



SDC's work on migration: effective and innovative

Migration is a thematic priority of Switzerland's international cooperation strategy 2025-2028 with the objectives of improving the protection and socio-economic integration of displaced populations and migrants in vulnerable situations; creating conditions and prospects for safe and regular migration; and strengthening the contribution of migration to sustainable development.

An independent evaluation of SDC's engagement on Migration and Forced Displacement 2017-2024 finds that SDC's work on migration and forced displacement is strongly aligned with Swiss strategies, partner-country priorities, and global frameworks "with clear advantages in durable solutions, migration governance, and integrated humanitarian and development approaches. Long-term partnerships and a strong field presence underpin its credibility and impact."

Facts

Migration and Forced Displacement Portfolio

Development Cooperation

51%

is dedicated to **Safe Labour Migration, Migration Governance, and long-term system change**. Focus geographies have been Nepal, Bangladesh, Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa.

Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Situations

46%

focuses on **Forced Displacement, emergency aid, and durable solutions**. Key geographies have been Afghanistan, Myanmar, Horn of Africa, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan, and Colombia.

East Cooperation

3%

is dedicated to **Diaspora for Development and governance in Eastern Europe**, notably in Moldova, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Montenegro.

Implementation Partners*



34%

of funds are allocated to UN Agencies

38%

to international organisations and regional institutions



16%

to International NGOs

9%

to Swiss NGOs

* rounded values

Strengths

EFFECTIVE

SDC ensures the sustainability of long-term interventions by embedding efforts into existing governmental or intergovernmental structures. Its influence in policy forums, which in turn contributes to the improved livelihood of displaced persons and migrants is evident through a wide range of activities, including in durable solutions, livelihood support, and protection efforts.

INNOVATIVE

SDC's ability to operate effectively at both policy and field levels enables it to pilot innovations, including in climate-related displacement, private sector engagement, and urbanisation.

INFLUENTIAL

SDC deliberately links global and regional policy dialogue with local, context-driven implementation. Its policy engagement extends beyond formal commitments, shaping global governance frameworks, and operational activities. Its influence is widely recognized due to its convening capability, flexible response and respect for local agency. Through its current approaches and systems, SDC has outsized impact relative to its size.

Recommendations

Institutionalise Learning and Scale Up Local Innovation

SDC should build on its knowledge management platforms and learning mechanisms, including existing networks and by allocating additional resources to a more structured process for continuous learning and the systematic uptake of local innovations. An enhanced process should strengthen knowledge sharing and reflection across thematic, regional, and country teams, with clear protocols to identify, adapt, and scale locally generated solutions. These efforts extend beyond policy development needs and ensure that promising practices and innovations are captured and effectively applied across programmes at all levels.

Deepen Foresight and Preparedness-Innovation

SDC should build on its strengths in anticipating contextual shifts by committing to foresight and scenario planning focused specifically on how technological innovation will affect migration patterns, governance, and inclusion. This includes understanding how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data-driven tools are reshaping migration forecasting, border management, and service delivery for migrants and displaced persons. Foresight work should also analyse associated risks, such as digital exclusion, data bias, and unequal access to technology, that could impact migration outcomes and protection standards.

Enhance Commitment to Working with Local Partners

Recognising the limited resources available and the need to invest more in learning, SDC should consider expanding the use of local organisations as implementing partners. At the same time, it should ensure that activities can be transferred to state institutions for long-term sustainability where possible. This should be supported by technical assistance, long-term capacity building investments, and joint monitoring frameworks.

