



International
Labour
Organization



► Switzerland-ILO Cooperation

► January 2025

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 62 Conventions, including the eight Fundamental and three Governance Conventions.

Switzerland's strong support for Decent Work

A key partner in the promotion of social justice and decent work, Switzerland supports the ILO's mandate both at policy-making level and by contributing to its development cooperation work. The 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 is the agency responsible for ILO within the Swiss Confederation.

SECO supports the ILO through contributions to its flagship programmes such as the Better Work programme, which promotes more and better jobs in the garment industry; as well as through the Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work Programme, which addresses constraints to productivity growth and decent job creation.

The ILO's cooperation with SDC focuses mainly on labour migration. The shared goal of SDC and ILO is to transform migratory and displacement challenges into developmental opportunities for hosting and sending countries alike. They also work to ensure that the fundamental rights of labour migrants are respected throughout the entire migration cycle, while also supporting socioeconomic inclusion.

A Framework Agreement, renewed in 2021, guides and reinforces the cooperation between Switzerland and the ILO. The document aims to strengthen collaboration in order to achieve the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the [ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work](#). Switzerland is also one of the first countries to join the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

Switzerland's international cooperation priorities

For the 2025-28 period, alleviating need and poverty in the world and promoting sustainable development are at the heart of Switzerland's international cooperation mandate.

The thematic priorities are:

- Saving lives and supporting access to high-quality basic services
- Contributing to sustainable economic development and the creation of decent jobs
- Guaranteeing environmentally friendly and climate-resilient development
- Promoting peace and human rights and strengthening democracy and the rule of law

Switzerland has earmarked more than US\$ 12.2 billion for the implementation of international cooperation work for the 2025-28 period. Of this, US\$ 1.6 billion is to be allocated for support to Ukraine, and US\$ 1.7 billion to combat climate change.

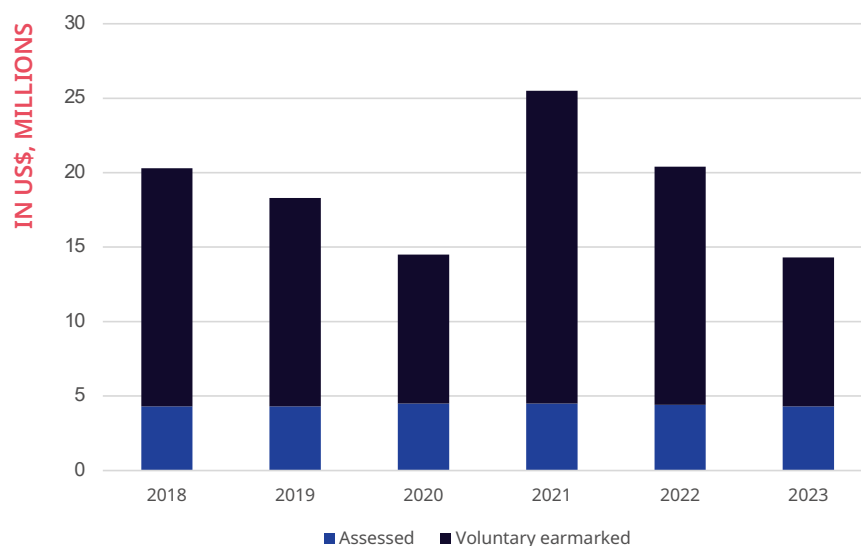
In 2022, Switzerland spent US\$ 5 billion on ODA, amounting to 0.6% of the country's gross national income (GNI).

