, fallowing, fencing and

even hay storage to feed animals during the winter. In 2015, there were 1100 pasture user groups made up of over 35,000 herder households, comprising a total of 150,000 people. Since the launch of the project in 2005, around 8.7 million hectares of degraded rangeland have been rehabilitated.

At Expo Milano 2015, which was devoted to the theme 'Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life', the Green Gold project was selected from over 740 initiatives to be exhibited in Pavilion Zero, at the entrance to the universal exposition. It went on to win 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the 'Best Practices for Sustainable Development in Food Security' category. More than 20 million visitors from around the world attended Expo Milano.



## SELECTED RESULTS 2015



► **Switzerland is actively committed to climate change mitigation and adaptation.**

In the **Western Balkans** SECO has supported the EuropaRe project since 2010. The project has introduced insurance schemes in Albania and Bosnia against the risks associated with natural disasters (e.g. flooding). It was among the 10 finalists of the DAC Prize for Taking Development Innovation to Scale. An extension of the project, e.g. to Kazakhstan, is being discussed at the World Bank.

► **Switzerland builds infrastructure where necessary and trains teachers and staff to manage schools. Meanwhile, political dialogue is encouraging reforms in the education system to better link basic education with vocational training.**

In **Burkina Faso**, Switzerland's support to improve the education system has allowed 2,760,000 children, 48% of them girls, to start school or continue their education. Switzerland's portfolio has had a direct impact on the basic education of 31,000 children who have benefited from school supplies, school meals, trained teachers and adequately equipped classrooms.

► **Switzerland's contributions towards improving access to financial services and promoting the private sector have led to higher incomes and better opportunities in the labour market.**

In **Bangladesh**, the SDC supports the Katalyst project, which seeks to raise the incomes of poor rural communities. Thanks to the SDC's development programme on agriculture and the rural economy, approximately 920,000 small farmers and entrepreneurs in Bangladesh have seen their incomes increase by USD 81 per year on average since 2013. This increase, which is equivalent to 41% of the agricultural income, was achieved through improved access to information about prices and technology and better access to means of production. Meanwhile, political dialogue has enabled legislative changes relating to the way markets work and which favour disadvantaged rural populations.



## SCIENCE AND RESEARCH CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

*Research plays a decisive role in poverty reduction, the transition to sustainable development and the exchange of knowledge. Technological progress is just as relevant as social and political innovations. By sharing their expertise in global networks, scientists at universities, universities for applied sciences and research institutes make a substantial contribution to solving global problems.*

### A MAP OF BLUE GOLD



When tens of thousands of refugees arrived in Chad from Darfur in 2004, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was tasked with mapping the country's water resources. The aim was to ensure that both refugees and the local population had access to water. This information was then used to set up refugee camps in locations with nearby water sources that were viable all year round.

The problem of water shortages in Chad long predates the refugee crisis. Water resources have always been unfairly distributed, difficult to reach and little studied. Yet, the sustainable use of water is key to development, particularly in light of climate change and its repercussions. When water is used sustainably, agricultural production, food security and public health reap the benefits. Improving knowledge about water resources and building water management capacities are also preconditions for an active, sustainable and competent use of this natural resource, and pave the way for Chad to achieve its development goals.

In view of Switzerland's particular expertise in mapping and hydrogeology, the Chad Water Ministry asked the SDC and UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research), in 2009, to devise a plan to map the country's water resources.

*One of the key challenges of the 21st century is to better manage the planet's water resources and ensure equitable access to water that promotes development.*

The project centres on cooperation between Switzerland (SDC, swisstopo, University of Neuchâtel), Chad (Ministry for Hydraulics, University of N'Djamena), UNOSAT/UNITAR (UN Geneva) and other partners. The overarching aim is to improve Chad's resilience to climate fluctuations through its active management of water resources. During the first phase, the project team created a water resource information system and 27 hydrogeological maps, which collectively cover an area ten times larger than Switzerland. In addition, the University of Neuchâtel was involved in designing a Master's programme in hydrology for Chad's universities.

The second phase, which began in September 2015, focuses on mapping the water resources in three hitherto unstudied regions in the Lake Chad basin. Special emphasis is given to the practical application of this newly acquired knowledge.



## TESTIMONIALS FOR PEACE IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS

War and conflict often affect entire populations. But perpetrators and victims, men and women, boys and girls are all impacted in different ways. This motivated an international team of researchers to study how different personal accounts of a conflict could help prevent future outbreaks of violence. To answer the question, they set up the Pluralistic Memories Project.

*More than 40 states are beset by violence and conflict worldwide, affecting a total population of some 1.5 billion who are among the world's poorest.*

The project is hosted by the University of Lausanne and includes an international doctoral training and mentoring programme. Its research focuses on three fragile contexts: Sri Lanka, Burundi, and the Palestinian territories. These are regions that have all experienced repeated violence.

The project's main goal is to promote peace by documenting the memories of those involved in such conflicts. The main idea is to encourage former belligerents to freely express and share their accounts of the conflict. In so doing, it seeks to foster political tolerance and make communities more resilient, should they face violent incidents or political provocations in the future.

In Sri Lanka, for example, the project supports the development of 'living archives'. Researchers are working together with community-based organisations throughout the country to run workshops that invite participants to share their testimonies with a wider audience.

In 2015, the project researchers made progress in compiling a wide range of personal testimonies from different countries and contexts. These eye witness accounts go beyond official war accounts. They show how much personal narratives and interpretations of the same conflict diverge among those involved in or affected by the fighting.



The Pluralistic Memories project is part of the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme), which is conducted and financed by the SDC and the Swiss National Science Foundation. The r4d programme aims at enhancing research-based solutions to reduce poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America and to make public goods available for the benefit of societies in developing and emerging countries.

## ARTS AND CULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*In every society, arts and culture matter. The preservation of cultural diversity is important for identity and intercultural dialogue. Works of art have the power to change perceptions and ways of thinking, and provide society with a medium through which they can address topical issues. For Switzerland, culture too has a role to play in sustainable development, which is why it supports the culture sector in its partner countries and promotes the diversity of cultural expressions. It also enables artists from the South and the East to access culture scenes in Switzerland and worldwide.*

### THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF GOOD ART

Indian artist Mallika Taneja is a member of Tadpole Repertory, a collective of theatre practitioners and the co-founder of the festival Lost & Found in Delhi. She won the Zurich Cantonal Bank's 2015 Patronage Prize for her short piece "Thoda Dhyani Se (Be careful)", which was performed at Zurich's annual Theater Spektakel. In just fifteen minutes, this satirical piece shows a young actress presenting the absurdity of well-intended codes of conduct for Indian women, such as wearing "decent, unprovocative clothing" to protect themselves against rape.



*Mallika, what does this prize mean to you?*

As an independent artist, the prize gives me one of the most appreciated goods: financial security, which means time to create. Secondly, if any sort of recognition validates your work, it puts you on the map. I am very happy I won.

*What is important for you in your work as an actress?*

I like to do things that are relevant in our times and to the audience. My work doesn't have to

deliver a specific political or social message. A good performance will move you emotionally or intellectually or in energy. In one word, it inspires. Good art has a ripple effect. A powerful performance will make you part of it, of the experience of its journey. Otherwise, why bother? Why get out on stage? Why make people get out of their homes to sit in an auditorium if you do not want to reach out to them? We know by now that artistic performances also hold an enormous potential to trigger socio-political change. There is something extremely real about people talking to people. Energy is exchanged and shared. It is powerful and holds the ability to shift perspectives: minds, people's emotions – all sorts of shifts can happen. The dialogue with the audiences is very valuable for me. I am surprised and overwhelmed by the support I get from them.

*And what is the biggest challenge?*

The biggest challenge is to remain honest. It is very difficult, especially now, I find myself giving all these interviews and saying all these big things. But I keep thinking: how I am going to live up to this? How to constantly do a job which has relevance and builds resilience? Truth and honesty: they are very difficult to define, to understand and to stick to.

*What meaning do cultural events have for a society?*

If we take theatre to the neighbourhoods, we will create an alternative ecosystem for the arts and generate an enormous new audience. Over the years it will change the culture of the city and influence how people interact with each other in a positive way.



## ARTISTS SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON CHALLENGES FACED BY MOUNTAIN REGIONS



The Sustainable Mountain Art (SMArt) programme was launched in 2014 by the Foundation for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions (FDDM) in Sion. SMarT, which benefits from SDC support, uses art to raise official and public awareness of the challenges faced by mountain regions. This five-year project is based around four central themes: climate change, water, migration and food security, which corresponds to the SDC's four global programmes.

Thanks to support from the canton of Valais, SMarT has welcomed four photographers from the South and the East as temporary artists in

residence. They were selected with help from cultural partners in a number of countries. One such artist is Maralgua Badarch, who arrived in Valais from Mongolia in winter 2015. In keeping with the mystical vision of the mountain that permeates Mongolian culture, she likens the mountains of Valais to giants with feet of clay. During her exhibition in Brig, visitors could view her works and take part in the SDC exhibition 'Aaruul and Justistaler: Mongolia and Switzerland in pictures'. The Mongolian public also had a chance to view her photos.

The FDDM and its partners make every effort to ensure that each stay culminates in an exhibition in Switzerland and in the artist's home country. They also encourage exchanges with the artists themselves. This is how a beautiful friendship was forged between the Rwandan photographer Cyril Ndegeya and Fabrice Erba from Monthey in Switzerland. This bond gave rise to a new photography project 'The hidden side of water'. Their work was met with a very positive response in Rwanda.

Peruvian photographer and philosopher Alejandro León Cannock was struck by the scale of the impact that global warming has had on Valais: "What will happen to the water that flows in the irrigation channels and across Valais when the glaciers have disappeared?" During his time in Sierre, Cannock used his photographic skills to document the visible transformation of the Alpine landscape.

*All works can be viewed at:*  
[www.sustainablemountainart.ch](http://www.sustainablemountainart.ch)



# SDC AND SECO PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND REGIONS 2015

SDC Priority countries and regions South		2015 Mil. CHF	2014 Mil. CHF	
Sub-Saharan Africa	Great Lakes <sup>1</sup>	32.2	27.3	1
	Southern Africa <sup>2</sup>	29.0	24.3	2
	Mozambique	28.8	23.3	3
	Tanzania	26.3	23.5	4
	Niger	22.6	18.1	5
	Mali	22.0	21.5	6
	Horn of Africa <sup>3</sup>	21.7	16.9	7
	Burkina Faso	21.3	16.6	8
	Chad	18.8	22.7	9
	Benin	18.6	15.3	10
North Africa and the Middle East	Northern Africa <sup>4</sup>	19.0	12.7	1
	Occupied Palestinian Territory	14.6	14.0	2
Latin America	Central America <sup>5</sup>	37.4	37.9	1
	Bolivia	29.4	25.8	2
	Cuba	9.3	9.4	3
	Haiti	6.3	8.9	4
Asia	Mekong <sup>6</sup>	65.5	59.1	1
	Hindu Kush <sup>7</sup>	38.9	37.0	2
	Nepal	38.7	37.4	3
	Bangladesh	30.9	26.0	4
	Mongolia	23.3	19.5	5

