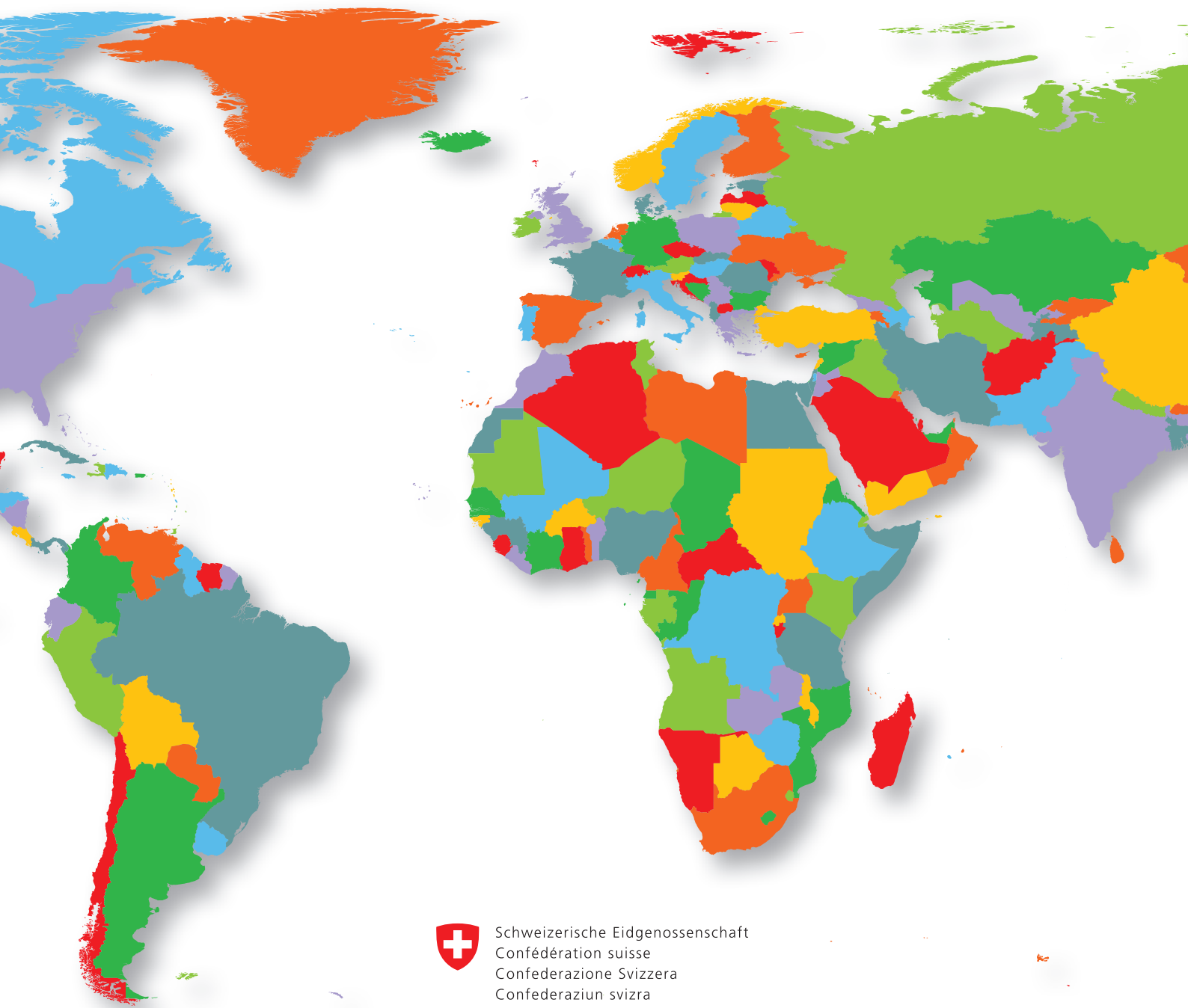


Swiss Federal Council

Millennium Development Goals Progress Report of Switzerland 2010

June 2010



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

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Preface

In the year 2000, UN member countries established eight MDGs¹ to be reached by 2015 with respect to the situation in 1990: 1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (reducing the proportion by half); 2) achieve universal primary education; 3) promote gender equality and empower women; 4) reduce child mortality (reducing by three-fourths); 5) improve maternal health (reducing maternal mortality by two-thirds); 6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; 7) ensure environmental stability; and 8) develop a global partnership for development. This was the first time the international community had committed itself to achieving global development objectives within a specified timeframe.

At the United Nations High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in September 2010, the UN General Assembly will conduct an interim review of progress. The first review took place in 2005. The Federal Council has drafted the present report in preparation for this event. This report is intended for the Swiss public at large, especially education institutions at all levels, for Swiss parliamentarians, for members of the press as well as for a general readership interested in MDG-related topics.

Using specific examples, the report highlights the importance of MDGs for Swiss development cooperation activities. The report also shows how Switzerland, working with national and international partners, has made a considerable contribution towards achievement of each of the eight MDGs. In addition to efforts made by the Swiss Confederation, Swiss Cantons, communes and private charitable institutions, efforts have also been made by Swiss companies and universities.

This report was not written for the purpose of analysing the root causes of poverty or global trends. This task is already handled by the United Nations, the World Bank Group and Regional Development Banks.

On the whole, the focus on MDGs has prompted donor countries to set aside more funding for development cooperation: in 2009, all DAC member countries contributed a record amount of USD 119.6 billion in official development assistance (ODA), which constitutes a real increase of 0.7 % with respect to the previous year. Not only was there a quantitative increase in development cooperation volume, greater

attention was also paid to the effectiveness of development cooperation activities.

In 2010, two-thirds of the way towards the 2015 target date, we find that progress has been mixed. As far as MDG 1, MDG 2, MDG 3 are concerned, there has been significant progress over the past decade in reducing poverty worldwide, in improving access to primary education, in ensuring gender equality in primary school and in improving access to water. Nevertheless, around 1.4 billion people still live in conditions of extreme poverty, half of whom are located in Sub-Saharan Africa. As far as MDG 4 and MDG 5 are concerned, very little progress has been made to reduce child and maternal mortality.

Between 2000 and 2007, the world made good progress on the whole towards achievement of the MDGs. Strong global economic growth, increased and better development assistance and good policies by the governments of developing and emerging countries all contributed to this. Nevertheless, the extent of progress varies not only from one MDG to another but also from one region or country to another.

The effects of the global economic and financial crisis of 2008 and 2009 have jeopardised or even reversed some of the progress made. The UN estimates that at least 50 million more people had to live in extreme poverty in 2009 due to rising prices caused by the "triple F crisis" (food, fuel and financial).

Prerequisites for development of any kind include human security (fewer conflicts), economic growth (sustainable production), functioning state institutions (efficient, sustainable revenues), a flexible society (openness to change) and an intact environment. All of this implies sustainable development for all (i.e. low-carbon development to preserve ecosystems) as well as active efforts to ensure worldwide respect for the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Over the next five years – as well as after 2015 – the international community should intensify its efforts to eliminate the causes of more stagnant or slowed development in many developing countries: armed conflict and/or unstable fragile situations, which create suffering, cripple economic activities and erode progress; poor economic performance, very low innovation and too little investment, which lead to 30–50 % unemployment, underemployment, and

¹ Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

decreased purchasing power in many locations; excessively large, expensive and non-transparent state institutions, which use up local savings in an unproductive manner; inadequate use of state revenues (tax revenues, profits from the extraction and sale of raw materials) for infrastructure or essential services (e.g. education and health), which curtails development; climate change, which forces many LDCs to take costly adaptation measures; the steady outflow of enterprising and educated people from poor countries, which certainly brings positive development benefits in the form of remittances but also deprives the country of origin of individuals who would otherwise be able to improve the economy and the quality of state institutions.

For the period 2013–2016, Switzerland intends to adopt a new strategy for its international cooperation activities. The acceleration of globalisation over the past few years requires an entirely new conceptual framework that goes beyond the mere allocation of ODA funding to poverty reduction. There are rich islands in poor countries and poor islands in rich countries. Rather than focus on which countries are rich and which ones are poor, the aim is to encourage greater participation in globally networked systems for the economy, society, knowledge sharing, standard setting and culture. International cooperation therefore serves the purpose of facilitating the integration of those who are more vulnerable. In addition to devoting our attention to such themes as adaptation to climate change and migration for development, Switzerland's new strategy will address other themes such as: low-carbon urban development; energy- and resource-efficient paths to development; general conditions for industrialisation; finance and insurance; land rights and large-scale agricultural production. In the future, Swiss international cooperation activities will need to carefully combine classical development cooperation (which mainly focuses on poverty reduction) with our ongoing efforts to find solutions to global issues.

Over the next five years, Switzerland will either maintain or increase its commitment to international development cooperation. The current realignment of Swiss development cooperation will involve a more targeted use of resources, efforts to achieve MDGs, efforts to improve aid effectiveness and better measurement of results. The Federal Council wishes to establish greater coherence in Switzerland's international development cooperation activities. Through the Interdepartmental Committee for Development and Cooperation (IKEZ), Switzerland has already taken steps to increase the effectiveness of the IKEZ and thereby improve the coherence of Switzerland's position. The already close cooperation with civil society will continue. Consultations with Swiss multinationals are currently underway to, among other things, establish closer working ties and make better use of the knowledge and experience of multinationals in development cooperation and achievement of the MDGs. Switzerland also has stated its willingness to work with multilateral institutions (e.g. the WTO, the UN, the World Bank or regional development banks) and the international community to develop global rules and standards that will improve the development prospects of poorer countries.

This year, the global economy has once again stabilised. Even the poorest countries in Africa have recorded renewed economic growth. The UN believes that the MDGs can still be achieved by 2015, provided all of the state and private actors in both industrialised and developing countries take their responsibilities seriously. Switzerland intends to assume its share of responsibility. This means that all SDC and SECO field workers will need to align their programmes and projects towards even better and more effective achievement of the MDGs. At the same time, all development partners in the southern and northern hemisphere will have to work to create the conditions needed to facilitate achievement of the MDGs and overcome obstacles that slow development or impede progress towards the MDGs.

Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals

During the United Nations Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000, the international community adopted the Millennium Declaration reflecting a general consensus to rid the world of poverty, discrimination, and violence. This declaration also expresses a shared vision on how to achieve this. According to this adopted declaration, globalisation should become a positive force for all mankind. It should enable the right to development to be realised and extreme poverty to be eradicated. It should also ensure a sustainable interaction with nature and

promote democracy. Finally, it should strengthen the rule of law, uphold human rights and protect peace, thus making the world a safer place. Along this line, both developing and industrialised countries consider the resolution of development problems to be a joint responsibility.

In order to implement the Millennium Declaration, the following eight ambitious Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established:

| Millennium Development Goals | |
|------------------------------|---|
| MDG 1 | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day • Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people • Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger |
| MDG 2 | Achieve universal primary education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling |
| MDG 3 | Promote gender equality and empower women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015 |
| MDG 4 | Reduce child mortality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate |
| MDG 5 | Improve maternal health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate • Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health |
| MDG 6 | Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS • Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it • Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases |
| MDG 7 | Ensure environmental sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources • Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss • Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation • By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers |
| MDG 8 | Develop a global partnership for development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system • Address the special needs of the least developed countries • Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states |

- Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies.

United Nations, 2008

The MDGs are interconnected and mutually reinforcing goals that set the common agenda for poverty reduction and sustainable development. In this respect, MDG 8 (partnership for development, non-discriminatory trading and financial system, long-term sustainable cancellation of debt, affordable prices for medicines, transfer of technology, etc.) sets out the economic requirements for achievement of MDGs 1 to 7.

The international community also recognises that these eight goals are only within reach where respect is shown for the principles of democracy and the rule

of law, where violent conflicts are prevented or durably solved, and where humanitarian operations are coordinated with long-term development efforts. This effectively enables the population and the private sector to use more of their resources for economic development and enables governments to provide public services. Countries affected by disasters, conflict and fragility are less likely to achieve the MDGs. Such countries require specific attention in order to prevent them from stepping backwards and negatively influencing progress in more stable neighbouring countries.

Progress from a UN standpoint

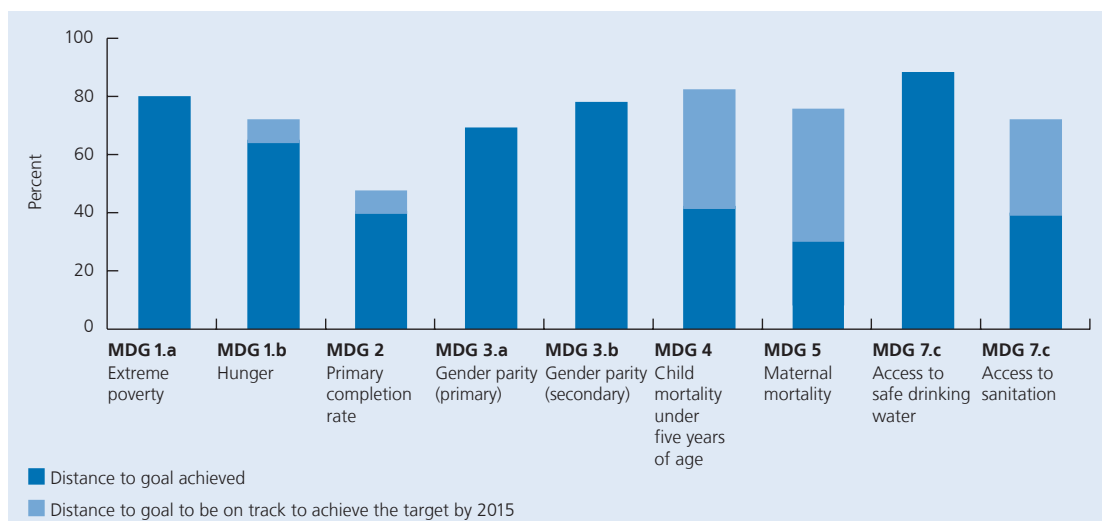
Annual UN reports provide information on progress being made towards the MDGs. According to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2009², many countries have made remarkable advances in combating extreme poverty and hunger, improving school enrolment and child health, expanding access to clean water and HIV treatment, and controlling malaria and tuberculosis.

The economic crisis of 2008 and 2009 could jeopardise this progress, however. The effects of climate change are also increasingly threatening achievement of the MDGs. With five years to go to the MDG target of 2015, the prospect of falling short of the important promise made to the world's vulnerable people is real. Several of the MDGs are likely to be missed in many countries³.

² UN (2009), The Millennium Development Goals report 2009; New York. Link: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202009%20ENG.pdf>

³ Global Monitoring Report 2010, The MDGs after the Crisis, World Bank, 2010

Serious global shortfalls loom for the human development (MDGs)



Source: Staff calculations based on World Development Indicators database
 Note: Based on available data as of 2009, which can range from 2005 to 2009

The table below provides an overview of ten years of advances and setbacks for each MDG:

| Millennium Development Goals: Advances and setbacks | |
|--|---|
| MDG 1 | Major advances have been made in eradicating extreme poverty and fighting hunger. Compared to almost half (or 1.8 billion people) in 1990, those living in extreme poverty in the developing regions accounted for slightly more than a quarter of the developing world's population (or 1.4 billion) in 2005. However, progress is likely to have stalled, and accelerated progress is needed to meet the 2015 targets: In 2009, an estimated 55 to 90 million more people will be living in extreme poverty than anticipated before the global financial crisis. While the proportion of undernourished people dropped from about 20 % in the early 1990s to about 16 % in 2006, hunger is now on the rise again – largely due to escalating food prices. According to FAO, more than 1 billion human beings – that is one in six – were victims of hunger in 2009. |
| MDG 2 | The world is edging closer to universal primary education, but too slowly to meet the 2015 target. In the developing world as a whole, enrolment in primary education reached 88 % in 2007, up from 83 % in 2000. Most of the progress was in regions lagging the furthest behind, i. e. Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Still, more than 10 % of primary school age children (or 72 million), mainly children from poor communities and girls, but also ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities, are out of school. |
| MDG 3 | Far more women continue to be out of the labour market than men are. The share of women in paid employment outside the agricultural sector has increased only marginally over the years, and the global crisis is creating new hurdles, thus holding back progress towards gender equality. While recent data show that the rate of increase of men's unemployment is slowing, women's unemployment in 2009 could reach between 6.5 to 7.4% or an additional 10 to 22 million women out of work, and is likely to continue increasing at a rapid pace. Women's political representation is slowly growing, with Latin America and the Caribbean leading the way among developing regions. |
| MDG 4 | Many countries are implementing proven strategies to combat malaria and measles, two major causes of child deaths. For this and other reasons, deaths of children under five declined steadily worldwide – to around 9 million in 2007, down from 12.6 million in 1990, despite population growth. However, meagre progress on child nutrition from 1990 to 2007 is insufficient to meet the 2015 goal. Moreover, progress is likely to have been eroded by high food prices and economic turmoil. More than one quarter of children in developing regions are underweight for their age, stunting their prospects for survival, growth and long-term development, especially in Southern Asia. |
| MDG 5 | Despite increases in contraceptive use in all regions, the gap between women's desire to delay or avoid having children and their actual use of contraception remains moderate to high in most of them. Moreover, negligible progress has been made towards improving maternal health in the developing world as a whole. Fewer than half of pregnant women in developing countries have the benefit of adequate prenatal care to prevent, detect and treat health problems. Consequently, an estimated 536,000 women and girls die every year because of complications during pregnancy and childbirth, 99 % of which occur in developing countries. Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia account for 85 % of all maternal deaths. The risks are high for both mother and child when pregnancy occurs at too young an age. |
| MDG 6 | Worldwide, new HIV infections and AIDS deaths have peaked and are now declining. This is partly due to increased access to antiretroviral drugs in poorer countries. In 2007, 33 million people were still living with HIV, two thirds of which in Sub-Saharan Africa, most of whom were women. In 2007, an estimated 15 million children worldwide had lost one or both parents to AIDS; nearly 12 million of them lived in Sub-Saharan Africa. Major progress has been made in the fight against malaria in recent years, due in large part to increased funding and focus on malaria control, such as the use of insecticide-treated bed nets. Nevertheless, nearly a million children still die each year from malaria, mostly young children in Sub-Saharan Africa. |
| MDG 7 | The global environment remains fragile, with deforestation and the extinction of species proceeding at alarming rates, and a global water crisis looming. A continued rise in greenhouse gas emissions is another reminder of the urgency of the climate change problem. At the present rate of progress, the 2015 sanitation target will be missed. While 1.1 billion people in the developing world gained access to sanitation between 1990 and 2006, an additional 1.4 billion people were still doing without, with all its attendant consequences for the health |

of communities and the local environment. That said, the world is well on its way to meeting the target for safe drinking water, though some countries still face enormous challenges. 884 million people, predominantly in rural areas, still rely on unimproved water sources for their drinking, cooking, bathing and other domestic activities.

