



International
Labour
Organization



Switzerland ILO Cooperation

Switzerland is a founding member State of the ILO, its headquarters' host country and an important contributor to the ILO's development cooperation programme. Switzerland has ratified 60 Conventions, including the 8 Fundamental and 3 Governance Conventions.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Switzerland's strong support for Decent Work

Switzerland and the ILO have forged across the years a strong partnership, characterized by a genuine alignment of policy priorities. This alliance was reaffirmed with the signature in 2016 of a **Protocol of Agreement**, which delineates the modalities of mutual cooperation for the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

On 1 February 2018, the Swiss Federal Government and the ILO held for the first time their annual consultation in Bern, in the presence of the Swiss federal councillor Schneider-Ammann, Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, and Guy Ryder, Director-General of the ILO.

The two main development partners of the ILO in Switzerland are the **State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)** and the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**.

SECO represents Switzerland in the ILO Governing Body from 2017 to 2020, after

Switzerland was elected deputy government member in June 2017. As such, it actively participates in the decision-making on ILO policy, programming and budgeting. Development cooperation activities aim at accelerating sustainable and inclusive growth by supporting the integration of middle-income countries in the world economy. Activities focus on entrepreneurship and competitiveness, labour standards, sustainable enterprises, SMEs development and Global Supply Chains.

The ILO's cooperation with SDC focuses mainly on livelihood promotion in low-income countries, as well as on labour migration and fair recruitment in Asia and in the Middle East. SDC's strategy in the field of migration is oriented along three major components: poverty-reduction, human security and governance. The shared goal of SDC and ILO is to transform migratory challenges into developmental opportunities for hosting and sending countries alike, while ensuring that fundamental rights of labour migrants are respected.

SWITZERLAND'S INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PRIORITIES

For the 2017–20 period Switzerland pursues seven strategic goals of international cooperation:

1. developing an international framework that responds to global challenges;
2. preventing and managing crises, disasters and fragility, and promoting conflict transformation;
3. ensuring sustainable access to resources and services for all;
4. promoting sustainable economic growth;
5. strengthening the rule of law and democratic participation;
6. promoting the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
7. strengthening gender equality.

In 2017, Switzerland spent CHF 3.05 billion on ODA, amounting to 0.46% of the country's gross national income (GNI).

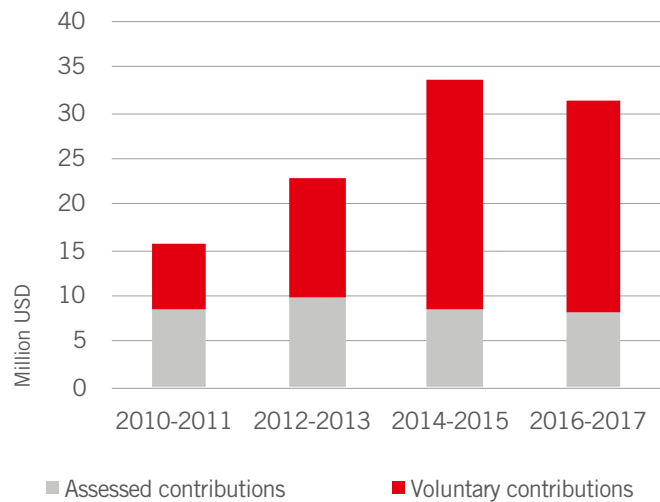
SWITZERLAND'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Switzerland funds the ILO through:

