

Introduction

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been present in Pakistan for 50 years, and is represented by the Swiss Cooperation Office in Islamabad. Cooperation focuses on water governance and local state building. Through relief, rehabilitation & reconstruction programmes SDC Humanitarian Aid (SDC-HA) also assists the Government of Pakistan (GoP) in response, recovery and reconstruction after emergencies, both natural and man-made.

Thematic Priorities

After the emergency relief delivered during the devastating floods in 2010 and the measures taken to assist the affected populations in getting through the winter, SDC-HA launched various reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in the domains of public infrastructure, safe drinking water and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The projects aim at supporting the victims of natural disasters as well as improving the living conditions of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Besides focusing on direct implementation, SDC-HA has invested in the capacity building of international/local NGOs as well as government line departments. Considerable support through multilateral contributions and the deployment of experts is also given to the United Nations. The projects are implemented in the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in the Northeast of the country, and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

SDC-HA in Pakistan

1. Reconstruction of Schools

SDC-HA supports the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in reconstructing the educational infrastructure damaged in the 2010 floods. In the Swat District, 21 fully-damaged primary schools have been rebuilt. SDC has rehabilitated 60 partially damaged schools in Swat, Charsadda and Nowshera Districts and has supported UNICEF in the construction of four transitional schools, which are due to be used as Women Centres. With the rehabilitation of sanitary facilities at all project sites, SDC is setting a focus on girls to return to school. So far, a total of 18,000 children have directly benefited from this

project. In order to ensure the sustainability of the programme, SDC with the support of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and the Government of KP, has launched a campaign to make children more aware of the value of their schools. This is achieved by developing a maintenance manual, placing posters in the premises, educating children and school administration about their roles in maintaining their schools and engaging students in an interactive care & maintenance game, which was developed under the project.



Newly-constructed school in Kedam (Swat) ©SDC

2. Disaster Risk Reduction

In partnership with WFP, SDC-HA has launched a community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project to enhance community resilience in a risk-prone area of Chail Valley in the Swat District. The project aims to reduce food insecurity and livelihood vulnerability in flood-affected communities through DRR-related Cash-for-Work activities. It is based on a holistic concept for the protection of the valley and entails gully-plugging, slope stabilisation against landslides and bioengineering measures. About 4,500 households - or more than 35,000 persons - are directly benefiting. This pilot project has been extended to Bajaur and Mohmand Agencies of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) between 2015 and 2017.

3. Emergency Relief

SDC-HA assisted the victims of the floods in 2011 and 2012 in the province of Sindh through financial contribution to WFP. After the earthquake in Baluchistan in October 2013, SDC supported a local NGO Heritage Foundation in training the survivors in reconstructing and repairing seismic resistant shelters. In Bannu, SDC-HA assisted the population displaced by the unstable securi-

ty situation in North Waziristan with the provision of safe drinking water supply. More recently, the earthquake-affected Chitral District was supported with the distribution of water purification kits and repair of irrigation channels.



Slope Stabilisation in Madyan (Swat) ©SDC

Further information

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4. Support for Refugees and IDPs

SDC-HA supports the Government of Pakistan by providing WASH facilities to selected Afghan refugee camps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In the FATA, SDC-HA finances a protection unit of the Fata Disaster Management Authority (FDMA), which is responsible for humanitarian assistance for the conflict-affected displaced population. SDC-HA also financially contributes to the programmes of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and WFP.



FDMA workshop on humanitarian and protection principles ©SDC

5. SDC Experts Supporting UN Agencies

After the floods in 2010, SDC-HA supported multilateral partners, such as United Nations agencies and the World Bank, with various experts from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit. An expert in disaster risk management is currently deployed to WFP Pakistan, hence tens of thousands of Pakistanis are indirectly benefitting from the know-how transfer of the Swiss experts.