MDG 8 Net disbursements of official development assistance in 2008 increased 0.7 % to USD 119.8 billion, the highest dollar figure ever recorded. In 2005, donors committed to increasing aid in 2010 to USD 130 billion. However, with most economies in recession, fulfilment of those commitments is unlikely to be achieved. Export revenues of developing countries have nearly doubled since 2003, giving countries more resources with which to service their external debt.

In February 2010 UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released a report entitled "Keeping the Promise..."⁴ in which he urged the international community to do everything in its power to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

⁴ "Keeping the promise: a forward-looking review to promote and agreed action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015", Report of the Secretary-General, 12 February 2010, A/64/665

The importance of MDGs for Switzerland

Article 54 paragraph 2 of the Swiss Federal Constitution states: "The Confederation shall ensure that the independence of Switzerland and its welfare are safeguarded; it shall in particular assist in the alleviation of need and of poverty in the world and promote respect for human rights and democracy, the peaceful coexistence of peoples as well as the conservation of natural resources". This reflects the content of the Millennium Development Goals fairly accurately.

With its strong global economic network, Switzerland wishes to contribute to sustainable economic, social and environmental development worldwide. Swiss development cooperation activities are mainly centred on poverty reduction and other problems such as adaptation to climate change. Switzerland's development policy reconciles ethical motives with the country's legitimate long-term interests in securing a future of peace and security. Switzerland's prosperity is very much linked to world prosperity. When providing lifesaving humanitarian aid in emergency situations, Switzerland adheres to fundamental values of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. The MDGs are another measure of the success of Swiss development cooperation and humanitarian aid efforts.

Since proclamation of the Millennium Declaration in the year 2000, Switzerland has increased its Official Development Assistance (ODA) from 0.34 % of GNI (2008) to 0.47 % of GNI (2009), or just under CHF 2.5 billion (including migrants-related costs/debt relief). Switzerland has also focused its development cooperation activities on a smaller number of countries and aligned these activities more specifically along MDG lines. Swiss programmes and projects are also now more results-based.

The alignment of Swiss development cooperation activities towards achievement of the MDGs was expressed in two Federal Council Dispatches: the Federal Council Dispatch on the continuation of technical cooperation and funding for developing countries (relating to SDC activities); and the Federal Council Dispatch on the funding of economic and trade policy measures in the area of development cooperation (relating to SECO activities). While achievement of the MDGs is explicitly mentioned as one of the three priorities⁵ of Swiss bilateral and multilateral development cooperation activities, the other two priorities also contribute to this endeavour:

⁵ MDGs also serve as the frame of reference for Swiss cooperation with Eastern Europe and the CIS

**Switzerland's priorities
(Federal Council Dispatch⁶)**

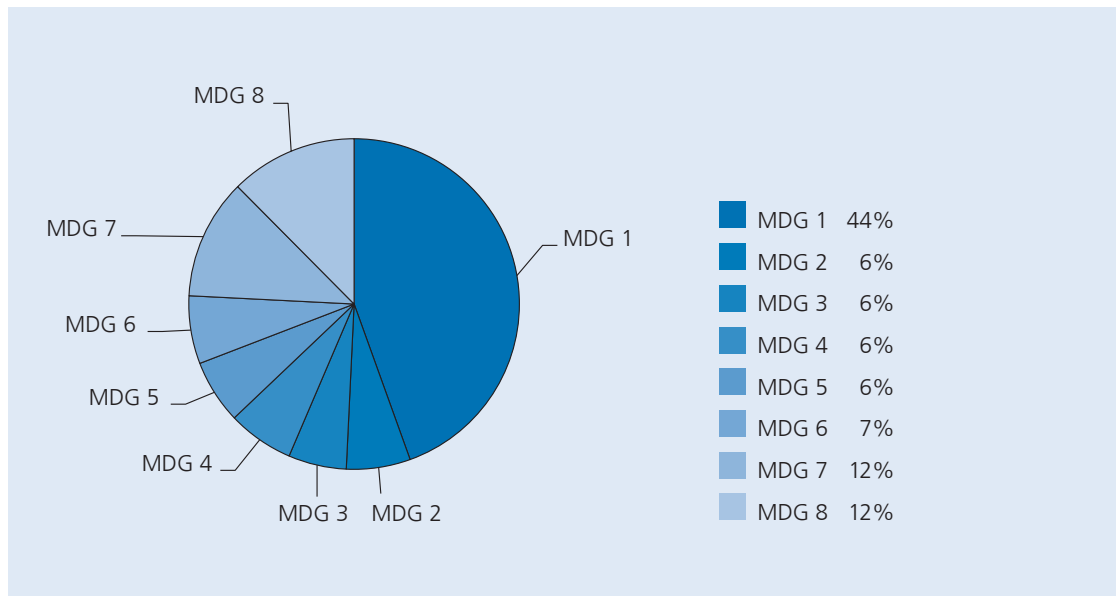
1. Achieve the Millennium Development Goals – reduce poverty
2. Promote human security and reduce security risks
3. Shape globalisation so that it promotes development

Various federal agencies work together at bilateral and multilateral levels to achieve the MDGs, specifically the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), which works through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Political Affairs Division IV: Human Security and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), which works through its Economic Cooperation and Development Division. The international divisions of other federal agencies are also involved.

The SDC devotes roughly half of its MDG-related expenditure to achievement of MDG 1 and one-fourth to achievement of MDG 7 and MDG 8, which are also priorities for SECO. The remaining one-fourth is allocated to achievement of the other five MDGs. SECO has committed itself to environmental, trade and finance issues as well as debt relief.

The influence that Switzerland has had towards achievement of the MDGs goes beyond official development aid (ODA). According to World Bank estimates, remittances in 2008 from foreign nationals living in Switzerland to their countries of origin amounted to about CHF 19 billion. Most of these remittances went to Eastern Europe and the Balkans. In addition, Switzerland's private sector is comprised of major multinationals that provide considerable sums to other countries in the form of foreign direct investment (FDI). Nearly all of the major multinationals domiciled in Switzerland are active participants in the UN Global Compact⁷, where they have committed themselves to upholding international standards, human rights, social rights, environmental standards and anti-corruption principles. The Swiss National Bank⁸ estimates that of the total of CHF 808.6 billion in FDI, 15.2% flows to emerging and developing countries and about CHF 2 billion to the 49 least developed countries (LDCs). These capital flows generate jobs, income and a tax base in recipient countries. Provided that good governance principles are in place, FDI effectively contributes to achievement of the MDGs.

Breakdown of SDC programmes and projects by MDG (in %) Average 2005–2009



Source: SDC statistical database

⁶ Federal Council Dispatch on the continuation of technical cooperation and funding for developing countries, 14 March 2008, p. 2975.

⁷ www.unglobalcompact.org

⁸ Swiss National Bank, Monthly Statistical Bulletin, S1₂ Swiss direct investment abroad – capital stock – by geographical zone

Coherence for development

MDG 8 makes industrialised countries responsible for development policy coherence. Development cooperation is only one of the external factors affecting a developing country – and in most cases, it is not even the most important one. All foreign relations of a country such as Switzerland have an impact on the overall quality of sustainable development (social, economic, environmental). Relations that are as coherent as possible between Switzerland and developing countries will make it easier to achieve the MDGs. In order to increase the efficacy and therefore also the value of every Swiss franc pledged for development, Switzerland has been endeavouring to establish a foreign policy that is as coherent as possible. We must avoid a situation where Swiss development cooperation helps reduce poverty in some areas but Swiss policies in other areas actually increase it. This is why development issues must be taken into account in the decision-making process in the following areas: the environment, agriculture, fisheries, the economy and finance, trade, intellectual property, migration, security, energy, science and technology. In this respect, Switzerland can rely, among other things, on established interdepartmental committees and mechanisms such as the Interdepartmental Committee for Development and Cooperation (IKEZ) or the Interdepartmental Committee for Sustainable Development (IDANE).

The road to coherence for development is not always paved with win-win solutions. It is only logical for there to be conflicting interests. The interests of financial centres in the northern hemisphere are not always in line with the interests of certain developing countries. Patent protection for pharmaceutical products or other products does not serve the short-term interests of aspiring industries in developing countries. The interests of European farmers are often at odds with the interests of farmers in the southern hemisphere. There is no such thing as perfect coherence, including in Switzerland. It is an objective that we need to pursue on a daily basis. The Swiss policy-making system has various tools and mechanisms at its disposal to ensure greater policy coherence. For one thing, interdepartmental consulting and reporting processes have been established within the Federal Administration to enable the various federal agencies to coordinate their respective policies. Existing policy differences can then be identified and eliminated. The Federal Council is therefore able to base its decisions on all relevant policy aspects. In addition, interdepartmental working groups comprised of representatives from various federal agencies coordinate activities relating to areas of common interest. While there is no independent body to regulate conflicting goals and interests, the Federal Council is responsible for the political balancing of interests. As the “Sustainable Development Strategy: Guidelines and Action Plan 2008–2010” shows, the Federal

Council considers improvement of the coherence of the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development to be a priority objective for the years to come.

Example: Climate and development

A sustainable climate policy can only be established if development policy concerns are also taken into account. Developing countries are the most severely affected by the effects of climate change and need support in switching to a low-emission development path. In the context of Switzerland’s participation in the Copenhagen climate conference, development policy concerns have strongly shaped the negotiating mandate. There is growing consensus that post-Kyoto funding of the new international climate regime after 2012 should be based on higher ODA and the “polluter pays” principle. In this regard, Switzerland observes an internationally recognised principle in the development and climate policy agenda.

Example: Trade and development

According to the latest OECD/DAC Peer Review report on Swiss development cooperation, Switzerland has made progress in recent years towards including trade aspects in its development cooperation activities. In addition to covering other sustainability criteria, bilateral agreements that Switzerland has signed with Peru and Colombia include an article on recognition and protection of biodiversity and traditional knowledge. Through economic cooperation, Switzerland has established a complementary programme to improve institutional and entrepreneurial capacities for sustainable trade in biodiversity products and services.

Example: Energy and development

The Federal Council was guided by environmental and development policy considerations during revision of Swiss petrol tax legislation. Switzerland was the world’s first country to introduce environmental and social standards to promote biofuels. Although administrative hurdles to obtain tax exemption are expected to ease somewhat, the Federal Council will continue to uphold environmental and social standards. In doing so, the Federal Council endorses the development policy principle whereby crops should first and foremost be used to feed humans, then to feed animals and whatever remains may then be used as fuel.

Example: Water and development

As a water reservoir of Europe, Switzerland possesses useful experience in the sustainable management of water resources. In the Interdepartmental Working Group on Sustainable Development (IDANE), the relevant federal agencies establish Switzerland’s position in international conferences and conventions. The SDC’s chairmanship of IDANE ensures that devel-

opment policy aspects are taken into account in this working group and that Switzerland's national and international stance on the various issues remains coherent. This is where very mountainous developing and transition countries (e.g. in the Himalaya-Hindu Kush region, the Andes region or the Central Asian region) come into play.

Example: Sustainable agriculture, food security and development

Switzerland actively lends support to the standardisation of sustainability criteria in relation to biomass. It supports the G8's Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP), the Secretariat of which is coordinated by the FAO. Within the GBEP framework, Switzerland exchanges and discusses information regarding the worldwide sustainable use of biofuels. It also provides support to the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB), an international initiative launched by the Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL). The RSB initiative is intended to enable all interested parties to establish common criteria for the sustainable production and use of biofuels.

Example: Migration and development

In recent years, globalisation has greatly facilitated international trade in goods and services. There has not been a concomitant effect as far as the movement of people is concerned. Free movement of persons has been limited to specific geographical areas (e.g. EU, ECOWAS). Major restrictions have been placed on entry of nationals from developing countries to rich countries, especially in the Euro zone. It is very difficult to manage migration flows worldwide for the benefit of all countries (countries of origin, transit and destination), for the benefit of the mi-

grants themselves as well as in the interests of furthering development. The SDC contributes to discussion of this issue at the interdepartmental level by combining development perspectives with the notion of shared responsibility and benefits. It provides funding for structural aid projects to help local populations and works to strengthen the capacities of the authorities in countries of origin and transit so that they may better manage the problems associated with migration. At the international level, the SDC seeks to draw greater attention to the need for institutional coherence in the area of migration policies. It also encourages partners to consider the impact that migration policies have on development.

Example: Human rights and development

Poverty prevents people from satisfying fundamental needs that are defined in international agreements and addressed in commitments made by most countries. If we consider this fact, we find that development cooperation and respect for human rights are very closely linked. Poverty is a human rights violation. Donor countries such as Switzerland all agree that defending human rights should be an essential aspect of development cooperation. Human rights enable development practitioners to focus their poverty reduction efforts on specific objectives such as reducing social, political and economic exclusion and promoting social justice. Switzerland takes these aspects into account in its human rights-based approach. Poverty reduction invariably involves two pursuits: 1) recognising the rights of the poorest population segments and helping them to play a more active role as citizens; 2) lending support to government authorities so that they can uphold and safeguard human rights more effectively.

Switzerland's contribution to achievement of the MDGs

MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

We live in a time when 6.8 billion people claim the right to high-quality nutrition, dignified living standards and comfortable transport. Poverty reduction is the core task and overarching goal of bilateral and multilateral development cooperation. Poverty can take many different forms. The most important symptom of poverty is not having enough money for sufficient food and medicines, extreme underemployment of young people, high infant mortality, no access to co-determination, power or influence, a fear for the future, the inability to choose one's livelihood from among a range of dignified options. MDG 1 deals with the material aspects of poverty. According to the World Bank's "dollar-a-day" international poverty line, revised in 2008 to USD 1.25 a day (in 2005 prices), there were still 1.4 billion people living in extreme poverty in 2005 (1.8 billion in 1990). According to FAO, more than 1 billion human beings – or one in six – are victims of hunger, a historic high. Of these, the majority live in rural areas and carry out farming activities as their main occupation and do so for subsistence. In addition to these small families of farmers and herders, there are also landless peasants in rural regions who are exposed to the risks of poverty and hunger. Finally, there are also the urban poor, single mothers and children.

During the period under review, the global economic and financial crisis has followed and aggravated the impact of the fuel and food crisis, which had already dramatically affected food-insecure populations in developing countries. As a consequence, already vulnerable segments of the world's population have been drawn into extreme poverty and hunger. Against this backdrop, there has been a noticeable shift of international attention towards improving food security at all levels. Switzerland has consistently supported calls for greater commitment to food security as well as greater international coordination and governance through the creation of a Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, among other things.