SWITZERLAND'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

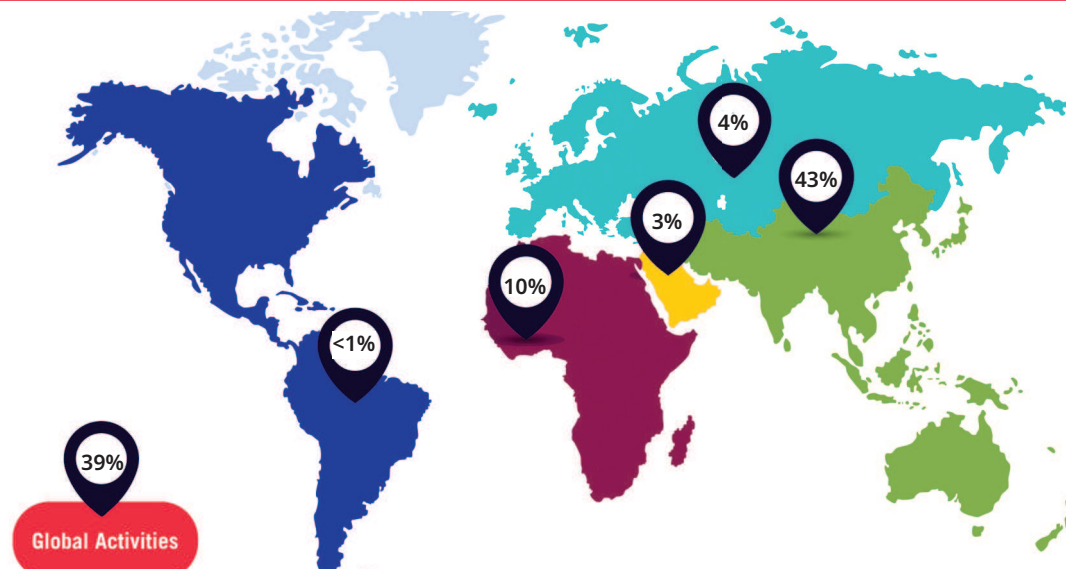
Switzerland financially supports the ILO by contributing to both its core budget and its development cooperation programmes:

- **Assessed contributions**, paid by all ILO Member States by virtue of their membership. Between 2018 and 2023, Switzerland contributed US\$ 26.5 million.
- **Voluntary contributions** earmarked to priority programmes and projects. Between 2018 and 2023, Switzerland contributed US\$ 89.5 million.

Switzerland's Overall Contributions to the ILO



Switzerland-ILO portfolio by region (contributions 2018 – 2023)



SELECTED PROGRAMMES SUPPORTED BY SWITZERLAND

Inclusive and Productive Employment in Moldova

SECO contributes over US\$ 2.2 million for a package of interventions to create more and better jobs by improving national employment policies and capacities of institutional partners. The programme includes three main pillars: improving employment policies; working on skills development and matching; and supporting the transition from informality to formality. The ILO will support Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs) that create local jobs, and the National Employment Agency and its local offices to improve labour market governance. The skills component of the project aims to provide young people and adult populations with market-oriented skills through skills needs anticipation capacity building, work-based training and digital literacy. The project's formalization component will target the construction sector, which has high levels of informality, by promoting better use of labour inspection resources and creating incentives to formalize for the private sector.

Alliance 8.7

In 2021, Switzerland became a partner of Alliance 8.7, the global partnership for eradicating forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour towards achieving SDG target 8.7. The Alliance fosters coordination of international cooperation and technical assistance in these domains. SECO is an observer of the Alliance's Global Coordinating Group (GCG) meetings. This group of active partners from across sectors meets regularly to set goals and assess progress.

► Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work

The [Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work Programme](#) addresses constraints to productivity growth and decent work at the policy, sector and enterprise level. It supports the structural transformation of economies and labour markets towards more and better jobs, higher productivity and equitable distribution of productivity gains via social dialogue. Supported by Governments, employers' and workers' organizations during the [ILO Governing Body discussions](#) in November 2022 and March 2021, it is being piloted in South Africa, Ghana and Viet Nam from 2022 to 2025 with US\$ 9.2 Million from SECO and US\$ 7.2 Million from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

► Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE)

The Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) Programme improves productivity and working conditions in SMEs. SCORE Training combines practical classroom learning with in-factory consulting, demonstrates best international practices in the manufacturing and service sectors and helps SMEs participate in global supply chains.

SECO and NORAD both fund the programme, currently in its fourth phase, with US\$ 3.3 million in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Myanmar and Tunisia. Since 2010, more than 5,000 enterprises have participated in SCORE Training globally,



representing a total workforce of more than 870,000 people that benefitted from enterprise improvements. Over 100 international companies have promoted SCORE Training to their suppliers.

► Better Work



As a partnership between the ILO and the International Finance Corporation, Better Work brings together governments, global brands, employers' and workers' organizations, factory owners, unions and workers to

improve working conditions in the garment industry and make the sector more competitive.