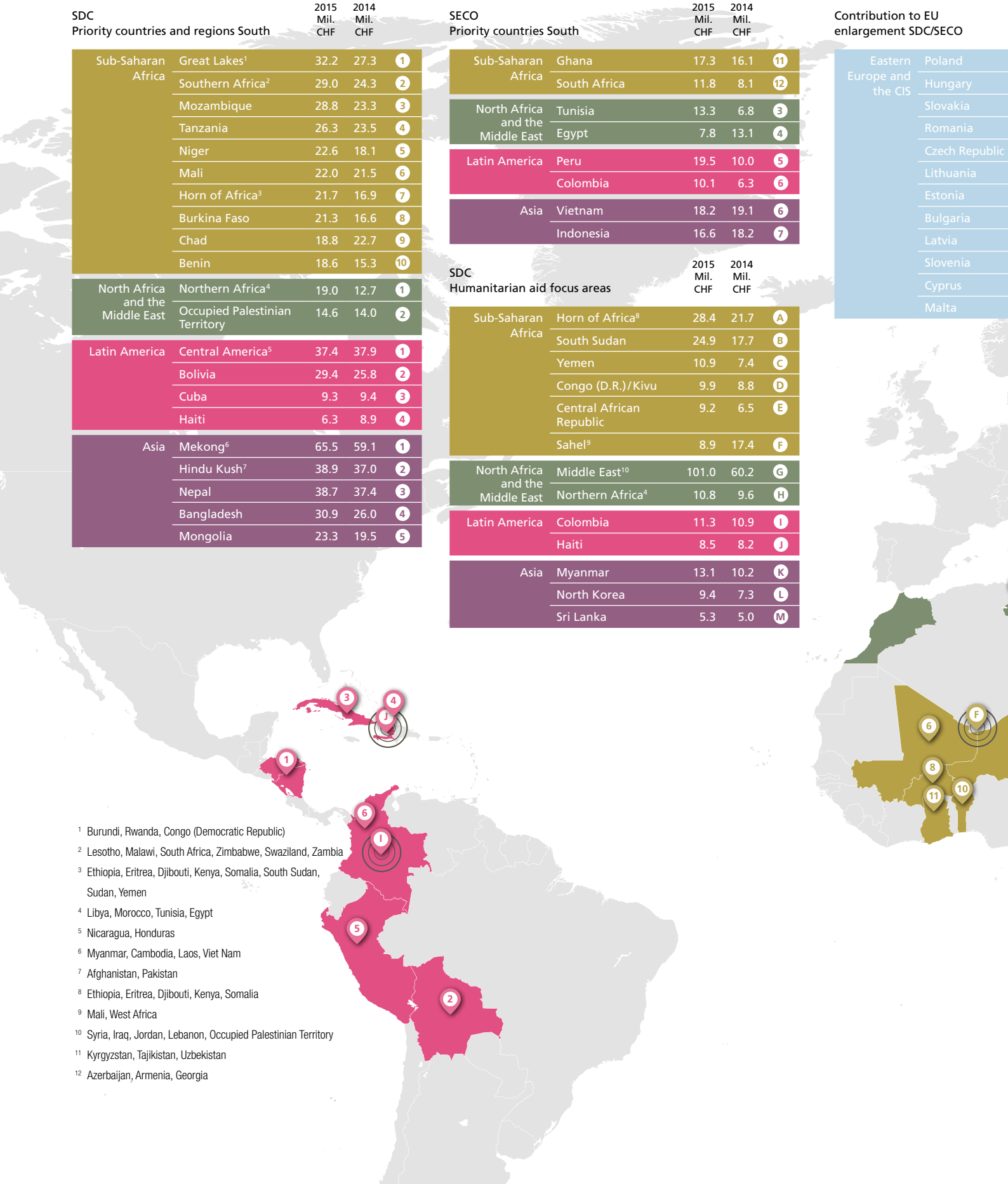
SECO Priority countries South		2015 Mil. CHF	2014 Mil. CHF	
Sub-Saharan Africa	Ghana	17.3	16.1	11
	South Africa	11.8	8.1	12
North Africa and the Middle East	Tunisia	13.3	6.8	3
	Egypt	7.8	13.1	4
Latin America	Peru	19.5	10.0	5
	Colombia	10.1	6.3	6
Asia	Vietnam	18.2	19.1	6
	Indonesia	16.6	18.2	7

SDC Humanitarian aid focus areas		2015 Mil. CHF	2014 Mil. CHF	
Sub-Saharan Africa	Horn of Africa <sup>8</sup>	28.4	21.7	A
	South Sudan	24.9	17.7	B
	Yemen	10.9	7.4	C
	Congo (D.R.)/Kivu	9.9	8.8	D
	Central African Republic	9.2	6.5	E
	Sahel <sup>9</sup>	8.9	17.4	F
North Africa and the Middle East	Middle East <sup>10</sup>	101.0	60.2	G
	Northern Africa <sup>4</sup>	10.8	9.6	H
Latin America	Colombia	11.3	10.9	I
	Haiti	8.5	8.2	J
Asia	Myanmar	13.1	10.2	K
	North Korea	9.4	7.3	L
	Sri Lanka	5.3	5.0	M

### Contribution to EU enlargement SDC/SECO

Eastern Europe and the CIS	Poland
	Hungary
	Slovakia
	Romania
	Czech Republic
	Lithuania
	Estonia
	Bulgaria
	Latvia
	Slovenia
	Cyprus
	Malta

- <sup>1</sup> Burundi, Rwanda, Congo (Democratic Republic)
- <sup>2</sup> Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Zambia
- <sup>3</sup> Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Yemen
- <sup>4</sup> Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt
- <sup>5</sup> Nicaragua, Honduras
- <sup>6</sup> Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam
- <sup>7</sup> Afghanistan, Pakistan
- <sup>8</sup> Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia
- <sup>9</sup> Mali, West Africa
- <sup>10</sup> Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territory
- <sup>11</sup> Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
- <sup>12</sup> Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia



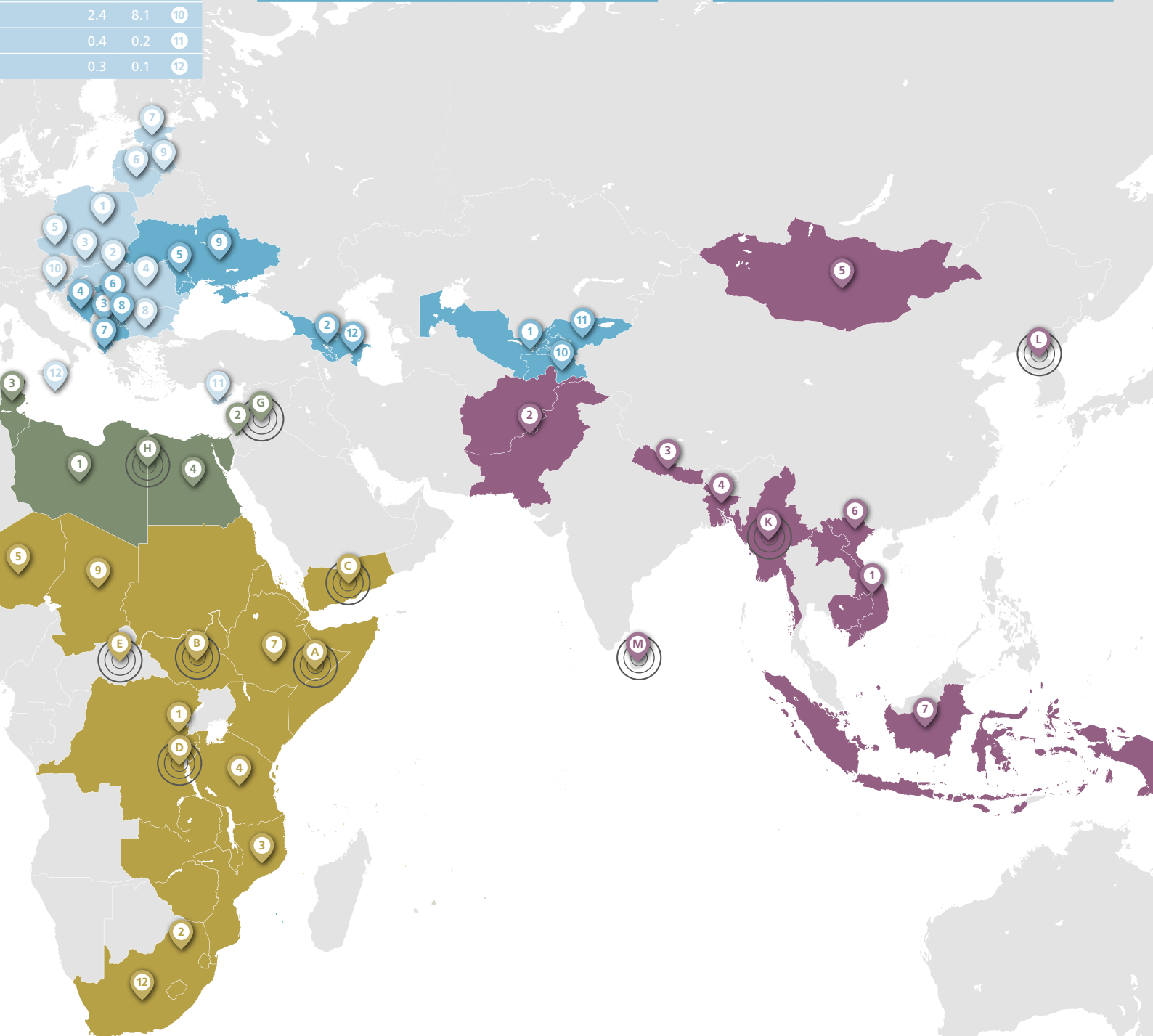
2015 Mil. CHF	2014 Mil. CHF	
74.1	79.1	1
22.6	12.9	2
20.1	16.6	3
18.5	14.3	4
13.9	11.1	5
9.5	14.4	6
6.0	4.7	7
5.5	5.1	8
5.3	5.8	9
2.4	8.1	10
0.4	0.2	11
0.3	0.1	12

**SDC**  
Priority countries and regions East

	2015 Mil. CHF	2014 Mil. CHF	
Eastern Europe and the CIS			
Central Asia <sup>11</sup>	34.0	32.3	1
South Caucasus <sup>12</sup>	17.2	13.7	2
Kosovo	14.7	12.7	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	13.9	12.9	4
Moldova	12.8	10.8	5
Serbia	12.0	10.3	6
Albania	11.6	11.8	7
Macedonia	10.9	9.3	8
Ukraine	8.7	6.7	9

**SECO**  
Priority countries East

	2015 Mil. CHF	2014 Mil. CHF	
Eastern Europe and the CIS			
Tajikistan	14.0	18.4	10
Kyrgyzstan	12.6	14.4	11
Ukraine	10.4	11.6	9
Kosovo	8.9	8.7	3
Albania	8.9	12.3	7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7.8	4.6	4
Macedonia	4.9	5.1	8
Serbia	3.6	4.5	6
Azerbaijan	1.1	2.3	12







*Women harvesting cocoa beans in Indonesia. SECO has supported the Sustainable Cocoa Production Program in Indonesia for the last four years. The programme aims to develop the whole cocoa value chain in the Indonesian cocoa sector on an environmentally friendly basis. It focuses on encouraging a deeper understanding of international trade, improving access to international markets and facilitating business ties with Swiss and European importers.*



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## THE RIGHT BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR MORE – AND BETTER – JOBS

Nine out of ten jobs worldwide are in the private sector. An attractive and sustainable business environment can only be built if there are effective state institutions, good public service delivery and corporate responsibility in place.

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A solid infrastructure and services such as the provision of electricity, water and basic sanitation are as important for business as sound economic, legal and regulatory conditions. To this end, Switzerland supports its partner countries with the reform of their public services and efforts to strengthen state institutions.

A programme in Peru, for example, helps the public financial administration improve its budget planning and expenditure controls, and increase its tax revenues. In Albania, Switzerland has supported local water utilities with efforts to improve the delivery of water supplies to public and local businesses. In the last few years, they have performed better and boosted their operational efficiency. The introduction of water meters means that costs are now charged more accurately, and these are now recovered more efficiently thanks to improved invoicing.

### **Good corporate governance: when the private sector shoulders its responsibility**

A sound infrastructure alone is not enough. Just as states have to provide a solid and advantageous framework, the private sector needs to have guidelines in place to ensure that companies are run responsibly. Corporate governance – the regulations, values and principles that stipulate how private firms are to be managed and policed – has been a focal point of Swiss international cooperation efforts since the late 1990s.

Corporate governance as well as the creation of a conducive environment for private sector growth are in keeping with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by the UN in 2015 and calls for the mobilisation of private capital and the creation of public-private partnerships to fund development goals. According to the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017–20, Switzerland will boost its contribution to the creation of decent jobs by investing in business and strengthening international standards.

SECO provides support when statutory provisions are non-existent or patchy. Its efforts focus on assisting with the creation of an institutional framework that is conducive to corporate governance standards and capacity building to that effect. SECO also helps to make stakeholders aware of the importance that investors give to compliance with corporate governance and corporate social responsibility standards.

### **Corporate governance efforts in Indonesia**

In 2015, SECO, together with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group, supported various corporate governance projects in Indonesia. The IFC directly advises Indonesian firms on matters such as greater transparency and better shareholder protection, and assists the government with the drafting and implementation of legislation and regulations. The IFC also builds the business advisory capacities of local partner organisations.

In 2015, more than 3000 individuals – including more than 900 women – from family-run businesses, limited companies, banks and state-run firms benefited from the support of the IFC and its partners. As a result, these stakeholders have been able to develop measures specifically geared towards their own organisations.

#### **More to Swiss commitment than corporate governance**

In 2012, SECO launched a project in Indonesia which addresses other issues besides corporate governance. The Sustainable Cocoa Production Programme (SCPP), which is jointly run by SECO



*A SECO-supported project in Indonesia aims to improve corporate governance.*

and its partners, seeks to create a better enabling environment for sustainable economic growth. The aim is to make the entire cocoa production value chain more effective and environmentally friendly and, in doing so, improve the lives of around 60,000 smallholder cocoa farmers.

*“SECO supports small-scale farmers in sustainable cocoa production through a public-private partnership. A better harvest is key to boosting competitiveness and facilitating access to international markets.”*

Thanks to technical support and specialised training, cultivation methods and other agricultural production factors have been improved and certified. As a result, the yield per hectare has risen, as has the quality of the cocoa beans. The project also addresses issues such as modern post-harvest treatments, traceable supply chains, upgraded service models and transparent cocoa trading. The SCPP also seeks to better familiarise all concerned with the workings of international trade so that they can gain better access to the global market and find it easier to do business with Swiss and other European importers.

