

SPIEGEL



**2017 ANNUAL
REPORT**

9 COUNTRIES, 203,210 PEOPLE

**How your
support works**

Help where there is a more urgent need for aid!



**“Development never stops.
And that goes for our
country too.”**

It's not every day that we can say that “this country does not need any more external aid.” Ecuador is an example of this. SWISSAID has been active there for forty years. We supported training programmes for small-scale farmers, promoted ecological farming and built entire water supply systems in remote mountain regions, together with the local people.

The small country in the Andes is a success story. There has

just been a democratic transition of power following elections which were conducted properly. The election was won by Lenin Moreno, who had been vice president for many years. To his great credit, he has campaigned for the disabled. He himself has been wheelchair-bound since a tragic assault 20 years ago. The new government is setting a different tone, seeking to support the rights of small people. The country's debt is under control. Nobody is facing hunger. Local councils are responsible for the maintenance of infrastructure: water, roads, schools. There is enough for everyone. Revenue from tourism and commodities such as oil, coffee or cocoa help, of course.

Therefore, it was patently clear to SWISSAID that we should now be investing in places where there is a more urgent need for aid. Too many countries are shaken by crises, ruled by dictatorships or are blighted by hunger, violence and war. We can achieve more there with every franc of aid than in Ecuador, which can now afford decent wages.

Is it a success story? It definitely is. But we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that development never stops. And that goes for our country too. Switzerland is a part of the world that also needs to take action: there is a need for greater transparency in trade, more consistent climate protection, protection of the seas. It also takes action at home to achieve the sort of peaceful world that we wish to live in. Solidarity is not a one-way street.

Rudolf Rechsteiner, economist
SWISSAID President

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A networked future

We rely upon networking to achieve more in our countries in the southern hemisphere. Here too in Switzerland, alliances are important for achieving progress at a political level.

The legacy that I took on as the new Executive Director of SWISSAID in April of this year is unique. Against this background, what approaches should we take going forward? Together, we are embarking upon a journey into a networked world in a state of transition. Networked thoughts and actions are becoming even more important than ever for SWISSAID. What this means:

In our partner countries, SWISSAID is acting to improve the livelihoods of farming families and also has a positive impact on general living conditions in those countries. We are bringing together the projects and their effects within networks to create an



Markus Allemann,
Executive Director

overall portfolio, demonstrating the sustainable changes that we have brought about.

Farsightedness and consistency

Back at home, SWISSAID inspires responsible farsightedness by parliamentarians in pursuing legislation that gives the southern hemisphere fair opportunities. Whether it be climate policy or trade agreements, we ensure that there is consistency in policy-making, removing barriers within our mindset.

In our organisation, we are constantly learning. We also stand by our failures and are playing our part in sustainable development cooperation. We liaise with our partners, think beyond the boundaries of our system and forge links with non-governmental organisations to create an effective whole.

Moving on to pastures new

The last year was characterised by effective self-help projects in the poorest countries of the world, as well as by successful activities and campaigns in the areas of development policy and information & fundraising. However, the day-to-day running of the organisation was significantly affected by the departures of a number of long-standing employees, most notably Executive Director Caroline Morel. She led and shaped SWISSAID for 15 years, expanded the Development Policy department, focused attention on the area of equality and impressed people within and outside the organisation with competence, confidence and

passion. We wish to extend our sincerest thanks to Caroline Morel for that and for so much more.

In Markus Allemann, who guided the fate of Greenpeace Switzerland for ten years, we have found a successor who will continue to develop SWISSAID with energy and experience.

Quality in development cooperation

2017 was not only a year of departure, it was also marked by new beginnings. The process of developing new programmes got under way in all national offices, based on the strategic priorities of ecological farming,

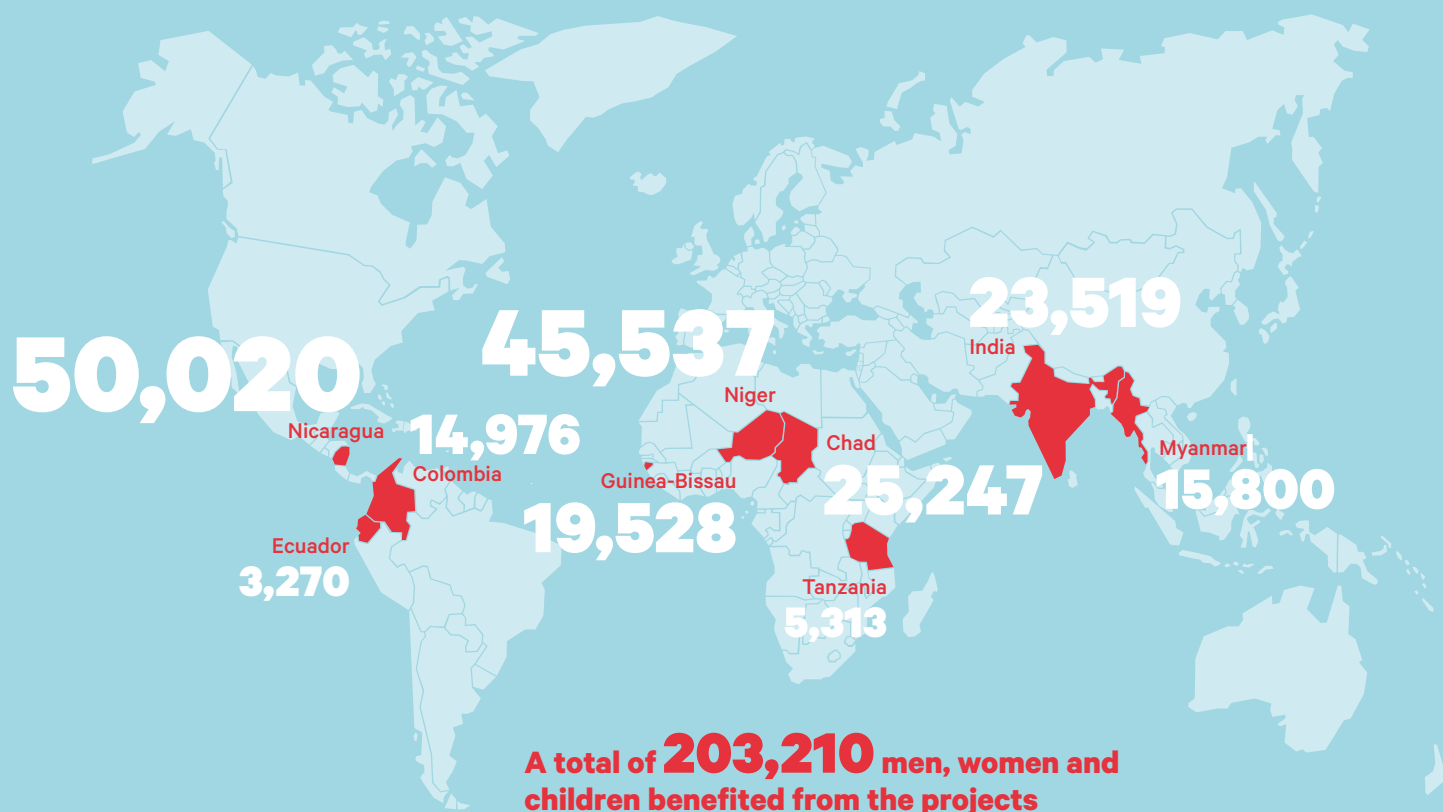
equality, water and commodities. As a result, the focus of attention shifted to fewer, albeit larger, projects. The criteria also led to the introduction of an enhanced monitoring and project management system which will serve to safeguard or increase the quality and effectiveness of our project work in the medium and long term.

