



Learning is certainly more fun in a rehabilitated school © SDC

The Context

Switzerland has been delivering development and humanitarian aid through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Pakistan since 1966. More recently, the SDC has concentrated its efforts on two underprivileged areas in the northwest, namely Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). As poverty, illiteracy, limited public services and natural disasters are widespread in these areas, the SDC launched its Pakistan Programme in 2012. The programme comprises humanitarian aid as well as development cooperation, and aims at improving people's lives by increasing their incomes, adapting productive systems, rebuilding and rehabilitating basic rural infrastructure after natural disasters, and promoting good governance and conflict resolution at local levels. During its long presence in the country, Switzerland has kept up good relations with the Government of Pakistan (GoP) and works in close cooperation with the relevant ministries.

Way Forward

With the launch of its new Country Strategy 2017-20 for Pakistan, Switzerland aims to consolidate successful experiences and lessons learnt, with a focus on thematic areas of 'Water Governance' and 'Local State Building'. This measure is crucial to leverage the considerable investment Switzerland has made in KP and FATA over the past 51 years. The strategy is aligned with the GoP's national and provincial development priorities. Its main focus is inclusive and sustainable water governance, increased state-citizen trust through inclusive and accountable service delivery by the government, and strengthened human rights protection and policy reforms.

Based on a decision by the Swiss Federal Council, the SDC will sustainably phase out its bilateral cooperation with Pakistan by 2020. Thereafter, Switzerland will remain engaged in Pakistan through other foreign policy instruments, including its humanitarian assistance and multilateral partnerships.

SDC's Ongoing Projects in KP and FATA

Currently, the SDC's main focus is on 'Water Governance' and 'Local State Building' domains in KP and FATA with a view to strengthening state and society resilience and promoting better respect for human rights, particularly for the disadvantaged groups such as women, children, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and ethnic and religious minorities.

The ongoing projects include:

- **Water for Livelihoods (W4L)** - W4L supports the local authorities in building irrigation and water conveyance systems, retention dams, water ponds and water pumps in Karak, DI Khan, Frontier Region DI Khan, Chitral and Lower Dir. Implementing partner(s): HSI
- **Water & Energy Security through Microhydels** - The project aims to provide around 4,500 households with electricity in two valleys in the remote mountain regions of Chitral by constructing two microhydel stations. Implementing partner(s): Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP).
- **Water Rehabilitation, Sanitation & Hygiene** - The SDC assists the GoP to improve water supply, sanitation services and hygiene awareness for vulnerable populations to enhance their household health and socio-economic status. Implementing partner(s): World Bank.
- **Strengthening Rule of Law in Malakand (SRLM)** - Through this project, the SDC facilitates access to justice for the people of Malakand Division by strengthening the capacity of police, prosecution and judiciary, and increasing the number of effective alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Implementing partner(s): UNDP, EU, KP Government.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** - To reduce the risk of flash floods, protection walls are constructed and trees are planted on landslide prone slopes. Locals are employed to build these structures and are paid through cash for work programme implemented by the World Food Programme (WFP) with two positive results: 1) local people earn money, which generates economic activity; 2) they live in a safer environment by taking protection measures against natural disasters. Implementing partner(s): WFP, HSI, PDMA, HJURA, NDMA, FDMA.
- **Emergency Relief** - In times of emergencies, such as natural disasters or conflicts, the SDC assists the GoP and/or UN agencies in providing relief to the victims. It also provides training sessions on disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation. Partner(s): GoP, UN agencies, NGOs, INGOs.



- **Support for Refugees and IDPs** - The SDC supports the GoP to provide Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities to selected Afghan refugee camps. In addition, it financially supports programmes of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNHCR and WFP to assist the IDPs and refugees. Partner(s): ICRC, UN agencies.
- **SDC Experts Support UN Agencies** - Through SDC, Swiss experts provide technical know-how in certain fields to UN agencies in Pakistan, such as UNHCR, UN Women and WFP. Partner(s): UN agencies.
- **Establishment of Environment Cell** - The SDC contributed to the establishment of an environment cell within the Planning and Development Department at the FATA Secretariat. The project complements the SDC's Water Governance Programme in FATA. This cell aims to enhance the institutional capacity and appropriate skills on environmental protection within the FATA Secretariat, including measures to avoid pollution of ground and surface waters and ensuring safe quality standards for drinking and irrigation water. Implementing partner(s): IUCN, FATA Secretariat.
- **Building Capacity of the Climate Change Centre** - The SDC is strengthening the Climate Change Centre established in the University of Agriculture, Peshawar through competence building and training of three PhD students, refurbishment of the Centre, and launching of new agro-climatic zones. Implementing partner(s): HSI, KP Government and the University of Agriculture, Peshawar.
- **Inventorying & Documentation of the Collection at Taxila Museum** - The project aims to protect the Taxila Museum and its collection and to enhance SDC's role in promoting a peaceful, developed society. Implementing partner (s): UNESCO.
- **Capacity Enhancement of Women Parliamentary Caucus of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** - To mainstream gender in provincial legislation and policies, the SDC is building capacity of 22 members of Women Parliamentary Caucus of KP. Implementing partner(s): UN Women.
- **Support to Local Governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** - The project aims to improve state citizen trust by promoting constructive dialogue, strengthening inclusive, responsive and accountable local governments, reforming taxation and improving political participation of the people in KP, with a focus on women, religious minorities and youth. Implementing partner(s): GIZ.
- **The Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF)** - The MDTF is a mechanism for mobilising funds to support reconstruction, rehabilitation and development in FATA, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan in which Switzerland has made a contribution. The Fund is administered by the World Bank and owned by the Government.
- **Strengthening Human Rights Mechanisms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** - The project aims to facilitate the the KP government in developing a provincial human rights strategy to provide better protection to vulnerable groups, especially women, children and religious mi-norities. Implementing partner(s): UNDP.
- **Support to Pakistan Humanitarian Forum** - Formed in 2003, the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) is an umbrella organisation representing 62 International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) delivering humanitarian assistance and development projects in Pakistan. The SDC financially supports PHF in facilitating the INGOs to effectively address the humanitarian and development needs across Pakistan.
- **Educational Facilities for the Internally Displaced and Street Children** - The project aims to support three branches of the Mashal Trust with operational funding for 18 months. The Trust provides educational facilities to underprivileged children in a protective environment.

Switzerland's Main Implementing Partners:

- Agha Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Economic Affairs Division (EAD)
- FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA)
- FATA Secretariat
- GIZ
- Government of Pakistan (GoP)
- Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (HSI)
- Holistic Understanding for Justified Research and Action (HUJRA)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- KP Government and its departments
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)
- Pakistan Community Development Programme
- Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA)
- United Nations Agencies
- World Bank

Further information

Embassy of Switzerland
Swiss Cooperation Office in Pakistan
House 3, Street 3, F 6/3, Islamabad
Phone: +92 51 2077 900
Fax: +92 51 2824 872
E-mail: islamabad@eda.admin.ch
Web info: <https://www.fdfa.admin.ch/pakistan>
<https://www.facebook.com/SwitzerlandinPakistan/>