Wide-reaching changes like these require all public and private stakeholders to work in partnership. The SCPP works with 400 cocoa producer groups, which have business ties with around 1000 micro-, small and medium-sized companies, farmers’ organisations and 10 multinational cocoa and chocolate producers. Other project participants include the local authorities and NGOs. SECO provides roughly CHF 6.5 million of the CHF 16 million project budget.

*“For many of our partner countries, the promotion of organic and fair-trade products presents a good opportunity to enter the Swiss and EU markets.”*

Good economic governance is an essential factor in realising SECO’s strategic development goals. To this end, it has a broad-based commitment to the drafting and dissemination of rules and standards for economic governance and lends its support to both the public and private sectors.

## SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Financial stability and good governance
- Sustainable growth in trade
- Development of the private sector and financial services
- Infrastructure and urban development

Sustained economic growth is essential for reducing poverty and inequality. The private sector is the main driver of economic growth. Integration in the global market gives developing countries access to sales markets and sources of investment.

Switzerland promotes sustainable and broad-based economic growth in its partner countries. It focuses on the financial management of public funds, framework conditions for private investments, the stability of the financial sector, public services funding, infrastructure, use of resources, trade liberalisation and the labour market.



## MACEDONIA: A MARKET SYSTEM THAT LEAVES NO ONE BEHIND

*Two national programme officers at the Swiss embassy in Skopje explain how SDC-supported economic initiatives are benefiting the most marginalised and vulnerable groups.*



Economic development is a relatively new focus of Switzerland's cooperation strategy with Macedonia. Several SDC-supported market-based solutions

aim to benefit some of the most vulnerable groups. One of these is 'Our Good Earth', the first organic buyers' cooperative in Macedonia. In 2015, it won the Macedonian Social Impact Award for its innovative approach. Lilian Kandikjan, a national programme officer (NPO) at the Swiss embassy in Skopje explains: "Our Good Earth won the Social Impact Award thanks to its unique community-supported agriculture and food sovereignty model. With this approach, consumers themselves get involved in supporting small-scale farmers with farming, distribution and financial risk sharing in the country's most remote rural areas. In addition, the cooperative gives farmers direct access to Skopje's organic food market where they can sell their products at 30% higher prices."

Other important Swiss cooperation initiatives in the Western Balkans focus on promoting the inclusion of the Roma community. Last year alone, the SDC's support helped a thousand vulnerable persons, including Roma, become gainfully employed. Mentoring played an important part because it helped representatives from the Roma community gain access to existing employment measures or advance their skills through training and internships.

Aneta Damjanovska, another NPO at the Swiss embassy in Skopje, stresses, "Mentoring was a key success factor. It was introduced to allow Roma to get the help they needed to find a job. Self-employment and employment in high-skilled professions such as ICT, dentistry and law were well promoted. Macedonia's National Employment Agency has since adopted the successful approach and opened it to all vulnerable groups."

## CREATING FAIR JOBS IN GHANA

*Through the International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland supports enterprise-based training to improve working conditions and productivity in Ghana.*

Project manager Kwamina Amoasi Andoh explains how the Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) project creates more and better jobs.

*Mr Andoh, what characterizes the SCORE approach?*

SCORE shows that good working conditions improve the productivity of firms as well as the quality of the goods and services they provide.

*How does SCORE improve working conditions in the first place?*

SCORE helps managers and workers to cooperate and find common solutions for a cleaner and safer work environment. This prevents injuries and makes the work

environment more attractive. Workers are happier, absenteeism and employee turnover are reduced and labour productivity increases.

*What are the benefits for the firms in Ghana?*

Due to increased productivity and better quality, enterprises attract more customers, grow their business and create more jobs.

The Ghanaian manufacturing firm Perfteck for instance tripled employment after completing SCORE training. By increasing worker productivity and improving resource efficiency, Perfteck was able to attract orders from two multinational enterprises and quadrupled production.

Despite the very difficult economic environment in the last years, no SCORE trained enterprise closed operations in Ghana, even though many other enterprises were forced to do so.



## SELECTED RESULTS 2015



► ***SECO promotes trade that is socially responsible, environmentally friendly and inclusive.***

In **Colombia** SECO is helping cocoa producers' associations with sustainable cocoa production. By 2015, the support had benefited 2020 people directly and 2700 indirectly (a third of these were women). Thanks to this help, last year the Red Cacaotera network of local producers exported 132 tonnes of high quality speciality cocoa to Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Japan, 46% more than the year before.

► ***The SDC has many years of experience in private sector development in the countries in which it operates. Engaging in development-oriented private sector partnerships has been of great importance.***

The not-for-profit association Swiss Capacity Building Facility consists of the SDC and various private companies. The NGO provides technical assistance to financial institutions in developing countries, such as insurance companies, microfinance institutions and savings and commercial banks, to help them scale up their outreach to

poor people. Based on the progress achieved to date, its target of 720,000 new clients should be reached by the end of 2017.

► ***SECO activities improve conditions for business, facilitate access to financing for SMEs and encourage responsible business practices.***

SECO has supported a programme **in the Middle East** and **North Africa** since 1992 to create a better business environment and services for SMEs, and to develop sustainable microfinance and banking services. The results to date are encouraging. In 2015 13 financial institutions in 5 countries or regions where microfinance services were supported granted a total of 960,779 microloans worth around USD 729 million in total. Some 549,721 loans were given to women and 5986 to SMEs, totalling USD 413 million.





*A woman casting her vote in national elections in Kyrgyzstan. Getting citizens actively involved in politics is one of the most important aims of Switzerland's international cooperation. A central concern of the SDC is therefore to promote democratisation. Strengthening civil society and establishing platforms for dialogue and agreements between civil society and government at local, regional and national level are major pillars of these efforts.*



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## CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In many former Communist states, such as Kyrgyzstan, years of corruption and curbs on personal freedom have eroded citizens' trust in their governments. Switzerland promotes democracy through a series of local initiatives.

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After a period of rapid advances in the 1990s and the hopes awakened by the Arab Spring in early 2011, nascent democratic ideals have taken a knock in recent years. In its 2015 annual report, Freedom House, an organisation which monitors political rights and civil liberties around the world, noted, for the ninth consecutive year, that freedom is on the decline. The promotion of democracy remains a focus of Swiss international cooperation efforts.

It is not the intention of the SDC to prescribe a uniform model of democratic government. Instead, it seeks to adapt its measures to fit the context in which it works, and strives, as far as possible, to improve existing structures. Supporting a country on the road to democracy is a lengthy and complex process that demands a multidimensional approach. This is why the SDC works at all decision-making levels and with many different stakeholders – from individual citizens to civil society organisations, right up to parliaments and government ministers.

### **Helping people make their voice heard once again**

One area in which Switzerland has considerable experience is strengthening decentralisation and democratic practices at local level. Decentralisation refers to the transfer of responsibilities and resources to local and regional authorities. In Kyrgyzstan, the Central Asian country

which is furthest along the democratic path, the SDC has been providing support since 2011 to a project that aims to give the population a greater say on local budget issues. The project, which is run by a local NGO, equips citizens to influence decisions on the allocation of funds and hold the authorities to account.

First, local citizens create initiative groups to discuss the issues affecting their community and decide where priority action needs to be taken. The second phase involves these groups working with the local government to devise proposals that match what the community considers to be its most pressing needs. Community representatives receive training in budgeting and financial planning so that they can argue their case effectively during funding allocation discussions with the local authorities. Both sides then draw up an action plan, the implementation of which is jointly managed and overseen by the initiative groups and local government representatives. This means that the local government allocates resources where they are needed most, all with a maximum level of transparency and accountability.

The local authorities do not always have the resources they need to deliver quality public services. A second focal point of the project is building the management capacities of government representatives and equipping them with the necessary tools to better gear their system of government to citizens' initiatives.



*Children going to the new kindergarten which was launched following an SDC project in the municipality of Bosteri.*

### **A new kindergarten at last!**

Part of the project budget goes to micro-grants for projects awarded priority status by the citizen consultation process. The purpose of this funding is to provide local initiatives with support in the short term, which is then replaced by national funding in the medium term. To date, 58 projects benefiting some 500,000 people have been awarded a micro-grant.

Among these projects was the building of a new kindergarten in Bosteri. The lack of places at the existing day nursery meant that many women were unable to return to work, and were therefore deprived of a vital source of income. In 2012, Rosa Toktobajeva joined the initiative group in her village. "Thanks to training, discussions and public hearings we learnt how to talk to the local government and make our voices heard", she explains. "The project allowed us to

identify that the creation of more childcare places was a matter of priority.” The local government agreed, and with the help of a micro-grant, the renovation and extension of the existing kindergarten got under way, creating an additional 20 to 24 childcare places.

*“Switzerland helps to promote accountability and improve access to public services in rural communities, so that local residents know their rights and make their voices heard.”*

Similarly, over 67% of projects that benefit from these micro-grants focus on tackling problems that particularly affect women, young people and the most disadvantaged members of the population.

#### **Gradual building of trust**

The local level offers a particularly good entry point for democracy promotion. Direct contact between the government and the people, which entails the introduction of measures at local level, helps to rebuild public trust. Years of corruption and curbs on personal freedom have caused citizens to lose faith in their government. A greater say in political life also bolsters the social cohesion of communities. Follow-up surveys show that satisfaction levels with public service delivery were higher among local communities that took part in the project (45% in 2014 compared to 22% at the start of the project).

As the mayor of the Kyrgyz village of Bosteri, Timur Ailchiev, succinctly puts it: “Participation in this project was a great opportunity for us to prove our management mettle. We learnt to take responsibility for budgeting, and the adoption of new processes has helped to partially restore trust in the government.”

#### **Participation in the national political debate**

The SDC is also committed to political reforms in order to ensure that the national regulatory framework takes account of the progress made at local level. The aim is to foster financial decentralisation in Kyrgyzstan and thereby increase the resources available to local and regional authorities.

*“Switzerland has been supporting the democratic transition processes in the Central Asia region since the early 1990s.”*

Thanks to intensive efforts by the SDC at the political level, some 30 amendments to national legislation have been passed. This helps strengthen the decentralisation process and block serious threats to ongoing reforms. In addition to these efforts, SECO funded a Swiss project to increase the transparency of public financial management and the flow of funds between the central government and the local authorities.

### **DEMOCRACY AND THE MARKET ECONOMY**

- Strengthening parliaments, democratisation and state reform
- Promoting local government
- Developing market economies

Switzerland supports countries of the South and East in their transition to democratic, social and constitutional systems with a market economy and citizen-oriented local governments. In promoting democracy Switzerland's focus is on strengthening parliaments, legal systems and good governance. Preventing and fighting corruption is of particular importance. Improving framework conditions for the private sector is another priority of Swiss transition cooperation.



## SLOVAKIA: A RECIPE FOR REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT

*Slovakia's high youth unemployment threatens to be a drain on society for many years to come. Through its enlargement contribution, Switzerland is committed to helping Slovakia establish a dual vocational training system.*



Better gearing vocational education and training (VET) to labour market requirements and providing young people with an education that combines theory and practice should help reduce in the medium term Slovakia's high youth unemployment rate, which cur-

rently stands at around 30%. With assistance from the Swiss Federal Institute for Vocation Education and Training (SFIVET), new training courses were designed for several occupations. Together with vocational schools, businesses and professional organisations

from the fields of chemistry, construction, electrical engineering, the food industry and the hospitality and catering industry, an agreement was reached on practice-based learning plans. In 10 vocational schools, several hundred students have already completed part of their education in a public-sector or private firm. Swiss experiences have helped to shape Slovakia's VET act of April 2015, which establishes the dual vocational training model as the new standard. At the same time, a nationwide publicity campaign aims to make VET more attractive.

Switzerland's enlargement contribution, which is not part of its official development assistance, supports projects in the 13 countries that have joined the European Union (EU) since 2004. It is an expression of solidarity and commitment on the part of Switzerland to helping reduce the economic and social disparities in an enlarged EU.

## STRENGTHENING PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN COLOMBIA

*Colombia currently benefits from greater access to the mainstream global economy and displays a real entrepreneurial drive. SECO supports efforts to strengthen the country's public financial management.*

Last year, SECO, in keeping with its commitment to promoting sustainable economic growth, trained more than 480 public service personnel in Colombia as part of a bilateral project. The aim was to provide government employees with the necessary skills to implement public-sector reforms more effectively. The courses dealt with subjects such as council tax, performance budgeting and account planning in accordance with international standards.

Participants included personnel from the Ministry of Finance, the national planning department, the national auditor's office, the National Statistics Office and the Central Bank. Based on their feedback, the SECO project has led to improved cooperation and coordination between the different institutions.

The project was launched in 2013 and will run until 2018. It has already produced a number of important outcomes which will considerably help Colombia on

the path to becoming an OECD member. The project also led to the inclusion of a number of recommendations in the National Development Plan 2014–18, in which the government sets out its priorities. The implementation of these proposals will help boost the long-term competitiveness of the Colombian economy.



