

SDC annual press conference – 04.02.2020

Further information on relevant SDC projects

Good governance

Switzerland is working to promote political participation **in Tanzania**. Building capacity and widening their scope of action empowers civil society organisations and citizens to hold public bodies to account and call for transparent and responsible management of public resources. Over 106 civil society organisations now have greater capacity, improving the quality of services delivered to over 100,000 people.



In Ukraine, the SDC is deploying e-governance tools to promote government and administrative transparency, achieving greater accountability and thus curbing corruption. A total of 211 municipalities currently use an online platform combining all key services. Some 15,000 petitions have been registered, and almost 20% of these have been followed up. Some 22,000 complaints have also been received and processed through the online portal, and comments on 72 municipal budgets submitted.



Basic education

Half the population **in Afghanistan** is under 15 years of age. The SDC has been working to deliver training courses to over 2,700 Afghan teachers and develop teaching materials on human rights and women's rights. As a result, 142,000 school children, 40% of whom are girls, are now benefiting from better standards of teaching.



In Chad, school pupils are only taught in French and Arabic, which are the official languages. Subjects are rarely taught in the 150 or so regional languages spoken, which affects children's academic achievements. The SDC is helping Chad's education authorities to reform the school system and, in particular, develop teaching methodology in local languages. This initiative is modelled on the Swiss system which is strongly geared to local communities. The SDC's support is enabling 400,000 children at 2,170 schools in Chad to learn more successfully.



Vocational education and training

Training courses in technical, business and social skills, including literacy and numeracy, are being delivered to over 3,000 men and women in Kakuma (municipality and refugee camp) in **northern Kenya**. The training boosts people's income and self-esteem, and also helps refugees integrate more effectively. Over fifty percent of those taking courses are women. Those who complete the training have the opportunity to put their business ideas into practice and obtain essential start-up capital.



In **Bulgaria**, Switzerland is supporting a vocational skills development project based on the Swiss dual VET system. This means that young apprentices must now be taught theory as well as practical skills. The required legislation has already been adopted. Since then, 32 vocational schools in 19 towns and cities have been following the dual system, with over 1,600 students taking up apprenticeships that respond to the needs of the private sector. Over 70% of students completing a course subsequently found a job at the company in which they undertook their apprenticeship.

Cooperation with the private sector

In **Georgia's mountain regions and rural areas**, the SDC is promoting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) operating in the dairy and meat sectors. Since 2017, some 70 SMEs have created over 730 jobs on the back of this support. A total of 27,000 women and 64,000 men now have regular access to markets where they can sell their products, which has generated CHF 6.5 million in additional income in recent years.



In **Cambodia**, the SDC has been funding training in organic farming for rice producers, with 5,800 rice producers receiving USD 350 per tonne of organic rice instead of USD 200 for conventional rice. This initiative has significantly improved farmers' incomes and living standards.

Climate change

Central Asia is warming faster than the global average, accelerating glacier shrinkage in mountain regions. Swiss researchers are taking measurements on glaciers, working with local experts from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Targeted training is also allowing local partners to continue this measurement work independently. The measurements are used to predict the rate of erosion and the impact of retreating glaciers on water supply. This work is highly important to Central Asia, which is prone to severe water stress and conflicts between states.



Migration

The SDC is assisting **Syrian refugees in Jordan** in registering marriages and births. These registrations give

refugees in Jordan access to education and health services and reduce the risk of family separation, statelessness and exploitation. Fifteen policy makers and 90 service providers now have a better understanding of registration processes, enabling birth certificates to be issued to 1,000 registered Syrian refugee children.

Switzerland is supporting efforts by **host countries in the Horn of Africa** to promote the economic and social integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. Switzerland's assistance has helped Somalia set up the requisite institutional framework to find long-term solutions for IDPs and their host communities. Municipal authorities, IDPs and host communities are now working together to identify priorities and solutions, with a special emphasis on urban planning. Since 2016, the SDC has been supporting the Somali Durable Solutions Initiative, set up jointly by the government of Somalia and the UN. In 2019, the SDC backed a similar process involving the UN in Ethiopia.

The SDC is assisting the **government of Moldova** in maximising the positive impacts of migration from Moldova. The key objectives are to involve the Moldovan diaspora in the development of their home country and encourage qualified young migrants to return to Moldova. The SDC works closely with local government to ensure optimal use of diaspora resources for the development of the local economy and local services.