When doors close, new ones open. The announcement about the discontinuation of the programme in Ecuador (see page 2) will free up resources which can be made available to those areas where aid is urgently needed. Therefore, SWISSAID is evaluating the possibility of setting up a new programme in Africa or bolstering an existing one.

Jeremias Blaser,
Deputy Executive Director

Impact at a glance

Figures speak volumes, and behind every figure there are countless fates, tears of joy and great effort which have all had a decisive impact thanks to the self-help projects. Every donation counts – a thousand thanks!



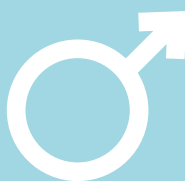
5,956 women's groups

received special support, whether it be as farmers, local politicians or traders. Women are the backbone of society.



8,636 men

attended workshops in all the countries, apart from Tanzania, on gender equality and domestic violence.



and learned literacy and numeracy skills in Niger, Chad and Guinea-Bissau. This does not only boost confidence, it also protects women from being taken advantage of at the market. If you can count the change, you win.

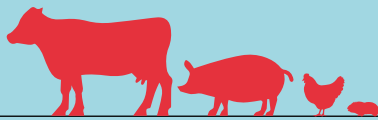
5693

women
attended a literacy
course



were founded, built and managed in Niger, Myanmar (Burma) and Guinea-Bissau. The members of the livestock bank receive the first animals, but then have to give a proportion of the young livestock to needy families in the village so as to ensure that everyone ultimately benefits from the blessing of livestock.

72 livestock banks



51,041

adults and children are able to drink clean water or keep their fields and gardens watered.

The farming families can harvest enough to make ends meet and no longer face the scourge of hunger. Thanks to clean water, infant mortality rates are falling significantly.

Project sponsorships

2017
2016

764 sponsors for women's projects

2017
2016

666 sponsors for organic projects

2017
2016

247 sponsors for access to water

501 families



received compensation after a long legal battle in southern Chad because their fields had been used and made infertile by the oil production companies.

727 seed and grain banks

were built, maintained and managed. The families can make "deposits" in these stores in the form of grain and traditional seeds and later withdraw them as required – also on "credit", which is paid back in the form of seeds or grain. This maintains a secure supply of high-grade seeds in emergencies, and developing countries see more than enough of them.

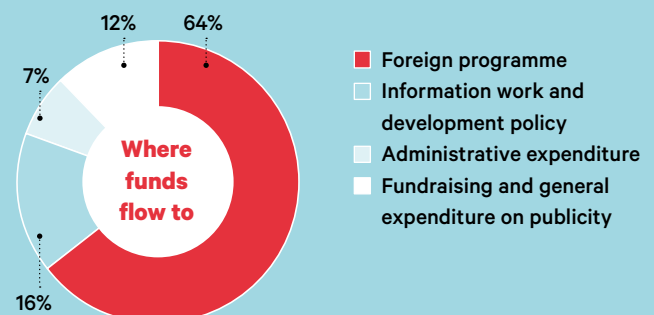
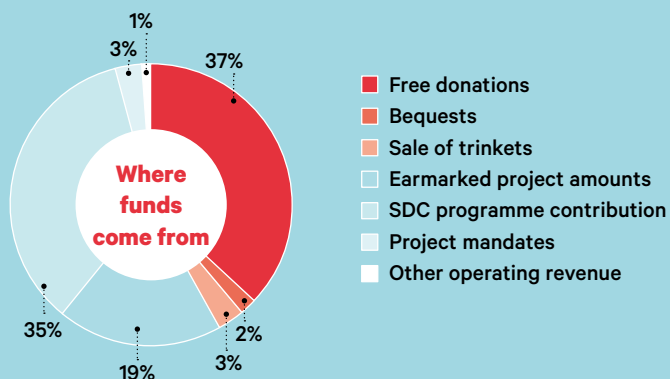


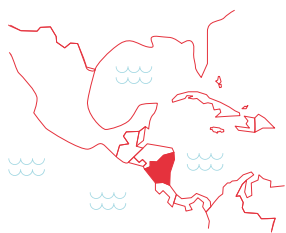
29,724 farmers

know techniques and tricks in agroecology thanks to further training courses.

