



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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# International Cooperation Strategy 2021–24

Greater focus  
and impact

# Objectives

The Federal Council has set the following objectives for the period 2021–24:



Contributing to sustainable economic growth, market development and the creation of decent jobs (economic development)



Addressing climate change and its adverse effects and managing natural resources sustainably (the environment)



Saving lives, ensuring basic services, especially in relation to education and healthcare, and reducing the causes of forced and irregular migration (human development)



Promoting peace, the rule of law and gender equality (peace and governance)



The four objectives are equally important and complement one another. Alleviating poverty and contributing to sustainable development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda are at the centre of the international cooperation mandate.

# Impact

In terms of economic well-being, health and quality of life, humanity has made unprecedented progress in recent decades, particularly in developing countries. And international cooperation has helped to achieve this. Despite this progress, one in ten people – predominantly in Africa – are still living in extreme poverty. Challenges such as climate change, epidemics, economic and financial crises, human rights violations and armed conflicts also jeopardise the achievements made to date.

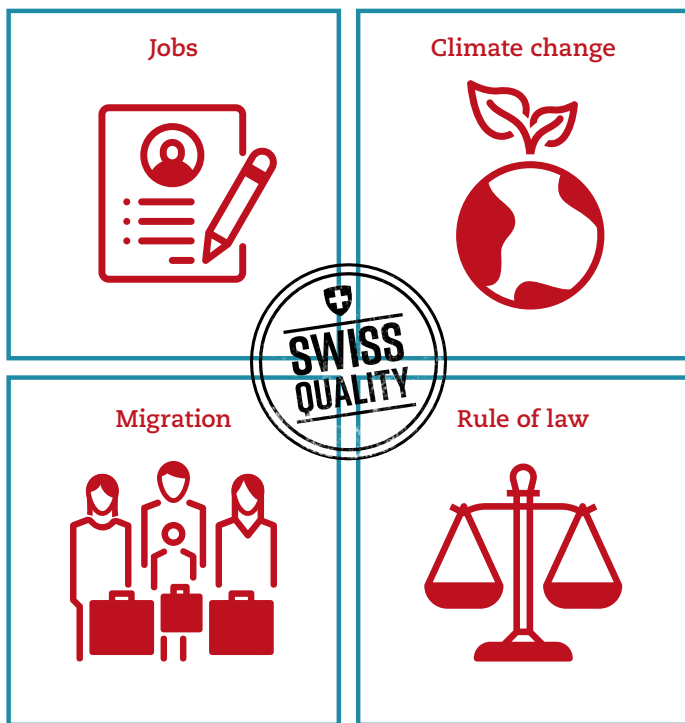
Switzerland's international cooperation makes effective contributions to the alleviation of poverty and need (examples from the final report on the implementation of the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017–20):

- ▶ 8 million people have better access to drinking water and effective farming irrigation systems.
- ▶ Due to Switzerland's involvement, 9 million people, more than half of them women, have completed basic or vocational education.
- ▶ Improved access to capital has enabled 827,000 businesses to create new jobs.
- ▶ Switzerland has assisted 8.4 million people in serious crisis situations and helped 1.2 million to rebuild following natural disasters and armed conflicts.
- ▶ Switzerland has supported 17 official peace processes, including Mozambique, and facilitated ceasefire negotiations in six countries, including Myanmar and Colombia.

# Thematic priorities

The following four thematic priorities have been set for 2021–24:

- ▶ creating decent local jobs
- ▶ addressing climate change
- ▶ reducing the causes of forced and irregular migration
- ▶ promoting the rule of law



# Other priorities

## Strategic linking of international cooperation and migration policy

Reinforcing the strategic link between migration policy and international cooperation, for example through the flexible allocation of funds to pursue migration policy opportunities outside the priority countries.

