

PEACE, STATEBUILDING AND PROTECTION



Switzerland works with key institutions, state and non-state actors and decision-makers to promote peace, democratic principles and decentralisation. It empowers people and communities to participate in decisions that affect them directly, including regarding their access to land, resources and services. Improved protection, resilience and governance as well as greater respect for human rights will contribute to social cohesion, conflict transformation and sustainable peace.

Domain objective: The people of Myanmar benefit from inclusive peace agreements and from more accountable, decentralised and democratic institutions that promote public participation. Vulnerable and conflict-affected persons are better protected from violence and disasters, experience better respect of their human rights, and gain improved access to public services, land and natural resources.

Outcomes:

1. Peace and Democratisation: Parties to the peace negotiations formulate their aspirations and participate in processes that lead toward a sustainable peace agreement, supported by efforts to strengthen reconciliation, democratisation and human rights, and inform a federal arrangement that reflects the diversity of the country. Lead: Human Security Division
2. Governance: More accountable, efficient and decentralised institutions; a stronger participation of civil society, vulnerable communities and women in decision-making processes; and more equitable access to public services and sustainably managed land and natural resources contribute to conflict transformation, social cohesion and statebuilding. Lead: SDC South Cooperation
3. Protection: The protection of conflict, violence and disaster-affected people, including IDPs and returnees, is enhanced. They are better integrated in their communities, live in safety and security, and have equitable access to basic services and livelihoods. Returns and relocations are carried out following international standards. Lead: SDC Humanitarian Aid

SKILLS AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT



Switzerland supports market-oriented vocational skills development (TVET) through models inspired by the Swiss dual education system involving both public and private actors. In areas where employment opportunities are limited, including remote and conflict-affected areas, Swiss initiatives aim to increase capacities for gainful employment and market-oriented production through improved access to services and markets.

Domain objective: Women and men have increased socio-economic opportunities through inclusive TVET systems that are responsive to market demands.

Outcomes:

1. Women and men, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds and conflict-affected areas, have increased employment and self-employment opportunities through competitive skills and inclusive market access.
2. Key Myanmar public institutions and private sector actors that define the supply and demand of TVET and market systems are more responsive to local, national and regional markets for labour, services and commodities.

HEALTH



By bringing together state and EHOs, this domain builds trust and supports health systems strengthening, the delivery of quality affordable health services and universal health coverage as per the National Health Plan. Better access to health services, including nutrition support, and to health literacy messages contributes to an improved health status of the population. Collaboration between ethnic and government health professionals to provide quality health services strengthens social cohesion and mitigate causes of conflict.

Domain objective: Vulnerable people in conflict-affected and remote areas have improved access to quality essential health care and healthy diets delivered through strengthened institutions.

Outcomes:

1. Vulnerable people, especially women and children, have improved and non-discriminatory access to adequate and healthy diets as well as to essential and affordable quality health services and health literacy and know how to stay healthy.
2. Capacities of relevant institutions are enhanced to contribute to improved health sector planning, management, coordination and service delivery in a conflict-sensitive way.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



Gender Equality: Along the lines of SDG 5 and the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-22, gender equality is mainstreamed through gender-sensitive outcomes and sex disaggregated indicators.

Good Governance: The focus on good governance principles (participation, accountability, transparency, non-discrimination and human rights) and on beneficiaries, institutions and political processes allows for systematic integration of governance in line with Myanmar's international commitments and the MSDP.

DRR, Climate Change Adaptation and Environment: The transversal theme of DRR and climate change adaptation recognises the high risk of natural disasters and still weak prevention and response capacities. Also benefiting from the support of the SDC DRR hub in Bangkok, projects are planned in a way that respects and promotes climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability.

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Swiss Cooperation Programme Myanmar 2019 - 2023





SWITZERLAND IN MYANMAR

Switzerland has supported Myanmar with humanitarian assistance since the mid-1990s, focusing on relief for refugees and victims of civil war and natural disasters. A humanitarian aid office was opened after Cyclone Nargis in 2008; the Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar was established in Yangon in 2012 during the transitional government of President Thein Sein. The scope of political, economic, peace and development cooperation was significantly increased under the first Swiss Cooperation Strategy Myanmar 2013-2017 (extended through 2018).

RESULTS ACHIEVED 2013-2018

Switzerland contributed to support the political, social and economic transition in Myanmar. With a total programme expenditure of CHF179m, Switzerland supported four areas of intervention: vocational skills development (15%); agriculture and food security (31%); health, social services and local governance (27%); and peace, democratisation and protection (25%) as well as 2% for culture and small projects.

Switzerland is recognised for its expertise in skills development systems. Swiss interventions supported systemic change for increased employment of disadvantaged groups by working with the private sector to identify market demand and opportunities for skills development, including in conflict-affected areas. Switzerland has been an active member of the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) sub-sector coordination group led by the Ministry of Education. Key accomplishments include:

- Over 7,000 youth and adults (50% women) received vocational training, out of which almost 70% found employment with an average income increase of 350%.
- Experience from the Swiss skills initiatives contributed to the elaboration of the National Education Strategic Plan and the TVET law.