49,379 people, largely women, tend huge gardens during the dry months, enabling them to provide for their families.

Finance and use of resources





NICARAGUA
CENTRAL AMERICA
swissaid.ch/en/nicaragua

A promising future versus a dull everyday life

For young people, the world is their oyster. However, many are demoralised living in places where prospects are bleak. SWISSAID is helping several youth organisations in Nicaragua to tackle this feeling of hopelessness.

AT A GLANCE

Current projects at the end of 2017	25
Approved projects in 2017	13
Funds disbursed (CHF)	1,639,854
People benefiting directly	50,020

Most young people growing up in the rural areas of Nicaragua come from small-scale farming families and live under the poverty line of two US dollars a day. Often these young people have only completed primary school and are unable to find any work in the informal labour market either. Emigration to Costa Rica is seen by many as the only way of finding temporary, poorly paid work doing odd jobs or as a domestic worker or in farming.

Therefore, SWISSAID is supporting around 1,500 young people from over 50 villages, who have come together in five youth organisations. The organisations give the young people platforms for sharing ideas with each other and for attending further training courses. The primary focus is on agricultural matters such as agroecological farming and seed cultivation, although domestic violence and prevention or political rights and obligations are also discussed. A scholarship fund is available to enable around 100 young women and 70 young men to complete their primary school education or to train as farm technicians or in business administration, book-keeping or in IT at a technical vocational school.

Many young people want to start their own business and have good ideas on how to make a living as well.



Necessity is the mother of invention. Young woman farmer at the cattle watering tank.

They wish to open a beauty salon, a snack bar or a village shop, giving them a source of income and the local population a better supply of life's essentials. Thanks to further training courses and loans, the young people are encouraged to make their business ideas a reality. They are also supported along the way.

Healthy self-confidence

Many young farmers are successfully experimenting with agroecological growing techniques and breeding traditional seed varieties that are better adapted to the ever greater extremes of weather. Not only does this increase production in the field and the variety of food on the plate, it also boosts the young people's self-confidence and the recognition of their accomplishments. The young people are regarded as

innovative and responsible by their parents, creating the prospect of a fulfilled life for themselves.

Daniel Ott Fröhlicher, Programme Manager



WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

250 francs will give a young person 24 months of vocational training in Nicaragua, for example. **120 francs** is enough for attending secondary school for one year. A metal silo for storing the harvest, safe from mice, costs 75 francs.



ECUADOR
SOUTH AMERICA
swissaid.ch/en/ecuador

Water: from the region, for the region

The national programme in Ecuador, which is due to draw to a close at the end of 2021, has been marked by a number of successful projects in the area of water supplies.

AT A GLANCE

Current projects at the end of 2017	10
Approved projects in 2017	6
Funds disbursed (CHF)	1,354,076
People benefiting directly	3,270

A water system serving 434 families or 2,170 people went into operation a year ago in the town of San Jorge in the canton Patate a year ago. Since then, all the families have paid US\$ 2.50 a month for their connection to the drinking water supply. A sack-maker, a well master and a computer program ensure that it all runs without a hitch. The revenue is used to pay for its upkeep, reforestation of the springs and wages. A reserve has also been created for major repairs.

The local council contributed 54% (US\$ 126,000) to the building costs. The families benefiting from it provided 100,000 US dollars worth of

support in work alone. Each family worked for 21 days during the construction phase. They dug trenches and laid pipes together.

There are obvious reasons for the success, according to the president of the local water committee, 32-year-old Fabricio Barrera:

- Agreement on a standard water tariff
- Community work during the construction phase and during maintenance

Striking a tone of conviction, he says: "The water system will only be valued and protected if all members of the community take part in the planning and get involved in the work." Participation through a form of democracy ensures that everyone has access to water.

A further 257 families were given access to clean drinking water in

community processes like this in 2017, and 80 families received irrigation systems for their fields.

The preservation of the Páramos (high moors) is vital to ensure that the springs do not run dry. Legal responsibility for this rests with the authorities. The local water committees need proper training in how to seek funding for reforestation and for fencing around the protected areas. Five water committees succeeded in doing this last year. 65 percent of the area of one Páramo was fenced in, protecting it from being grazed on by cattle.

Departure from Ecuador

As part of its strategy process, the Committee of the Board of Trustees took the decision to withdraw SWISSAID out of Ecuador by the end of 2021 (see page 2, Editorial). The team in Ecuador acted in a very professional way when they heard the decision and is continuing to devote its energies to ensuring the sustainability of the projects.

Petra Engelhard, Programme Manager



Stunningly beautiful and vital for survival – the high moors in the Andes.



WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

In Ecuador, **150 francs** will pay to enable 40 members of several water committees to get together to share their experiences, for example.



COLOMBIA
SOUTH AMERICA
swissaid.ch/en/colombia

Thinking better helps you to eat better

Farming families have a better grip on their water problems with their holistic “territorial approach”. This leads to greater diversity in farming and better food security.

AT A GLANCE

Current projects at the end of 2017	15
Approved projects in 2017	9
Funds disbursed (CHF)	1,309,041
People benefiting directly	14,976

The sources of the River Saza and its tributary, the Leonera, are high up in the Colombian Andes. The water catchment area is home to several farming communities, who work the land and use the water. Many of the men also work in the coal works, which is often very damaging to their health. Over-exploitation of the ground by humans and cattle, deforestation and the cultivation of monocultural potato crops have taken their toll. There has been a deterioration in soil fertility and the water regime.