Over the past decade, Switzerland's development contribution in southern hemisphere countries was mainly devoted to poverty reduction. In this process, the best possible combination of instruments was used to implement these policies in accordance with the category to which the given country belonged

(e.g. unstable countries such as Niger, stable countries such as Tanzania, resource-rich countries such as the DRC, resource-poor countries such as Burkina Faso, etc.). The SDC focuses on its bilateral programmes with 12 (LDC) priority countries and its 6 special programmes in fragile regions. For its part, SECO focuses on 7 more economically advanced countries that are nevertheless struggling with poverty. In addition, the SDC provides humanitarian aid to crisis zones. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is Switzerland's most important partner organisation when it comes to providing food to the most vulnerable population segments. Numerous non-governmental, Swiss and local organisations are also involved in this. As a "co-owner" of multilateral organisations, Switzerland is able to make its voice heard in the World Bank, in regional development banks and in the UNDP. This ensures that these organisations maintain or increase their focus on poverty reduction.

Agriculture and MDG 1

In recent years, Switzerland has continued to devote a substantial share of its ODA to agriculture. Indeed, as assessed by the World Bank, support for agriculture and rural development growth in developing countries is at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as support for growth originating outside agriculture.

In its bilateral cooperation activities in the poorest countries – where it often works closely with local CSOs and smallholder farmers – Switzerland facilitates the transfer of knowledge on sustainable management of natural resources, improved access to credit, drought-resistant seeds, and the establishment of local food markets. In East Africa, Switzerland launched maize and bean programmes that have provided greater food and income to over 500,000 farming families; in Bolivia, Switzerland created the world's largest national gene bank for potatoes and quinoa, containing over 2,500 varieties of each; in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the annual cabbage crop yield has increased by almost 40% thanks to integrated pest control, which has enabled this crop to meet the needs of 1.7 million people. Whenever possible, Switzerland seeks to involve the local population in the implementation of projects. This was the case, for instance, in Bolivia

and Vietnam. Important multilateral partners include the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as well as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) with its associated research centres such as the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines, the International Potato Centre (CIP) in Peru and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Kenya.

Gardens to ensure food security in Niger

Working through the local NGO "Action for Sustainable Development", which works to provide food security for the poorest population groups, SWISSAID provides 59 women's groups in the south of Niger with seeds and continuing training courses. Using a simple irrigation system to water their fields, these women are able to sow millet and grow tomatoes, squash and onions. This enables some 1,500 people to maintain a balanced nutrition even in difficult times. Surplus produce is then sold on the local market. With the additional income, the women are able to pay for their children's basic education. The positive experiences have helped to instil greater self-confidence.

In the area of food security, the Federal Administration works with Swiss and international institutes specialised in agricultural research and the private sector. Among other things, these partners work to develop global standards and methods to maintain soil fertility, water-conserving cropping systems as well as criteria for the sustainable production of bio-fuels. Moreover, discussions have taken place with Swiss investors to encourage sustainable agricultural investment in developing countries. The SDC's Global Programme Food Security (GPFS) also works with FAO and the World Bank to develop regulations such as those ensuring access to land.

Potato Boom in Mongolia

Switzerland has initiated partnerships supporting the national potato sector in various countries such as Nepal, Mongolia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Bhutan, where potatoes are a national staple. A partnership was launched in 2004 to revitalise the Mongolian potato sector, which had broken down following the country's transition to a market economy. Working with a broad range of local stakeholders, and linking them up to international expertise and countries with comparable ecosystems, the initial focus was on producing healthy seed stocks and testing new varieties. In 2007, Mongolia boasted 500 tonnes of basic seeds of three new varieties. In farmer fields,

the potato yield was about 90 % higher than with conventional seed. Potato production is expected to increase to 25,000 tonnes by 2010. This will be enough to satisfy the needs of 500,000 consumers, thus contributing to improved food security and income generation.

Economic growth and MDG 1

Economies that are oriented towards growth and the division of labour invariably lead to a lasting reduction of poverty levels. Moreover, growth that includes the poor (i. e. pro-poor growth) opens up opportunities for economic, social and cultural development of the population. It also helps to close economic disparities between countries. In the long term, the dependency of partner countries on foreign aid can be reduced in this manner.

Swiss development cooperation activities are therefore based on helping partner countries to gradually become part of the world economy and experience sustainable economic growth. This should contribute to the long-term reduction of poverty. Priorities for development cooperation remain the improvement of general economic conditions, the promotion of competitiveness and the diversification of trade as well as the marshalling of domestic and foreign investments.

Creating jobs with venture capital for small and medium-sized enterprises

Swiss development cooperation also promotes the development of the private sector in the many countries where it is active. It supports, for instance, the Small Enterprise Assistance Fund (SEAF), a fund which provides venture capital to small and medium-sized enterprises. In 2007, this fund published a study on the effects of the allocation of capital on the development of investments made in 50 companies in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Latin America. The study came to a series of interesting conclusions, namely with regard to the effectiveness of investments made by Switzerland, over and above its effects upon the companies themselves. For every USD 1 that is invested, an average of USD 12 are generated within the local economy. The annual job creation rate in companies where investments are made stands at 25 %. Low-skilled workers took up 72 % of these new jobs. The annual increase in earnings in real terms was 26 % during the period of investment.

According to the World Bank's Global Monitoring Report 2009, up to 80 % of MDG 1 will have been achieved by 2015. Over the past few years extreme poverty has fallen from 1.8 billion (1990) to 1.4 billion

(2005). However, most of the poverty reduction occurred in emerging countries such as China and India. In numerous countries in Africa and Central Asia, however, poverty reduction was cancelled out or even reversed by the effects of the economic crisis and population growth. Today, 1.4 billion people still live in extreme poverty and 51% of them reside in Sub-Saharan Africa. If Switzerland is to contribute to achievement of MDG 1 by 2015, more Swiss aid fund-

ing will need to be channelled to sustainable agricultural production and improved world governance in the area of agriculture and food security. Special attention should also be given to reform of the FAO's Committee on World Food Security as well as to innovative forms of funding, especially from the private sector. This should lead to greater income for the poorest and ensure sustainable agricultural production.

MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

We live in a time when 6.8 billion people need access to adequate education. The schooling of all boys and girls is first and foremost a duty of the state, even in developing countries. Donors support the relevant ministries in this respect. Since 2005, Switzerland has gradually increased its commitment to primary school education and, more broadly, to basic formal and non-formal education as well as to vocational education and training (VET). Basic education is one of the SDC's top ten priorities, as expressed in the Federal Council Dispatch on the continuation of technical cooperation and financial assistance for developing countries for 2008–2012. This policy paper was adopted by the Federal Parliament in 2008.

Education for all in Bhutan and Niger

Bhutan, where Switzerland has been one of the major bilateral donors to education since 1987, is on track to reach MDG 2. In 2007, the net enrolment ratio was close to 90%; 92.4% of students entering grade 1 completed primary education; gender parity is almost realised (49.7% in 2008). The country has also seen major progress in increasing the quality of education (lower student/teacher ratios, better-trained teachers, environments that are more conducive to learning, improved curricula, new assessment systems, etc.). In Niger, Switzerland has helped to increase the number of girls in school from less than 20% to over 65% within three years. 40% of the 700 young people who receive alternative tuition are girls. Thanks to this, they can participate in the social and economic life of their community. This serves to enhance the feelings of self-worth and self-confidence of boys and girls alike, which also decreases the prevalence of early marriages and juvenile delinquency.

Swiss contributions to education reform in poor countries

Swiss debt alleviation and general budget support (i. e. money given to support partner country government spending under certain circumstances) have helped increase national spending on education in recipient countries. In addition, expanded bilateral programmes (notably in Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Bhutan, Mali, Niger, Chad and Serbia) support education system reforms. Since the quality of teaching is essential in ensuring the quality of education, emphasis is also placed on providing basic and continuing training to teachers. In Serbia, Switzerland is supporting the design and implementation of a new in-service teacher development and training system that allows for the in-service training of around 10,000 teachers per year. To ensure sustainability, education system reforms are generally supported for at least 10 years. Once this period of time has elapsed, full responsibility is handed over to local partners.

Sectoral support to education in Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, Switzerland is committed to achieving the following:

- Improving the relevance and quality of education systems, and more specifically of nonformal education;
- Strengthening education funding mechanisms and establishing synergies between basic education and vocational education and training (VET);
- Strengthening the roles of the various education participants to ensure the continued existence of the nonformal education system, with a special focus on young people aged 9 to 14.

Since the creation of the National Fund for Non-formal Literacy (Fonds National pour l'Alphabétisation Non Formelle – FONAEF) in 2002, FONAEF has received over CHF 50 million. In terms of results, it has contributed over 12 % of total national funding allocated to literacy. Since 2002, around 500,000 people have gained basic literacy skills, 57 % of whom were women.

Demand for literacy instructors has increased by 232 %. The number of students enrolled in literacy courses has increased from 42,000 to 312,000. FONAEF's activities have led to the creation of over 45,000 jobs, almost entirely based in rural areas (37,000 team leaders and trainers, over 6,000 supervisors and close to 1,700 coordinators). Despite this success, 35 % of children in Burkina Faso still do not have access to education.

Swiss contribution to inclusive education

"Inclusive" means all children, both girls and boys, can attend. In paying close attention to equity issues and inclusive education, Swiss support furthermore focuses on the specific needs of children and youth who have dropped out of school as well as on the specific needs of adults who were denied the right to education during their childhood. In countries such as Burkina Faso, where the poorest and most disadvantaged groups represent the majority of the population, Switzerland supports specific measures and incentives (e.g. for nomadic people, working children, and ethno-linguistic minorities) to encourage education systems to become more inclusive and gender equal. To increase enrolment, Switzerland sponsors partnerships between NGOs and governments. It also promotes decentralisation of education systems and government activities. In Bangladesh, Swiss support has helped to provide more than 2.5 million children, youth and adults with the opportunity to complete a full cycle of basic education, which in turn enables them to acquire job skills or start income-generating activities. Switzerland also supports regional initiatives such as the Roma Education Fund in Eastern Europe, which in 2008 alone contributed to improved educational outcomes of 30,000 Roma students (thanks to better proficiency in the language of instruction, social skills, etc.). Swiss support also helped 800 Roma students graduate from university.

Vocational education and training

Many of the Swiss-sponsored programmes to develop the private sector and encourage vocational education and training (VET) exist for the purpose of creating jobs for young people. Depending on the specific context, this was and still is a question of enabling young people to acquire the skills that will allow them to take on an active, recognised social and economic role in their communities. Alongside education, recruitment programmes for young peo-

ple also play an important role. Such programmes are increasingly being implemented by Switzerland in Southern Europe. An example of this is the Youth Employment Project (YEP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where unemployment of young people aged 15 to 24 stands at around 45 %. Launched at the end of 2008, the YEP mainly focuses on young people from rural areas and ethnic minorities.

Reducing unemployment among disadvantaged youths in South Africa

As part of an innovative partnership, Switzerland and 10 Swiss companies founded the SSACI (Swiss South Africa Cooperation Initiative) with the goal of improving employment prospects for disadvantaged youths in South Africa. Since 2001, this project has enabled over 5,000 young people to complete vocational education and training, almost half of whom were girls. In this project, specific sectors were chosen that offered potential for a long-term livelihood, such as bookkeeping, tourism, health care, crafts and agriculture. Thanks to this, today over 80 % of the participants receive an income as self-employed or salaried workers. On the whole, thanks to SSACI support, young people have founded over 400 micro-companies and have created an additional 1,100 jobs.

As part of its multilateral cooperation funding, Switzerland increased its voluntary financial contribution to UNESCO by 50 % for 2005–2010 (compared to its contribution for 2000–2005). Switzerland also continues to fund education through its contributions to UNICEF, the World Bank and regional development banks. In addition, Switzerland contributes to the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (EFA FTI), which has enabled 20 million more children in Sub-Saharan Africa to enrol in school. Fifteen FTI countries are on track to reach the MDG 2 target of 95 % of all children enrolled in primary school by 2015. Girls account for 60 % of all new enrolments in FTI countries.

Achieving universal primary school attendance by 2015 (MDG 2) is an important objective for partner governments. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of children in education has increased from 58 % (1999) to 74 % (2009). However, these access rates mask the lack of quality of a significant portion of official education systems: in countries like Burkina Faso, 50 % of young people between the ages of 17 and 22 received less than two years of schooling and have not acquired any real basic skills. Therefore, in order to properly consider the educational reality, we need to know both the access rates and the completion rates for basic education. Switzerland supports alternative educational experiences and forms of basic education that include the most marginal-

ised groups of children and adolescents; Switzerland is careful to ensure that these experiences are recognised by the government authorities of the partner country and that young people who have undergone alternative education are later able to join the official education system or complete vocational education and training. Existing Swiss support programmes in

the area of primary school and basic education will continue over the next five years. For Switzerland, informal forms of basic education and their links to vocational education and training (VET) are the main focus, together with the rebuilding of schools after natural disasters.

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Over half of the world's population are women. Progress towards MDG3 over the past decade has been modest. Anyone who has worked in the field of development cooperation knows that discrimination against women is one of the most prevalent forms of exclusion worldwide. The unequal distribution of power between men and women, especially the unequal participation in economic life and political decisions, is one of the main causes of poverty. It is also a source of social and political instability. Like other donors, Switzerland therefore ensures that all of its interventions are reviewed with regard to their gender-specific effects (gender mainstreaming⁹). Switzerland also supports specific measures that promote equality between men and women as well as measures that strengthen the role of women in economic, political and social spheres. Switzerland supports institutional processes in which women and men are equally able to express their needs, participate in decisions and widen their opportunities. In this context, the targeted and effective use of financial resources is crucial. The Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) checklist is used to ensure that international cooperation funding is allocated to gender-sensitive approaches. This tool is also used to assess the different effects of interventions on men and women and to adapt funding allocations as needed.

Value creation chains for empowerment

An income promotion programme in Bangladesh aims to reduce poverty through the sustainable use of local resources. According to some estimates, following their integration into professional life, 63% of participating women have been able to improve their family's standing, while 30% improved their position within their community.

By providing programmes for local economic development, Switzerland increasingly supports value chains that broaden earning possibilities for women. However, there is a risk that (time) constraints on women will become even greater since, in addition to their (unpaid) work at home for their families, they will also need to devote a great deal of time to earning a wage. Their wages are often too low to cover their everyday expenses and women rarely have any control over how these wages are spent. Switzerland therefore supports programmes that ease the burden of household and family chores: by improving drinking water and sanitation facilities in Nicaragua, Haiti and Bangladesh; by providing childcare facilities for female bricklayers in Nepal; or by increasing available funding for the education of young women in Peru, Burkina Faso or Niger. Switzerland also supports efforts to promote female politicians as well as institutional processes that promote the participation of women in local political decisions.

However, this alone does not automatically create more gender equality, just as economic growth does not automatically lead to the empowerment of women. Rather, the situation of women is an indicator of development and security, since poor women are generally the ones that are the worst affected by natural disasters, price fluctuations or privatisation of public services. Women provide considerable unpaid overtime work, especially in crisis situations.

Furthermore, by supporting multilateral organisations, Switzerland can make an indirect contribution to gender-equitable development and the self-determination of women all over the world. Examples include: the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, which was established by the UN Economic and Social Council's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) as a means of implementing the Beijing Platform or achieving MDGs; the World Bank's Gender Action Plan; and UNIFEM and UNFPA pro-

⁹ Gender Mainstreaming is the technical term used to refer to the integration of gender perspectives at all levels and areas of a given theme or activity

grammes. To cite one example, UNIFEM's long years of campaigning in Ecuador have ensured that virtually all of the demands made by women in relation to reproductive rights, protection from gender-based violence, equality in the electoral process, labour market rights and education are now enshrined in the national constitution.

Roads can create jobs and incomes

40 % of the incomes earned from the 1.5 million working days devoted to the Swiss road construction project in Nepal went to women. By improving the economic situation of these women, the number of girls in school has increased. Despite this success, further developments must be observed closely, as the work done by the women may have adverse health effects. The money they earn however would not be enough to cover the costs of medical treatment. Therefore, the communities are visited at regular intervals and women are asked about their well-being. Small case studies looking at developments in specific project regions are an important tool to ascertain these changes and make suitable adjustments.

At the international level, many countries (including Switzerland) recognise that full and effective implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is an important precondition for fulfilment of international development objectives,

particularly the MDGs.¹⁰ Our country has made progress towards implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, especially in the areas of education, prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and greater political involvement of women. As part of its multilateral cooperation activities, Switzerland has devoted its efforts to Beijing actions such as "women and poverty", "education and training of women", "women and health", "violence against women", "women in armed conflict" and "women and the economy".

MDG 3 will not be achieved worldwide by 2015. The pace of progress towards this MDG depends to a large extent to which societies are able to embrace change. Developments in the global economy, wars and environmental disasters always cause setbacks that affect gender equality. Women are more severely affected by the consequences of bellicose confrontations and natural disasters than men. They also work under less favourable employment conditions on the labour market. Swiss development cooperation activities focus on combating gender-specific violence, championing the rights of women, especially during crises and natural disasters, as well as on the economic, social and political empowerment of women.

