Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Evaluation factsheet

Bern, July 2024

Promoting good governance in a global context of demo-cratic backslide

Inclusive and accountable governance is fundamental to delivering sustainable development. The 2023 Evaluation highlights positive results of SDC's engagement on governance, including in challenging country contexts.

Strengths

Effective
SDC delivers results. Achievements are easier to come by in countries that are stable, but good results also emerge in countries where there is democratic backslide, and in countries burdened by conflict.

Trusted & consistent
Switzerland stays engaged in challenging contexts, providing an important counterweight to anti-democratic trends and actors in a global context where democracy is under threat. At country level, Switzerland excels at finding entry points and reform champions to work on governance despite democratic reversals.

Well-designed & people centred
SDC's programmes are designed in a way that connects governance engagements to specific sectors, such as water, health, or electricity, which lead to tangible improvements in the lives of citizens, especially at local level, that are felt by- and benefit citizens and communities.

almost 70%
Governance-related engagements have increased and amounted to almost 70 percent of SDC's spending, close to reaching the target of 75 percent.
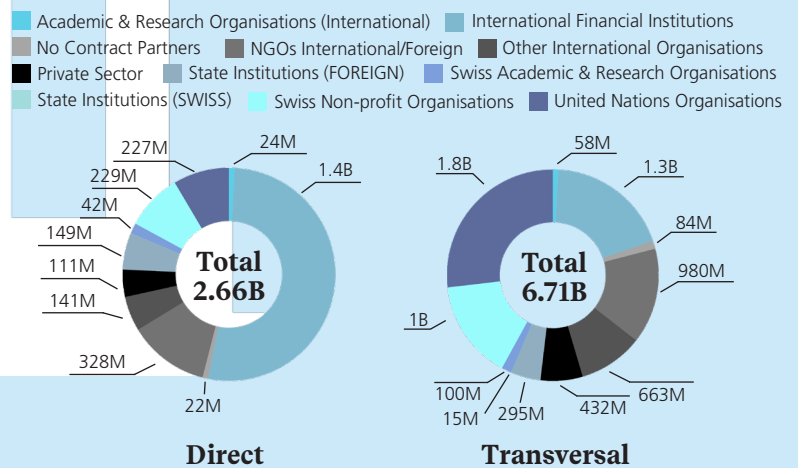
43%
Democratization and decentralization account for 43 percent of SDC's core governance programmes.

80%
A remarkable 80% of staff use SDC's learning tools and guidance documents to help the institution navigate the complexity of working with democratic governance.

Direct and transversal bilateral governance interventions, 2017 till 2022
Types of implementing partners. Amounts in million (billion) CHF

Legend:
- Academic & Research Organisations (International)
- International Financial Institutions
- No Contract Partners
- NGOs International/Foreign
- Other International Organisations
- Private Sector
- State Institutions (FOREIGN)
- Swiss Academic & Research Organisations
- State Institutions (SWISS)
- Swiss Non-profit Organisations
- United Nations Organisations

Direct — Total 2.66B: 227M, 24M, 1.4B, 229M, 42M, 149M, 111M, 141M, 328M, 22M

Transversal — Total 6.71B: 58M, 1.8B, 1.3B, 84M, 980M, 663M, 432M, 295M, 15M, 100M, 1B

Recommendations

→ Human Rights
Work more directly to strengthen human rights, while ensuring that such engagements do not jeopardize safety of partners and staff. Maintain and further develop indirect approaches, including strategically designed cultural interventions.

→ Adaptive management
Stay engaged at local level in countries experiencing democratic reversals, increasing authoritarianism and fragility. Pursue entry points for engagement at national level, and when national level engagement is restricted, step-up engagement at regional and global levels.

→ Transversal governance
Prioritise governance as a transversal theme and continue to develop staff capacities and resources in particular through face-to-face interactions and Learning Journeys. Consider how to strengthen incentives to work on transversal governance in humanitarian settings hereunder tailoring the transversal governance checklist to be more suited to humanitarian aid.

→ Modalities
Contributions should be considered as the preferred modality in governance programming, with careful consideration of advantages and disadvantages in specific contexts.