

Swiss Agency for Development And Cooperation (SDC) in Pakistan

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Learning is certainly more fun in a rehabilitated school © SDC

Context

Switzerland has been delivering development and humanitarian aid through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Pakistan since 1966. More recently, 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 still widespread in these areas, 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.

Commitment in Pakistan

SDC's long-term commitment in Pakistan aims at reducing poverty, fighting discrimination, supporting disadvantaged population groups and empowering people. The two pillars of these activities are:

- Improving the living conditions of the rural population by enhancing livelihoods and strengthening resilience of the local people.
- Empowering people by promoting governance and conflict resolution at local level and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups.

In times of emergencies, such as the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 and 2015 floods, SDC assists other aid organisations and the GoP with short-term relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction projects. It also provides humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and implements measures to reduce the risk of natural disasters. These projects include:

- Reconstruction of schools
- Provision of better drinking water
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Emergency relief
- Support of refugees and IDPs
- SDC experts deployed to United Nations Agencies

SDC's Projects in KP and the FATA

- **Livelihood Programme Hindukush (LPH)** – Improving the quality of life by supporting livelihoods and reducing vulnerabilities of marginalised communities in Karak, DI Khan, Chitral, Lower Dir, FR DI Khan, Bajaur and Mohmand. Implementing partner: Intercooperation
- **Water for Livelihoods (W4L)** – Supporting the local authorities in building irrigation and water conveyance systems, retention dams, water ponds and water pumps in Karak, DI Khan, Chitral, Lower Dir, FR DI Khan. Implementing partner: Intercooperation
- **Water & Energy Security through Microhydel** – Construction of two microhydel stations to provide around 4,500 households with electricity in two valleys in the remote mountain regions of Chitral. Implementing partner: Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)
- **Water Rehabilitation, Sanitation & Hygiene** – Assisting the GoP to improve water supply, sanitation services and hygiene awareness for vulnerable populations enhancing their household health and socio-economic status. Implementing partner: World Bank
- **Strengthening Rule of Law in Malakand (SRLM)** – Facilitating access to justice for the people of Malakand Division by strengthening the capacities of the police, prosecution and judiciary, and increasing the

number of effective alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Implementing partners: UNDP, EU, EKN, KP Government

- **Citizen Actions for Peace & Development (CAPD)** – Assisting the GoP to raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities of FATA citizens, as well as enhancing their capabilities to resolve local disputes among themselves. Implementing partners: SAP-PAK, GoP
- **Reconstruction of Flood-Affected Schools** – Supporting the KP government in reconstructing and rehabilitating schools damaged by the 2010 floods. More than 18,000 children have regained access to education. Implementing partners: PDMA, Education Department, University of Engineering and Technology, UNICEF

Switzerland's Main Implementing Partners:

- Agha Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Intercooperation (IC)
- Integral Regional Support Programme (IRSP)
- Jobs International Private Ltd (JIPL)
- Pakistan Community Development Programme
- South Asia Partnership Pakistan (SAP-PAK)
- United Nations Agencies
- Water & Sanitation Programme (World Bank)
- Economic Affairs Division (EAD)
- FATA Secretariat/Disaster Management Authorities
- KP Government and its departments
- Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA)

- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** – Aiming to reduce the risk of flash-floods by constructing protection walls and planting trees on landslide-prone slopes. Locals are employed to build these structures and get paid through a cash-for-work programme implemented by WFP. It has two positive results: local people earn more money, which generates the economy; and they live in a safer environment due to the installed protection measures against natural disasters. Implementing partners: WFP, IC, PDMA, ADMC
- **Emergency Relief** – In times of emergencies, such as natural disasters or conflicts, SDC assists the GoP and/or UN agencies in providing relief to the victims. It also provides training sessions on disaster preparedness, like teaching communities how to guarantee safe drinking water in the event of floods. Partners: GoP, UN agencies
- **Support for Refugees and IDPs** – SDC supports the GoP in providing WASH facilities to selected Afghan

refugee camps. Furthermore, it financially supports programmes of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNHCR and WFP to assist IDPs and refugees. Partners: ICRC, UN agencies

- **SDC Experts Support UN Agencies** – Swiss experts provide UN agencies, such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), UN Habitat or the World Food Programme (WFP) with their know-how in certain fields. Partners: UN agencies.
- **Establishment of Environmental Cell** – SDC contributes to the establishment of an environmental cell within the Planning and Development Department at the FATA Secretariat. The establishment of this cell aims to enhance the institutional capacities and skills within the FATA-Secretariat. The project also complements SDC's Water Governance Programme in the FATA, creates awareness and ensures appropriate skills on environmental protection. This includes measures to avoid pollution of ground and surface waters, ensuring safe quality standards for drinking and irrigation water. Implementing partners: IUCN, FATA-Secretariat.

Further information

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