## Cooperation with the private sector

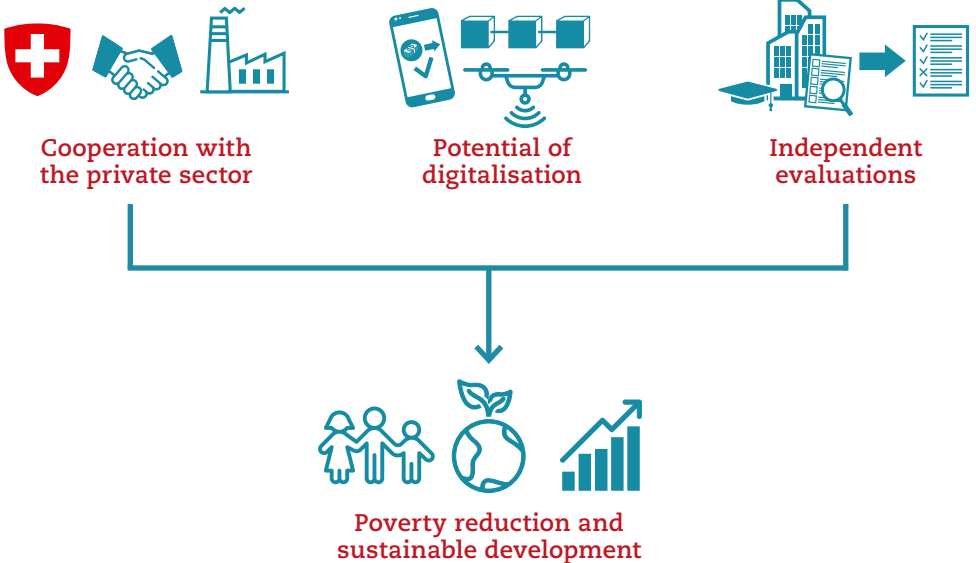
To promote sustainable development, international cooperation increasingly relies on the innovative strengths and expertise of the private sector, for example by developing new funding mechanisms.

## Digitalisation

Harnessing the potential of digital technologies more effectively, e.g. using mobile phone payment models, blockchain technology for financial services, and drones and satellite data for crop insurance purposes.

## Independent evaluations

Increasing the number of scientific impact studies will allow international cooperation to be targeted more effectively in the medium and long term.



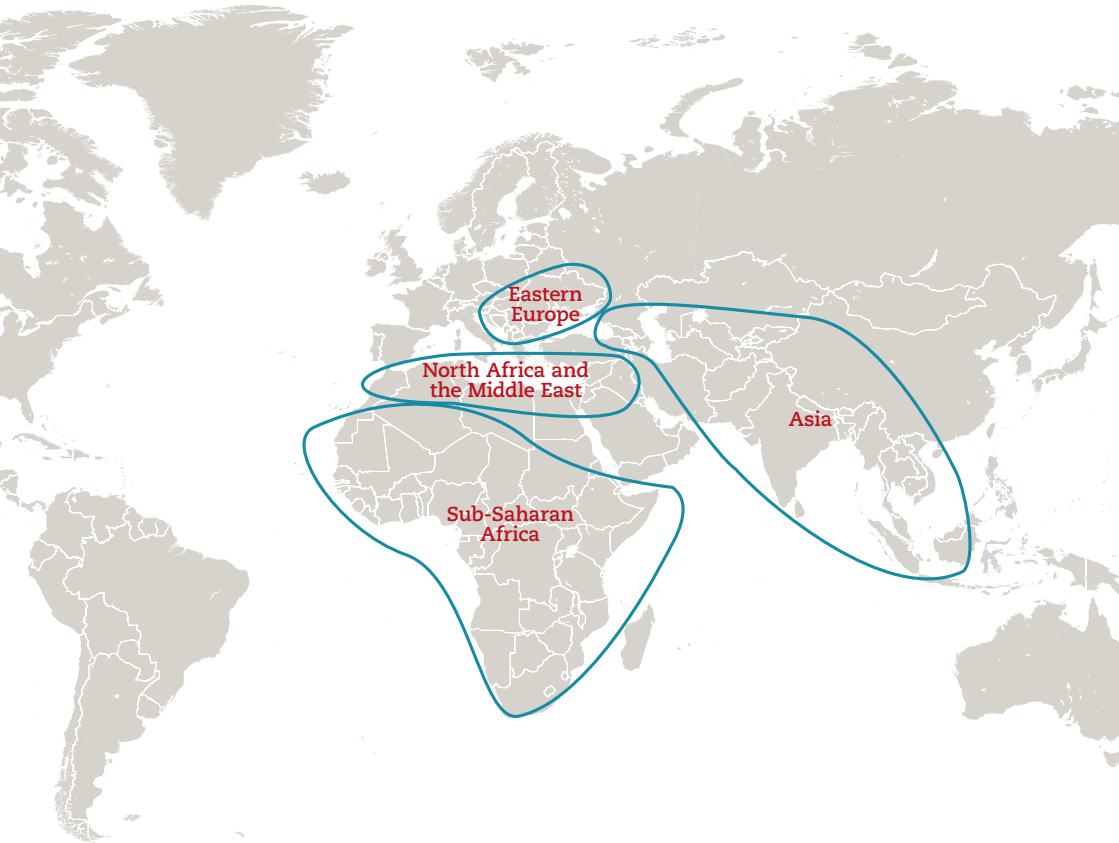
# Geographic focus on four priority regions

