

# Swiss Cooperation Strategy Sri Lanka 2013 – 2015

The Swiss Cooperation Strategy governs Switzerland's assistance to Sri Lanka for the period 2013–2015. Within the three year programme, SDC focuses on contributing towards a durable rehabilitation of the returned population in the war-affected areas in the North of the country; the villages where SDC implements its permanent housing programme benefit from income generating projects as well as integrated community infrastructure reconstruction. SDC is also working towards promoting the well-being and protection of labour migrants and their families left behind in several districts across the country. Additionally, the Human Security Division of the Directorate of Political Affairs engages in the promotion and support of political dialogue in view of strengthening the reconciliation process.

## Overall Goal

The overall goal of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy Sri Lanka 2013–2015 is to support durable rehabilitation, sustainable development and inclusive peace building. SDC has been involved in humanitarian and development activities in Sri Lanka since 2003 and the current strategy capitalizes on achievements and lessons learnt in the past.

## Alignment and coordination

All interventions under the Cooperation Strategy are planned and implemented in close coordination with the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL). Switzerland consults with relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries in all its interventions, including local authorities and civil society representatives.

- **Gender Equity** – A gender sensitive approach ensures that the needs of women are being addressed and monitored at all levels of programme and project management.
- **Governance** – Efforts are geared towards supporting the GoSL to decentralize power to the peripheral and capacitate the local authorities to serve the population more efficiently. Civil society is also supported and encouraged to engage in political processes and work closely with local government bodies and the communities.
- **Ecological sensitivity** – Due attention is given to consider the ecological implications throughout the planning and implementation process of all projects. The main interventions are related to construction projects, consisting of introducing alternative construction techniques, establishing rainwater harvesting installations and encouraging reforestation schemes.