¹⁰ See Report by the Secretary-General on the review of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as the outcome of the 23rd special session and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective in efforts to achieve the MDGs: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/

MDG 4/5: Reduce child mortality and improve maternal health

In 2009, the maternal mortality rate in Switzerland stood at 5 women per 100,000; in Burkina Faso, it stood at 700 per 100,000.¹¹ In order to achieve MDGs 4 and 5, Switzerland gives priority to programmes that seek to improve the health of the poor and most vulnerable population segments, which include both children and mothers. The main avenues through which Switzerland contributes to improved child and maternal health are strengthening of health systems, developing pro-poor health services, empowering communities and users of health services, monitoring of major communicable diseases, and promoting reproductive health and rights. Both bilateral and multi-lateral channels are used to achieve these objectives.

Mothers and children often die because of inadequate health systems. All too often, they are unable to receive the required quality of care at the right time and place. Therefore, Switzerland promotes a comprehensive approach to planning, implementing and monitoring health sector reforms in partner countries. It actively contributes to sector-wide approaches and participates in health sector budgets, for example in Tanzania, Mozambique and Kyrgyzstan. It also supports the better management of health systems, with clear referral systems as well as the decentralised and stronger involvement of civil society.

Switzerland applies a poverty focus in its support to health services, with special attention to vulnerable men, women, youth and children. This includes ensuring that greater access to better quality maternal and child health services is provided at all levels: primary antenatal care; paediatric emergency services;

¹¹ Millennium Development Goals Database, United Nations Statistics Division: <http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=MDG&f=seriesRowID%3A553>

information about spacing of childbirths; neonatal care; equipment and training for doctors, nurses and midwives. Switzerland also works to develop sustainable pro-poor health financing models and delivers health services in humanitarian settings.

Improvement of medical and social care for expectant mothers in Romania, Moldova and the Ukraine

Swiss programmes follow the safe motherhood continuum by improving access to high quality antenatal care and ultrasound diagnosis. At the same time, Swiss programmes encourage prevention at the community and primary care level. Equipment has been modernised; doctors, nurses and midwives have undergone training; national monitoring and evaluation systems have been improved; protocols, guidelines and manuals have been developed and published; the roles and responsibilities at different levels of care have been clarified and communication between these levels has been improved. Various health promotion campaigns have been launched in support of these programmes. In terms of results, between 2000 and 2009, the maternal death rate in Moldavia fell by 37%. During the same period, the neonatal (0–4 weeks of life) mortality rate fell by over 27% thanks to Swiss support given to implementation of the national reproductive health strategy.

Empowering individuals and communities so that they are able to make healthy choices and rational use of health care services remains an important element of Swiss support. Among other things, this entails the following: providing information to women and their partners on how to maintain healthy pregnancies; helping to set up multi-sectoral maternal and child health centres at district level; promoting the testing of iodine in salt; and establishing peer education life skills programmes.

Better chances of survival for children in Rwanda

In Rwanda, thanks to targeted Swiss support in the development of the health system, the under-five mortality rate in several districts decreased by 32% between 2007 and 2009. Interventions included, among other things, improved access to preventive and curative health services. In order to achieve this, Switzerland supported the establishment of health insurance funds, which led to 85% of the population becoming insured and the rate of uptake of health services increasing from 40% in 2000 to 70% in 2007.

The right to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, and improvement of maternal and child health are very important for the development of any society. Switzerland places particular emphasis on gender-specific approaches. In an effort to improve the overall health situation, Switzerland seeks to include reproductive health aspects (e.g. family planning, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and mother and child health) in existing health services. Switzerland also supports comprehensive care for unwanted pregnancies and promotes adolescent sexual and reproductive health prevention in schools as well as the provision of youth friendly health services. Furthermore, it supports efforts to prevent violence against women, including domestic violence and female genital mutilation (FGM). Switzerland has provided targeted funding for awareness campaigns in Burkina Faso, Senegal and Mali¹² on FGM-related health risks. Despite a decline in FGM rates from 98% (in 2000) to 92% (in 2006), the practice still remains widespread in Mali.

Saving lives through family planning

UNFPA carries out targeted advocacy work at the regional and country levels resulting in increased government funding for reproductive health commodities. Thus, in Burkina Faso, the national budget contribution for contraceptives increased from 32% in 2007 to 89% in 2008. In Nicaragua, government funds covered 1% of contraceptives used in 2006, about 10% in 2007, and about 36% in 2008. The “Country Commodity Manager”, a software programme developed by UNFPA, is currently used in 89 countries to help manage and report central warehouse commodity data.

Swiss bilateral cooperation activities include sector programmes, national projects and budgetary support for many countries in the southern hemisphere, in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Swiss multilateral cooperation activities mainly involve contributions to multilateral institutions such as UNFPA, UNAIDS, GFATM, UNICEF, WHO and numerous Swiss and international NGOs such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Reducing child mortality through blanket vaccination campaigns

Reaching children via comprehensive vaccine and vitamin A supplementation campaigns remains cost-effective, as millions of lives are saved and human potential is developed. In 2008, UNICEF and its partners conducted activities in 24 countries and

¹² See “Mali Demographic and Health Survey (EDSM-IV)”, 2006, p. 287

Child Health Days in 50 countries. UNICEF-supported measles campaigns reached 2.9 million children in Niger and about 35 million in Pakistan. A combined measles and rubella initiative immunised every child from 9 months to 14 years old in Lebanon. With support from UNICEF and the WHO, Iraq immunised nearly every child under five against polio.

Over the next five years, Swiss development cooperation activities will focus on helping children to survive

and upholding their rights during armed conflicts and other catastrophes. Certain successes have already been recorded: the under-five mortality rate fell from 12.5 million per year in 1990 to 8.8 million in 2005. Despite these successes, many countries will not be able to achieve MDGs 4 and 5. Resources will need to be pooled in order to accelerate achievement of these goals. Swiss development cooperation activities will continue to be focused on female reproductive health.

MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases

Nowadays, diseases and epidemics are beginning to spread more easily because of greater international mobility. In order to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, Switzerland provides funding to a variety of multilateral institutions, including key players such as the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). By the end of 2009, GFATM-sponsored programmes enabled 2.5 million people to receive antiretroviral medicines against HIV/AIDS; 105 million people gained access to HIV counselling and testing; 4.5 million orphans were given medical and psychosocial support. By providing funding to GFATM and UNAIDS, Switzerland has been able to leverage the resources of these multilateral institutions to prevent 4 million potential deaths over the past five years. Swiss contributions have also served to reduce the mortality rate in countries that are the most severely affected by HIV/AIDS: Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. This, in turn, has also mitigated the excessive strain on health facilities caused by HIV/AIDS. In the fight against tuberculosis, 6 million new cases were diagnosed and treated in good time. In the fight against malaria, a total of 104 million mosquito nets were distributed and 108 million courses of medicinal treatment were dispensed. This corresponds to a twofold increase with respect to 2008.

Thanks to general and sectoral budget aid, Switzerland also supports national programmes to combat the spread of infectious diseases in Tanzania and Mozambique. The systematic integration of this programme into the national health system is now bearing fruit, for instance with falling prevalence rates for HIV/AIDS and increasingly successful treatment for tuberculosis.

Improving the living conditions of children affected by HIV/AIDS in 13 countries in East and Southern Africa

Since 2002, Switzerland has lent support to the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative for Children Affected by AIDS, Poverty and Conflict (REPSSI) – a regional initiative in 13 countries in East and Southern Africa. The aim of the programme is to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, eliminate the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and provide psychosocial support to children affected by HIV/AIDS. To date, at least one million children have been granted access to high-quality psychosocial support thanks to this initiative.

In order to combat malaria, Switzerland has joined the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), which helps to develop and register new medicines to prevent and treat malaria in the most severely affected countries. Coartem® Dispersible, the first artemisinin-based combination treatment (ACT) developed specifically for children suffering from malaria, was introduced as a direct result of cooperation in MMV endeavours. In 2007, the most important public and private institutions committed to combating malaria formed the Swiss Malaria Group to coordinate the various activities of member institutions. Thanks to the use of impregnated mosquito nets, malaria-induced child mortality has dropped by a quarter in Tanzania – meaning that the lives of 40,000 children have been saved each year. Although access to insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets and antimalarials has increased thanks to Swiss commitment to the cause, the global goal is still far from being achieved.

It should be added that over one billion people are exposed to such diseases as lymphatic filariasis, dracunculiasis, tuberculosis and leprosy. If left untreated, these and other diseases are potentially crippling or fatal. Here too, Switzerland backs national intervention programmes to strengthen the health system. It also supports private initiatives aimed at developing effective, safe medicines that are easy to use and can be made widely available to the populations affected. The national tuberculosis and leprosy programmes in Tanzania are two of the most successful control programmes in the world, with 87.7% and 91.7% of successfully treated patients respectively.

MDG 6 is of global importance for the poor and the rich alike because HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis are communicable diseases. The growth of HIV infection rates has slowed down in recent years. In most parts of the world, the number of tuberculosis cases has been falling. Despite many effective interventions by donors and governments, 850,000 people still died of malaria in 2008. Most of these deaths occurred in Africa. Over the next five years, Switzerland intends to maintain the Swiss bilateral health programmes at the very least at current levels and intensify partnerships with the Swiss private sector and other Swiss actors in the health sector.

MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

We live in a time when 6.8 billion people claim the same right to use energy, emit CO₂ and consume raw materials, etc. for their own development. MDG 7 "Ensure environmental stability" differs from MDGs 1–6 in that it is both a standalone and a cross-cutting objective. As such, it needs to be considered in order to achieve the other MDGs 1–6. While MDGs 1–6 are mainly intended to help developing countries, achievement of the qualitative aspects of MDG 7 is a challenge even for Switzerland. The long-term preservation of natural resources is not only an official State objective of the Swiss Confederation (Art. 2 of the Federal Constitution), it is also one of the five priorities of Swiss foreign policy (Art. 54 of the Federal Constitution). Switzerland works both at home and abroad (i.e. at the international level, in developing and emerging countries) to conserve natural resources in an effort to achieve MDG 7.

Global commitment to encourage environmental sustainability

Switzerland has adopted a proactive international environmental policy as a means of achieving the qualitative aspects of MDG 7. Switzerland plays a very active role in international environmental protection organisations, processes and instruments. As a case in point, Switzerland is an active member and one of the largest donors to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Switzerland has ratified all major multilateral environmental agreements and takes part in corresponding bodies to ensure effective implementation and further development of environmental protection objectives.

Switzerland also works at the international level to achieve the cross-cutting aspects of MDG 7. The current international environmental system is characterised by a large number of actors, instruments and processes, with inadequate coordination between them. For this reason, Switzerland has long been at the forefront of efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of international environmental policy institutions and processes. Improvement of international environmental governance will help to ensure environmental sustainability, thereby leading to achievement of MDGs. In a similar vein, Switzerland has launched an initiative to create Global Environmental Goals (GEGs), which should help to harmonise international efforts to protect the environment and achieve MDG 7.

Swiss proposal to establish Global Environmental Goals (GEGs)

The basic idea behind the Swiss proposal is to examine existing international commitments and/or agreements and compile a list of the most important environmental protection objectives. Such a list would serve as an effective means of harmonising international environmental protection efforts. Switzerland's commitment to this idea and its work with like-minded countries prompted UNEP to produce a comprehensive compilation of all important global environmental objectives and commitments. This compilation is very useful when it comes to implementation of MDG 7.

Encouraging environmental sustainability in developing countries

| Switzerland's priorities to strengthen environmental sustainability in developing countries | |
|---|--|
| Water sector | Climate protection |
| Biological diversity in agriculture and natural ecosystems, the most important source of revenue for the poor in developing countries | Sustainability in international trade (support for sustainability standards) Improvement of industrial eco-efficiency |
| Sustainable use and/or recovery of agricultural land and forests | Sustainability of investments (transfer of environmental technology) |
| Waste management | Modernisation of the environmental |

Drinking water, basic sanitation, irrigation and MDG 7

Drinking water is an important area of activity for Switzerland on a regional and global level. The 2008 Report on the Effectiveness of Swiss Development Cooperation in the Water Sector provides impressive figures.¹³ In the water sector, Swiss development programmes in Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Hungary, Mozambique and Niger between 2002 and 2007 enabled at least 1,850,000 people to gain access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation. This programme has helped to make the right to drinking water a reality. Over this same period, the number of poor smallholder farmers with access to irrigation water in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Niger increased at a rate of around 30,000 people per year. This led to substantial improvements in food security and income for these families. Investments in the water sector have a good cost-benefit ratio. A study of ten Swiss water programmes in nine countries showed that for every CHF 1 invested in water, a social and economic benefit (e.g. lower medical expenses or higher agricultural production) of at least CHF 3 to 5 was generated. Many of the locations where Switzerland conducted its activities are very mountainous, which gives Switzerland considerable credibility and the opportunity to bring its own experiences to bear.

Switzerland works closely with various national and multilateral institutions in the water sector. Examples include the SDC's Water Initiatives Section's work with the ETHZ's Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG) and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council in Geneva. These two organisations seek to improve settlement hygiene around the world. Switzerland is also involved in the World Bank's Water Sanitation Project (WSP), where global approaches to water and sanitation problems in the South are developed. The SDC's Water Initiatives Section also works intensively to se-

cure water resources in the Middle East, North Africa and Latin America where water is a source of conflict. Finally, Switzerland is an active member of the Stockholm-based Global Water Partnership, which develops and implements integrated approaches to water management.

Macedonia

Macedonia has limited water resources that are often polluted by industry, agriculture and household wastewater. The building of new wastewater treatment plants and the renovation of existing water supply facilities enable this valuable resource to be better protected. Since the year 2000, CHF 38 million has been allocated to the restoration of urban water supply networks. This has benefited over 200,000 people. For each project, the organisational and financial situation of the water supply company is analysed and improved as needed. This ensures that water supply and treatment facilities can be maintained in the long-term.

Central Asia: better nutrition, fewer conflicts, higher incomes thanks to irrigation

Thanks to the cultivation of vegetables, nutrition has become more varied and healthier. In Tajikistan, farmers have reported a growth in their earnings of 100%, in Uzbekistan of 10–15%. Thanks to more transparent and fairer distribution of water, conflicts between different groups of farmers and between families have dwindled. Time spent waiting for water – up to 10 hours every day – has fallen, as the rationing of water is now clearly regulated.

In all of these interventions, Switzerland has paid particular attention to the links between poverty and the environment. Ideally, environmental projects to achieve MDG 7 should always have a positive impact on the income of the poor, therefore on MDG 1.

¹³ Report on the Effectiveness of Swiss Development Cooperation in the Water Sector, SDC, SECO, Bern, 2008

Switzerland often intervenes in mountainous regions where food security is closely correlated with the considerable potential for agricultural biodiversity.

Economic and environmental added value thanks to collaborative use of forests

The Nepalese-Swiss forestry project aims to achieve sustainable improvements in the living conditions of forest users and disadvantaged families in four of Nepal's poorest districts. Over the past few decades, the project's contribution to the spectacular recovery of forest resources has earned international respect. The surface of community forests has increased by 20 %. Moreover, good woodland with a considerably higher wood volume has replaced overused woodland. So far, community forests in Nepal have generated a total of CHF 10 million in favour of the charitable funds of the cooperatives. Nepal's community forests, which are economically attractive to the poor, are paving the way for future approaches to carbon storage in the forests of developing countries.

Biodiversity and MDG 7

The preservation of global biodiversity remains an important objective. One way to achieve this is to focus on creating sustainable trade in biodiversity products and services from developing countries. Together with UNCTAD and other donors, Switzerland supports bio-trade programmes as well as country programmes in Colombia, Peru, Vietnam and South Africa.

Biodiversity trade: protection through use

Switzerland supports the approach adopted by the Biodiversity Convention. Therefore, since 2002, Switzerland has developed and implemented the concept of "biotrade" in collaboration with UNCTAD: export products are promoted on the basis of local biological resources. At the same time, the sustainable management of the ecosystem is guaranteed. In southern Africa, therefore, products such as the baobab, the marula, or the Kalahari melon have been promoted with local partner Phytotrade and sold on international markets; 85 % of workers involved in the harvesting and production of these products are women. On the whole, over 18,000 people involved benefited from cooperation with Phytotrade and saw their earnings rise by 42 % from 2007 to 2008.

Safeguarding social and environmental sustainability through standards, eco-efficient production and recycling

Due to globalisation, production processes are often distributed between various countries. In addition, products are subject to different economic, environ-

mental and social standards at different points along the supply chain. Switzerland therefore backs the creation and recognition of internationally supported sustainability standards (e.g. for fair trade, organic products, coffee, cotton, soya and cocoa) that take these aspects into account. In this respect, Switzerland supports the strengthening and harmonisation of the various standardisation systems as well as their implementation (capacity building for producers with regard to certification) in developing countries.

