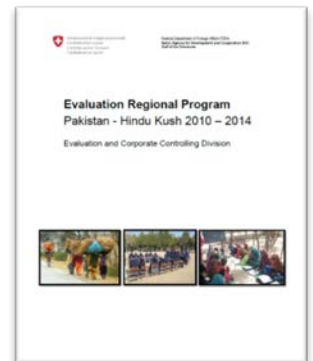




## Fact Sheet

# Evaluation of SDC's Cooperation Strategy Pakistan Hindu Kush 2010 – 2014



### 1. Evaluations at SDC

The Evaluation and Corporate Controlling Division is responsible for the execution of independent thematic and institutional evaluations, country and regional strategy evaluations with participation of peers and for drafting effectiveness and accountability reports.

### 2. Objectives and Scope of the Evaluation

This evaluation analyses Switzerland's cooperation with Pakistan as defined in the Cooperation Strategy (CS) Pakistan 2010 - 2014. The CS's overall goal is poverty reduction through the contribution of the two thematic domains: (i) Rural Livelihoods, and (ii) Good Governance and Human Rights.

The cooperation program is implemented by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The total CS Pakistan 2010 - 2014 budget amounts to around CHF 84.7 million.

The main objectives of the cooperation strategy evaluation are to assess the relevance and coherence of the Swiss development cooperation with regard to national development priorities and the Parliamentary Message on Switzerland's International Cooperation. Furthermore, the evaluation judges the future of the Pakistan Hindu Kush program.

### 3. Methodology

The strategy evaluation is based on the related evaluation concept with its content and question guide (SDC 2014).

The evaluation report is structured according to the four Evaluation Areas (EA): EA1 Context analysis, EA2 Relevance and appropriateness of program portfolio, EA3 Implementation of the CS and its portfolio, and EA4 Results of the CS in relation to the results at the country level.

### 4. Main Results of the Evaluation

The effects of natural hazards, such as the floods of 2010/2011, the protracted humanitarian crisis during the on-going armed conflict, producing large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and the influx of refugees from Afghanistan, have further aggravated the situation. Peace and security in the North-western part of Pakistan – SDC's intervention area - are largely interdependent with the development on the Afghan side of the border.

The thematic orientation of the CS is highly relevant, contributing to the development and stabilization of Pakistan's North-western region. (EA1)

The program portfolio is contributing to the development and stabilization of the geographic area by reducing factors of fragility such as limited access to health, education, rule of law, as well as exclusion from social and economic development, and deficient mechanisms for citizens' participation. However, links to the general context could be improved i.e. to the root causes of crises and the humanitarian protracted emergency context, the development strategies of local and national government and Swiss specificity with regard to other donors. (EA2)

A conflict-sensitive peace-building and development process in this conflict-prone area is crucial to restore trust between citizens and the government. (EA3)

Substantial results have been achieved in both domains ('Rural Livelihood' and 'Governance and Human Rights') but results have not been sufficiently documented. (EA4)

## 5. Main Recommendations

The evaluation concludes with the following main recommendations:

Keep the general focus of the program, but explore further possibilities for alliances with other donors and strengthen the coordination on specific issues (i.e. the return and reintegration strategies for IDPs and refugees, water issues, DRR).

Strengthen civil society organizations and the media to foster the demand for social accountability.

Document the rich and long-standing experience of the Swiss cooperation program in Pakistan.

Better use the integrated approach of Humanitarian Aid and Regional Cooperation, recognizing the added value of each other, and explore synergies with the Global Cooperation in Delhi on water, as well as possibilities of Public Private Development Partnerships (PPDP) for the improvement of energy supply.

Stay or go? In order to capitalize on the relevance and results of the past and to make a contribution to the stabilization of the region, SDC development cooperation support to the North-western area should be continued beyond 2016.

## 6. Implication for SDC

The senior management of SDC acknowledges the pertinent conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation. The scope and timing of the evaluation is highly useful as it facilitates an evidence-based reflection and informed decision-making on SDC's future engagement in Pakistan.

The Board of Directors has endorsed a consolidation of the current Pakistan Hindu Kush program through 2020.

The concerned operational units, under the lead of the South Asia Division, will be tasked to develop and submit to the Board of Directors a consolidation programme based on the current strategic framework and the operational recommendations provided by the Evaluation Report. The programme will also clarify the scope of SDC's Global Programme Water in this final stage of the development partnership with Pakistan.

## 7. Evaluation Team

Ms. Inge Remmert-Fontes and two SDC peers Philippe Besson and Martin Jaggi conducted the evaluation.

The evaluation has been published in the Swiss federal administration's database of external studies

(<https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start/documentat ion/studies.html>). The publication of the evaluation report is intended to account for SDC's activities and share experiences with other development actors.