The “Leonera y Saza” project is tackling these problems comprehensively with what is known as the “territorial approach”, centred around the issue of water conservation. At first, the locals organised themselves into groups and analysed the ecological, economic and social problems. The farming groups should have a thorough knowledge of the area in which they live. The project is based on these analyses. It encompasses agriculture, environmental protection, water conservation and reforestation, the consolidation of farming groups, and activities to promote gender equality. The groups collaborate with the local authorities, where possible.

The first results are evident after a year: The water sources have been reforested with local plants and have been fenced off to keep cattle away. In

addition, the farmers are also planning to reforest the river banks this year. With that in mind, tree nurseries have been established with local plants.

Men and women have diversified the growing of vegetables, cereals and fruits in their gardens, reintroducing old varieties that they thought had been lost. They can grow vegetables in the greenhouses that would otherwise not grow at this altitude – at almost 3,000 m above sea level. They used ecological fertilisers and pesticides which they produced themselves. They also built basins for collecting rainwater.

So as to ensure that there is sufficient growth the next year, they collected local seeds, mainly for growing potatoes and other local tubers, various bean varieties and herbs, in specially created “seed banks”.

Sabina Schmid, Programme Manager

Photo: Luis A. Guzmán



Farmer Evangelina: Look how well the vegetables are coming along!



WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

60 francs will help to buy a rabbit hutch in Colombia, for example. Their droppings can be used to produce fertiliser. **125 francs** is a significant contribution towards building a greenhouse. Some of the costs are borne by the families.



**SHAN STATE
MYANMAR**

swissaid.ch/en/myanmar

Why small potatoes sell well

It is the small-scale farming families who provide food day in, day out; yet, there is not always enough to live on. Therefore, SWISSAID promotes sustainable ecological farming methods and provides incentives in the form of investment funds.

AT A GLANCE

Current projects at the end of 2017	17
Approved projects in 2017	5
Funds disbursed (CHF)	2,621,966
People benefiting directly	15,800

If you visit the village of Kone Thar in Shan State, you will notice Aye Nyein straight away because the farmer loves to chat about her current project. Her family lives from growing rice, potatoes, corn, beans and vegetables. She joined an ecological farming group along with 40 other farmers three years ago to learn how to earn a better living on her farm and how the next generation can live off the land as well. The farmer led group is advised by four local extension officers, including Aye Nyein.

These advisors are playing a decisive part in the spread of ecological farming, which is a priority in Myanmar.

Aye Nyein and the other three pioneering farmers conduct trials on various agroecological cultivation techniques on their own fields; they may be adopted by the group members later on. Aye made a successful attempt in the very first season. She tested the mixed crop of potatoes and beans and replaced the chemical fertiliser with dung. As she says proudly, “even though the potatoes were smaller, I achieved the same price for them on the market.” All it took was her verbal advertising for “potatoes without chemicals”. She realised afterwards that the aroma of the tuber is more intense, the potatoes are stickier and less watery. “In



Aye Nyein: hard work under a blazing sun.

addition, the organically produced potatoes last longer,” she adds. She will not lack for additional sales arguments next year.

Healthy soil, healthy food

A major benefit is soil fertility. In addition, the beans which are planted in-between the potatoes boost soil fertility and deliver healthy proteins. Aye Nyein will stick with the mixed cropping that she tested.

In addition, some members of the group were persuaded by this and want to adopt this ecological technique. As it is no longer really possible to feed a family through farming alone in Myanmar, SWISSAID approved some

local investment funds last year.

Farmers in the village of Kone Thar, for example, analysed business ideas and developed business plans with the support of the local partner organisation. For instance, Aye Nyein works with five other women in growing edible mushrooms. If the women can grow more mushrooms with this support, they will have access to better markets. By contrast, the men in the farming group will be operating a rice mill in future, which is a very promising activity.

Sarah Mader, Programme Manager



WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

Farming advisors are given a guarantee of **95 francs** to help them cope with the risk of agroecological field trials. By making this donation, you will take on this risk in Myanmar, for example.



**MAHARASHTRA
INDIA**
swissaid.ch/en/india

Violence: getting to the root of the problem

Almost one in every three Indian women is a victim of domestic violence. Partner organisations campaign for these victims displaying courage and tenacity. There is also reason to be hopeful at political level.

AT A GLANCE

Current projects at the end of 2017	14
Approved projects in 2017	7
Funds disbursed (CHF)	1,231,185
People benefiting directly	23,519

The walls are thin, and all around women can be heard screaming – this is the violent reality of everyday life for many Indian women. If neighbours and local “elders” intervene in these situations, there is hope, and the veil of silence can be torn.

Neighbourhood associations have proven to be particularly effective in the campaign against domestic violence, which is a priority of the programme in India. Therefore, SWISSAID is supporting the formation and consolidation of these groups. Their number grew to 323 in 185 villages (3316 members, of whom 1841 were women and 1475 men). The groups act as a first point of contact and, at the same time, have a pivotal role to play in raising awareness of traditional patriarchal structures.

The partner organisations run campaigns and workshops to highlight abuses such as child marriage, abortion of female foetuses, dowries and violence. Their primary aim is to encourage people to adopt different perspectives and attitudes. To give an example, 21-year-old Avinash Pawar tells how he used to stand on street corners with friends, making misogynistic comments to girls without giving it a second thought. Having attended “awareness workshops”, he urges his friends not to engage in



Equality workshops: learning how to have a relationship without violence.

sexual harassment. At home, he successfully argued the case for ensuring that his sister could stay on at school and not have to get married.