Switzerland attaches particular importance to the promotion of eco-efficient industrial production and efficient recycling in developing countries. Together with UNIDO, Switzerland has set up the world's largest network of cleaner production centres to promote the efficient use of energy, water and raw materials in Colombia, Peru, South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Vietnam, India and China. These measures have been taken in support of projects for modern, environmentally friendly and socially responsible recycling of electronic waste, the quantity of which is increasing significantly worldwide, especially in dynamic developing countries.

Sustainable recycling of electronic waste from developing countries

The rapidly increasing penetration of information and telecommunications technology, but also of household appliances, has led to an increasingly high production of electronic waste worldwide. E-waste recycling often takes place in developing countries in the unregulated sector. Due to improper handling, harmful substances such as lead, mercury or dioxins are released, which are harmful to the health of workers and damaging to the environment. Switzerland therefore works to establish modern national recycling systems in dynamic countries such as China, India, South Africa, Peru and Colombia. Producers and traders take responsibility and work with specialised local and international recycling companies. Approved technological and institutional solutions are made accessible to other countries in the southern hemisphere through the international transfer of knowledge within the framework of activities under the Basel Convention and the UN's StEP initiative (Solving the e-waste problem).

Local projects – Global impact on MDG 7

Every successful local project to improve environmental sustainability at the grassroots level contributes to greater environmental sustainability at the international level.

Less CO₂ thanks to improved technology in Asia's brick industry

The brick industry in the emerging markets of Asia poses huge environmental problems. The emission of pollutants from the traditional kilns used to fire the bricks endangers the health of workers and damages agriculture on farms adjacent to production sites. Switzerland is committed to introducing improved technologies in Vietnam, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. In Vietnam alone, thanks to Swiss support around 300 kilns produce 150,000 fewer tonnes of CO₂ per year, which corresponds to 75,000 flights between Europe and Hanoi. The success of the model means that the technology can now be scaled up through direct South-South cooperation.

Global commitment – Local impact on MDG 7

In the climate sector, various federal agencies work closely with Swiss and international partners as well as with various research networks to increase the efficiency of steel production and the manufacture of bricks in India. Another example is cooperation with leading Swiss architects and engineers for energy and resource saving construction in the southern hemisphere. Switzerland also works with UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank to develop new energy saving technologies and standards for small- and medium-sized enterprises in countries like India. Last but not least, Switzerland works to initiate open dialogue with the largest emitters of greenhouse gases such as China or India. In China, a representative from the SDC's GPCC Section works with the authorities of ten Chinese cities to develop legislation and processes that enable urban growth to take place in a more energy efficient manner (mobility, buildings, etc.).

Switzerland helps developing countries achieve MDG 7 through its political and financial commitment to international institutions, especially the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which has funded over 2,400 projects in 165 developing countries since 1991. The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (Ozone Fund) has enabled partnerships to be established between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank. Thanks to these concerted efforts, the use of ozone-depleting substances decreased by 97 % worldwide between 1987 and 2006. Furthermore, Switzerland promotes international environmental research, which will also benefit developing countries. In 2009, Switzerland joined the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. This alliance aims to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases from agriculture, which currently account for around 14 % of all emissions.

Swiss climate policy and MDG 7

Developing countries require more energy for their development. Therefore, it is all the more important for industrialised countries such as Switzerland to reduce their energy consumption and switch to more diversified, safer, more economic and more environmentally sustainable energy sources. Switzerland's total energy consumption continues to rise under the combined effects of economic prosperity and population growth. Compared to other countries, however, Switzerland is relatively on track as far as climate policy is concerned. Swiss emissions of greenhouse gases have decreased slightly overall but significantly so on a per capita basis. Under the terms of the Kyoto Protocol, Switzerland has committed itself to reducing its average greenhouse gas emissions by 8 % between 2008 and 2012 with respect to 1990 levels. In all of the forecasted scenarios, Switzerland will be able to meet its commitment. After Switzerland formally associated itself with the Copenhagen Agreement, Switzerland agreed to contribute funding to climate measures in developing countries. The Federal Council Dispatch on raising Swiss ODA to 0.5 % of GNI by 2015, which the Federal Council will submit to the Federal Parliament by the end of 2010, states that part of Switzerland's contribution will be used for climate protection.

Swiss water and air quality and MDG 7

Water is a global commons because it flows all over the world. The quality of water in Swiss lakes and rivers has improved significantly over the past few decades. The vast majority of Swiss households are now connected to wastewater treatment plants. Micro-impurities from private households, from agriculture and from industrial and commercial facilities remain problematic. The quality of groundwater is generally good. In intensively farmed areas and agglomerations, however, harmful substances such as nitrate, pesticides, herbicides and hydrocarbons often lead to excessive pollution of water resources.

Air is also a global commons. The air quality in Switzerland has improved significantly in the past few years, which contributes towards achievement of MDG 7. However since 2000, only small progress has been made. As was previously the case, concentrations of particulate matter, ozone and nitrogen dioxide as well as nitrogen compounds are still too high. These concentrations are mostly caused by emissions of particulate matter (PM10), nitrogen oxides (NOx), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC) and ammonia (NH₃) from traffic, industry, households and agriculture.

Encouraging environmental sustainability to further Switzerland's sustainable development strategy

The commitment described above is part of a comprehensive strategy to encourage sustainable development. Article 2 of Switzerland's Federal Constitu-

tion requires all policy areas to be aligned with sustainable development principles. These principles should therefore be included in existing planning and strategic management processes of the Federal Council, the Federal Departments and Federal Offices. This is why in 2008 the Federal Council adopted the "Sustainable Development Strategy: Guidelines and Action Plan for 2008–2011". Released in 2008, this is the third strategy paper on sustainability after the 1997 and 2002 strategy papers. In addition to federal policy guidelines, the current strategy paper includes an action plan with specific objectives for the present legislative period (2008–2011). The Action Plan contains thirty measures falling into eleven thematic fields of activity.

Compared to the 2002 strategy paper, the 2008 strategy paper provides for policy procedures to be assessed and optimised on the basis of sustainable development criteria. It also provides for greater control mechanisms. On the whole, the 2008 strategy paper is intended to satisfy everyone's needs, particularly the needs of the poor in developing countries. At the same time, the 2008 strategy paper seeks to protect the environment and reduce the consumption of natural resources. The following fields of activity are covered: preventing global climate change;

improving economic productivity while decoupling this from consumption of natural resources and energy; sustainable use of natural resources; qualitative and quantitative reduction of environmental damage; greater contribution to international efforts to reduce poverty; promotion of peace; increased aid effectiveness.

Efforts will continue to be made worldwide to achieve MDG 7 long after 2015. At the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen, the Federal Council reiterated its intention to focus increasingly on climate issues. The following areas of MDG 7 will become part of our development policy: mitigation of climate change in emerging economies; adaption to climate change, particularly in the rural and mountainous regions of poorer developing countries; promotion of low carbon development paths (CO₂ free energy for developing countries); an integrated approach for the processing of drinking water (settlement hygiene and water resource management); the anchoring of sustainability principles to the use of resources in both northern and southern hemisphere countries. In addition, it is crucial for existing international goals and commitments in climate to be included in the future strategy to achieve MDG 7.

MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development

We live in a time of global standards setting and governance. Sustainable achievement of MDGs will only come about if a true global partnership can be established between industrialised countries and developing countries on the basis of global governance standards. This partnership implies reciprocity but also requires the governments of poor countries to do their part. MDG 8 calls upon industrialised countries to take responsibility for creating international conditions that generally favour development and help developing countries to achieve the other seven MDGs.

Open system of trade

MDG 8 should lay the economic foundations for achieving all MDGs by 2015. The growth of production and trade drives all forms of development and this promotes MDGs 1–7. The international division of labour and the international trade in goods and services are important drivers of development. If the general conditions for developing countries are right, then global growth will gradually reduce poverty. This is why Switzerland has doubled its efforts to encourage trade with developing countries over the past ten years. As one of the leading donor countries in the area of trade-related technical cooperation, Switzerland pursues the aim of increasing the trading capacities of its partner countries. The focus is being placed on the following three areas: general condi-

tions to encourage trade; international competitiveness; and greater market access. In this process, Switzerland is committed to promoting more economic, social and environmental sustainability as well as to upholding human rights.

Switzerland helps its partner countries comply with the demands and obligations incumbent upon them as a result of their international commitments. Therefore, Switzerland advises its partners, e.g. on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) or in relation to access and equitable distribution of the profits derived from the use of genetic resources in the context of Convention on Biological Diversity.

International trade in cotton

In 2003, a Swiss co-funded programme enabled a group of four West African cotton-producing countries to place market-distorting cotton export subsidies of certain industrialised countries high on the agenda of the World Trade Organization (WTO). In the meantime, all developing countries have now joined together in support of the use of "cotton" as a key indicator of the success of the Doha Development Round and the credibility of the WTO in general.

The demand for environmentally-friendly and ethically-produced goods has increased dramatically over the past few years. Switzerland is therefore supporting the development of international sustainability standards for selected raw materials, such as coffee, cotton, tropical timber or soya. Alongside the goal of helping companies produce in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner, it is also important to reposition certain compliant products away from niche and into mainstream markets. The international 4C Association, which deals in coffee, was established with Swiss funding. It now has over 100 members from every continent, including numerous producers, processors and distributors such as Café de Colombia, Nestlé, Aldi or Coop. The 4C Association example illustrates the potential of this approach.

Switzerland also supports its partner countries with local projects and promotes the exportability and competitiveness of their products as well as better integration of local companies into international supply chains. Switzerland therefore works with UNIDO to establish local standardisation and quality assurance systems in countries such as Mozambique, Tanzania or Ghana. Only products that meet international quality, safety and consumer protection standards will manage to succeed on international markets.

Strengthening the exportability and competitiveness of coffee farmers in Tanzania

Since 2005, Switzerland has been supporting the production and international marketing of specialist coffees from the Kilimanjaro region in Tanzania. The programme seeks to increase incomes by creating a stronger network of producers, by improving product quality, by establishing their own brand, "Kilicafe", and by optimising processing, marketing and export activities. Thanks to the introduction of an internationally accepted certification system, smallholder farmers have succeeded in producing coffee that satisfies the demands of the leading buyers. For instance, Starbucks increased its purchasing volume threefold in 2006. The proceeds from exports amount to USD 3.30 per kilo and are therefore significantly higher than the price of USD 2.00 that can be achieved at local auctions.

Motivated employees facilitate achievement of MDG 8. As far as upholding workers' rights and promoting health and safety in the workplace are concerned, Switzerland works closely with the International Labour Organization (ILO). Efforts have been focused on getting exporters in developing countries to connect with international buyers as well as on encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises to work more closely with numerous supplier companies. The involvement of national and international companies such as Migros, Levis, GAP, H&M and Wal-Mart con-

firms the interest within the private sector for initiatives of this kind, while at the same time guaranteeing their broad impact. Moreover, cooperation with international buyers in the context of this initiative makes it possible to avoid a two-fold increase in supplier monitoring activities. The focus has now shifted towards the removal of specific problems relating to social standards.

Since 2007, Switzerland has offered least developed countries (LDCs) duty-free and quota-free access to its market for all of their products. Switzerland also offers developing countries low customs duties (preferential duties). Thanks to this measure, imports from developing countries should become more attractive and the economy of these nations should improve. For instance, imports from LDCs significantly increased by 40 % between 2005 and 2009 despite the financial crisis.¹⁴ This was reflected by an increase in the proportion of products from developing countries in Switzerland's total imports (+35 %). The Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO) should also be mentioned in this regard.

SIPPO Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO)

The Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO) is mainly intended for small and medium-sized exporters in developing countries and helps them gain access to the European market. The programme also provides training and advisory services in the areas of marketing, product design and export administration. An external assessment has confirmed the effectiveness of the SIPPO mandate: with a support contribution totalling CHF 8.5 million (in 2006), around 100 selected companies and individuals generated additional revenue to the tune of CHF 47.6 million in the form of exports to Europe. If we adjust this figure in line with the purchasing power that applies in the countries benefiting from the SIPPO programme, the additional revenue generated would be equivalent to CHF 231 million. This success is all the more striking because new jobs have been created: 3,800 new jobs were created in 2006 and the assessors estimate that a further 23,000 people indirectly gained employment thanks to SIPPO activities.

Stronger financial sector

Switzerland knows that a stable and efficient financial system contributes to the development of any country. Even before the crisis in 2008/2009, Switzerland was involved in various multilateral initiatives to strengthen the international financial system. The Financial Sector Reform and Strengthening Initiative

¹⁴ Senegal, for example, was able to increase its exports to Switzerland by CHF 2.5 million (+45 %) (2009 compared to 2005). Switzerland also reduced customs duties on the value of incoming Senegalese products from 35 % to 0 %.

(FIRST) is a good example of these approaches. The crises served as a catalyst for reform. Switzerland is helping to shape a new financial architecture on a global and regional level. As a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and regional development banks, Switzerland has joined in their efforts to strengthen the financial sector. This includes strengthening the role of the IMF in issues relating to financial sector supervision.

Flexible initiatives to reform and strengthen the financial sector

The Financial Sector Reform and Strengthening Initiative (FIRST) initiative was launched by a group of bilateral and multilateral donors, including Switzerland, in 2002. FIRST provides grants and advisory services to help build capacities in the areas of financial market regulation, supervision and risk analysis. So far, FIRST has spent USD 85 million and implemented over 300 projects in 80 countries.

What actions is Switzerland taking to facilitate integration of developing countries into the global financial system? On a local level, Switzerland is supporting financial sector reforms in selected partner countries (Tanzania, Ghana, Vietnam, Peru, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan). Institutions such as central banks, stock exchanges or financial supervisory bodies are typical partners. Switzerland helps them to improve the legal and institutional framework and develop professional competencies. The economy, the financial system, monetary policy and restructuring of banks are some of the topics addressed in Swiss bilateral programmes. In order to improve the regulatory framework and supervision of the financial sector, Switzerland helps the authorities to draft legislation and establish national control bodies.

Switzerland continues to intervene using market-based financial instruments. This is done in order to leverage the flow of private capital. These interventions have been in the form of mainly indirect participations in venture capital funds, loans and credit lines to local financial intermediaries (microfinance banks, leasing institutions, local commercial banks). The Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (Sifem) has been applying these measures since 2005.

Switzerland's financial market and MDG 8

Private capital flows between global financial markets and developing countries can facilitate achievement of the MDGs. Switzerland itself invests large amounts of capital in the form of direct investments abroad. Of the total of CHF 808.6 billion in direct foreign investment, 15.2% went to emerging and developing countries. Around CHF 2 billion of this percentage went to the 49 LDCs. In target countries, these capital flows generate jobs and income, which creates a tax base. If good governance principles are

adhered to, the resulting tax revenues can then be used to improve the quality of public health and education services.

Capital can also flow in the opposite direction, which can slow down economic growth in developing countries and hinder efforts to reduce poverty. Switzerland works with developing countries to counter the main causes of capital flight: an underdeveloped financial sector in emerging and developing countries; weak currency; uncertainty regarding the country's political and macroeconomic stability; legal uncertainty and lack of protection of ownership rights. As mentioned earlier, Switzerland is committed to shaping a new financial architecture at the bilateral and multilateral level as well as to establishing the general conditions for a functioning financial sector worldwide, particularly in developing countries.

A second reason for the flow of capital towards developed countries is the desire to conceal the proceeds of corrupt or criminal activities. The fight against financial crime is a priority for Switzerland. Along this line, Switzerland has funded a technical support programme intended to build the capacity of financial and tax authorities. Switzerland also has a well-designed system in place to prevent money from corrupt regimes from being hidden away in Swiss bank accounts. In 2009, it ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). On an international level, Switzerland works closely with the Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative (StAR), which was jointly founded by the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in September 2007. Switzerland has also provided funding to the International Center for Asset Recovery (ICAR) in Basel since its inception. Based on these experiences, Switzerland was one of the main initiators of Article 57 of UNCAC, which obliges countries to return illegally obtained assets to the countries where the assets were embezzled from. Finally, Switzerland was one of the first countries to have provided financial support to specific failing states, providing them with specialist lawyers in Switzerland to initiate proceedings to recover stolen assets. Last but not least, Switzerland is actively involved in the FATF's work to improve international cooperation in the fight against money laundering and terrorism funding.

