

# FACTSHEET HEALTH

June 2015



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



The SDC implements programmes to improve the health of vulnerable groups. It is mainly active in low-income African countries and selected countries covered by its cooperation with Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The SDC also has some programmes in East Asia. SDC programmes aim to strengthen health systems, reduce the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases and improve maternal, newborn and child health as well as sexual and reproductive health.

## Challenges

- › A broad range of social **determinants** (income, social status, gender, education, physical environment and diet) affect people's health. Unequal access to adequate health services can only be addressed through cooperation between health and other sectors.
- › **Poverty-related infectious diseases** continue to place a heavy burden on low and middle-income countries. Non-communicable diseases are also increasingly prevalent. Tackling both types of disease simultaneously is a major challenge for public health.
- › Many countries have **fragile health systems that struggle to provide decent health services**. Their governments invest too little in healthcare and remain heavily reliant on foreign support. A lack of transparent governance structures often adds to this problem. The result is insufficient infrastructure, equipment and technology, and a general shortage of qualified health professionals. Inadequate social protection mechanisms to prevent high out-of-pocket payments for health services are contributing to an increasing inequity in access to health services.

- › There have been fundamental changes in recent years in the way the **global health architecture** is organised throughout the world. This is due to a growing number and variety of stakeholders, which resulted in an increasing focus of national health authorities on donor priorities rather than on efforts to increase the sustainability and efficiency of their health systems as a whole, in order to offer health services for all.
- › Further improvements in **efficiency and effectiveness** are needed in international cooperation to reduce global inequalities with regard to illness and healthcare. As part of the post-2015 agenda for sustainable development, Switzerland is advocating a stand-alone health goal to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, which includes also the challenges of the determinants of health.

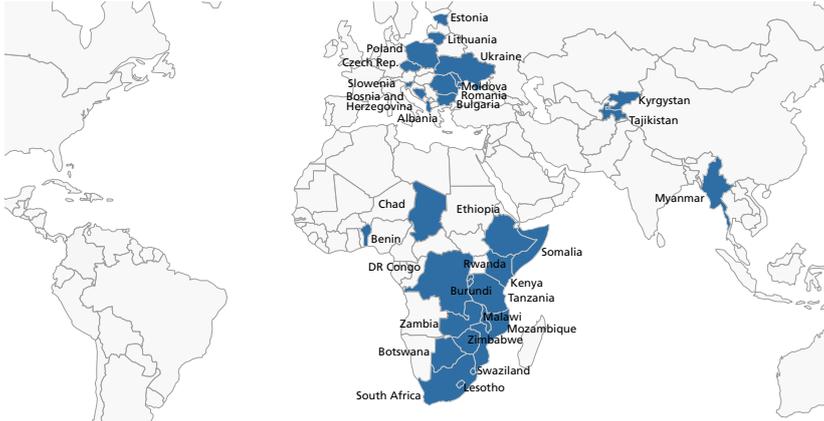
## Thematic priorities

The SDC focuses its efforts mainly on the primary level of health services. Its priorities are threefold:

- › **Strengthening health systems to achieve universal coverage**  
Key challenges are the shortage of health professionals, funding, good governance and effective management, and the availability and quality of the appropriate infrastructure, technology and medical supplies.
- › **Reducing the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases**  
Communicable diseases: HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections (pneumonia); neglected tropical diseases; non-communicable diseases: cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, cancer, diabetes and mental health problems.
- › **Improving maternal, newborn and child health as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights**

The SDC health portfolio was drawn up with reference to the contexts and needs of SDC partner countries. It takes into account the SDC's technical experience and expertise as well as Switzerland's health foreign policy. The Global Programme Health of SDC allows it to further political dialogue on issues that cannot be addressed solely by partner countries at the domestic level.

## Bilateral development cooperation and humanitarian aid in the health sector



FDFA, STS, CMC-Geesservices  
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 General Remarks: The boundaries and names shown, as well as the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by Switzerland.

\*Not including contributions to multilateral and international organisations

## Partners

The SDC works together with governmental and non-governmental partners as well as multilateral organisations, global health initiatives, international NGOs, the private sector and research institutes. The SDC's cooperation with multilateral and global organisations complements its bilateral activities. Thanks to their long-standing experience and renowned expertise, many multilateral partners often support the implementation of programmes at the national level and are thus able to achieve a broad impact. At the same time the SDC helps shape the priorities of these multilateral organisations through its experience in bilateral cooperation. In the event of natural disasters and other emergencies, the SDC directly implements programmes through the Swiss Humanitarian Aid or supports other specialised actors (the Swiss Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières).

## Project examples



SDC

### Improving mental health services in Bosnia and Herzegovina

An increasing number of people suffer from mental illness in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a consequence of war trauma, unemployment and poverty. The SDC is supporting the country to modernise its mental healthcare provision to ensure patients receive adequate treatment. In the communities, programmes have been implemented to fight the stigma surrounding mental illness and improve social inclusion for those affected.



UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO

### Improving mother and child health

In Somalia approximately 4,200 pregnant women and 70,000 children under 5 die annually – most from diarrhoea, pneumonia, malaria, malnutrition or from complications during pregnancy and childbirth – causes of mortality which are preventable today. Together with the United Nations, the SDC has been supporting the systematic reconstruction of the Somali healthcare system since 2014, with particular focus on improving the health of mothers and children.



SDC

### Sexual and reproductive health for young people

In eight countries in southern Africa, the SDC is contributing to a programme run by the UN agency UNFPA that gives young people between the ages of 10 and 24 access to information and services in the area of sexual and reproductive health. The SDC is helping to prevent people from becoming infected with HIV and avoid unwanted pregnancies, and to improve the health of young women and men.

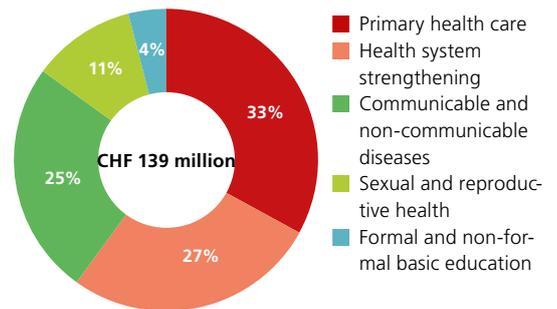


Swiss TPH

### Introduction of a family doctor model

The SDC has supported a project to reform the health system in Tajikistan since 2003. A system of healthcare provision through family doctors is being established to provide affordable, effective primary healthcare that is accessible to all. Because family doctors have the expertise to diagnose various diseases themselves, patients no longer have to consult different doctors. The new model has been implemented in 6 districts so far, directly benefiting 600,000 people.

## Expenditure in 2014



Health expenditure in total (incl. multilateral): CHF 206 million

## Imprint

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