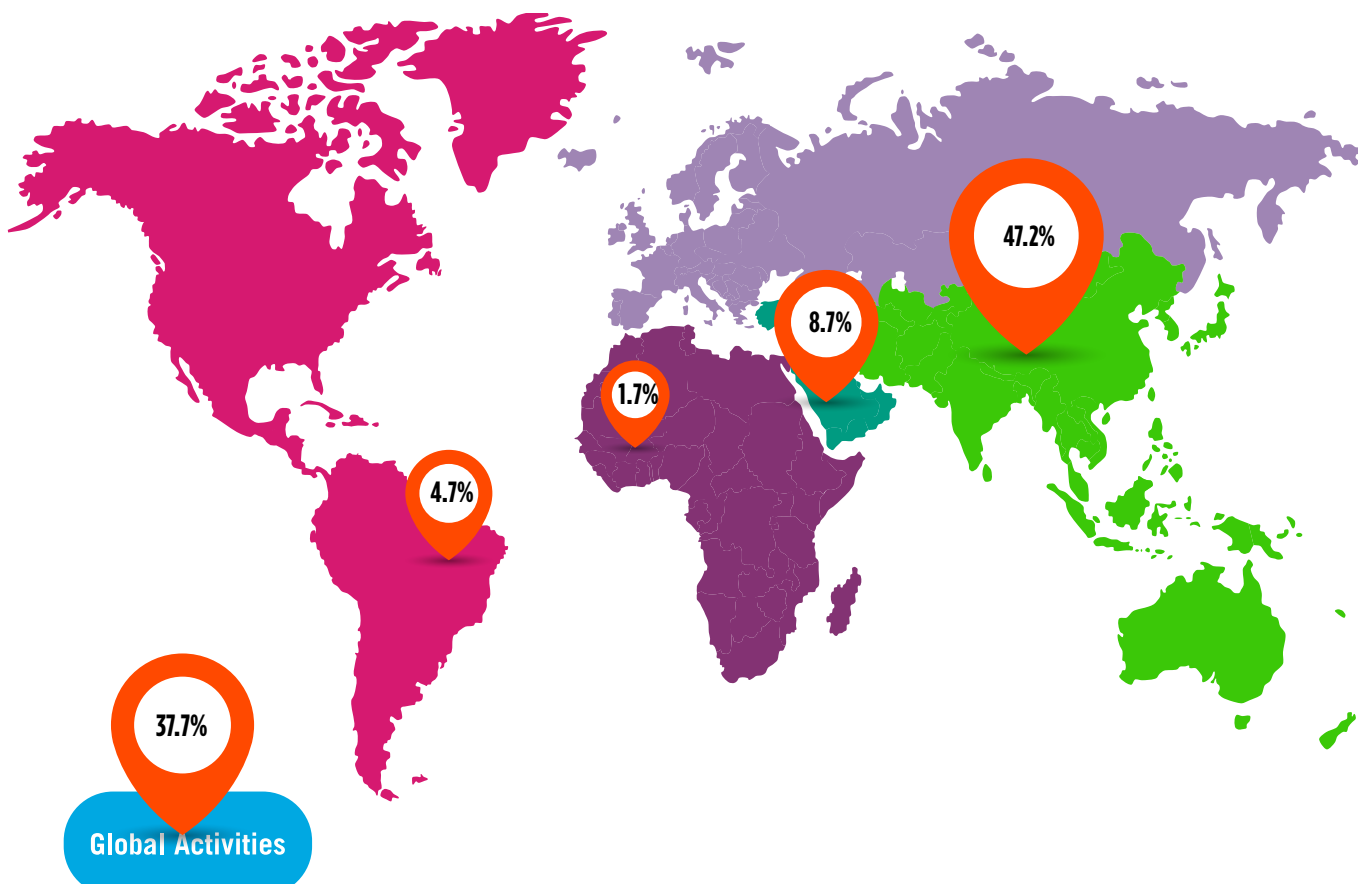
- Assessed contributions, paid by all ILO Member States by virtue of their membership. Between 2010 and 2018, Switzerland provided more than US\$ 39 million.
- Voluntary contributions earmarked to priority programmes and projects. Between 2010 and 2017, it amounted to US\$ 68.5 million.

In 2017, Switzerland counted as the ILO's 8th largest development cooperation partner.

Switzerland's Overall Contributions to the ILO



Expenditures of Swiss voluntary funds by region in 2018 (as at 30 September)



Examples of Projects Funded by Switzerland

Better Work



As a partnership between the ILO and the International Finance Corporation, [Better Work](#) brings together governments, global brands, factory owners, and unions and workers to improve working conditions in the garment industry and make the sector more competitive.

Driven by a model that combines factory assessments, training, advisory, advocacy and research, the programme is active in some 1,500 factories employing more than two million workers across seven countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Nicaragua and Viet Nam.

An independent impact assessment showed that Better Work has created a significant and positive impact on working conditions such as abusive practices, weekly pay, contracts and working hours. The study also showed that Better Work increased productivity in participating factories by up to 22 per cent and increased profitability by 25 per cent.

Switzerland (SECO) is a major contributor to Better Work and is represented on the programme's Advisory Committee.

Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE)

“Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises” ([SCORE](#)) is a global programme designed to improve productivity and working conditions in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Through practical classroom and in-factory consulting packages, participating SMEs in the manufacturing and service sectors are taught how to improve their capacity to participate in global supply chains.

SCORE works in 8 countries: Bolivia, China, Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia, India, Peru, South Africa and Viet Nam, with 7 additional countries having undertaken pilots: Bangladesh, Egypt, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Turkey. Between 2009 and

2017, 1,400 SMEs directly benefited from the SCORE training, representing 300,000 workers. 48 public and private institutions have become implementation partners, providing SCORE training to over 10,500 managers and workers (of which 33 per cent female and 51 per cent workers).