Couple of the Year

A particular highlight in 2017 was that Dr Manisha Gupte and Dr Ramesh Awasthi had been chosen as Couple of the Year by the renowned Indian magazine “The Week”. The two founders of a partner organisation have dedicated their whole lives to campaigning for recognition that violence and discrimination are the main causes of poverty and underdevelopment. The pair were also honoured for their commitment to equality issues.

The planned quota of women in parliament could be a milestone along the path to greater equality. If the law is passed, women will be entitled to hold

a third of the seats at national level, as well as in the member states.

Petra Engelhard, Programme Manager



WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

120 francs will enable five victims of domestic violence in India to attend a vocational training centre to find out how women can earn a living.

130 francs will pay the monthly wage for a solicitor to advise victims.



**TANZANIA
EAST AFRICA**

swissaid.ch/en/tanzania

How farmers make a big success out of small seeds

The chances for the sunflower seed business look rather poor at first glance. But appearances can be deceptive. This is also thanks to a new sales outlet launched by SWISSAID.

AT A GLANCE

Current projects at the end of 2017	7
Approved projects in 2017	5
Funds disbursed (CHF)	1,246,008
People benefiting directly	5,313

As the year drew to an end, the farmer Yohana Ntatiha knew what had to be done. He sold his sunflower harvest to a local agent, receiving 20 to 30 cents per kilo. That was very little, even in a country as poor as Tanzania. But it didn't end there: Some of the seeds he used for sowing the next crop and for his own use were often eaten by rats and other pests. But Yohana Ntatiha had long since become accustomed to that too.

That has come to an end now. After conducting comprehensive market analyses, SWISSAID helped to open a central sales outlet last year in the nearby town of Masasi, giving the farmers access to a large number of potential buyers, including wholesalers.

Creating access to the market is one of the primary concerns in a comprehensive self-help project which SWISSAID is conducting with 4,500 male and female farmers. The farmers can take investment decisions and boost the added value of their products by coming together to draw up business plans and cash flow analyses.

It may sound theoretical, but it has a real impact. Yohana Ntatiha noticed that there was high demand for sunflower oil at the new point of sale, so he decided to have the seeds pressed into oil, doubling his earnings.



Farmer Ntatiha is beaming. He is finally earning enough to live on.

More and more buyers and sellers are using the new sales outlet, and priority is given to ecological farmers, where possible. The farmers themselves are involved in the sales outlet, which gives them an insight into potential markets. Consequently success stories like Yohana Ntatiha's will become the norm.

Emmanuel Msuya, Mirjam Schleiffer



WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

50 francs will pay for a three-day marketing training course for a woman farmer in Tanzania.



NIGER
WEST AFRICA
swissaid.ch/en/niger

Networking fosters development

To assist communication between farmers, a network has been launched in rural Sahel about modern growing techniques, accessible even via Whatsapp. In order to combat global warming, it is essential that there is exchange on topics such as resistant seeds.

AT A GLANCE

Current projects at the end of 2017	22
Approved projects in 2017	8
Funds disbursed (CHF)	1,779,258
People benefiting directly	45,537

In an age of climate change, survival hinges on choosing the right local seeds, which are adapted to suit the climatic conditions. Farming families in the Sahel are all too aware of that. They demonstrate a real interest in agroecological growing techniques based on traditional seeds, as a study conducted by SWISSAID revealed. However, it also became clear that there was a lack of knowledge being

exchanged between farming families, and that there is a need to create alliances in order to spread agroecological techniques effectively.

Getting the better of hunger

What has to be done? Some farming groups got together on Whatsapp to share knowledge. In an initiative proposed by SWISSAID, 15 associations also formed the "Raya Karkara" platform, which means "Rural Life" in English. The founding members, which include national and international non-governmental organisations, local producers' associations and training institutions, want to promote agroecology and back farmers' rights

in West Africa. The measures which are in the pipeline will enable the farming families to boost the production of healthy and balanced food permanently, getting the better of hunger. They are seeking to cooperate with the authorities, with particular attention on the inclusion of women. With this in mind, the platform also organises proper seed fairs, campaigns and workshops on themes arising in agroecology.

This year, the platform is focusing on the topic of seeds and their connection with the right to food and food sovereignty. Workshops and a seed fair for the exchange of knowledge only took place at the start of April, attracting male and female farmers from various regions of the large country.

Marion Wessner



Trading traditional seeds in Niger.



WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

A donation of **70 francs** will pay for two farmers in Niger to attend a trade fair where they can exchange their local seeds.



CHAD
CENTRAL AFRICA
swissaid.ch/en/chad

ABC is just the beginning

Poverty and illiteracy feed off one another. Therefore, SWISSAID is campaigning for literacy and numeracy courses for women. Four out of five women pass the final examination. The whole family benefits from this.

AT A GLANCE

Current projects at the end of 2017	11
Approved projects in 2017	9
Funds disbursed (CHF)	1,459,454
People benefiting directly	25,247

Women who are unable to read or write are often cheated at the market. Or they are unable to read about the dosage and side effects of drugs. What's more, they are at the mercy of their husbands because they can neither sign a contract nor review the contents of important documents. Situations like this are a fact of life for almost nine in every ten women in rural Chad. They live in poverty, do not know their rights and barely have any opportunity to improve their precarious situation.

The women's organisation Céliaf has therefore set itself the goal of liberating women from this lack of social maturity by offering them literacy courses. Some 1,200 organisations with over 20,000 members are affiliated to Céliaf.