Switzerland contributed to increased food security, access to livelihoods and land, sustainable agricultural productivity and income for smallholder and landless farmers of all ethnicities. Key accomplishments include:

- Myanmar's first National Land Use Policy was adopted with reference to land rights for women and recognition of customary tenure systems; a "National Land Use Council" was created to facilitate its implementation.

SWISS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN MYANMAR

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aung San Suu Kyi's visit to Switzerland to attend the International Labour Conference in Geneva • Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter opens the Swiss Embassy in Yangon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swiss Cooperation Strategy Myanmar 2013-2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit of U Thein Sein, the former president of Myanmar to Switzerland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switzerland and Myanmar sign the Framework Agreement on Technical and Financial Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance • Switzerland as Bilateral Constituency in the Health Sector Coordination MHSCC 2015 -16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister of Education participates in the International congress on Vocational and Professional Education and Training in Winterthur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations Switzerland - Myanmar • Designation of the first two Townships in the Gulf of Mottama as a wetland of global importance under the Ramsar Convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Deputy Minister of Education participated in the International congress on Vocational and Professional Education and training in Winterthur • Switzerland as chair of the Access to Health Fund Board in 2018/19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swiss Cooperation Strategy 2019-2023 • Switzerland co-chair of the Local Governance Donor Coordination Group • UPDJC study tour and retreat to Norway and Switzerland • GAD study tour to Switzerland with MoUG Minister and MoPF Deputy Minister • Switzerland as chair of the LIFT Fund Board in 2019/20 • Switzerland as Bilateral Constituency in the Health Sector Coordination MHSCC in 2019-21 • Collaboration with the MSWRR on setting up a national mine action authority • Switzerland supported MSWRR on 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management and 34th & 35th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management

SWITZERLAND IN MYANMAR

- The One Map Myanmar project created an online open-access data platform to improve policies and practices, for example to review the impact of large oil plantations on populations.
- A value chain approach was introduced for the rubber industry in Mon State.

Swiss interventions increased the access of disadvantaged populations to basic social services and contributed to more participatory governance. The interventions built on relationships with both government departments and EAOs to expand access to basic health services and schools, especially in remote areas under various types of administrative control. Key accomplishments include:

- Under the Primary Health Care (PHC) project, around 250,000 births were attended by skilled health personnel; more than 78'000 pregnant women benefitted from emergency referrals, including from Ethnic Health Organisations (EHOs), thus reducing maternal and child mortality.
- Over 160 schools and health centres were built in the southeast and over 500 training sessions conducted in disaster risk reduction (DRR); water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and infrastructure management.
- Swiss-supported UNDP Township Democratic Local Governance Project promoted more transparent, inclusive and accountable Township planning in Mon state.

With the objective of promoting a more inclusive and democratic polity and the better protection of the basic rights of especially conflict-affected people, policy dialogue, technical expertise and financial support resulted in:

- Wide adherence to the Swiss-facilitated code of conduct for political parties during the 2015 elections.
- Exposure of various stakeholders (government, EAOs, military, civil society) to diversity management, democracy and federalism during study tours to Switzerland.
- Increased communal capacities to react adequately to violence and increasingly conflict-sensitive behaviours to avoid exacerbating tensions.

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of Swiss cooperation with Myanmar is to contribute to a peaceful, inclusive, democratic and prosperous society by promoting sustainable development, conflict transformation, reconciliation and the participation of all people in statebuilding. To this intent, the programme focuses on three domains of intervention:

- Peace, Statebuilding and Protection
- Skills and Market Development
- Health

The three themes cutting across all domains are:

- Gender Equality
- Good Governance
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation and Environment

Furthermore, the Swiss embassy supports cultural initiatives that foster the expression of Myanmar's diversity.

SWITZERLAND IN MYANMAR

PARTNERS

Switzerland cooperates with international and Swiss actors while interacting with actors ranging from government authorities at Union and state/region level to CSOs and EAOs. A strong focus is put on coordination across development cooperation, humanitarian aid and support to the peace process. At the regional level, the Swiss embassy is closely exchanging with the Swiss Cooperation Offices in Lao PDR and Cambodia for the implementation of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy Mekong 2018-2021 as well as the Swiss representations in Bangladesh and Indonesia, the latter responsible for ASEAN.

BUDGET

A total budget of around CHF 180m is proposed for the five-year period, including CHF6.6m from SECO. Planned allocations are 52% for Peace, Statebuilding and Protection; 33% for Skills and Market Development; 14% for Health and 1% for other interventions.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

The main geographical focus remains in southeast Myanmar (Kayin and Mon states as well as part of Tanintharyi region) where Switzerland works across mixed administration areas. Switzerland is progressively extending its combined humanitarian, development and peace interventions to the southern part of Shan State. In Rakhine State, Switzerland contributes to durable solutions for IDPs and returnees, while cooperating with local partners to support interventions for improving the living conditions of all populations.

CONFLICT SENSITIVITY AND INCLUSION

Do no harm and conflict sensitivity, inclusion and social cohesion, human rights and protection are core principles of project design, implementation and monitoring, partner selection and resource allocation, even more so as a majority of the Swiss portfolio is implemented in conflict affected areas.

