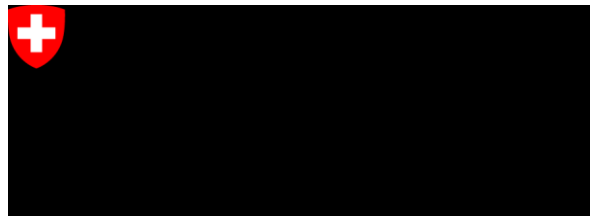


Swiss Disaster Risk Reduction and Rapid Response Advisory for Southeast Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok

May 2018



MANDATE & EXPERTISE

(Operation: since April 2013)

1. Mainstreaming DRR & CCA in SDC's programmes in Southeast Asia and the Pacific

- Spatial focus on Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vanuatu.
- Technical mainstreaming focus on food security and agriculture, water resources management and Governance.
- Support targeted DRR interventions.

2. Support Switzerland's Emergency Response in Southeast Asia and the Pacific

- Monitor and intervene on possible disasters. Stand-by function to support deployment with Swiss Emergency Response Teams.
- Support Swiss Cooperation Offices and Embassies in the field of disaster management.
- In addition, support and deployments can be mobilised from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit's pool of experts, including for secondments to partners.

3. Policy dialogue and strengthen DRR capacities in the ASEAN region and the Pacific

- Contribute to ASEAN-Switzerland Sectoral Dialogue Partnership related to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management (DM).
- Expertise for high-level policy dialogue and capacity development on DRR, CCA and DM.

Expertise by two Regional DRR and Rapid Response Advisors:

- Identification, planning, implementation and monitoring of DRR & CCA activities.
- Technical expertise: Integrated water resources management, risk identification & analyses, applied geology, hydrogeology, and GIS.
- Disaster management and Emergency response & deployment.
- High-level policy dialogue, capacity development and guidance on the alignment with international frameworks related to DRR, CCA.
- Partnership development, networking and technical advice to disaster management authorities.



Engineers from the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) and SDC Regional DRR Advisors conducting a risk assessment at a newly constructed bridge in Chomphet District, Luang Prabang Province, Northern Lao PDR, 2017 ©SDC, M. Krüger.

Swiss policy: Reducing disaster risks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific

With the Asia-Pacific being the most hazard-prone region in the world with high exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards and the impacts of climate change, Switzerland in its *Message on International Cooperation 2013-2016* stipulates an increased commitment in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA). This commitment is renewed in the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017-2020, where DRR figures as one of the priority themes of SDC Humanitarian Aid. With the goal to incorporate aspects of DRR and CCA in SDC programmes, the Swiss Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) decided to strengthen its DRR and emergency response capacities in the regions of Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

The Regional DRR Advisory supports Swiss Cooperation Offices (SCOs) in Southeast Asia, in particular in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar, to identify, implement and monitor DRR and CCA mainstreaming in their development and humanitarian programmes and projects. This task is focused but not limited to the SDC's projects in the *Agriculture and Food Security* domain. In addition, SCOs are supported in planning and implementing targeted DRR interventions.

Interventions in Vanuatu started with an initial response to Cyclone Pam and El Niño related drought in 2015-16. The assistance was transformed into an adaptation project to build disaster resilience through food and water security, mainstreaming climate and disaster risk into Vanuatu's Ministry of Agriculture and scale up at regional and international levels.

Stand-by for Emergency Response

With its regional presence in Bangkok, Switzerland through the SDC Humanitarian Aid can provide assistance in case of disasters or humanitarian crises. Switzerland is committed to provide international humanitarian assistance, as well as expertise in DRR.

Policy dialogue to strengthen regional capacities

Regional organizations, such as ASEAN or the Pacific Islands Forum, gain an increasingly important role in the field of disaster management. Switzerland is supporting the ASEAN at both strategic and operational level. Strengthening DRR in the Pacific is equally a focus area.

Main Activities

Mainstreaming of DRR & CCA

The regional advisory acts as a demand-driven service provider to the Swiss Cooperation Offices mostly in Southeast Asia to support the mainstreaming of DRR and CCA into SDC's programmes and projects. This advisory consists of technical support on risk assessment & analysis, theoretical and practical training, identification of DRR and CCA measures in the following SDC-supported or mandated projects:

Cambodia (mainstreaming & targeted):

- Cambodia Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition (CHAIN), 2014-2022
- Partnership for Forestry and Fisheries: Support to Forestry and Fisheries communities in Cambodia (PaFF), 2014-2021
- Development of a DRR/CCA strategic and operational Work Plan supporting the SDC Mekong Region Cooperation Strategy 2018-2021
- Disaster Resilience and Water Management in Cambodia (DRAW), 2017-2019

Lao PDR (mainstreaming):

- Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF), 2016-2020
- The Agrobiodiversity Initiative (TABI), 2016-2020
- Enhancing Nutrition of Upland Farming Families (ENUFF), 2019-2022

Myanmar (mainstreaming):

- Community-Led Coastal Management in the Gulf of Mottama (CLCMGoMP), 2015-2018
- Emergency Coordination Mechanism for Mon State since 2014
- National Guidelines for the Construction of Safe and Child Friendly Schools,, 2015-present

Vanuatu (targeted):

- Enabling & Upscaling Climate Change Adaptation through Strengthened Food & Water Security, 2018-2019

Emergency Response

The regional rapid response advisory in Bangkok has the role to monitor potential disasters, report and stand-by for deployment as part of the Swiss Emergency Teams. In the past, the unit intervened in the following emergencies in the region:

- Philippines, 2013: Deployment for Cyclone Haiyan
 - Nepal, 2015: Deployment for earthquake
 - Cambodia, 2016: Emergency Response to El Niño related drought
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Current cooperation with ASEAN

Switzerland was conferred the status of *ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partner* in July 2016. Switzerland & ASEAN have agreed on *Practical Cooperation Areas*, amongst which SDC HA is contributing to "*Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance*" to support the implementation of *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)* and its work programme 2016-2020, as follows:

1. Policy dialogue and capacity development:

Switzerland provided technical expertise and financial support on disaster management to the 2017 *ASEAN Senior Executive Programme on Disaster Management (SEPDM)*.

This support was extended to the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) Working Groups on *Knowledge and Innovation Management*, and *Prevention and Mitigation*.

2. Operational component:

Switzerland supported the *AHA Centre (ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management)* financially and technically in the planning, execution and evaluation of the *ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Exercise (ARDEX-16)* hosted by Brunei Darussalam in 2016 to strengthen the role and capacity of the AHA Centre.

In 2018, a *Table Top Exercise* was designed and conducted to test AHA Centre internal emergency communication procedures. In addition, the ERAT (Emergency Rapid Assessment Team) training programme was developed and conceptualised to a new level for future team leaders.

International context

Cooperation and knowledge development in SE Asia and the Pacific will be shared and promoted by ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Centre and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) at the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 3 to 6 July 2018. Myanmar and Vanuatu partners will showcase DRR mainstreaming into SDC projects, and building community and country resilience to disaster and CC consequences. Switzerland will support this international knowledge exchange also contributing to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR and the Agenda 2030.

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