Racing around from dawn to dusk

SWISSAID supports three local branches of Céliaf in the regions of Guéra, Tandjilé and Logone Occidental. Around 600 women are learning literacy and numeracy skills at twelve centres. The three-year courses take place in the local language during the first two years and only in French, the official state language, in the final year. The government-supported approach has proved to be a success. State



This is only possible thanks to numeracy skills. The women keep store records.

instructors regularly check the quality of the courses at the schools.

The timetable reflects the women's daily routine, which usually begins at 5 am having to fetch water and prepare breakfast and does not end until late at night when they do the washing-up and start to cook the food for the next day. Since they also have to attend the courses, this leaves them hardly any time for learning and homework. Despite that, more than 80 percent of them still pass the tough final examinations.

Apart from the literacy classes, the programme also supports women's small business ideas such as growing vegetables, operating a grain mill or breeding goats. This not only gives women an opportunity to earn their

own money, they also gain recognition and have a say in family life. Higher incomes and active involvement of women form the basis for overcoming poverty.

Daniel Ott Fröhlicher,
Programme Manager



WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

200 francs will pay the annual wages for a literacy teacher in Chad, for example. A wheelbarrow that a woman uses to carry the compost onto the field or to bring in the harvest costs 50 francs.



The disappearance of some jobs is welcome news

What society can afford to do without half of its members? None! Real development will only happen if there is gender equality. Therefore, SWISSAID is focusing on promoting women and helping to get rid of jobs which are particularly hostile to women.

AT A GLANCE

Current projects at the end of 2017	14
Approved projects in 2017	8
Funds disbursed (CHF)	1,348,556
People benefiting directly	19,528

“What did you do that made your husband knock you about like that?” That is the sort of thing that women in Guinea-Bissau hear when they pluck up the courage, usually after years of distress, to report their abusers to the police. The victims only have two choices. Either they go back to live with their parents or they put up with their husband. Help is urgently needed here.

SWISSAID initially conducted a survey to gauge the scale of the issue of violence against women. The main

forms of violence identified by the people surveyed:

- Forced marriage of children
- Female genital mutilation
- Domestic violence

You can put anything you want on paper

Women traditionally have no voice in Guinea-Bissau. At least parliament passed legislation banning female genital mutilation in 2011 and domestic violence in 2014. Having said that, oppression and violence against women are deeply rooted in society; victims and abusers come from all cultural, religious and economic backgrounds.

Therefore, SWISSAID has launched an education project involving 800 men and 800 women

from all walks of life, members of parliament, professors, students, traditional and religious leaders, men from councils of elders in both rural and urban districts, young people, representatives of the authorities, women from political parties and NGOs.

Awareness is raised about the situation through media and in schools, working towards bringing about a change. It is hoped that joint written statements by traditional and religious leaders from several villages working to bring about an end to female genital mutilation and forced marriage will reap dividends. There were six statements signed in 2017.

Civilian society has already notched up one success: discrimination and violence are no longer taboo and are discussed in the media. This is one of the reasons why many circumcisers have given up their jobs. Some have even been convicted.

Frank Haupt, Programme Manager



Peaceful scene in what are frequently violent surroundings.



WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

50 francs will pay for the hire of an amplifier system for information events in neighbourhoods and villages in Guinea-Bissau, for example.



Marriage from hell. The merged corporations are enslaving small-scale farmers.

Photo: Eliane Beerhalter, SWISSAID

Syngenta is definitively Chinese

Celebrating on the backs of the poorest in society: SWISSAID flagged up the dangers of extreme concentration in the agro-business at Syngenta's last Annual General Meeting on 26 June 2017. The "marriage from hell" between ChemChina and Syngenta isn't the

only mega deal. There will soon only be three corporations controlling the global market for seeds and pesticides. Consumers and small-scale farming families in the southern hemisphere will pay the price for this concentration.

Zora Schaad

GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN THE COMMODITIES SECTOR

In June last year, SWISSAID published a report on the activities of the commodities corporation Glencore in Chad. It organised two conferences, one in Berne, involving Glencore and Swiss parliamentarians, and the other in Geneva, in collaboration with the University of Geneva. It focused on the issue of transparency in the commodities sector in Switzerland and the impact of oil production on the population of Chad.

SWISSAID also coordinated a campaign by prominent individuals who wrote an open letter to parliament calling for transparency in the trade in commodities, since discussions are currently ongoing about updating transparency regulations. In this letter, key personalities like Carla del Ponte, Micheline Calmy-Rey or Dick Marty backed this campaign.

Catherine Morand

NO PATENTS ON BEER

If plants and animals are patented, small-scale farming families will lose their free access to seeds. Therefore, SWISSAID has been campaigning hard for a change in the way patents are granted by the European Patent Office. The petition against a beer patent being sought by Heineken and Carlsberg was successful in some respects at least. However, some patents are still being given to conventional breeding and cultivation practices.

URANIUM FROM NIGER

The health impact of uranium mining was the focus of a conference organised by SWISSAID Geneva. Ali Idrissa, head of ROTAB (an organisation supported by FGC and fighting for greater transparency in the commodities sector in Niger), gave a first-hand account of the impact of this exploitation at the event, which was well attended.

70 YEARS OF TRINKET SALES

As they do every year, thousands of schoolchildren went out and about last winter selling the best trinkets of recent years. The children made a significant contribution towards making the world a better place and have helped men, women and children who were not fortunate enough to have been born into more advantageous circumstances. Our sincerest thanks go to all our small development aid workers!





Jeremias Blaser, Head of
the Development
Cooperation Department

How SWISSAID is helping to implement the sustainable development goals

All 193 member states of the United Nations adopted 17 sustainable development goals (SDG) two years ago. These goals, which are also called Agenda 2030, place an obligation upon the international community to play their part in achieving a world which is fairer and which is less impoverished. It is also important that industrialised nations have been called upon for the first time ever to adopt and implement more responsible policies in the areas of trade, climate, health, energy, equality, consumption, protection of the seas, etc.