The lack of control mechanisms resulting from an underdeveloped taxation management system is another reason why capital is able to flow out of developing countries so easily. Switzerland feels that it is not in our interest to draw untaxed funds from abroad. This is why Switzerland has entered into double-taxation agreements with 75 countries. Double-taxation agreements create an interface between the taxation systems of signatory countries. Such agreements signed with developing countries are generally based more on the UN's standard agreement rather than on the OECD's standard agree-

ment. This is because the UN's standard agreement confers greater taxation advantages to the country where capital flows depart from. As far as mutual legal assistance in taxation matters is concerned, Switzerland has stated its intention to adhere to the OECD's standard in developed countries, emerging countries and developing countries. For such capital outflows, Switzerland welcomes international standards and measures that lead to greater poverty reduction in developing countries.

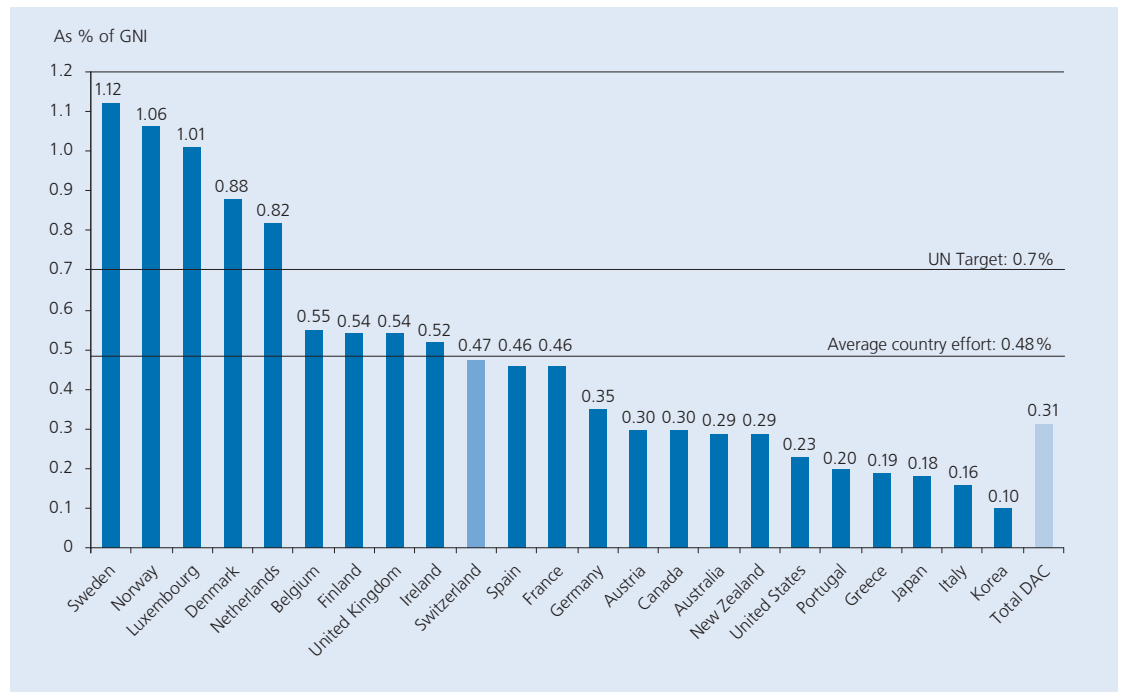
Official development assistance (ODA) and MDG 8

In order to help developing countries achieve MDGs 1–7, industrialised countries have been called upon in MDG 8 to grant more generous ODA, in particular to the least developed countries (LDCs).

The provisional figures for 2009 show that Switzerland's ODA amounted to just under CHF 2.5 billion (CHF 42 million of which came from Swiss Cantons, towns and communes). This corresponds to an increase of 11.9% over the previous year, bringing total Swiss ODA to 0.47% of Gross National Income (GNI). In 2009, Switzerland's share of ODA amounted to 15% of total ODA, which is very high compared to other countries. Debt relief measures account for 7% of total ODA. In June 2010, the Federal Council decided to draft a Federal Council Dispatch on raising Swiss ODA to 0.5% of GNI by 2015. This dispatch will be submitted to the Federal Parliament by the end of 2010.

The following table shows the volume of ODA of all OECD/DAC member countries (2009):

Net ODA in 2009 – as a percentage of GNI



Source: OECD, 14 April 2010
http://www.oecd.org/document/11/0,3343,en_21571361_44315115_44981579_1_1_1_1,00.html

Net ODA of all OECD/DAC member countries increased slightly in 2009 (+0.7%), reaching USD 119.6 billion. The average ODA of OECD/DAC member countries increased to 0.48% of GNI, which is slightly higher than the level reached in 2008. With an ODA contribution of 0.47% of GNI, Switzerland ranks 10th out of the 23 OECD/DAC member countries. In absolute amounts, it ranks 15th.

In 2009, 76% of Switzerland's total development cooperation budget was allocated to bilateral aid and humanitarian aid. The remaining 24% was allocated to multilateral aid. Of the multilateral aid, nearly 60% went to the World Bank and three regional de-

velopment banks; around a third went to UN institutions; and the remainder went to various international bodies, mainly research institutes. Over the past few years, around a quarter of Switzerland's ODA (0.11% of GNI) has gone to the least developed countries (LDCs). This also includes contributions made by Switzerland to multilateral institutions, which also benefit LDCs.

Debt relief

In 1991, Switzerland established a comprehensive bilateral debt relief programme in commemoration of the 700th Jubilee of the Confederation; at the time, Switzerland was one of the first countries in the

world to make such a move. To date, the programme has cancelled CHF 2 billion in debts owed to Switzerland by heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs).

These purely bilateral measures to reduce debt were increasingly replaced in the 1990s by coordinated international measures, which remain in force to this day. In 1996, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank launched an initiative for HIPCs. In addition to supporting the HIPC initiative, Switzerland also contributes to the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). Launched by the IMF and the World Bank in 2005, MDRI is intended to provide even greater debt relief, thereby enabling beneficiary countries to allocate more funds towards achievement of the MDGs. To date, 26 out of the 40 eligible countries have benefited in full and 9 have benefited in part from the irrevocable cancellation of debts through HIPC and MDRI. A total of around USD 103 billion in debt has been cancelled in this manner. Debt relief has made a significant contribution to economic development and poverty reduction. Thus, the average interest burden in indebted countries has fallen from over 3% of GDP in 2001 to around 1% in 2008. This reduction has gone hand in hand with a considerable increase in poverty-reducing expenditure (e.g. in health care).

Switzerland's debt relief programme goes beyond the simple cancellation of debts. Switzerland is also committed to ensuring that the debt burden of developing countries remains at a bearable level following the alleviation of debts. At the centre of this lies the strengthening of debt management through corresponding technical assistance, such as support for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s Debt Management and Financial Analysis System. At present, 56 countries actively use this system. In addition to other donors, Switzerland was involved in the creation of the World Bank's Debt Management Facility (DMF). This programme helps developing countries to review the quality of their debt management activities, develop comprehensive strategies to create capital and actively control their debt portfolios. Since the launch of the programme in 2009, 16 countries have already benefited from DMF support.

| Debt relief (in CHF mill.) | 1991–2009 |
|---|-----------|
| Cumulative bilateral debt relief | 1417.6 |
| Swiss contributions to multilateral debt relief | 562.4 |
| Swiss contributions to commercial debt buyback | 95.1 |
| Complementary measures | 70 |

Switzerland's bilateral debt relief programme will also continue in the future. Although neither the exact time nor the effective amount of individual debt re-

lief packages have been determined, Switzerland expects to write off around CHF 300 million (nominal value) in debt between now and 2015. The countries that will be receiving debt relief include the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo and Sudan. While bilateral debt relief packages can be included in ODA calculations, they are entirely budget neutral. The Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) will also continue until 2015. After 2015, Switzerland will take part in a new round of commitments.

Access to medicines

Many essential medicines are inaccessible to the poor in developing countries because they are too expensive. Switzerland regards access to essential medicines as an integral part of global efforts to improve the health systems of developing countries and provide greater access to basic healthcare. As a country with a sizeable and highly developed pharmaceutical industry, Switzerland was one of the first countries to implement the WTO Decision of 30 August 2003 on improved access to affordable medicines for developing countries. The new Swiss Patent Act of 2008 provides for a compulsory licence to be issued for the manufacture and export of patented pharmaceutical products to countries with insufficient or no pharmaceutical production capacities. This may be done at the request of a WTO member state and is subject to clearly defined eligibility criteria.

Furthermore, Switzerland has been intensely involved at the highest level in the process which led in May 2008 to the adoption of the WHO's Global Strategy on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (GSPA). This action plan endeavours to improve research, development and access to medicines for illnesses that predominantly affect developing countries, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, but also lymphatic filariasis, dracunculiasis and leprosy. Switzerland is currently committed to the targeted implementation of the action plan on an international and national level.

Reduced incidence of malaria thanks to innovative public-private partnerships

In 2009, the Swiss-based and funded foundation Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and Novartis launched Coartem® Dispersible, the first paediatric formulation of Artemisia-containing medicine (ACT), for the treatment of complication-free malaria in infants and children. Thanks to innovative public-private partnerships, Coartem® Dispersible is provided to the public sector without profit, along with other new and improved treatment solutions. This easy-to-administer medicine represents a major advance in the challenging task of delivering antimalarial medicines to vulnerable target groups, such as children under five and the rural poor.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs)

One key obstacle to reaching the MDGs is the limited access that poor and marginalised people have to information and knowledge, particularly people living in rural areas. Experience and lessons learnt around the globe demonstrate the great potential of information and communication technologies (e.g. interactive community radios, mobile phones, village knowledge centres and computers) as a means of improving access to information. Switzerland considers ICTs as an enabling tool to pursue thematic poverty alleviation objectives. ICTs can also enhance effectiveness in areas such as rural development, food security, climate change, health, education and participatory governance. As such, ICTs form an integral part of numerous projects supported by Switzerland. For example, the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), of which Switzerland is one of two core funders, is working to introduce Telemedicine and E-Health activities in Tanzania to improve access to health services. Switzerland's approach to ICT for development goes beyond infrastructure or technology. Its "people-centred" focus includes components such as pro-poor policy environments, content creation, participatory, multi-stakeholder approaches, cultural aspects in the use of ICT as well as environmental issues such as electronic waste.

Increased income of Tanzanian farmers through better access to market information

Smallholder farmers require timely access to market information in order to get the best possible price for their produce. Switzerland therefore supports the First Mile project, which was launched by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Tanzania in May 2005. The project equips local liaison officers with mobile phones or computers. These liaison officers then make pricing information available to local farmers on publicly accessible information boards. This has had positive effects for farmers in terms of greater market access, better production and higher income. Through an investment of USD 200,000, local incomes have increased by US\$ 1.8 million while selected prices for produce have increased by up to 50 %.

Empowering the rural poor in India

Switzerland supports a large-scale initiative of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation in India to improve rural poor access to information about such things as health, government regulations, schooling, weather, etc. To that end, the programme establishes rural knowledge centres equipped with internet access and trained content managers. By 2012, 240,000 knowledge centres should be connected to the World Wide Web and provide access to information.

Switzerland is also active at the international level. As host country to the 1st phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva in 2003, Switzerland continues to play a role in the implementation of the summit outcomes by supporting those UN institutions that play a key role in the follow-up process. Since 2006, Switzerland has been supporting the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Each year, the IPDC supports around 100 projects in the area of media development and freedom of expression and speech. Furthermore, Switzerland is one of the donors of the UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF), a global multi-stakeholder platform that discusses public policy issues related to the use and governance of the Internet. In 2008, Switzerland supported the 3rd Global Knowledge Conference (GK3) in Malaysia, gathering over 1,700 global visionaries, innovators, practitioners and policy makers to discuss the development and human dimension of ICT.

Northern and southern hemisphere countries still have far to go to achieve MDG 8. Switzerland bears its own share of responsibility for this. Over the next five years, the following areas will remain at the heart of Swiss efforts to increase participation of developing countries in world trade: general conditions that promote trade; international competitiveness for developing countries; improvement of developing country access to world markets; liberal patent protection for developing countries; development-friendly financial centres; and closer partnerships with the Swiss private sector to achieve MDGs.

Peace, security and human rights as prerequisites for achievement of the MDGs

Peace building, crisis prevention and management

Human security and the absence of armed conflict are preconditions for development and the achievement of the MDGs. Up to 750,000 people die each year because of armed violence. Armed violence affects all societies and all countries, not just those caught in the midst of armed conflict. Swiss involvement in the mediation and management of civilian and military conflicts help to resolve international disputes. With internal conflicts becoming a much more frequent occurrence in today's world, Switzerland strives to bring belligerents to the negotiating table to ease tensions, create room for development projects and provide emergency relief where needed. At the same time, Swiss programmes are intentionally conflict-sensitive so that relief workers are able to help the local population despite difficult and fragile conditions. Support includes such things as projects to reduce poverty through agriculture, health, education and infrastructure. In the aftermath of armed conflict, Switzerland works with the local population to rebuild infrastructures (houses, schools, etc.) and state institutions, establish election procedures, introduce constitutional and security reforms, introduce reconciliation processes, clear fields of mines, etc.

Switzerland also provides assistance with security policy. By providing training and support in this area, Switzerland seeks to build and strengthen the capacities of state institutions. The creation of constitutional structures and institutions responsible for security restores stability to the country and enables it to handle security policy challenges on its own in a global, interdependent world. It also enables the country to contribute to both regional and international security.

Various federal agencies are increasingly working together in this endeavour: the SDC (Humanitarian Aid and SHA Domain; Regional Cooperation Domain), the FDFA (Directorate of Political Affairs; Directorate for International Law) and the DDPS (Swiss Armed Forces). Recent cutbacks in funding have prompted even greater cooperation. The aim is to avoid overlap by creating synergies.

The 3C approach (coherent, co-ordinated, complementary) is one of several tools developed by Switzerland for use at the multilateral level. It is part of the "Whole of Government" (national) and "Whole

of System" (intergovernmental) concepts. The 3C approach is intended to make cooperation activities more pragmatic and impartial, thereby enabling objectives to be reached more effectively. With the joint long-term objective of reducing poverty in fragile and conflict-torn states, the Swiss Government, the United Nations, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held the 3C Conference (coherent, coordinated, and complementary) in March 2009. Attended by nearly 300 participants from 40 partner and donor countries as well as international and civil society organisations, an important output of the conference was the so-called 3C Roadmap, which will help to consolidate initiatives, generate impetus for their timely implementation, and emphasise the importance of accountability mechanisms and joint monitoring.

Switzerland and UNDP held a ministerial conference in 2006 that resulted in endorsement of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development. This important diplomatic initiative was followed by the adoption in November 2008 of the UN General Assembly resolution entitled, "Promoting Development through the Reduction and Prevention of Armed Violence". In August 2009, the UN Secretary-General released a report on armed violence and development. At the same time, Switzerland sponsored the Small Arms Survey research project, which produced a milestone report in 2008, entitled "Global Burden of Armed Violence". The report estimates the total costs of armed violence worldwide to be between USD 95 and USD 165 billion each year. These figures provide compelling evidence of the highly negative impact of armed violence on the international community's commitment to achieve the MDGs. These outputs are major steps towards reaching the long-term objective of reducing armed violence. They should also enrich discussions on how to improve the framework conditions for achievement of the MDGs.

Signing of peace agreement and integration of Maoists into the Nepali political system

For 50 years, Switzerland and Nepal have enjoyed a longstanding partnership built on trust. In part thanks to Swiss facilitation services, discussions between Nepalese actors successfully led to the signing of a peace agreement in 2006 and the

integration of Maoist representatives into the political system. Switzerland's involvement in Nepal continues, for instance by providing expert inputs into the drafting of the new constitution, discussions on restructuring the Nepali state, the debate on federalism, and the question of rehabilitation and integration of Maoist combatants into the Nepalese army. Along with other donors, Switzerland also contributes to the Government of Nepal Peace Trust Fund, which seeks to rehabilitate conflict-affected people and manage the cantonments. In addition, Switzerland contributes to the process of coming to terms with the past as well as to the provision of transitional justice. However, Nepal has not yet left the conflict behind. Tensions between the main political parties may derail efforts to find a democratic solution, maintain peace and sustain economic development. This current confrontation could also be seen as part of the process towards a peace deal. Nevertheless, legislation is still so weak in Nepal that the people are resorting to violence to make themselves heard. This is a dangerous development. The involvement of disadvantaged segments of the population and minority groups helps bring this aspect of the conflict to discussions.

Human rights, democracy

In order to achieve the MDGs, respect for human rights is critical. Human rights include the economic, social and cultural rights that Switzerland has committed itself to at both the multilateral and bilateral levels. These commitments are just as important as Switzerland's commitments to civil and political rights. Mentioned in previous chapters, upholding the right to food, drinking water and health helps the most disenfranchised. It is also an effective and lasting means of reducing poverty. The recent food and financial crises forced many people into precarious situations, which means that even greater efforts are needed to uphold these rights.

