



Fact Sheet

Report on the effectiveness of Swiss development cooperation in the health sector (2000 - 2013)



The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) regularly publishes reports on the effectiveness of Swiss development cooperation. Following reports on water in 2008, agriculture in 2010, and climate change in 2014 *the Report on Effectiveness 2015 of Swiss International Cooperation in Health 2000 - 2013 is the fourth of such report.*

Objectives

The overarching goal of Switzerland's international cooperation is a sustainable development that reduces poverty and addresses global issues. Health is an essential factor when aiming to reduce poverty, improve social security and promote peace and economic stability.

The aim of the report on the effectiveness of Swiss cooperation in the health sector is to provide an objective review of SDC activities in this area for the period 2000-2013 and to take stock of the outcomes and impact achieved so far. The report reflects on the success of SDC interventions but also on the difficulties and challenges. This document is primarily to be used to provide the public and Swiss parliament with information on the effectiveness of Swiss development cooperation in the health sector.

Main Results

Out of the 670 SDC's health projects implemented between 2000 and 2013, 93 projects were selected by SDC based on two criteria: The projects must have completed at least two implementation phases and have disbursed an average of at least 600,000 Swiss francs (development projects) or 300,000 Swiss francs (humanitarian projects).

Out of these 93 projects, 57 were selected by the consultants (selected through an international tender) for field visits and analysis of existing documents. This approach allowed complementing the indirect evidence from the review of the project documents with direct evidence collected during field visits.

Projects were analyzed in the four health's thematic priorities SDC had between 2000 and 2013: strengthening health system,

empowering communities, reducing the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases and improving maternal and child-related health.

The assessment shows that that SDC's health interventions are effective. 61% of all projects show positive and desired change 28% of the interventions fully attained their expected results within the timeframe but their purpose and effectiveness weren't fully attained yet. Most interventions have been well conceived, making them relevant from the outset. Their time perspectives are appropriate and they are generally suitably resourced. Their implementation is well managed within a flexible framework and most have been subject to regular review and evaluation, which enable adjustments to be made, if required.

This is true in the four key areas where SDC has chosen to prioritise its efforts, in particular in the field of maternal and child health where SDC proved to be successful. Empowering communities' projects also showed great results by improving access to health services for communities previously deprived of it.

Room for improvements was also identified. SDC should consider further concentrating health initiatives in countries where health is a key priority. This would consequently add more focus to the efforts. Moreover, strengthening the processes for reporting are other areas where SDC could improve. In spite of the high level of effectiveness, the adoption of more streamlined internal processes would be of benefit: from documentation accessibility to procedures that reinforce the quality and clarity of reviews and evaluation.

The assessment also finds that SDC is using its technical expertise and first-rate reputation effectively to leverage its influence within the UN agencies working with health development.

These reports are drawn up by independent external experts and help ensure transparent and results-based accountability.

https://www.eda.admin.ch/content/dam/deza/en/documents/Publikationen/Wirkungsberichte/Wirkungsbericht-Gesundheit-2015_EN.pdf