SWISSAID is actively and vigorously involved in the implementation of some of these goals. SWISSAID is particularly guided by the following SDG in its work:



Goal #1: To end poverty in all its forms everywhere.



Goal #2: To end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



Goal #5: To achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls.



Goal #6: To ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



Goal #13: To take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



Goal #16: To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.



Goal #17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.

These goals are linked and have an impact on each other. They inform both the domestic and foreign policies of the individual states and, more especially, reshape development cooperation.

Together, not alone

How do these goals influence the work that SWISSAID does? Goal #17 provides, for example, that in order to achieve the other 16 goals, there is a need for collaboration between civilian society, the private sector and the state. This also holds true for Switzerland, and SWISSAID is actively involved in this cooperation.

The following project illustrates what Goal #17 means: SWISSAID has entered into a partnership with 14 local communities in the Sahel state of Niger to achieve community participation and transparency in the use of oil revenue. Consequently, greater finances were generated in Niger, for example in the town of Torodi, where revenue rose by 50 percent through greater transparency in the budget process. This cooperation with local communities is a contribution towards Goal #16, which calls for less corruption

and for community involvement in decision-making processes.

Defying the storm

SWISSAID's cooperation with the University of Nicaragua is another example that illustrates the need for partnerships (Goal #17) in order to achieve sustainability goals. Hurricane Nate destroyed half of the corn and bean harvest in the Department of Matagalpa, Nicaragua in October last year. Nevertheless, the farming families who are supported by SWISSAID had sufficient food at their disposal to get by, unlike many other farming families. Studies had been carried out previously with the university on locally adapted seeds, which meant that farmers were able to apply adapted diversification strategies. In addition, measures had to be taken to protect rivers and lakes. Greater resilience to weather extremes is a central requirement of the goal on climate change, Goal #13. Cooperation with academics is pivotal to this.

Digital pest control

SWISSAID is working with ETH Zurich in Tanzania on the second development goal, which is given over to the fight against hunger (Goal #2). Farmers can seek expert advice when their crops are infested with pests using a smartphone app, which is easy to use. They are given scientifically backed proposals for resolving the problem without having to resort to using chemical pesticides. This reduces costs, enables advice to be given promptly and boosts productivity.



The road out of hunger and poverty is long, but working together it can be achieved. Hunger is the world's biggest solvable problem!

Photo: Michael Württemberg, SWISSAID

Experiences applying agroecological approaches and test setups are documented carefully once again. This means that the results are used for entering into dialogue with the Tanzanian government about promoting ecological farming. One of the sub-targets of Goal #2 is to double the productivity and incomes of small-scale farmers without causing damage to existing ecosystems. The cooperation with ETH Zurich represents an important contribution towards Goal #2.

Gender equality

SWISSAID campaigns for equality in India, making an important contribution towards Goal #5. SWISSAID provides support for organisations which look after the victims of domestic violence and which help to prevent this. Cooperation with the "Women's Studies Center" and the "ILS Law College" is central to training police officers, judges, lawyers and nurses in how to deal with victims of domestic violence. The partnership with the ILS culminated in the

development and publication of a practical handbook that has been adopted by the government of the state of Maharashtra. It is now being distributed to all government agencies which deal with domestic violence.

"Everyone has a duty to play their part in achieving a world which is fairer and which is less impoverished."

This handbook is also going to be translated into English so that it can be launched nationwide.

Tackling domestic violence is a central requirement of Goal #5, and the partnership between SWISSAID and the ILS represents an important contribution towards this in India.

Nothing works without coherent policy

Examples have shown that the United Nations development goals can only

be achieved in association with other stakeholders. This means that in developing and emerging countries, the state, private sector and civilian society must be better coordinated and must implement a coherent policy that is consistently geared to the sustainability goals. In terms of domestic policy, this presupposes support for the goals as well as for the stakeholders involved in achieving them. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

For instance, free access to seeds and GM-free agriculture is of vital importance for all small-scale farming families everywhere, at home and abroad. Therefore, SWISSAID is also campaigning for sustainable agricultural trading and strict ecological and social criteria in Switzerland. After all, there is still a lot of work to be done in this area in Switzerland too.

Monika Uhlmann
Head of Finance + Logistics



COMMENTS ON THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

SWISSAID gave the go-ahead to self-help projects worth 12.5m francs in the nine self-help programmes in the southern hemisphere in 2017. In those projects, our offices collaborated with local partner organisations in implementing measures to improve the living conditions of the poorest groups in society. Measured in terms of operating expenditure, 64% of our funds went into the southern hemisphere. 16% of our funds were spent on the information and awareness programme for development policy in the form of campaigns and events on development policy issues. 7% goes on administration.

Our sincere thanks go to our many private donors, both long-standing and those who have recently come on board, as well as to our institutional sponsors. It is only with thanks to their generous donations and contributions that the implementation of the SWISSAID programme for the poorest groups in society in our project countries is possible at all. The SWISSAID programme is funded by the programme contribution from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), income from bequests and trinket sales, as well as from donations. In 2017, this accounted for 56% of our operating revenue and amounted to 10.5 m francs. This solidarity and loyalty encourages us to keep pursuing our goals of improving the living conditions of the people who benefit. We will also focus on enhancing the quality and efficiency of our work by improving our techniques and making our procedures more professional.

The annual accounts for 2017 were compiled in accordance with SWISS GAAP FER, ZEWO and SWISS NPO Code principles. The auditors Balmer-Etienne AG have audited the accounts in accordance with the statutory guidelines and found them to be correct. The audit report and complete annual financial statements are available to download from www.swissaid.ch.