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) will now focus on four priority regions for bilateral development cooperation (fig.).

The FDFA intends to phase out its bilateral development cooperation work in Latin America between now and the end of 2024. Furthermore, the total number of SDC priority countries will be reduced from 46 to 35.

Humanitarian aid, the SDC's global programmes (climate change and environment, water, migration and development, food security and health) and measures to promote peace and human security will retain their universal mandate.

The Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER) will continue to focus its economic development cooperation on 13 priority countries, two of which are in Latin America.



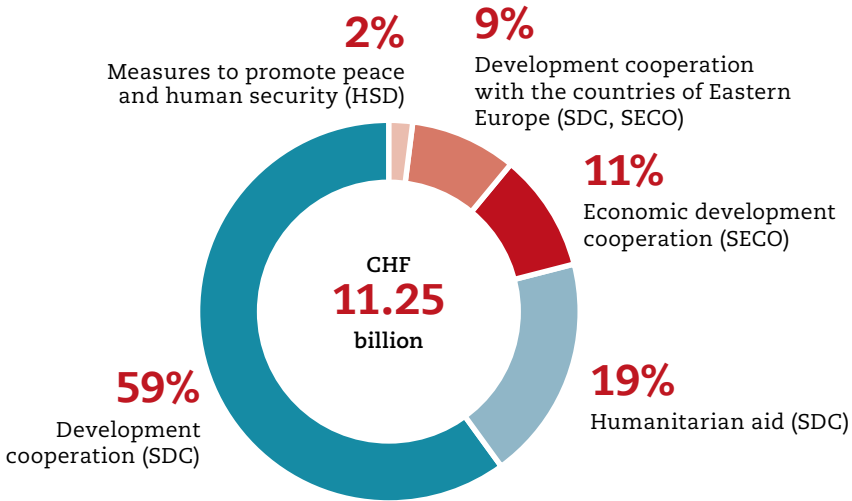
# Criteria

## Clearer criteria for the strategic approach of Switzerland's international cooperation:

- ▶ The needs of affected populations in developing countries (in particular high poverty levels and sustainable development challenges)
- ▶ Switzerland's long-term interests (a just and peaceful international order, business environment, migration, global sustainable development)
- ▶ Added value that Switzerland's international cooperation can offer compared to other countries (Swiss approaches, competencies and thematic expertise; taking account of willingness to reform)



# Funding



In its Dispatch on Switzerland's Strategy for International Cooperation 2021–24, the Federal Council requests five framework credits totalling CHF 11.25 billion from Parliament. The requested framework credits are the maximum amount the federal government can grant for the period 2021–24. The payments budgeted for this period (totalling CHF 9.86 billion for 2021–24) are less than the total amount of the framework credits.

By comparison, the framework credits approved by Parliament under the Dispatch 2017–20 totalled CHF 11.11 billion.

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA  
**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**  
**Human Security Division HSD**

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER  
**State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO**

**Further information:**  
[www.fdfa.admin.ch/IC2021-2024](http://www.fdfa.admin.ch/IC2021-2024)  
[www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch/strategy](http://www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch/strategy)