## SELECTED RESULTS 2015



► ***Thanks to its expertise and firm commitment to human rights, Switzerland is able to position itself as a credible actor in dealing with conflict sources and in peacebuilding.***

In the **African Great Lakes region**, the SDC assists municipal land registry authorities through a programme to safeguard land tenure in northern Burundi. Local people now find it easier to obtain land tenure. Where necessary, village groups are invited to participate directly in the settlement of conflicts over land. To date, more than half of some 850 conflicts over land have been successfully resolved by setting up reconciliation committees and employing mediation, and the land in question returned to its original owners.

► ***Switzerland's continuing engagement in 12 partner countries and regions considered "fragile" has helped them transition to a longer-term development perspective, while at the same time improving the living conditions of the population.***

In **Afghanistan**, SDC support for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and civil society has helped strengthen human rights, in particular those of women – as evidenced by the perception of more than 1000 Afghan women who claim they now feel more sheltered from conflict in 29 provinces throughout the country. Finally, thanks to SDC support, which has also helped make the justice system more effective, more than 300 adults, including 60 women and over 100 minors, who had been held in custody without trial or wrongfully detained have now been set free.

► ***The political and legal reforms supported by Switzerland have led to better representation of minorities and the development of higher legal standards.***

In **Haiti**, for example, the SDC is assisting the government in tackling the issue of slow-moving judicial procedures and prolonged preventive detention. Imprisonment conditions have already improved considerably for the more than 9000 detainees who received legal assistance.





*A woman drives a herd of llamas in the Peruvian Andes. The Andean highlands of Peru are heavily affected by climate change. An SDC-supported project aims to safeguard the livelihoods of poor rural communities by helping them become more resilient to the effects of climate change. The SDC is working to find solutions with project partners at local, regional and national levels.*



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## MOUNTAIN FARMERS WEATHER THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

In the Andes, the effects of global warming are already clearly visible. The SDC's Adaptation to Climate Change Programme (PACC) responds to this situation by seeking to help communities of the Peruvian Altiplano become more climate resilient.

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Peru is one of the countries that is hardest hit by global warming. And the phenomenon shows no signs of abating – in 2030, the average temperature will have risen by at least 1.5°C. In 40 years' time, the people of the Andean highlands will have only 60% of the water resources that they have at their disposal today.

This development jeopardises the livelihoods and survival of communities in the La Puna region, in the south-east of the country. While fluctuating temperatures and low rainfall have always been a feature of this ecosystem, climate change accentuates their impact, which in turn threatens the livelihoods of the local population who are heavily dependent on agriculture and livestock farming. If these communities fail to adapt, many will be forced to leave their ancestral lands or endure a life of extreme poverty.

### **Reliable weather forecasts**

PACC helps to reduce the vulnerability of these communities to the effects of climate change. The programme, which was launched in 2009 by the Peruvian government and the SDC, is jointly implemented by the Peruvian environment ministry and several regional authorities. Associations from both Switzerland and Peru as well as private stakeholders are also involved. Efforts on the ground are concentrated in two regions: the Huacrachuco catchment areas in Cusco, and the Mollebamba catchment area in Apurímac. Over 1700 families in 21 rural communities are direct beneficiaries of the project.

The effectiveness of climate change adaptation relies heavily on the accuracy of knowledge and predictions on likely climate change developments. Peruvian experts from the National Meteorological and Hydrology Service (SENAHMI) therefore have run courses on the collection and reading of meteorological data. This is how Silverio Choquenaira, a farmer in his fifties from Cusco, learnt to put into words the increasingly unpredictable effects of climate change which he observes. Three times a day, he goes to the Huacrachuco weather station, where he records the temperature and wind strength. If his readings indicate that violent downpours, hail or frost are imminent, he immediately transmits this information to the local radio stations. Silverio's weather forecasts are particularly appreciated by other farmers in the region because they enable them to take the necessary action to protect their harvests from the damaging effects of unexpected changes in temperature.

### **Involving the local community**

The PACC management team organises regular friendly competitions that pit rural communities against one another. These are a clever way of raising awareness of climate change adaptation techniques. The local authorities reward inhabitants who use natural fertilisers on their vegetable patches or who have carried out work to improve communal reservoirs and water pipes. In certain regions of the Andes, small reservoirs, known as qochas in the Quecha language, are built to store rain water. Given diminishing

rainfall levels, these small artificial lakes help communities deal better with periods of drought. The PACC management team have encouraged 18 local communities to develop existing qochas by creating channels that will supply water to irrigate agricultural land and keep cattle hydrated.

*“The impact of climate change knows no national borders. It affects everyone, all over the world, and is particularly hard on those whose livelihoods depend directly on the natural environment.”*

These few examples illustrate the diversity of efforts on the ground and the instrumental role that local participation can play in the attainment of PACC’s objectives. Local communities are more than able to decide which technique will bring the most benefit to them and to the preservation of the environment in which they live.

#### **Cooperation with an international team of scientists**

The PACC project has helped to make the Peruvian authorities aware of the critical challenges that global climate change poses for their country. The Peruvian government now incorporates environmental criteria in other national projects, such as Haku Wiñay which aims to safeguard food security in 17 regions of Peru. The international scientific community is also an important contributor to PACC. This consortium is led by the Institute of Geography of Zurich University and comprises assorted partner institutions from Switzerland and Peru. Training climate specialists at Peruvian universities provides the country with a supply of experts who are not only equipped to implement projects like PACC and Haku Wiñay but are also well-acquainted with the terrain and the customs of local Andean communities.

#### **A real step forward**

Another important feature of PACC, besides the involvement of the national authorities and the dissemination of knowledge, is the participation of women at all levels. The SDC has made concerted efforts to make women aware of the challenges posed by climate change, to enable them to play an active role in efforts on the ground and to ensure their inclusion in all decision-making processes. PACC has been cited in several recent discussions on the role of women in climate change adaptation, such as the discussion which took place during the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP 21) in December 2015.

*“Swiss expertise helps communities affected by climate change as well as public and private institutions develop measures that build resilience in areas such as water, food security and disaster risk reduction.”*

PACC also receives considerable attention in international climate talks, to which Switzerland brings significant added value thanks to its project experience. One reason for the high level of interest in PACC is that it offers concrete recommendations on climate change adaptation, which is in contrast to international discussions that tend to focus on efforts to combat global warming and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Through its projects and initiatives, Switzerland makes a significant contribution to key climate issues, which will have a decisive impact on the future of other countries.



*Schoolchildren learning how to grow vegetables sustainably in the Andean highlands of Peru.*

#### GLOBALISATION THAT PROMOTES DEVELOPMENT

- Protecting the environment and natural resources
- Renewable sources of energy and greater efficiency
- Efficient use of resources

International rules that promote development also allow small and poor countries to assert their rights. The international community's collective rules must be formulated in such a way that all countries understand their environmental rights and can be integrated into the global market in a lasting way.

Switzerland plays an active role in the UN environmental organisations, the World Bank, regional development banks and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

But developing countries too must make a contribution and assume their obligations. These include a sustainable and efficient use of the environment and its resources, and the provision of non-fossil energy sources.



## WATER: A SOURCE OF PEACE

*Water is often the source of tensions and instability, but it can also be an instrument of cooperation. It is this notion of water which is at the very heart of Swiss water diplomacy.*

Water management presents humanity with an entirely new set of challenges. This vital resource is often badly managed, used wastefully and is the source of tensions between users. Water conflicts affect many regions around the world. These also include frozen conflicts arising from disputes over major dams and mining operations. More worrying still is the use of water as a weapon of war. This is precisely what is happening in Iraq and Syria, where certain parts of the population are systematically denied access to water.

However, water can also be a driver of cooperation and peace. It is this constructive notion of water which informs Switzerland's water conflict prevention efforts, which it carries out in partnership with UN organisations, bilateral partners and NGOs.

Water management and its impact on security are priority areas of Swiss foreign policy. At a ministerial ceremony in Geneva in November 2015, Switzerland, together with 14 other countries, launched an independent panel on water and peace made up of high-level officials and experts tasked with developing instruments to prevent and mitigate water conflicts. The panel's work is expected to take two years.



## THE DIASPORA: A DRIVER OF DEVELOPMENT IN TUNISIA

*The considerable potential of the Tunisian diaspora to assist development in their country of origin is still largely untapped. To this end the SDC has launched a project to support the efforts of the Tunisian community in Switzerland.*

The signing of a migration partnership in 2012 heralded the start of close cooperation between Switzerland and Tunisia. This agreement adds to the efforts already undertaken by Switzerland to strengthen international cooperation in the field of migration. These are based on a comprehensive approach that considers the opportunities that migration offers while addressing the challenges it presents.

These opportunities include the skills and expertise of the diaspora. In response, the SDC launched 'Communauté tunisienne résidente en Suisse pour le développement' (CTRS), which aims to leverage the development potential of the Tunisian community in Switzerland. The project assists the Tunisian government in strengthening the institutions that support Tunisians abroad. Through micro-

projects and support for entrepreneurship, CTRS facilitates the transfer of knowledge from Tunisian nationals in Switzerland to their fellow citizens living in Tunisia.

The inspiration behind many of the micro-projects comes from associations or individual members of the public. The support of CTRS greatly helps to get these

ideas off the ground. For example, at a meeting in Zurich last September, a retired Tunisian declared that he would be willing to share his cheese-making expertise and skills. In early 2016, he travelled to the disadvantaged region of Kasserine to train some of the people living there. An association of Tunisian university students in Switzerland also received help from CTRS to organise a course for IT students in Tunisia on the innovation potential of the internet. By the end of 2015, eight similar projects had benefited from CTRS support.



## SELECTED RESULTS 2015



► ***Since 2013, the SDC has been taking active steps to develop new forms of partnerships with the private sector to enhance the impact of its projects.***

The Remote Sensing-Based Information and Insurance for Crops in Emerging Economies (RIICE) initiative is a partnership co-funded by the SDC and several public and private-sector actors. RIICE makes use of innovative, satellite-based, remote-sensing technologies in order to reduce the vulnerability of rice producers in East and South Asian countries by providing governments with a risk management tool and by developing insurance products for small-scale rice farmers. It is well on the way to contributing to the food security of more than 2 million people.

► ***SECO fosters climate-friendly growth in its partner countries by improving the management of natural resources and promoting market and financing mechanisms that help to mitigate climate change.***

In **South Africa**, for example, SECO is supporting the UNIDO Industrial Energy Efficiency Improvement Project, aimed at local companies. So far

the project has been very successful, with companies becoming more competitive and reducing their energy footprint. Between January and October 2015, more than 3000 jobs were saved or created. An external evaluation showed that the lessons learned from this project have been applied in similar projects in 17 countries.

► ***Switzerland's operational efforts seek to improve the situation of millions of people who leave their homes in South and South-East Asia to go and work in the Middle East.***

In **Sri Lanka**, the SDC provided support to advice centres in 10 of the country's 25 districts, which were tasked with informing potential migrants about the benefits and risks of migrating to find work, their rights and obligations, and working and living conditions in their destination country. Since 2013, 52,000 households have been able to make a decision regarding migration on the basis of reliable and precise information.

## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA

Up to 3.3 billion people worldwide are at risk of being infected with and developing malaria. Switzerland supports a number of public-private partnerships which work towards eradicating this major hindrance to development, particularly in Africa.

There are diagnostic tools that are now ready for use in malaria-hit countries. A single drop of blood is deposited on a 10x3 cm plastic slide and, just like a pregnancy test, either one or two lines appear within a few minutes. The quality of this test is regularly checked by the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostic (FIND), one of several public-private partnerships that receive SDC support for their work on malaria control and prevention.



Although the number of malaria-related deaths fell by 50% in the 2000s, malaria still claims the lives of half a million people every year, 90% of whom are in Africa. For the countries affected, it poses a major challenge and hits children and women disproportionately hard.

### **Product development partnerships (PDPs): When public meets private**

PDPs, which began to emerge in the 1990s, were developed with a view to finding innovative approaches to reducing the burden of poverty-related diseases like malaria. Switzerland has played an active role in the development of this new model of cooperation. Together with other partners, it launched one of the first PDPs: the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV). These partnerships help advance research on and the development of diagnostic tools, medication and instruments to control the vectors of malaria and other infectious diseases.

PDPs are foundations that are financed through public and private funds. They bring together industry (pharmaceutical, biotechnology) and research institutes, which in turn use their expertise and knowledge to develop affordable products that match the needs of the affected population and the environment in which they live. The SDC supports a total of three PDPs involved in malaria prevention and control: MMV (drugs), FIND (development and quality control of diagnostic tools) and Innovative Vector Control Consortium IVCC (insecticides).

### **Promising results**

These PDPs have led to the development of several products. For example, MMV launched five new antimalarial drugs, and a further nine are at the clinical development stage. Over 300 million courses of Coartem® Dispersible were delivered to treat children in over 50 malaria-endemic countries. IVCC launched a new long-lasting insecticide formulation, and FIND is working on an innovative test that will make it possible to identify the infection causing a patient's fever.