After participating in the training, 70% of firms experienced cost savings, as well as an average of 30% increase in productivity rates. Moreover, 8,161 new jobs have been created by participating SMEs.

The programme, currently at its third phase, is jointly supported by SECO and the Norwegian Agency for Development

Cooperation (Norad) with US\$ 9.7 million and US\$ 10 million respectively.



SCORE III official launch on 4 December 2017 in Basel, with representatives from ILO, SECO and Swiss social partners.

Inclusive Market Development for Decent Work - the Lab



“[The Lab](#)” is a knowledge-generation project on how to create more and better jobs in supply chains. Since its inception, “the Lab” has developed guidance briefs, two flagship documents, project impact and market analyses to guide practitioners in addressing employment challenges in supply chains. The research produced was disseminated through key global practitioner events including the [Donor Committee for Enterprise Development \(DCED\)/ Building Effective and Accessible Markets \(BEAM\) Seminar](#) and the [DCED Annual Meeting](#), among others. The Lab has supported partner projects in 15 countries, both within

the ILO – for example, the SCORE project – and with partner organisations such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Fairtrade Foundation.

The Lab has also helped directly catalyse public investment to improve working conditions for 2,000 workers in the wooden furniture sector in Peru and channel direct investments from UK retailers towards improving wages for 500 banana plantation workers in the Dominican Republic. Since 2014, Switzerland (SECO) has committed US\$ 5.2 million for the Lab to run until 2020.

Regional Fair Migration Project in the Middle East (FAIRWAY)



The “Regional Fair Migration Project in the Middle East” ([FAIRWAY](#)) aims to promote

fair migration and recruitment, to eliminate forced labour and trafficking of workers in Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain. The project focuses on evidence-based research to inform policy dialogue, capacity building with governments and social partners, and to change public attitudes towards migrant workers.

Dialogues with global and regional experts have produced practical guidance on strategies for behaviour-change interventions and on freedom of association, as well as provided regional inputs to global policy dialogues on migration. FAIRWAY has also trained nearly 100 government officials, supported trade

unions in Lebanon (FENASOL), Kuwait (Kuwait Trade Union Federation), Bahrain (General Federation of Bahraini Trade Unions) and Jordan (General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions), as well as the regional trade union (Arab Trade Union Confederation), and established the Gulf region’s first domestic workers member-based organization: Sandigan Kuwait Domestic Workers Association. To address public perceptions of migrants, the project has trained 68 journalists, while more than 20,000 supporters across the region were mobilized through the [My Fair Home campaign](#), aimed at changing attitudes towards domestic workers.

The Integrated Programme on Fair Recruitment (FAIR)

The SDC-funded programme “**FAIR**” has made significant achievements in promoting fair recruitment practices globally and across specific migration corridors. At a global level, the project contributed to the finalization of the ILO’s **General Principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment**, adopted in September 2016. The new online platform **Migrant Recruitment Advisor** was launched to allow migrants to rate labour recruiters and link

those who face abuses to response systems. The Jordan-Nepal pilot corridor managed to fairly recruit Nepali workers in the Jordan garment sector and an agreement was signed between both governments. In Tunisia, the General Labour Union (UGTT) opened its first migrant safe spaces to protect the rights of migrant workers. In the Philippines, a legislative analysis was conducted on fair recruitment for overseas employment, completed by evidence-based

recommendations for the enhancement of the regulation on skills training fees. A code of conduct between the Society of Hong Kong-Accredited Recruiters in the Philippines (SHARP) and the Association of Hong Kong Manpower Agencies (AHKMA) was also adopted. The FAIR project is about to enter a US\$ 4 million second phase, during which the pilots will be scaled up and new fair recruitment interventions will be implemented.

UNited for Youth Employment in Cambodia

With SDC’s support, the ILO is leading a coalition of five UN agencies (ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF and UNV) to address the challenges of youth employment in Cambodia. The programme “UNited for Youth Employment in Cambodia” was launched in September 2017 for an initial phase of two years with a budget of US\$ 4.45 million, of which 2 million is funded by SDC. The programme is providing assistance to the government and national social partners to create decent and productive employment opportunities for young people.

During the first four months, the project has achieved the re-integration of 1,150 young people (45 per cent female) back to school; the elementary school graduation of 438 young garment-factory workers (95 per cent female) through informal literacy classes; enhanced entrepreneurship of 500 young people through trainings on practical skills for doing business ; raised public awareness on youth rights at work through four initiatives carried out in different parts of the country by the government and social partners.



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