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**Swiss Agency for Development
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

**Working for Switzerland around the world to combat
hardship and poverty, support democracy and human
rights while protecting the environment**

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is responsible for the overall coordination of Switzerland's international cooperation. International cooperation has three main pillars, which fall under the responsibility of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER): humanitarian aid, development cooperation and the promotion of peace and human security.

Switzerland's international cooperation strategy is one of its foreign policy instruments and is based on the Federal Constitution. It sets out Switzerland's aim to alleviate need and poverty worldwide, improve respect for human rights, promote democracy and protect the environment. Every four years, the Federal Council and Swiss Parliament establish the strategic direction and geographical and thematic focus areas for the ensuing period.

Development cooperation

Through its development cooperation, the SDC supports its priority countries in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East on their path to sustainable development across the three dimensions of the environment, economy and social integration. To address the key challenges of climate change, poverty and inequality, the SDC supports the creation and strengthening of institutions that serve the entire population.



Support for Ukraine and the region

Millions of Ukrainian civilians have been suffering since the outbreak of war in February 2022. Switzerland, which has supported Ukraine since the 1990s, is now providing comprehensive assistance: a total of CHF 1.5 billion has been earmarked for humanitarian aid, development cooperation and reconstruction from 2025 to 2028. CHF 500 million of this has been allocated to allow an increased involvement of the Swiss private sector in the country's recovery.



Humanitarian aid

The humanitarian aid operations of the SDC demonstrate Switzerland's solidarity with people in need. The SDC's Humanitarian Aid Division focuses on emergency relief, the reconstruction and rehabilitation of disaster-stricken areas, and disaster risk reduction. It places suffering populations at the centre of its efforts, in a spirit of neutrality, independence and impartiality.



Multilateral cooperation

Major global challenges such as poverty, global warming, armed conflicts, and health and food crises require common solutions and coordinated efforts from the international community. Switzerland is therefore committed to a strong, effective and legitimate multilateral system. It works in particular with the United Nations, the multilateral development banks and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).



Thematic approach

Climate change, war, forced displacement, and food and water crises hinder the development prospects of the world's poorest countries and regions. The SDC therefore works at the regional and global levels on programmes spanning a range of fields: water, migration and displacement, health and nutrition, climate, the environment and disaster risk reduction, global governance, and business and education.



The SDC's partners

To implement its programmes and projects, the SDC works closely with partners in Switzerland, in its countries of intervention, and in international bodies: state institutions, governments, multilateral organisations and funds, the private sector, NGOs, and research institutions. The SDC focuses on supporting its partner countries' own sustainable development work, while assisting them with its knowledge and expertise.



The effectiveness of the SDC's work

The SDC evaluates its activities in a rigorous and systematic manner to ensure that programmes are impact-oriented and that funds are used appropriately and sustainably. Clear and measurable expected outcomes are established for each project. Conducting external evaluations and measuring effectiveness helps ensure that projects fulfil the specified objectives and that adjustments can be taken if necessary.