## WATER: PROOF OF SWITZERLAND'S PROACTIVE CONTRIBUTION

Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda applies to the water sector as a whole – an achievement due in large part to the political commitment shown by Switzerland.



Back in September 2012, as the decision on the future development goals drew closer, the international water sector was still embroiled in a fruitless and technical debate and had overlooked the fact that as of 2016, the world would need a common uniform goal. The SDC's Global Programme Water Initiatives provided the impetus for an interdepartmental team, which managed to formulate, within the space of two months, a water goal that reflected Switzerland's new vision. The Post-2015 Task Force, which was set up by the Federal Council, presented the proposal to the international community. In doing so, Switzerland became the first country to put forward a concrete goal for the water sector. By the end of 2013, more than 100 countries

had signed up to the Swiss initiative. Then, on 25 September 2015, the heads of state and government leaders, who had gathered in New York, approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Goal 6 is essentially the water proposal put forward by Switzerland.

There are many factors that have contributed to this success. The first is targeted advocacy work and political lobbying. Here, the SDC was able to rely on an extensive network of experts as well as its long-standing experience in the water sector. One of its outstanding achievements was to knit political and technical considerations together. The second is a coordinated approach at international level. Through the FDFA and the entire federal administration, the Swiss missions in Geneva and New York as well as the Swiss diplomatic network, Switzerland was able to approach a large number of governments and international institutions directly and win them round. The third is the commitment and contribution of all concerned, from country programme leaders in the South right up to the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. All tirelessly championed the goal and, in doing so, demonstrated that Switzerland is a country that speaks with one voice and achieves success through unity.

### SWISS COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUALITY

*Gender equality is a human right and a precondition for sustainable development, as progress will remain elusive in countries which leave half of their population behind.*

Driven by this conviction, Switzerland committed itself to ensuring that gender equality features prominently in the 2030 Agenda. In Addis Ababa a few months before, Switzerland had also called for gender mainstreaming in development

funding. Swiss negotiators are entitled to feel a certain amount of pride because the position they defended was adopted at both conferences. Goal 5 of the 2030 Agenda, which deals with gender equality, is a testimony to this success. Another

focal point of SDC efforts is strengthening the rights of women and girls in fragile contexts, guaranteeing them better access to resources, education and work, and facilitating their participation in political and decision-making processes.

## CAREFUL MONITORING AND AN ADAPTIVE CULTURE PRODUCES RESULTS

**SDC and SECO projects and programmes are closely monitored, reviewed on a regular basis and systematically evaluated by external experts. This approach is a decisive factor in the success of Swiss international cooperation.**

Monitoring and evaluation includes quantitatively and qualitatively measurable objectives, annual country and regional reports, as well as independent evaluations and reports on effectiveness, in accordance with the guidelines of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC). These tools, together with evaluations by the Swiss Federal Audit Office, are instrumental in helping Swiss international cooperation efforts to reduce poverty and attain crucial outcomes. Furthermore, these efforts are respected internationally because they are well planned, effective and credible. In this spirit, Switzerland supported the formulation of the 2030 Agenda on the establishment of an international framework for the assessment and review of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For the SDC and SECO, constructive self-criticism ensures that their international cooperation efforts remain effective and adaptive. Even when baseline analyses have been performed, some projects do not turn out as planned. This may be due to unexpected or uncontrollable changes in the context in which they are implemented, such as the outbreak of violent conflict, economic and financial crises or natural disasters. The cause, however, may lie with the SDC or SECO, who only realise once the project is up and running that their assumptions were wrong.

### Drawing the right conclusions

Good monitoring should signal early on if a project or programme is not achieving its stated goals. Action then needs to be taken to identify the reasons behind this potential failure and draw the right conclusions on the future path of a project or the need for another project. This is precisely what happened to SECO and its project to improve urban infrastructures and water supplies in Tajikistan. It realised that if the local community were to reap the long-term benefits, it would have to systematically foster partners' skills and project ownership. The revised project included not only investments in the water infrastructure, but also efforts to strengthen the local water utilities and raise public awareness of the issue.

A critical evaluation of both the successes and failures of a project is only possible if there is an open, adaptive culture and an unwavering commitment to achieving ambitious goals. For example, the SDC launched a project in Bosnia and Herzegovina to encourage constitutional reforms. Public debates were organised and attended by members of the local community and civil society. While they led to the formulation of concrete proposals, these were never implemented. An absence of political will, coupled with political stagnation and discussions that increasingly ran along ethnic lines, meant that attempts to bring about reforms – one of the intended project outcomes – came to nothing. Realising that constitutional reforms are not yet possible and that the initiative to change must come from within, the SDC is now planning a project to foster citizens' participation in and contribution to the political process.

### Learning as a key success factor

Adapting or discontinuing a project is not desirable. But such actions show that the monitoring mechanisms used by the SDC and SECO actually work. It is important to accept necessary changes and use the experience to shape future efforts. A review of an SDC labour migration project in Bangladesh, for example, concluded that, while the International Labour Organization (ILO) was indeed a competent partner, it was not in a position to carry out all planned activities. As a result, the project was split into two separate projects. The first now benefits from the ILO's core competences, while the second is implemented by a more suitable partner.

It is important to remember that complex realities and contexts lie behind the figures and graphs contained in these evaluations and effectiveness reports. Given that they involve people and entire communities, circumstances may be difficult to forecast or change at a moment's notice. Results-driven planning, ongoing monitoring and taking on board the findings of evaluations and effectiveness reports can, in these circumstances, turn around such projects. This is the task of effective international cooperation and it is this standard that the SDC and SECO have set for themselves.

More information on the results of the Dispatch on International Cooperation 2013–16 can be found in the joint SDC-SECO document *The Swiss contribution – Report on the Results of Swiss Development Cooperation*.

Over the course of 2015, the SDC published various evaluation reports on country programmes, thematic areas and institutional topics, as well as the *Report on Effectiveness 2015 – Swiss International Cooperation in Health*. SECO also published evaluations of its efforts in the fields of tax & development and economic governance.

All publications are available at [www.deza.admin.ch](http://www.deza.admin.ch) or [www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch](http://www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch).



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# Statistics 2015

Swiss International Cooperation



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

State Secretariat for  
Economic Affairs SECO

### Official development assistance (ODA)

- Official development assistance (ODA) is defined at the international level as the total of all financial flows to developing countries and territories (currently 146) and to multilateral development institutions (i) from the official sector; (ii) with the promotion of economic development and welfare as its main objective; (iii) at concessional financial terms.
- The performances of donor countries are usually compared on the basis of the ODA percentage referring to the gross national income (GNI).
- To ensure the comparability and transparency of ODA contributions of its 29 members (28 countries and the European Union), the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD has established comprehensive statistical reporting directives to regulate the reporting procedures. These rules define the activities and the contributions that are ODA-eligible and are being periodically adapted and updated.
- Swiss ODA contributions contain mainly the SDC and SECO (Economic Cooperation and Development Division) budgets, the two organs which are commissioned to execute the Federal Act on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid and the Federal Act on the cooperation with Eastern European countries. Other federal offices as well as the cantons and about 200 communes also participate in Switzerland's international cooperation. In conformity with DAC's reporting rules, Switzerland also declares bilateral debt relief measures since 2004 (within the framework of the Paris Club) as well as the costs for the assistance to asylum seekers from developing countries during their first year of stay in Switzerland.
- Not all annual SDC and SECO expenditures that appear in the Confederation account are automatically reproduced in the ODA statistics. Some statistical adjustments are made in order to comply with the international directives (not included are disbursements intended for countries or organisations that are not on the OECD/DAC list, different notification practice for specific multilateral contributions, see comment to table 4, p. 15).
- The financial contribution of the SDC and SECO to the enlargement of the European Union (EU) is not reflected in detail in this booklet.

### Financing for development beyond ODA

- Non-ODA flows account for an important part of development finance. In the case of Switzerland, these include mainly private capital flows at market terms (foreign direct investments, bank lending, guaranteed export credits) as well as private grants by non-governmental organisations and foundations.

#### Symbols:

0.0 = amount less than CHF 50 000	p = provisional figures
– = nil	r = revised figures
.. = not available	

More detailed information is available in the annual SDC statistical publication "Aide au développement de la Suisse" and on SDC's and SECO's web sites:  
[www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/activities-projects/figures-statistics.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/activities-projects/figures-statistics.html)  
[www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch](http://www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch)

*Swiss official development  
assistance (ODA)*

PAGES 4–17

*SDC/SECO expenditures*

PAGES 20–34





Table 1

## DEVELOPMENT OF SWISS OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) AND NGO DONATIONS 1960–2015 (MIL. CHF)

	1960	1970	1980	1990
<b>ODA</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>130.0</b>	<b>423.1</b>	<b>1 041.4</b>
Confederation	15.1	126.4	416.7	1 025.6
Cantons and communes <sup>a</sup>	..	3.6	6.4	15.8
Gross national income (GNI) <sup>b</sup>	37 066	92 570	177 270	347 228
<b>ODA as % of GNI</b>	<b>0.04 %</b>	<b>0.14 %</b>	<b>0.24 %</b>	<b>0.30 %</b>
ODA as % of expenditures by the Confederation	0.56 %	1.63 %	2.38 %	3.29 %
ODA as % of public spending <sup>c</sup>	0.23 %	0.64 %	0.90 %	1.20 %
<b>Private NGO donations</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>106.6</b>	<b>148.6</b>
Private NGO donations as % of GNI	..	0.05 %	0.06 %	0.04 %

a Estimate for 2015.

b Figures of the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) based on the previous European system of accounts (ESA95) up to 2012. Preliminary GNI figures for 2013 and 2014 (FSO, 27.08.2015) based on the new European system of accounts (ESA2010). GNI 2015 was calculated on the basis of GDP growth estimates published on 17.03.2016 by the Expert Panel of the Confederation for economic forecasts and based on the BAKBASEL forecasts of January 2016.

c General government outlays, after elimination of double counting (FSO/FFA).

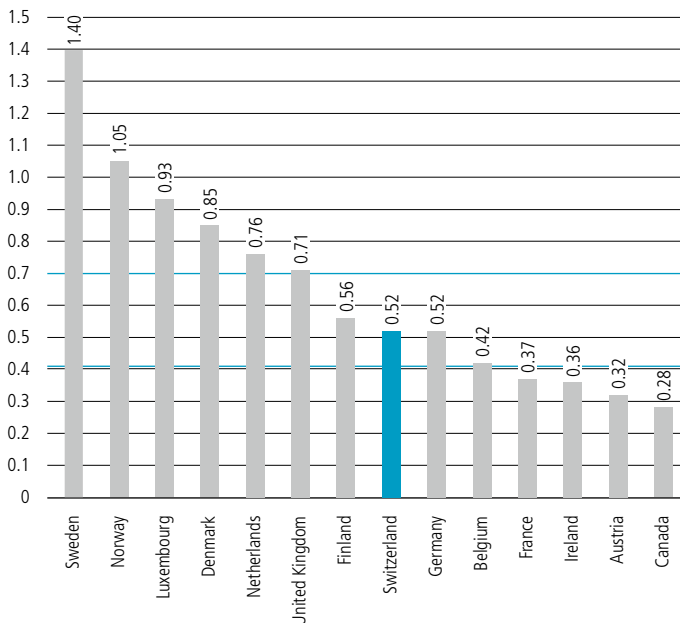
In 2015, the total Swiss official development assistance (ODA) reached CHF 3 404 million, an increase of CHF 182 million on 2014. As a result, the ODA/GNI ratio increased to 0.52%. Thanks to an annual average growth of 5.9% between 2011 and 2015, made possible by the Parliament releasing additional funds, the target set in 2011 of allocating 0.5% of GNI to developing countries by 2015 was achieved.

2000	2011	2012	2013	2014 <sup>r</sup>	2015 <sup>p</sup>
<b>1 510.9</b>	<b>2 706.7</b>	<b>2 861.4</b>	<b>2 965.2</b>	<b>3 222.6</b>	<b>3 404.3</b>
1 488.6	2 664.5	2 797.1	2 910.6	3 171.3	3 349.3
22.3	42.2	64.3	54.6	51.3	55.0
463 558	590 441	611 979	646 763	638 291	651 377
0.33 %	0.46 %	0.47 %	0.46 %	0.50 %	0.52 %
3.21 %	4.34 %	4.63 %	4.66 %	5.04 %	5.22 %
1.23 %	1.75 %	1.82 %	1.84 %	1.98 %	2.06 %
<b>272.0</b>	<b>413.3</b>	<b>443.1</b>	<b>466.1</b>	<b>516.8</b>	..
0.06 %	0.07 %	0.07 %	0.07 %	0.08 %	..

Changes in the ODA/GNI ratio over the next few years will depend on changes in the economic situation (volume of GNI), the budgets allocated to international cooperation, and on other ODA components, including costs related to asylum seekers in Switzerland, which currently account for 13% of ODA.