For Switzerland's international cooperation activities, the international human rights framework represents a point of reference for policy dialogue and intercultural dialogue in all partner countries. Human rights have both eastern and western roots. Switzerland regards human rights as universal values that are also implicitly recognised by all countries that have joined the United Nations. At the same time, we are aware that different parts of the global society are moving at different speeds towards full compliance with respect for human rights.

In South Africa, Nepal, Bolivia, and Afghanistan, Switzerland lends support to national human rights institutions, both governmental and non-governmental. These institutions help fight discrimination

and empower vulnerable groups by informing citizens of their rights and ways to uphold them. The institutions also encourage governments and parliaments to improve the legal framework and access to justice in human rights violation cases. Thus, joint interventions in 2009 by Afghan human rights groups and the international community, including Switzerland, resulted in a revision of the most criticised articles of the so-called Shia Law, discriminating women of the country's 15% Shia minority, compared to women from other religious groups.

Boosting justice in Afghanistan

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) works to promote, protect and monitor human rights. Thanks to Swiss support, by the end of 2009, 17,200 people had a greater understanding of general human rights issues. More specifically, they became more aware of women's human rights, the rights of the child, and the rights of persons with disabilities. In 2006–2008, the AIHRC investigated an average of 1,000 complaints of human rights abuses each year. In 2008, over 50% of the submitted cases could be resolved and nearly 700 women received legal advice. Recent monitoring activities (e. g. of violence against women in female prisons) showed that living conditions and the treatment of detainees has improved in 60% of prisons, detention centres and child correction centres.

According to Art. 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives." Elections are a central component of a democratic system; they offer crucial opportunities for all people to choose leaders who will work towards better material and legal conditions for all members of the society, and thus towards achievement of the MDGs. Over the past years, Switzerland has worked with other bilateral donors and the United Nations to support democratic elections in countries such as Mozambique, Bolivia, El Salvador, Peru, Afghanistan, Moldavia, Macedonia and Bangladesh. Measures such as establishing and updating electoral registers, disseminating election information, supporting civic education, and delegating electoral observers have enabled the effective participation of all population groups, including marginalised ones, in elections. While these elections have not always been free of fraud, as was the case in Afghanistan in 2009, there have been positive developments. Bolivian voters in 2005, for instance, elected a head of state of indigenous origin for the first time in the country's history. The new president has promised to reduce poverty and fight corruption.

Contributions to MDGs by Swiss partners

Civil society and MDGs

Civil society is understood here as all people and institutions that carry out their activities outside the public or private sector. The importance of civil society has increased dramatically over the past ten years. In particular, international as well as local NGOs have been making important strides towards MDGs 1–7 in developing and emerging countries. In this process, NGOs draw on their core strengths, such as a thorough understanding of the needs of the poor, a drive for innovation and a high degree of immunity from corruption and mismanagement. NGOs play an important role in the achievement of MDG 8 since they remind governments of industrialised countries to stand by their commitments on such issues as the extent of development cooperation, trade, finance and debt relief. NGOs are increasingly able to influence, shape and lead policy discussions by providing information, by taking part in decision-making processes and by monitoring government activities. They have also made progress towards achieving greater transparency and efficiency of state budgets in developing and emerging countries. Moreover, many international NGOs have managed to convince multinationals to adopt socially and environmentally responsible behaviour through a pragmatic mix of instruments, ranging from campaigns to confrontation to cooperation and partnerships.

Because they work closely with local populations, NGOs are clearly in favour of approaches based on “empowerment and participation” of the poor and marginalised. However, their practical experience also enables them to influence, shape and lead policy discussions on all MDG-related or other issues.

The increased influence of civil society also applies in the case of all world regions: civil society is capable of achieving important structural and cultural changes through its bottomup activities. This is particularly the case for MDG 3, empowering women, strengthening their integration in work processes, recognising their role as the pillar of the family and their empowerment in societies in general. Such changes would be more difficult to achieve for donor countries if they were obliged to rely exclusively on the cooperation of state actors in the implementation of programmes and projects.

Hundreds of Swiss charitable institutions and NGOs are involved in development cooperation activities.

Swiss CSOs draw considerable private donations for their programmes and projects even in crises years, effectively bridging the gap between certain Swiss population segments and the poor in developing countries. Swiss CSOs also raise awareness of development cooperation issues and draw attention to major global problems.

| Private donations to Swiss NGOs 1970–2008 | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
| Private donations to NGOs | 106.6 | 148.6 | 272.0 | 413.6 | 507.5 | 424.7 | 436.3 |
| Private donations to NGOs in % of GNI | 0.06 % | 0.05 % | 0.06 % | 0.08 % | 0.10 % | 0.08 % | 0.09 % |

Source: SDC statistical database

As important conveyers of knowledge and experience, Swiss NGOs are also important actors and partners for development cooperation activities carried out by the Federal Administration. Swiss NGOs have thematic and methodological expertise, operational capacities and networks. As partners, Swiss NGOs receive contributions to their own programmes as well as mandates to implement Swiss government programmes in partner countries. Development cooperation activities carried out by the Federal Administration fall perfectly in line with the strategies and thematic focus of Swiss NGOs. This is one of the strengths of Swiss development cooperation.

In 2009, the SDC transferred around CHF 200 million (21 % of the SDC’s bilateral cooperation budget) to Swiss NGOs. This funding was provided either as a general contribution to NGO programmes or was tied to specific development or humanitarian aid projects.

Swiss NGOs have access to a broad spectrum of interest groups and state agencies. They are therefore in a position to take action in a number of different ways that complement state-driven development cooperation. NGOs help strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations to take part in the prepara-

tion and implementation of poverty reduction strategies. NGOs also play a decisive role in giving a voice to particularly disenfranchised population groups and in helping them to take part in policymaking decisions. NGOs help these groups to become successful economic market participants.

Bio cotton is healthy and improves earnings

The Swiss NGO Helvetas has been supporting organic farming and fair trade in cotton in West Africa since 2002. Based on the increasing demand in Europe for ethically traded bio products, supply chains have been established which extend from the cotton fields of Africa to commercial outlets in Switzerland and in the USA. Projects underpin and support the various actors involved, from African smallholder farmers, cotton processors and traders as well as distributors in Europe and North America. Today over 10,000 farming families in West Africa benefit from low production costs and high prices of certified bio cotton. An impact study conducted by the University of Bern on Burkina Faso has shown that the farmers involved in organic farming have been able to increase their income by 30%. Furthermore, their health and nutrition has improved and the fertility of the soil of their fields has increased.

All NGO programmes are mainly focused on combating poverty. As such, they contribute to the various MDG areas in accordance with their core competencies. The grassroots nature of NGO programmes brings direct improvements to the living conditions of communities and helps strengthen local structures. The activities of Swiss NGOs include the following: access to and improved quality of basic schooling, vocational education and training (VET) and basic healthcare; more secure supply of water; more sustainable management of soil and forests; mitigation of erosion and preservation of soil fertility; improved production methods; more active involvement of communities and individuals (consolidation of farmers' organisations; schooling; creation of savings and credit groups); improved social and economic status of women and young girls; preservation of local seeds; safeguarding of land rights; protection of workers' rights, improved working conditions and decreased prevalence of abusive child labour.

Senegal – in favour of food security and against indebtedness

"First people lose their field, then their house and finally their dignity" says Souleymane Bassoum. He is the coordinator of the Fastenopfer (Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund) programme in Senegal. Their common goal since 2005 has been to increase food

security and reduce indebtedness. For this purpose, communities in 306 villages have founded 272 solidarity funds. They have also cultivated millet, fruits and vegetables in 264 community fields. Over 100 tonnes of millet, 15 tonnes of bissap (roselle for tea) and almost 400kg of fruits and vegetable were exchanged. 167 groups have also committed themselves to limiting their expenses for weddings and funerals. This has had multiple effects: the money held in solidarity funds allows aid to be given promptly to the poorest people in the village; the resulting safety net for the needy helps to minimise conflicts and the accumulation of further debt; thanks to the fields, funds and other strategies, rural families have been able to shorten lean seasons between harvests from 6 months to under 3 months.

Private sector and MDGs

The main contribution that the private sector makes is the creation of jobs in emerging and developing countries. By the end of 2008, Swiss direct investors had employed 2,444,000 people in subsidiary companies abroad, of which at least 100,000 in Africa and 250,000 in Latin America. As trading partners, Swiss companies also obtain a considerable proportion of their goods and services from emerging and developing countries, whereby local producers' markets are set up and new jobs are created. Encouraging participating companies to take responsibility and adopt good governance principles (e.g. recognising human rights, upholding environmental and financial standards) is an important means of achieving MDGs.

Economic growth and direct investments however do not automatically lead to poverty-reducing sustainable development. It is the responsibility of the governments of developing countries to ensure that the benefits of economic growth trickle down to as many population segments and regions as possible. This is particularly important when it comes to the use of revenues from concessions granted for extractive industries such as coal, crude oil, natural gas and metals. The infrastructures built using this funding should not only serve the interests of mining companies. They should also serve the interests of citizens of developing countries. Many multinationals have already taken steps in this direction of their own accord by joining and implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and by becoming members of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). The latter organisation is comprised of major Swiss companies and has made a positive contribution towards achievement of the MDGs.

Financial investments for the poor

For the past few years, Switzerland has been working on a project basis with responsAbility Social Investment Services, a Zurich-based private consulting firm that specialises in social investments in developing countries. Social investments are investments in the traditional sense that bring social benefits. Not only are these investments profitable, they also further development objectives. responsAbility projects focus on micro-finance, SME finance, fair trade and encouraging independent media.

Some Swiss companies have set up their own business models to include the poor as producers, traders, distributors and consumers. Other Swiss companies work with Swiss NGOs and federal agencies (SECO and SDC). Since 2000, pro-poor markets and business models have gained ground and become an integral part of many corporate strategies.

Principle of joint added value

Nestlé's work with smallholder farmers in developing and emerging countries includes basic and continuing training of farmers on model farms created for this purpose. Nestlé also provides advisory services on animal husbandry and technical issues. This makes it easier for farmers to supply consistently high quality products in equal quantities. This approach serves both Nestlé's interests (i. e. obtaining high quality end products) and farmers' interests (i. e. obtaining consistently good prices). According to some estimates, Nestlé works directly with about 540,000 of these farmers.

The SDC began to establish partnerships with the private sector about ten years ago. This was done in an effort to leverage the resources and competencies of the private sector to achieve development objectives (e. g. MDGs). In each case, the SDC has sought partnerships that relate as closely as possible to the partner company's core business. By aligning development and corporate interests, a win-win situation has been created.

Insurance for the poor

One of the SDC's partnerships with Zürich Financial Services and the ILO led in 2007 to the development of micro-insurance models where the poor are both insured parties and insurance agents. Including the poor in the insurance market aligns ZFS corporate interests with development interests. As an official partner in this "public-private development partnership", the SDC has obtained contrac-

tual assurances from ZFS that the results of the pilot project will be published in order to pave the way for the development of an entire micro-insurance sector, benefitting ZFS as well as any other insurance companies that wish to compete on the new market.

Most multinationals based in Switzerland take their corporate social responsibility (CSR) seriously. This is demonstrated by their membership to CSR organisations and their active involvement in the UN Global Compact. In recent years, multinationals in Switzerland and elsewhere have increasingly provided funding to development projects that contribute to achievement of the MDGs. Companies have various reasons for wanting to take part: selfless desire to help the poor in host countries; a desire to enhance their corporate image or use their involvement for public relations purposes; a desire to make strategic investments that serve their long-term legitimate interests.

Reduce water consumption

Since 2009, a partnership between Switzerland and five Swiss companies in Colombia has endeavoured to reduce the water that participating companies and their suppliers use in their manufacturing processes. Switzerland supports the partners involved by providing expertise and coordinating partner company efforts to reduce water consumption. In this process, Switzerland hopes that the innovative solutions will subsequently be copied and adapted in other countries in which Swiss companies are active.

Socially and environmentally sound management by large companies is often supported in Switzerland by business foundations. The Novartis and Syngenta foundations, for instance, seek to improve the incomes of the poor so that they will eventually be able to afford the products and services that the parent companies sell. This serves both the interest of the poor as well as the long-term interest of the companies involved.

The Millennium Villages Project (MVP)

Working with the authorities and local partners, the Swiss pharmaceutical industry supports sustainable healthcare for those who are most affected by diseases. This is achieved by transferring knowledge and technical know-how as well as by adapting patent and pricing policies to make medicines more affordable. The Millennium Villages Project (MVP), for instance, was jointly launched by

the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development, the Earth Institute at Colombia University, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Millennium Promise. The MVP seeks to help poor communities in rural regions of Africa to achieve the MDGs. The MVP is active in 14 regions in ten African countries. These regions all lie in important agro-ecological areas, which combined represent the farming system of 90 % of the rural population and 93 % of all arable land in Sub-Saharan Africa. The project is active in 80 villages and involves almost 400,000 people.

Research and science

Research and science are decisive factors that underpin sustainable economic, social and environmental development. They also enable solutions to be found for global problems. The benefits are felt by rich and poor countries alike.

Within the framework of development projects and cooperation projects with Eastern Europe and the CIS, Switzerland lends support to research projects conducted by Swiss higher education institutions (especially ETHZ, EPFL, IHEID, University of Bern, University of Basel, University of Fribourg as well as several universities of applied sciences). The research findings from these projects are used to achieve the MDGs. Switzerland has a long tradition of international scientific cooperation. For over thirty years, Switzerland has promoted research in and with emerging and developing countries in the context of development cooperation. In accordance with its legal mandate, the SDC's support of research is motivated by its development policy: it contributes to international organisations and networks (in particular the CGIAR¹⁵) and local research institutes (e.g. the Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania) whose R&D activities are aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting human safety, tackling priority development issues or solving global problems.

¹⁵ Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research

¹⁶ See http://www.kfpe.ch/key_activities/publications/success_stories/

The main objective is to generate new knowledge and find innovative solutions in such areas as agriculture, rural development and food security, conflict and transformation, health, water, resource management, climate change, governance and gender.

ODA-funded research activities are designed to develop and improve research competencies and networks in the area of development. These activities also lead to joint research initiatives between Switzerland and partner countries in the southern hemisphere. Partnership-based research programmes such as the ones run by the National Centre of Competence in Research North-South (NCCR North-South) enable Swiss researchers or higher education institutions (e.g. Switzerland's two federal institutes of technology – ETHZ and EPFL –, its cantonal universities and its universities of applied sciences) to work with research institutes in Africa, Asia and Latin America on current and relevant international research themes. Research cooperation with developing and transition countries helps address the growing calls from politicians for solutions to global problems and achievement of the MDGs.

Achieving success together – What research partnerships mean for developing countries¹⁶

Clean solutions for a dirty business

Growing cities and intensive farming pollute surface waters in South East Asia. Water researchers from Switzerland, together with their partners in Thailand and Vietnam, have found a simple remedy: an innovative form of septic tank and constructed wetlands.

Other successful projects are showcased in the publication issued by the Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE). These projects were carried out in the context of North-South research programmes. The publication highlights practical examples to show what trans-regional research can achieve and how the challenges are changing dramatically.

MDG obstacles

Numerous obstacles must be overcome in order to achieve the MDGs. Many of these obstacles are of a global nature. Others occur predominantly in developing countries. A third category of obstacles can mainly be found in donor countries. This section deals with the latter.

Financial and economic crises

Nearly all developing countries felt the full brunt of the global financial and economic crises. The negative effects may have reversed most of the progress made over the past few years towards reducing poverty and may have also delayed achievement of the MDGs. Prices on commodity markets have dropped. In around 90 developing countries, raw materials account for over 50% of export revenues. The lower export revenues reduced state revenues, which had increased in certain African countries with the commodity boom of previous years. The fall in commodity prices also affected agricultural markets. According to FAO estimates, global food prices in 2009 were around 33% lower than their record highs (June 2008). As a consequence of the economic recession, demand not only fell for commodities but also for processed export goods. The most severely affected countries were those whose economic growth had been driven by exports. In Chile, the Philippines and Singapore, exports in early 2009 fell by over 40% with respect to the previous year.

Unclear responses and too little commitment from governments

Achievement of most MDGs hinges on whether developing countries adopt the right policies and effectively implement these policies. The obvious difficulty encountered in achieving MDGs once again shows that development cooperation can only be effective in countries where the institutions, government, parliament, courts, private sector and civil society assume their full responsibilities and take tangible steps to achieve concrete results. While a great deal of progress could be made without increasing ODA (e.g. eliminating gender disparities in school enrolment, MDG 2), progress towards other MDGs will undoubtedly require additional ODA. Multilateral institutions also need to use their influence to hold governments to account. In many areas, multilateral institutions and governments work closely together in a complementary manner. The IMF has a strong mandate to improve the macroeconomic conditions in poor countries. One example includes reform of taxation and tax authorities to ensure that all taxes

and concession revenues flow into state coffers in a transparent fashion and are used to reach all MDGs. The World Bank advises all governments through policy discussions and analyses. Thanks to its financial weight, it carries considerable clout. The WB helps partner governments to prepare poverty reduction strategies – which determine how much progress will be made towards all MDGs – and establish adequate health and education budget allocations. The UNDP and bilateral donors focus on capacity development. By providing training to technical personnel, achievement of MDGs 4, 5 and 6 becomes possible. Regional development banks advise governments on regional economic integration. According to MDG 8, OECD member countries remain responsible for a suitable global development budget as well as for ensuring that their policies will have the best possible external impact on poor countries. OECD member countries are also responsible for adopting development-friendly policies in the area of trade, investment and patents. Finally, OECD member countries are called upon to help developing countries become part of the global economic system.