Driven by a model that combines direct factory engagement, policy work, advocacy and research, the programme is active in more than 2,289 factories employing over 3.6 million workers across thirteen countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Uzbekistan. Better Work's thematic focus areas for improvements in the garment sector over the next five years are: gender equality and inclusion, social dialogue, business performance, Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), wages, social protection, data and evidence, and environmental sustainability. SECO is supporting the 2022-2027 phase of the programme with US\$ 12.5 million and is represented on the programme's Advisory Committee

► PROMISE II IMPACT

The second phase of the "Promoting Small and Medium Enterprises through Entrepreneurs' Access to Financial Services" programme (Promise II Impact) is supported by a US\$ 4.7 million contribution from SECO. It is working to strengthen the enabling environment for an inclusive financial sector in Indonesia.

The project is aligned with the government's post-pandemic economic recovery policies and focuses on fostering digital transformation and increasing financial inclusion, including SME financing. The project takes on new approaches in supporting SMEs in enhancing their value chain ecosystem through digital technology adaptation in productive sectors. Initially, the project will focus on two sectors in different regions: seaweed in Nusa Tenggara Timur and dairy in East Java. Additionally, the project aims to build the capacity of rural and regional development banks to better serve SMEs, including through more tailored digital financial services. Moreover, it supports policymakers in enhancing framework conditions for digital financial inclusion. The project's ultimate goal is to promote economic growth and improve employment opportunities.

► The Integrated Programme on Fair Recruitment (FAIR)

With more than US\$ 3 million in support from SDC, the third phase of the Integrated Programme on Fair Recruitment (FAIR) was launched in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. In its final phase, FAIR builds on and consolidates past results by replicating or scaling up promising practices to implement, monitor and regulate the recruitment of migrant workers, in both countries of origin and destination. In 2024, GIZ also joined the programme.

The programme disseminates evidence-based policy advice through trainings and practical guidance for trade unions, employers, labour inspectors and recruitment agencies. FAIR III notably supported the consolidation of a cross-border agreement between two unions UGTT (in Tunisia) and UGTCI (Côte d'Ivoire). The programme also works with the media and organized the eighth edition of the ILO Global Media Competition on Labour Migration, which received over 300 entries.

► The FAIRWAY programme (Phase II)



A migrant laborer on a construction site in Amman, Jordan.

The FAIRWAY Programme Phase II seeks to work at a regional and inter-regional level in East Africa, West Africa, the Gulf Council Cooperation (GCC) countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE), Lebanon and Jordan to implement the three dimensions of gender-transformative labour migration governance relevant to the labour migration corridor. FAIRWAY programme specially aims to achieve improved intra and interregional dialogue and cooperation for effective labour migration interventions, improved decent work outcomes for women migrant workers in accordance with a gender-transformative agenda (including in the specific context of care work); and increased

protection and empowerment of migrant workers through provision of services, protection of rights and representation (workers' voice).

Building on the lessons learned and achievements from FAIRWAY Phase I (2020–24), and other ILO projects operational in the Africa and Arab States regions, the focus of the Programme will remain on the sectors where migrant workers are most vulnerable – namely domestic and care work, and construction work respectively.

► STREAM

With US\$ 7.6 million in support from SDC, STREAM is a new global program dedicated to the social protection of migrant workers and their families in the South Asia – Gulf migration corridor. STREAM aims to support policy and regulatory reforms for migrant inclusive and gender sensitive social protection system, effective and inclusive access to existing and new social protection provisions, dialogue and coordination between origin and destination countries; and a new evidence base to enhance advocacy capacities.

These inter-related axes are expected to ensure that the perspective and actions of all stakeholders across the migration corridor lead to the progressive realization of international social security and labour standards on matters of social protection for migrants through the establishment of comprehensive, inclusive, equitable and sustainable national schemes.

► ILO Global Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All



A migrant worker in an Arab country that now benefits from social protection

The [Flagship Programme](#) supports the development of sustainable social protection systems, including floors, to contribute to universal social protection. Under the second phase of the programme, the ILO provides in-depth, in-country support to 50 countries to strengthen their social protection systems; encourage knowledge development and exchange on 16 specific areas of social protection; and engage in strategic partnerships with tripartite partners, the UN family and beyond.

SDC has been supporting the Programme since 2021, providing nearly US\$ 1.6 million during its two phases. This contribution helps strengthen strategic partnerships by supporting [the ILO's participation in the](#)

[Providing for Health \(P4H\)](#) network's coordination desk, which has improved the coherence of support provided to national counterparts on health financing and social health protection between P4H members.

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