Graph 1

## SWITZERLAND'S PERFORMANCE COMPARED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES 2015 (ODA AS % OF GNI)

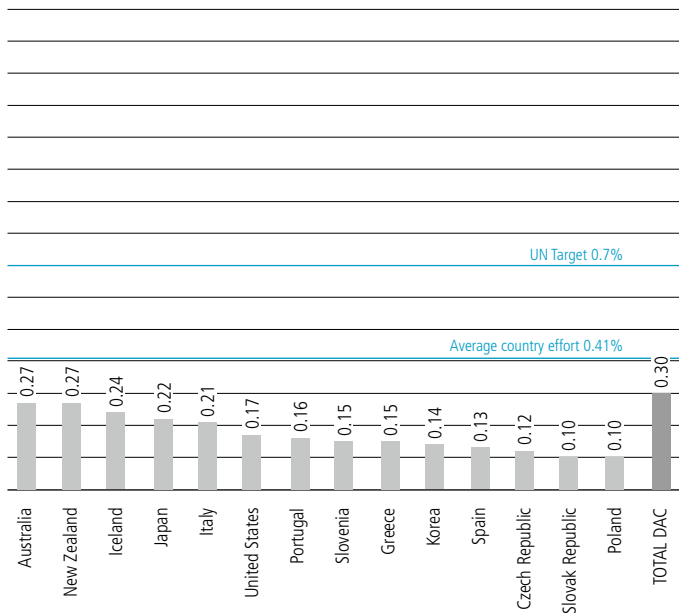


Preliminary data published by OECD/DAC on 13th April 2016 for all DAC countries.

Net official development assistance (ODA) flows from member countries of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) totalled USD 131.6 billion in 2015. In real terms, this represents an increase of 6.9%, the highest level ever achieved for net ODA, due in particular to increased expenditure on refugee costs. However, even if these costs are excluded, net ODA still continued to grow by 1.7% in real terms.

With an ODA/GNI ratio of 0.52%, Switzerland ranked 8<sup>th</sup> among DAC member countries in 2015. In real terms, it ranked 11<sup>th</sup>.





Six countries (Sweden, Norway, Luxembourg, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) exceeded the recommended 0.7% target set by the United Nations back in 1970, while four other countries (Finland, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium) surpassed the 0.41% average for DAC countries. The combined ODA of all DAC countries that are members of the European Union represents 0.47% of GNI.

Table 2

**SWISS OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)  
2014–2015 (MIL. CHF)**

<b>Confederation</b>
<b>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)</b>
Humanitarian aid
Development cooperation
Cooperation with Eastern Europe and the CIS
<b>State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)</b>
Development cooperation
Cooperation with Eastern Europe and the CIS
Loan repayments
<b>Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)</b>
Conflict transformation and human rights
Other contributions
<b>Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER)</b>
Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (SIFEM) <sup>a</sup>
Scholarships to foreign students in Switzerland
Other contributions
<b>State Secretariat for Migration (SEM)</b>
Assistance for asylum seekers in Switzerland
Return assistance
<b>Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports (DDPS)</b>
Activities for promotion of peace and security
Supplies for humanitarian purposes
<b>Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)</b>
of which: contributions to international organizations
<b>Other federal offices</b>
Cantons and communes <sup>a</sup>
<b>Total ODA</b>
<b>ODA as % of gross national income (GNI)</b>

a Estimate for 2015.

The SDC and SECO share of total ODA increased to 77% in 2015 (compared with 74% in 2014). Costs related to asylum seekers and assistance for return to their countries of origin continued to account for 14% of ODA. As in 2014, no debt relief was granted

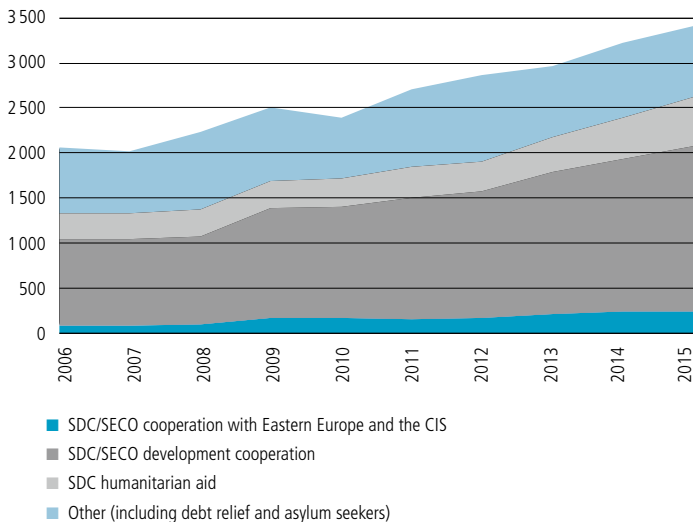
2015 <sup>p</sup>			2014 <sup>r</sup>		
Bilateral ODA	Multilateral ODA	Total ODA	Bilateral ODA	Multilateral ODA	Total ODA
2577.7	771.6	3349.3	2491.0	680.2	3171.3
<b>1619.3</b>	<b>676.5</b>	<b>2295.8</b>	<b>1481.2</b>	<b>582.3</b>	<b>2063.5</b>
481.4	57.7	539.1	411.1	51.4	462.5
974.9	617.7	1592.6	922.4	530.1	1452.5
163.0	1.2	164.2	147.7	0.8	148.5
<b>324.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>325.3</b>	<b>325.5</b>	–	<b>325.5</b>
247.3	0.4	247.7	246.4	–	246.4
80.4	0.6	81.0	90.9	–	90.9
-3.4	–	-3.4	-11.7	–	-11.7
<b>112.6</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>144.7</b>	<b>113.5</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>146.8</b>
77.7	18.6	96.3	75.0	18.7	93.7
34.9	13.5	48.4	38.5	14.5	53.0
<b>35.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>65.0</b>
27.3	–	27.3	50.8	–	50.8
6.8	–	6.8	6.4	–	6.4
1.6	6.5	8.1	1.3	6.5	7.8
<b>473.2</b>	–	<b>473.2</b>	<b>456.3</b>	–	<b>456.3</b>
455.4	–	455.4	442.4	–	442.4
17.8	–	17.8	13.9	–	13.9
<b>2.7</b>	–	<b>2.7</b>	<b>46.0</b>	–	<b>46.0</b>
1.3	–	1.3	46.0	–	46.0
1.4	–	1.4	–	–	–
<b>4.4</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>42.0</b>
3.3	39.0	42.3	3.2	37.6	40.8
<b>5.4</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>26.2</b>
55.0	–	55.0	51.3	–	51.3
<b>2632.7</b>	<b>771.6</b>	<b>3404.3</b>	<b>2542.3</b>	<b>680.2</b>	<b>3222.6</b>
		0.52%			0.50%

in 2015. In 2015, the Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (SIFEM) received CHF 25 million from SECO, entered in the SIFEM budget line in the above table. Since 2015, following a review of DAC directives, the contribution to Swisscoy has no longer been considered as ODA.

Graph 2

## SWISS ODA BY AID CATEGORY 2006–2015

(MIL. CHF)



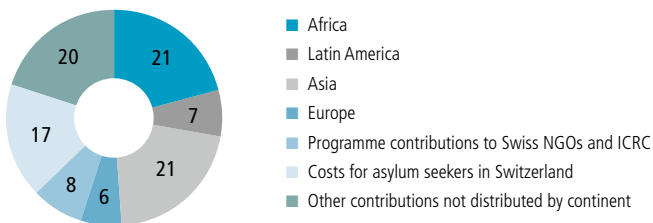
This graph shows the changes in ODA for each category of aid over the last ten years.

- Between 2014 and 2015, the SDC/SECO share of development cooperation with the countries of the South increased slightly from 52% to 54% of total ODA. Over the last ten years, this share has steadily increased (46% in 2006, 49% in 2009, 53% in 2013).
- After remaining relatively stable over the past few years (between 12% and 14%), SDC's Swiss Humanitarian Aid Department's share of ODA increased slightly to reach 16% in 2015.
- The share of SDC and SECO Cooperation with Eastern Europe (7% in 2015) has remained stable since 2009 (between 6% and 7%), compared with 4% on average in 2006-2008.
- The contributions from other federal offices, cantons and communes (9%), as well as costs related to asylum seekers and return assistance (14%) represented 23% of total ODA in 2015 (compared with 26% in 2014). This highly volatile aid category can fluctuate significantly from one year to the next. Over the past ten years, it has fluctuated between a maximum of 39% (2008) and the current share of 23% (2015).



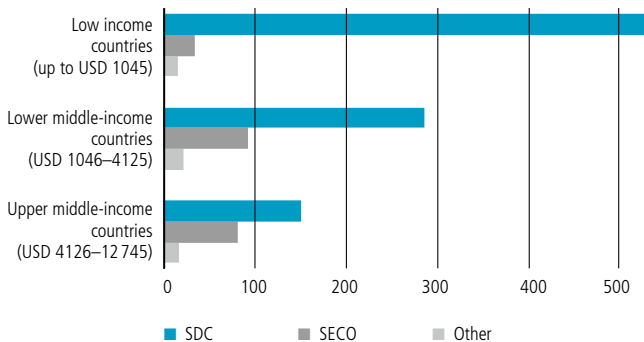
Graph 3

### BREAKDOWN OF BILATERAL ODA BY CONTINENT 2015 (IN %)



Graph 4

### BILATERAL ODA BY INCOME CATEGORY 2015 (MIL. CHF)



See the list of ODA recipients by income category (GNI per capita):

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm>

Table 3

GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF BILATERAL ODA  
BY CONTINENT AND COUNTRY 2014–2015 (MIL. CHF)<sup>a</sup>

	2015 <sup>p</sup>	2014 <sup>r</sup>
<b>Africa</b>	<b>553.6</b>	<b>595.3</b>
Mozambique	36.1	34.0
Burkina Faso	32.8	29.7
Mali	30.4	32.4
South Sudan	27.6	23.8
Tanzania	27.4	27.9
Niger	26.2	24.5
Tunisia	23.9	15.8
Chad	22.4	28.4
Somalia	21.8	18.5
Benin	18.7	17.9
Egypt	18.3	22.0
Congo (Democratic Republic)	17.6	17.7
Ghana	17.5	16.6
Ethiopia	15.7	13.0
Sudan	13.9	8.2
South Africa	13.8	10.1
Central African Republic	9.3	7.0
Morocco	9.2	7.4
Other countries	63.6	88.8
Regional projects and not distributed by country	107.7	151.7
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>174.1</b>	<b>208.8</b>
Bolivia	32.0	32.4
Peru	26.9	20.3
Colombia	24.0	24.2
Honduras	17.7	18.8
Nicaragua	17.4	16.5
Haiti	15.0	21.6
Cuba	10.8	10.4
Other countries	1.6	13.7
Regional projects and not distributed by country	28.8	51.0

a The programme contributions for 2015 (CHF 129.5 mil.) are not broken down by country, as detailed information was not yet available at the time of publication.

	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>r</sup>
<b>Asia</b>	<b>557.3</b>	<b>541.6</b>
Nepal	44.1	41.5
Syria	38.2	35.2
Myanmar	36.4	30.7
Afghanistan	32.3	29.3
Bangladesh	31.0	30.1
Tajikistan	29.5	33.2
Gaza and West Bank	27.2	30.4
Kyrgyzstan	25.2	26.5
Mongolia	23.7	20.0
Vietnam	22.7	29.1
Lebanon	17.4	5.9
Pakistan	17.0	19.9
Laos	15.4	18.3
Iraq	14.3	12.9
Jordan	14.0	8.1
Georgia	13.8	12.8
Indonesia	13.4	15.7
Cambodia	12.7	12.2
China	12.7	16.6
Yemen	11.1	7.9
North Korea	9.5	7.4
India	9.3	13.8
Other countries	24.7	31.3
Regional projects and not distributed by country	61.8	52.7
<b>Europe</b>	<b>176.3</b>	<b>216.3</b>
Ukraine	29.8	27.1
Kosovo	25.5	65.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	22.9	26.0
Albania	20.6	24.7
Serbia	16.6	17.1
Macedonia	15.8	15.0
Moldova	13.5	12.7
Other countries	2.7	3.2
Regional projects and not distributed by country	29.0	25.6
<b>Other contributions not distributed by continent</b>	<b>1 171.4</b>	<b>980.4</b>
<b>Total bilateral ODA</b>	<b>2 632.7</b>	<b>2 542.3</b>

Table 4

 SWISS MULTILATERAL ODA BY ORGANISATION  
 2014–2015 (MIL. CHF)

<b>United Nations organisations</b>
UN Development Programme (UNDP)
Green Climate Fund (GCF)
UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
World Food Programme (WFP)
Special programmes of the World Health Organisation (WHO) <sup>a</sup>
UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
Contributions to UN organisations reportable in part in ODA <sup>b</sup>
Other UN organisations
<b>International Financial Institutions</b>
International Development Association (IDA) <sup>c</sup>
African Development Fund (AfDF) <sup>c</sup>
Asian Development Fund (AsDF)
World Bank
Other development funds and banks
<b>Other international organisations</b>
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
Other institutions
<b>Total multilateral ODA</b>

a Excl. the core contribution to WHO, which is reportable in part (see b).

b Percentages applied according to DAC directives.

c Incl. Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI).