Balance sheet

ASSETS (in CHF)	2017	2016
Cash and cash equivalents	5,811,356	9,181,056
Short-term assets with a stock market price	21,129,419	20,139,674
Other short-term receivables	1,780,349	3,702,543
Inventories	227,536	282,840
Deferred assets	208,675	458,602
Operating assets	29,157,335	33,764,715
Financial assets	276,199	276,035
Tangible assets	1,166,045	1,242,955
Fixed assets	1,442,244	1,518,990
TOTAL ASSETS	30,599,579	35,283,705
LIABILITIES (in CHF)		
Liabilities from deliverables and services	282,063	368,410
Project-related commitments to programmes in the Southern Hemisphere	14,450,388	18,144,959
Accrued expenses and deferred income	29,930	96,159
Short-term provisions	563,953	464,516
Short-term liabilities	15,326,334	19,074,044
Fund for donations ring-fenced for the Southern Hemisphere programme	1,177,467	867,724
Fund for the future	3,000	170,163
Fund for sponsoring an organic farming project	733	300
Fund for sponsoring a water project	500	500
Fund for sponsoring a women's project	12,300	813
SDC fund	0	0
Earmarked funds	1,194,000	1,039,500
SWISSAID programme fund	5,376,381	6,212,488
SWISSAID infrastructure fund	658,598	658,598
Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies	3,012,334	2,674,475
Free capital	5,018,109	5,605,000
Free capital – SWISSAID Geneva	13,823	19,600
Organisation capital	14,079,245	15,170,161
TOTAL LIABILITIES	30,599,579	35,283,705

Photo: Eliane Beerhalter, SWISSAID

Operating accounts

REVENUE (in CHF)	2017	2016
Free donations	6,387,774	6,577,215
Legacies	271,292	796,190
Sale of trinkets	576,253	937,649
Earmarked donations & contributions to projects	2,997,609	2,547,916
Contributions to projects from FEDEVACO	70,318	156,280
Contributions to projects from FGC	137,458	227,019
Proceeds from collections	10,440,704	11,242,268
SDC programme contribution	6,045,000	6,500,000
Project mandates	552,486	3,499,929
Other operating revenue	110,842	82,280
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	17,149,032	21,324,477
EXPENDITURE (in CHF)		
Projects overseas	11,315,549	16,230,059
Funds freed from project settlements	- 654,823	- 2,146,282
Expenditure for programme support	1,832,387	2,066,887
Personnel-related expenditure	1,520,137	1,752,648
Expenditure on materials	312,250	314,239
Expenditure for the overseas programme	12,493,114	16,150,665
Information and public-awareness programme in Switzerland	1,873,505	1,840,761
Expenditure for programme support	1,295,246	1,295,178
Personnel-related expenditure for the domestic programme	1,137,685	1,109,382
Expenditure on materials for the domestic programme	157,560	185,795
Expenditure for the domestic programme	3,168,751	3,135,938
Fundraising and general expenditure on publicity	2,398,569	2,404,226
Administrative expenditure	1,315,387	1,306,620
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	19,375,821	22,997,449
OPERATING RESULT	- 2,226,789	- 1,672,972
Financial earnings (realised)	681,964	281,118
Financial earnings (not realised)	789,155	640,489
Financial expenditure	- 238,270	- 169,670
Financial result	1,232,848	751,937
Expenditure on real estate	- 20,551	- 7,983
Revenue from real estate	73,602	75,948
Non-operating result	53,050	67,965
Other profits carried over from previous periods	4,475	11,921
Result carried over from previous periods	4,475	11,921
RESULT PRIOR TO THE CHANGE IN FUND	- 936,416	- 841,148
Use of ring-fenced funds	11,845,987	11,766,928
Allocation of ring-fenced funds	- 12,000,487	- 11,217,397
Change in free funds	1,090,916	291,617
INCOME CARRIED OVER IN FAVOUR OF PROCESSED FUNDS	0	0

The complete audit report and the annual financial statements with all notes are available to view at www.swissaid.ch.

SWISSAID – At a Glance



Women water the beetroot so it still grows during the dry season.

India, Myanmar, Colombia, Ecuador and Nicaragua).

Our approach

SWISSAID encourages independent initiatives of disadvantaged people in developing countries and cooperates with civil society organisations. We offer support and assist partner organisations on an institutional level. This fosters their independence as well as their ability to influence economic, social and political life.

SWISSAID works in partnership with local experts and only occasionally sends Swiss relief workers to these countries. The projects are therefore more securely established in the local context, which also stimulates job opportunities in Southern hemisphere countries. The set up costs to implement programmes are reduced, while more donations are earmarked for relief projects.

Term of office of executive board members

The term of office of members of the Foundation's Executive Board is four years and members can stand for re-election. Executive Board members are elected for a four-year period, and they can be re-elected for two terms. Extended terms of office can be agreed in well-founded cases.

SWISSAID is a foundation with a charter that is independent of religious or party political affiliations and its head office is in Bern, Switzerland. Since 1948, SWISSAID has worked in Southern hemisphere countries on behalf of disadvantaged people in rural regions. SWISSAID campaigns for the rights of all individuals to live without hunger, poverty and distress. Our guiding principle is the firm belief that injustice and poverty are not inevitable. Our main initiatives are projects to end hunger as well as environmentally sustainable agriculture, equal opportunities,

transparency in commodity trading and support for civil society.

Alongside our work setting up self-help projects in countries in the South, we promote political initiatives in Switzerland in the interests of disadvantaged people in such countries. The sustained improvement of living conditions in the South involves social change in the Northern hemisphere. We actively encourage the knowledge, experience and needs of our partner organisations in nine project countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America (Guinea Bissau, Niger, Chad, Tanzania,

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