Conflicting interests and development incoherence

The MDGs are the first attempt by the international community to establish and reach global objectives. It is only logical for there to be conflicting interests and subsequent lack of development coherence. The interests of European farmers are often at odds with the interests of farmers in the southern hemisphere. Patent protection does not always go hand in hand with humaneness. The interests of financial markets in the northern hemisphere are not always in line with development priorities in the southern hemisphere. Since many countries still tend to use ODA to further political and economic interests, at least half of global ODA does not reach the poorest countries, does not apply to poverty-relevant sectors and therefore does not contribute to achievement of MDGs 1–6. According to the OECD/DAC Peer Review, the poverty-focus that Switzerland adopts in its international development cooperation activities only partially compensates for this.

Difficulty establishing priorities

In each developing country, there are specific economic, political and social factors that either slow down or accelerate development progress. It is generally hard for development workers to identify these factors and set corresponding priorities. The choice

of priority themes is an equally important decision. For one thing, Switzerland needs to decide which countries and regions are most likely to benefit most from Swiss intervention. It also needs to determine the specific needs of the country in question. In its 2009 study¹⁷, the OECD/DAC criticised the fact that Switzerland's development cooperation activities cover too many different themes. In order to improve effectiveness and lower transaction costs, Switzerland needs to focus on a smaller number of themes. At the same time, however, successful development cooperation should also always be based on a holistic approach that takes important economic, social or environmental aspects into account.

Effects not always measurable

It is impossible to say to what extent the global reduction of poverty (MDG 1) for instance can be attributed to the interventions by single actors. The question of whether the increase in the national income of a certain country (effect) can be attributed to development aid (cause) is in itself problematic from a methodological point of view because there are so many influencing factors. However, effects can usually be determined at the project level. For instance, projects in the area of water hygiene evidently lead to a reduction in the number of cases of diarrhoea. Despite this, the SDC has not always managed to properly document its development cooperation successes nor has it managed to draw an adequate level of attention to these successes. It is vital to show the effects of development cooperation in order to

maintain ODA funding levels. This report should help in this regard.

Adequate and effective ODA

Switzerland is a medium-sized industrialised country with major global interests. Switzerland has achieved above-average integration and success in the world economy whether it be in manufacturing, trade or services. With this integration and success comes a commitment – to a reasonable extent given Switzerland's size – to help solve the world's major problems (e.g. poverty, the consequences of climate change, high food prices, uncontrolled migration). Switzerland still has a fairly long way to go to achieve the UN goal of devoting 0.7 % of its GNI to ODA. The current 0.47 % is higher than the ODA levels of our neighbouring countries France (0.46 %), Germany (0.35 %), Austria (0.30 %) and Italy (0.16 %) but it is certainly lower than the ODA levels of equally prosperous European nations such as Norway (1.05 %), Luxembourg (1.01 %), Denmark (0.88 %), Sweden (1.12 %), or the Netherlands (0.82 %).

Most of the Swiss population wants to live in a Switzerland that shows solidarity. Nevertheless, our commitment to global initiatives should not run counter to our own domestic requirements. At the same time, the argument that quality is better than quantity is unsatisfactory. Switzerland wants both: international cooperation activities need to be carried out to high-quality standards and the volume of international cooperation activities needs to reflect the level of our prosperity. At the request of the Federal Parliament, the Federal Council will draft a Federal Council Dispatch on increasing Swiss ODA to 0.5 % of GNI by 2015. This dispatch will be submitted in autumn 2010.

¹⁷ Switzerland - Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Peer Review, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2009.

MDG outlook for 2011–2015 and beyond

Over the past ten years, the MDGs have garnered considerable international political and financial support for poverty reduction. The MDGs should therefore be pursued with the same vigour between 2011 and 2015 by all stakeholders: the donor community will need to maintain or increase ODA commitments and work to raise aid effectiveness; industrialised countries will need to continue in their efforts to ensure that external factors (e.g. trade, agricultural policies, capital flows, etc.) have a more coherent external impact on developing countries worldwide; the private sector, and specifically companies with international activities, will need to intensify development efforts within the framework of Global Corporate Citizenship initiatives; governments in developing countries will need to broaden their respective tax bases, become more efficient and allocate more of their own funding to sectors that facilitate achievement of the MDGs.

For its part, Switzerland will need to maintain or even increase its commitment to international cooperation over the next five years. Available resources will need to be used in a more targeted manner to achieve the MDGs. At the same time, assessment mechanisms will need to be set up to monitor effectiveness of the various measures taken. Working through the IKEZ, Switzerland has already taken specific measures to make the IKEZ more effective and improve the coherence of Swiss development cooperation activities. The already close cooperation with civil society will be maintained. Consultations with Swiss multinationals are currently underway. The aim of these consultations is to establish closer cooperation and tap into the knowledge and experience of the private sector to further development cooperation and achieve the MDGs. Switzerland is also prepared to provide assistance within all multilateral institutions, be they the WTO, the UN, the World Bank or regional development banks. It is also committed to helping the international community shape global policies that will increase development opportunities for poor countries.

As both UN report and this report show, despite all of the efforts made, it will only be possible for a small number of MDGs to be fully achieved by 2015. This is no reason to become discouraged but instead should prompt us to redouble our efforts. Over the next five years, all SDC and SECO programme officers in the field will need to make sure that their programmes are geared to achieving the MDGs more efficiently

and effectively. Moreover, the IKEZ, the Federal Council and the Federal Parliament will need to make foreign relations more coherent. Finally, all managers in the southern and northern hemispheres should work to establish conditions that enable MDGs to be reached more easily. They should also work to remove obstacles that lead to slower development.

The preconditions for all forms of development are human security (reduction in the number of conflicts), a growing economy (sustainable production), a functioning state (efficient, sustainably funded), and a flexible society (willingness to adapt to changing conditions). The preconditions for environmentally sustainable development include low-CO₂ development paths that benefit everyone and do not damage ecosystems. The precondition for socially sustainable development is global adherence to the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Over the next five years – as well as beyond 2015 – the international community should discuss the causes of stagnant or slower development more openly and more directly: armed conflict and/or unstable, fragile situations hurt developing countries, disrupt economic activities, and erode progress; inadequate economic output, the lack of innovation and too little investment lead to 30–50% unemployment, underemployment and lower purchase power; an excessively large, expensive and non-transparent state uses up local savings in an unproductive manner in many developing countries; in all too many cases, poor countries fail to use their own resources (e.g. tax revenues, revenues from the sale of commodities) to further their development; the governments of these countries do not allocate resources to infrastructure projects nor to the provision of basic services such as education and health; climate change forces many LDCs to take costly adaptation measures; while the emigration of educated and enterprising people from poor countries certainly has a positive effect in the form of remittances, it deprives the countries of origin of individuals who would otherwise be able to considerably improve the quality of the private and public sectors.

For the period after 2015, the main objective will be to determine how existing MDGs can be improved and how they can address problems in a manner that ensures that positive effects remain the same or become even stronger. The discussion regarding the MDGs after 2015 should focus more on global issues

and human rights. Moreover, the definition of poverty within a development context needs to be broader than the definition used for MDGs today. Being developed means living in a society in which as many people as possible have good social and environmentally sustainable opportunities to live in a dignified manner. Those who are not privileged in this way should be considered poor. Such a concept of poverty or a similar one would not only match the definition of poverty used by the UNDP, it would also encompass the three dimensions of the World Bank's definition of poverty: 1. *Lack of opportunities* (access to education, access to earnings, etc), 2. *Vulnerability and insecurity* (vulnerable to economic shocks, livelihood crisis, natural disasters, etc), and 3. *Powerlessness and exclusion* (lack of influence over general conditions, lack of political participation, etc). Since the MDGs were established (2000), the world has changed dramatically in economic, social, environmental and political terms. This process will continue over the coming years. These changes need to be taken into account in the new MDGs that the international community will set for itself after 2015.

As the past ten years have shown, the current MDGs exhibit several methodical flaws, which were mentioned earlier. Realistic goals can only be set if there is a corresponding ability to monitor progress. As things currently stand, not all members of the international community are able to monitor progress towards the MDGs. Moreover, achievement will depend to a large extent on factors that lie beyond the

UN's control (e. g. global economic development, the number of wars and conflicts, commitment of governments in poor countries, etc.) and only partly on factors within the UN's control.

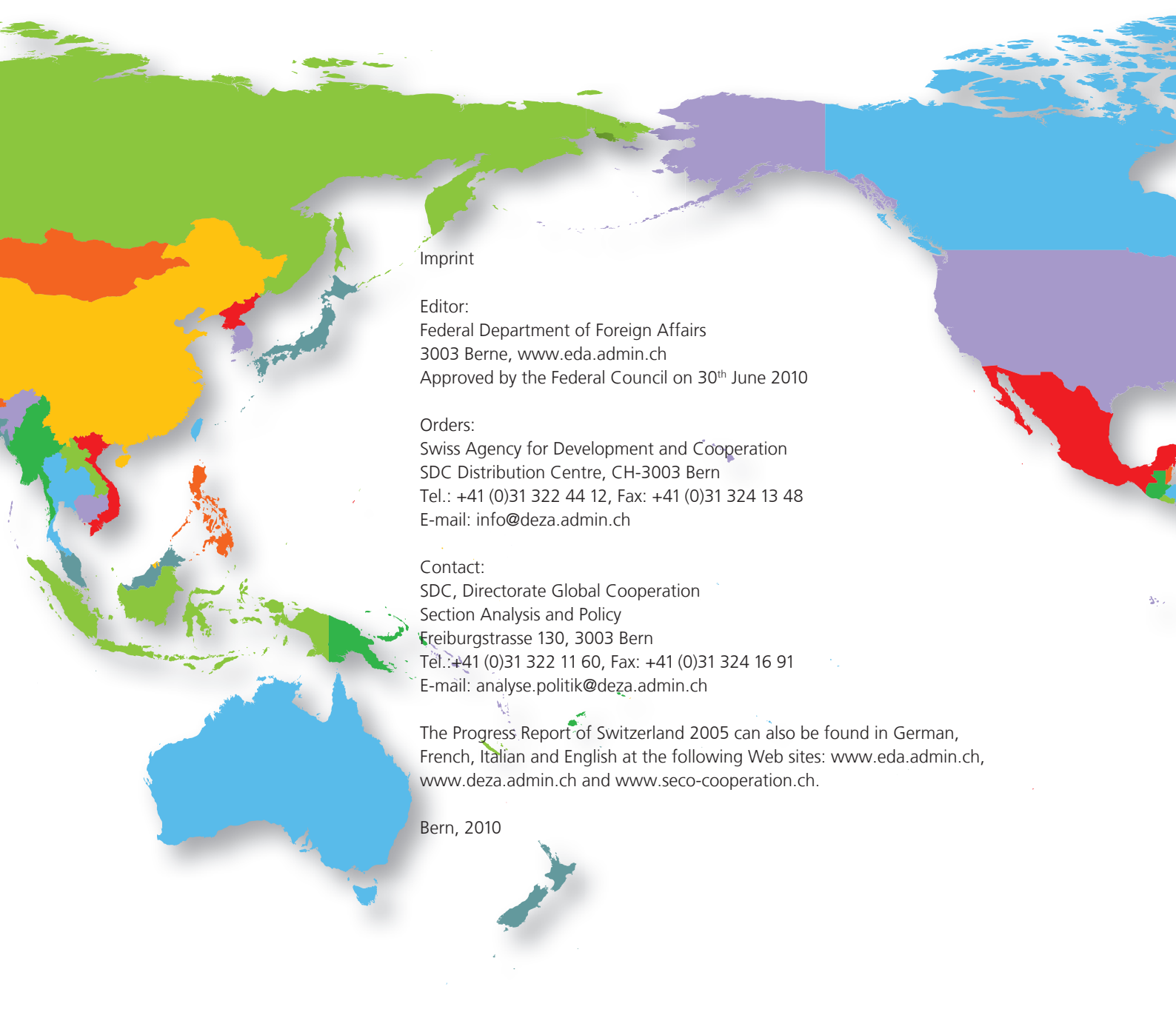
The current MDGs also have a certain tendency to focus the world's attention on the symptoms of poverty and steer ODA towards social sectors. This can be a problem when economic growth cannot be sustained; when government coffers are not filled through taxation of raw materials and income; and when tax revenues are not allocated to development initiatives.

All of these factors may be taken into account in future discussions on reformulation of the MDGs after 2015. The measurability of progress by means of indicators will continue to be important in this respect. Every five or ten years, indicators will enable the most influential countries, as well as their respective governments and lobbies, to assess the current state of progress that humanity and the world have made. The current MDGs, as well as the new MDGs after 2015, will also raise awareness among the world's citizenry of the extent of our shared social and environmental responsibility.

Acronyms

| | |
|---------|---|
| ACT | Artemisinin combination therapies |
| AIHRC | Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission |
| CEDAW | UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| CGIAR | Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research |
| CHF | Swiss francs |
| CIP | International Potato Centre |
| CSR | Corporate Social Responsibility |
| CSTD | UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development |
| CSW | UN Economic and Social Council's Commission on the Status of Women |
| DAC | OECD's Development Assistance Committee |
| DMF | Debt Management Facility, World Bank |
| DRC | Democratic Republic of Congo |
| EAWAG | Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology |
| EFA FTI | Education for All Fast Track Initiative |
| EPFL | Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne |
| ETHZ | Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich |
| FAO | Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations |
| FATF | Financial Action Task Force |
| FDFA | Federal Department of Foreign Affairs |
| FIRST | Financial Sector Reform and Strengthening Initiative |
| FIT | Federal institute of technology (two in Switzerland: ETHZ and EPFL) |
| GBEP | Global Bioenergy Partnership |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GEGs | Global Environmental Goals |
| GFATM | Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria |
| GNI | Gross National Income |
| GRB | Gender-responsive budgeting |
| GSPA | Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property |
| HIPC | Initiative for heavily indebted poor countries |
| ICAR | International Centre for Asset Recovery |
| ICTs | Information and communication technologies |
| IDANE | Interdepartmental Committee on Sustainable Development |
| IDRC | International Development and Research Centre |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| IGF | UN Internet Governance Forum |
| IHEID | Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies |
| IICD | International Institute for Communication and Development |
| IKEZ | Interdepartmental Committee for Development and Cooperation |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| ILRI | International Livestock Research Institute |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| IPDC | International Programme for the Development of Communication |
| IPPF | International Planned Parenthood Federation |
| IRRI | International Rice Research Institute |
| ITC | International Trade Centre |
| ITU | International Telecommunication Union |
| KFPE | Swiss Academy of Sciences' Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries |
| LDCs | Least Developed Countries |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goal |
| MDRI | Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative |
| MMV | Medicines for Malaria Venture |
| MVP | Millennium Villages Project |

| | |
|--------|--|
| NATO | North Atlantic Treaty Organization |
| NGO | Non-governmental organisation |
| ODA | Official Development Assistance |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| REPSI | Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative for Children Affected by AIDS, Poverty and Conflict |
| SDC | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| SEAF | Small Enterprise Assistance Fund |
| SECO | State Secretariat for Economic Affairs |
| SIFEM | Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets |
| SIPPO | Swiss Import Promotion Programme |
| SSACI | Swiss-South African Co-operation Initiative |
| StAR | World Bank's Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative |
| StEP | Solving the e-waste problem |
| STI | Sexually transmitted infections |
| TDR | Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases |
| TRIPS | Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNAIDS | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS |
| UNCAC | United Nations Convention Against Corruption |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| UNIFEM | United Nations Development Fund for Women |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| WBCSD | World Business Council for Sustainable Development |
| WEF | World Economic Forum |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| WSIS | World Summit on the Information Society |
| WSP | World Bank's Water-Sanitation Project |
| WTO | World Trade Organization |



Imprint

Editor:
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
3003 Berne, www.eda.admin.ch
Approved by the Federal Council on 30th June 2010

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The Progress Report of Switzerland 2005 can also be found in German, French, Italian and English at the following Web sites: www.eda.admin.ch, www.deza.admin.ch and www.seco-cooperation.ch.

Bern, 2010