2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014 <sup>T</sup>
258.0	221.9
60.0	60.0
28.9	0.5
22.9	18.8
22.0	22.0
16.0	16.0
16.0	14.0
15.0	15.5
10.0	10.0
10.0	7.0
9.5	9.5
6.0	6.0
5.5	5.5
4.3	4.2
2.5	2.5
22.4	23.2
7.0	7.2
409.1	356.0
284.1	231.5
80.8	76.8
12.0	12.0
12.2	12.2
20.0	23.5
104.4	102.3
30.3	29.0
20.0	20.0
15.5	15.5
10.9	10.9
8.7	8.7
19.0	18.2
771.6	680.2

Multilateral ODA includes general contributions paid by SDC and other federal offices to international development institutions. In 2015, the share of Swiss multilateral ODA increased slightly compared with 2014, from 21% to 23% of total ODA. This is lower than the average for all DAC countries (28%).

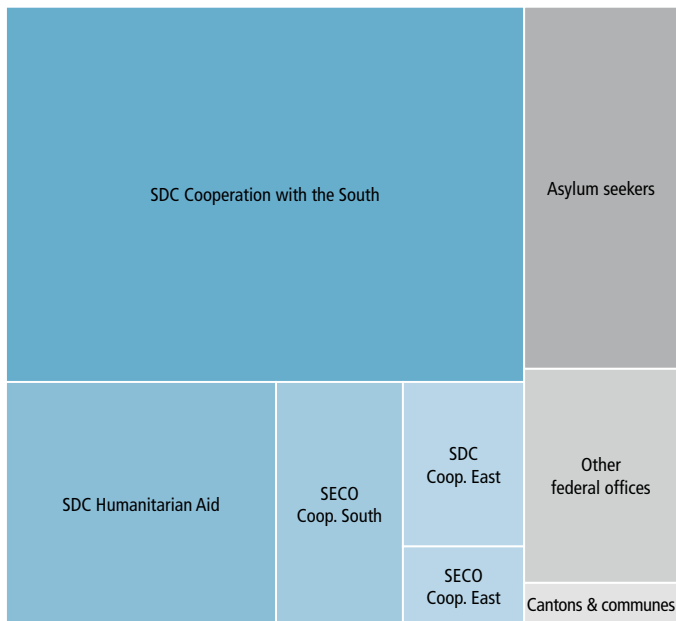
Contributions to international non-governmental organisations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), are considered as bilateral ODA.

Multilateral cooperation has three pillars. As in previous years, international financial institutions (IFI) were the main recipients of Swiss multilateral ODA in 2015 (53%). The United Nations agencies and other international organisations absorbed 33% and 14% of multilateral ODA respectively.

According to international directives, SDC's contributions to IFIs are registered as ODA at the time of the deposit of the promissory notes and not upon encashment. This explains the variations that may occur from one year to another and the differences with the state financial statements, where encashment from prior promissory notes are spread over many years.

Graph 5

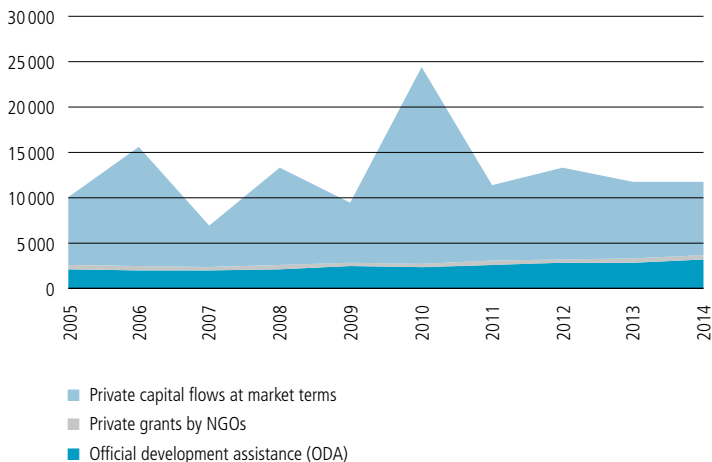
THE FOUR FRAMEWORK CREDITS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE OTHER COMPONENTS OF ODA



This graph shows the structure of Swiss ODA and the proportional distribution of its main components in relation to total disbursements. ODA originates principally from the four framework credits of the Swiss Confederation's international cooperation, shown in blue in the above graph. In accordance with international directives, various contributions provided by other federal offices, cantons and communes, as well as the costs for asylum seekers are also included in the ODA calculation.

Graph 6

## SWISS NET FINANCIAL FLOWS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES 2005–2014 (MIL. CHF)



The global development finance landscape is changing rapidly: resource flows beyond ODA have gained in importance, as most developing countries have access to a much wider range of funding sources.

Private capital flows, mainly foreign direct investments and guaranteed export credits, represent over 70% of Swiss net financial flows to developing countries.

There are also other resources not captured by DAC statistics, such as workers' remittances. These flows amounted to nearly CHF 2 billion a year between 2013 and 2015, more than twice the volume of the three preceding years (2010–2012).





*SDC/SECO expenditures*

PAGES 20–34



Table 5

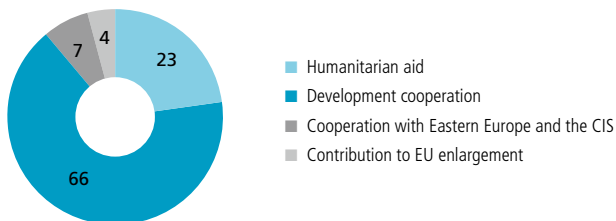
## OVERVIEW OF SDC/SECO EXPENDITURES 2011–2015 (MIL. CHF)

Total expenditures SDC
Humanitarian aid
Development cooperation
Cooperation with Eastern Europe and the CIS
Contribution to EU enlargement
Total expenditures SECO
Development cooperation
Cooperation with Eastern Europe and the CIS
Contribution to EU enlargement

The table and the graphs show SDC's and SECO's (Economic Cooperation and Development Division) expenditures as they appear in the state financial statements, without return flows. In the tables in this section of the report, SECO's expenditure includes the capitalisation of the Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (SIFEM), without investment fund operations.

Graph 7.1

### SDC EXPENDITURES BY FIELD OF ACTIVITY 2015 (IN %)



2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>1 681.8</b>	<b>1 848.7</b>	<b>2 045.1</b>	<b>2 228.2</b>	<b>2 357.3</b>
336.1	337.7	387.2	463.0	539.9
1 204.4	1 338.8	1 419.5	1 496.8	1 562.9
105.4	109.0	129.1	148.5	164.2
35.9	63.2	109.3	119.9	90.3
<b>274.8</b>	<b>300.7</b>	<b>334.8</b>	<b>394.0</b>	<b>445.5</b>
201.0	214.6	220.8	246.4	272.7
60.0	72.0	88.2	90.9	81.0
13.8	14.1	25.8	56.7	91.8

Graph 7.2

## SECO EXPENDITURES BY FIELD OF ACTIVITY 2015 (IN %)

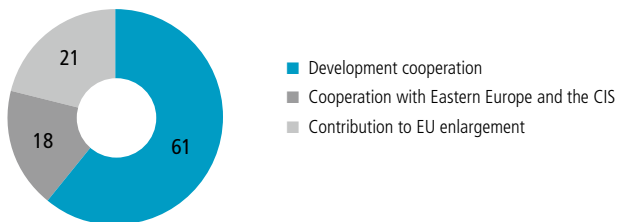


Table 6

## SDC DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BY PRIORITY COUNTRY AND REGION 2014–2015 (MIL. CHF)

	2015	2014
<b>Priority countries and regions<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>554.6</b>	<b>496.9</b>
Mekong	65.5	59.1
Hindukush	38.9	37.0
Nepal	38.7	37.4
Central America	37.4	37.9
Great Lakes	32.2	27.3
Bangladesh	30.9	26.0
Bolivia	29.4	25.8
Southern Africa	29.0	24.3
Mozambique	28.8	23.3
Tanzania	26.3	23.5
Mongolia	23.3	19.5
Niger	22.6	18.1
Mali	22.0	21.5
Horn of Africa	21.7	16.9
Burkina Faso	21.3	16.6
North Africa	19.0	12.7
Chad	18.8	22.7
Benin	18.6	15.3
Gaza and West Bank	14.6	14.0
Cuba	9.3	9.4
Haiti	6.3	8.9
<b>Other activities</b>	<b>441.7</b>	<b>447.7</b>
Other countries and regions <sup>b</sup>	101.8	118.3
Programme contributions to NGOs	111.8	101.0
Thematic mandates and operating costs	228.1	228.3
<b>Bilateral development cooperation</b>	<b>996.3</b>	<b>944.6</b>
<b>Multilateral development cooperation</b>	<b>566.6</b>	<b>552.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 562.9</b>	<b>1 496.8</b>

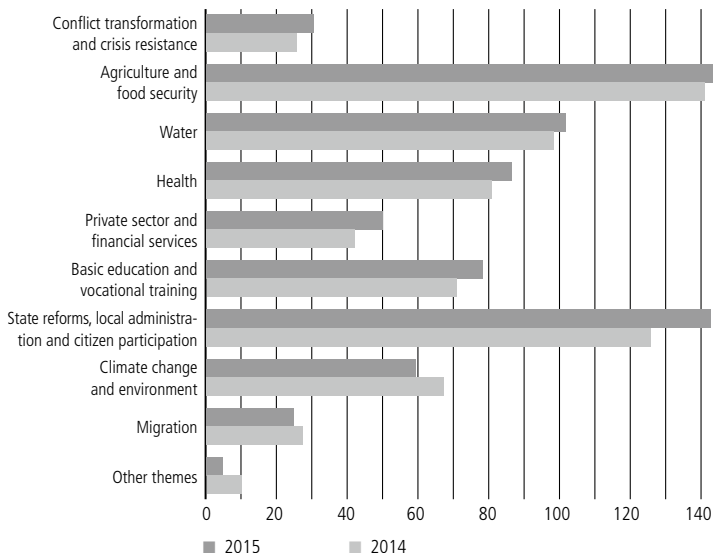
a For a composite overview of priority regions, please see map in the Annual Report 2015 (pp. 24–25).

b This category covers countries in which global programmes are achieved (Peru, India, China).



Graph 8

## BILATERAL EXPENDITURES OF SDC DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BY THEME 2014–2015 (MIL. CHF)<sup>a</sup>



a Excluding programme contributions to Swiss NGOs, multisectoral activities and operating costs.

This graph shows the allocation of resources to the themes upon which SDC concentrated its bilateral development cooperation activities in 2014 and 2015.

Through its global programmes at multiple intervention levels, SDC is focusing on developing innovative approaches in the following five areas: climate change, food security, migration and development, water and health. These programmes are not specific to any geographical region and are deployed in regions where their impact will be greatest.

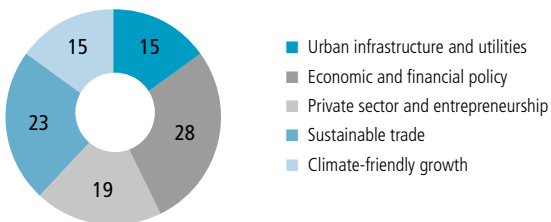
Table 7

SECO DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BY PRIORITY COUNTRY  
2014–2015 (MIL. CHF)

	2015	2014
<b>Priority countries</b>	<b>114.6</b>	<b>97.7</b>
Peru	19.5	10.0
Vietnam	18.2	19.1
Ghana	17.3	16.1
Indonesia	16.6	18.2
Tunisia	13.3	6.8
South Africa	11.8	8.1
Colombia	10.1	6.3
Egypt	7.8	13.1
<b>Other</b>	<b>158.1</b>	<b>148.6</b>
Global/regional programmes and other countries, various contributions <sup>a</sup>	139.3	131.2
Operating costs (except priority countries)	18.8	17.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>272.7</b>	<b>246.4</b>

a Significant complementary programs to the SDC measures have been implemented in Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Tanzania.

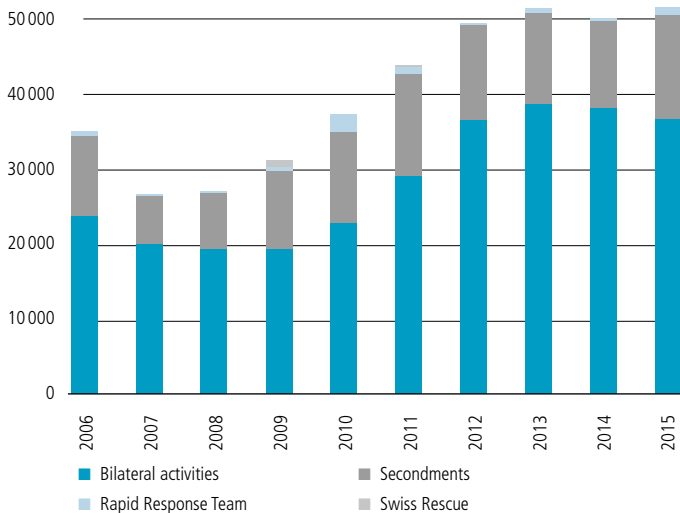
Graph 9

SECO DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BY THEME 2015  
(IN %) <sup>a</sup>

a Excluding operating costs

Graph 10

### SWISS HUMANITARIAN AID UNIT (SHA): MISSION DAYS ABROAD 2006–2015



Graph 11

### HUMANITARIAN AID BY STRATEGICAL FIELDS 2013–2015 (IN %)

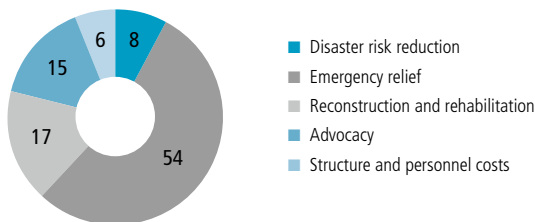


Table 8

## SDC HUMANITARIAN AID BY INTERVENTION COUNTRY AND REGION 2014–2015 (MIL. CHF)

	2015	2014
<b>Africa</b>	<b>139.3</b>	<b>128.6</b>
South Sudan <sup>a</sup>	24.9	17.7
Sudan <sup>a</sup>	13.3	11.3
Ethiopia <sup>a</sup>	11.1	6.7
Somalia <sup>a</sup>	10.0	8.7
Congo (Democratic Republic)	9.9	8.8
Central African Republic	9.2	6.5
Mali	6.9	6.9
Kenya <sup>a</sup>	6.7	5.2
Morocco	6.3	5.2
Nigeria	5.2	–
Algeria	3.6	3.6
Madagascar	3.6	3.2
Liberia	3.5	7.6
Chad	3.3	3.7
Niger	3.2	2.8
Libya	2.2	2.0
Cameroon	2.2	1.3
Zimbabwe	1.4	5.2
Guinea	1.4	1.7
Ivory Coast	1.4	1.5
Cape Verde	1.3	0.1
Burundi	1.3	1.5
Egypt <sup>a</sup>	1.2	1.1
Burkina Faso	1.1	0.8
Tunisia	1.1	1.3
Other countries	1.5	1.7
Regional projects and not distributed by country	2.5	12.5
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>27.6</b>
Colombia	11.3	10.9
Haiti	8.5	8.2
Bolivia	2.5	2.8
Nicaragua	1.5	0.9



	2015	2014
Cuba	1.4	0.6
Other countries	0.9	0.8
Regional projects and not distributed by country	3.0	3.4
<b>Asia</b>	<b>163.3</b>	<b>110.9</b>
Syria <sup>a b</sup>	34.6	26.6
Lebanon <sup>a b</sup>	15.0	5.0
Iraq <sup>a</sup>	14.2	9.1
Myanmar	13.1	10.2
Jordan <sup>a b</sup>	12.3	5.4
Gaza and West Bank <sup>b</sup>	12.0	13.3
Yemen	10.9	7.4
North Korea	9.4	7.3
Afghanistan	5.9	5.6
Sri Lanka	5.3	5.0
Pakistan	4.0	4.2
Nepal	3.0	–
Georgia	2.7	3.9
Tajikistan	2.5	2.1
Armenia	1.1	0.6
Other countries	2.3	3.7
Regional projects and not distributed by country	14.9	1.6
<b>Europe</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Ukraine	3.3	2.5
Other countries	0.9	1.6
Regional projects and not distributed by country	–	0.5
<b>Other activities, not distributed geographically</b>	<b>204.0</b>	<b>191.3</b>
General contribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	80.0	80.0
Contributions to international organisations	57.9	51.8
Programme contributions to NGOs	12.2	11.4
Various contributions and administrative costs	53.9	48.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>539.9</b>	<b>463.0</b>

a Excl. CHF 30.2 mil. financed by a supplementary credit granted by Parliament and CHF 11 mil. financed by the credit for development cooperation in 2015 to manage the crises in the Middle East and in the Horn of Africa.

b The general contributions to UNRWA are recorded under "contributions to international organisations". These amounts of CHF 22.9 mil. in 2015 (CHF 18.8 mil. in 2014) are distributed as follows: CHF 12.1 mil. in Gaza and West Bank, CHF 2.5 mil. in Syria, CHF 5.0 mil. in Jordan and CHF 3.2 mil. in Lebanon.

Table 9

## PARTNERS OF SDC HUMANITARIAN AID 2015 (MIL. CHF)

<b>United Nations organisations</b>
World Food Programme (WFP)
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Other UN organisations
<b>International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)</b>
<b>Other partners and direct interventions</b>
Swiss NGOs
International organisations and foreign NGOs
Direct interventions by the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) and Swiss Rescue
Private sector and research institutes
Operating, personnel and material expenditures
<b>Total Humanitarian aid 2015</b>
Total Humanitarian aid 2014

a This figure includes CHF 19.8 mil. (CHF 20.0 mil. in 2014) in Swiss dairy products and CHF 13.8 mil. (CHF 14.0 mil. in 2014) in grain.

General contributions	Specific contributions	Food aid	Total
57.4	115.8	26.4	199.6
6.0	42.7	26.4	75.1
15.0	29.4	–	44.4
12.5	17.1	–	29.6
22.9	1.9	–	24.8
–	5.8	–	5.8
1.0	18.9	–	19.9
80.0	80.3	–	160.3
0.5	172.3	7.2	180.0
–	28.0	3.9	31.9
0.5	59.8	1.1	61.3
–	45.3	2.3	47.6
–	2.6	–	2.6
–	36.6	–	36.6
137.9	368.3	33.6 <sup>a</sup>	539.9
131.8	297.2	34.0 <sup>a</sup>	463.0

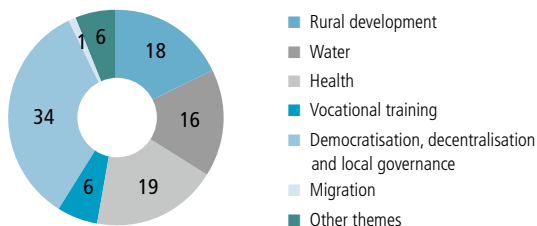
Table 10

SDC COOPERATION WITH EASTERN EUROPE AND THE CIS  
BY PRIORITY COUNTRY AND REGION 2014–2015 (MIL. CHF)

	2015	2014
<b>Priority countries and regions<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>136.0</b>	<b>120.6</b>
Central Asia	34.0	32.3
South Caucasus	17.2	13.7
Kosovo	14.7	12.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	13.9	12.9
Moldova	12.8	10.8
Serbia	12.0	10.3
Albania	11.6	11.8
Macedonia	10.9	9.3
Ukraine	8.7	6.7
<b>Other activities</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>27.9</b>
Other countries and regions	11.5	12.6
Programme contributions to NGOs	5.5	6.0
Core contribution to IDEA	1.2	0.8
Various contributions and administrative costs	10.0	8.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>164.2</b>	<b>148.5</b>

a For a composite overview of priority regions, please see map in the Annual Report 2015 (pp. 24–25).

Graph 12

SDC COOPERATION WITH EASTERN EUROPE AND THE CIS  
BY THEME 2015 (IN %) <sup>a</sup>

a Excluding programme contributions to Swiss NGOs, multisectoral activities and operating costs

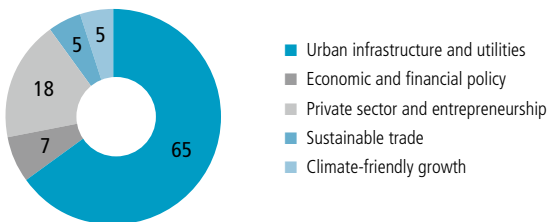
Table 11

SECO COOPERATION WITH EASTERN EUROPE AND THE CIS  
BY PRIORITY COUNTRY 2014–2015 (MIL. CHF)

	2015	2014
<b>Priority countries</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>81.8</b>
Tajikistan	14.0	18.4
Kyrgyzstan	12.6	14.4
Ukraine	10.4	11.6
Kosovo	8.9	8.7
Albania	8.9	12.3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7.8	4.6
Macedonia	4.9	5.1
Serbia	3.6	4.5
Azerbaijan	1.1	2.3
<b>Other</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.1</b>
Regional programmes and other countries, various contributions	4.1	4.5
Operating costs (except priority countries)	4.9	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>81.0</b>	<b>90.9</b>

Graph 13

SECO COOPERATION WITH EASTERN EUROPE AND THE CIS  
BY THEME 2015 (IN %) <sup>a</sup>



a Excluding operating costs



Table 12

## SDC PARTNERS IN BILATERAL ACTIVITIES 2015 (MIL. CHF)

<b>Swiss NGOs and centres of excellence</b>
of which:
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
Swisscontact
Swiss Red Cross
Fondation Terre des Hommes (Lausanne)
Caritas Switzerland
Swiss Interchurch Aid (EPER)
SKAT Foundation
Solidar Switzerland
Bread for all
MSF – Médecins sans Frontières
Swissaid
Catholic Lenten Fund
Education 21
Geneva Federation for Cooperation (FGC)
Enfants du Monde
<b>Swiss research and university institutions</b>
<b>Swiss private sector</b>
<b>Swiss public sector</b>
<b>United Nations organisations, multi-bilateral activities</b>
<b>International financial institutions, multi-bilateral activities</b>
<b>Other foreign and international organisations</b>
of which: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
<b>Organisations in the South and the East</b>
<b>Total Partners</b>
<b>Direct interventions, operating costs</b>
<b>Total 2015</b>
Total 2014

## Contributions and specific mandates

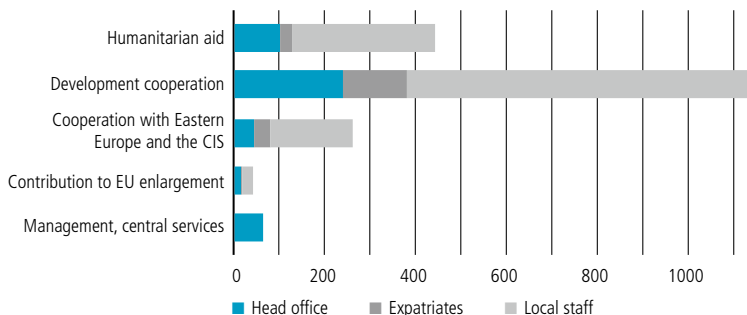
Programme contributions <sup>a</sup>	Humanitarian aid	Dev. coop.	Coop. East	Total <sup>b</sup>
129.2	19.9	128.9	19.7	297.7
10.7	1.2	47.2	13.3	72.4
6.0	0.5	23.6	–	30.1
10.8	3.6	1.1	2.4	18.0
10.5	1.2	1.3	–	13.1
11.1	0.3	1.4	–	12.8
8.0	0.1	–	1.7	9.8
–	–	7.5	2.0	9.5
4.1	0.6	3.6	–	8.2
6.9	–	–	–	6.9
6.4	0.2	–	–	6.6
6.5	–	–	–	6.5
6.2	–	–	–	6.2
5.9	–	–	–	5.9
5.0	–	–	–	5.0
2.8	–	2.2	–	5.0
0.3	1.3	37.9	10.6	50.1
–	1.0	21.8	4.5	27.3
–	0.6	8.8	0.8	10.3
–	142.2	112.1	22.1	276.4
–	2.1	62.2	7.3	71.7
–	209.0	141.1	37.4	387.4
–	160.3	–	–	160.3
–	10.9	196.6	27.0	234.5
129.5	386.9	709.4	129.5	1355.3
–	82.9	175.0	28.0	285.9
129.5	469.8	884.4	157.5	1641.3
118.4	399.8	843.5	141.7	1503.5

a Core contributions to NGOs for development and humanitarian programmes in countries of the South and the East as well as to centres of excellence for awareness activities.

b Excl. SDC contribution to EU enlargement (CHF 90.3 mil. in 2015).

Graph 14

## SDC AND SECO STAFF AS OF END OF 2015 (NUMBER OF FTE)



On 31 December 2015, SDC had 369 full-time equivalent employees (FTE) at the head office, 184 expatriates and 1170 local employees.

SECO's Economic Cooperation and Development Division had 93 full-time equivalent employees at the head office, 24 expatriates and 104 local employees.

## NUMBER OF ONGOING PROJECTS AS OF 31.12.2015

	SDC	SECO
CHF 0.5–1.0 mil.	196	14
CHF 1.0–3.0 mil.	383	108
CHF 3.0–5.0 mil.	224	59
From CHF 5.0 mil.	384	132
<b>Total</b>	<b>1187</b>	<b>313</b>

## NUMBER OF SWISS REPRESENTATIONS ABROAD AS OF 31.12.2015

	Total	SDC presence	SECO presence
Cooperation and programme Offices	42	40	10
Offices integrated to embassies	17	17	7
Offices for the Swiss contribution to the EU enlargement	7	7	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>24</b>



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