

PROFILE


swisscontact

SWISS
FOUNDATION
FOR TECHNICAL
COOPERATION



We are a leading organisation for the implementation of international development projects. Founded in 1959 and registered under Swiss law, we are an independent non-profit organisation. We are politically and denominationally neutral.

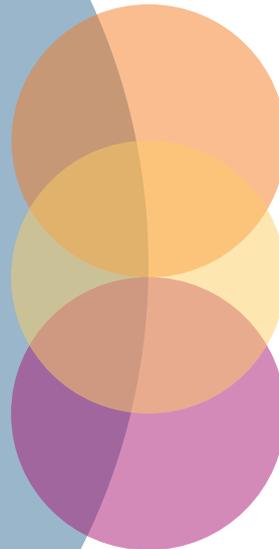
We create opportunities



OUR MISSION

We promote inclusive economic, social and ecological development to make an effective contribution towards sustainable and widespread prosperity in developing and emerging economies.

With this objective in mind, we offer economically and socially disadvantaged people a chance to improve their lives on their own initiative.



PEOPLE

ENTERPRISE

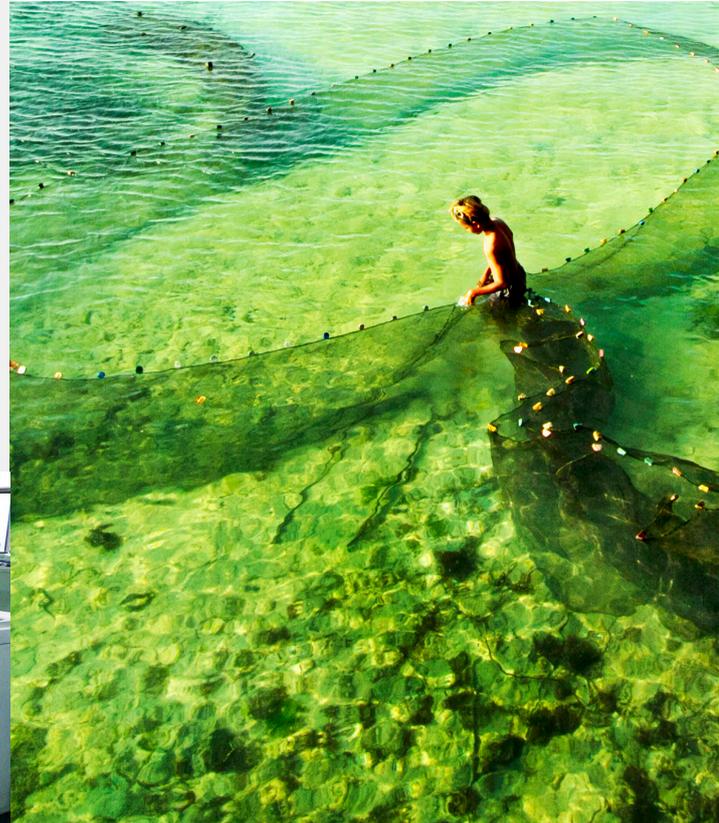
ECONOMY

WHAT WE STAND FOR

We strengthen the competencies of people, improving their employability.

We increase the competitiveness of enterprises, growing their business.

We foster social and economic systems, promoting inclusive development.





THESE ARE THE CHALLENGES WE RISE UP TO

Economic, social, and environmental challenges are increasing, particularly in emerging economies and developing countries. Problems range from poverty, youth unemployment, inequality of income and land distribution, to political instability, conflicts, and forced migration. At the same time, natural resources are under pressure from population growth, increasing demand for energy, raw materials, and food. Climate change exacerbates these problems.

These challenges can only be overcome if we fight their root causes. That is precisely what Swisscontact does. We understand development as constituting the basis for making communities more resilient.

We always work closely with the local private sector and civil society. In this way, we are able to strengthen social and economic structures in fragile environments, applying conflict-sensitive approaches. We analyse the situation and the potential effects that our projects could have in great detail, in so doing rendering us more flexible to change and implement our programmes successfully.

HOW WE ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Even under difficult conditions, people are willing to act on their own initiative. We are experiencing this in our work day by day. Swisscontact is helping people in a significant way to acquire **skills** and gain **access to markets, technologies, and financial services**. In so doing, we are strengthening the basis for sustainable development.

In order to free themselves from poverty, people need an enabling environment with a level playing field. Swisscontact, therefore, identifies the root causes that impede development, taking them on directly. We know the best conditions for people to develop their full potential and for sustainable development involves mixing **government interventions and private-sector approaches** that also take social and environmental factors into consideration.

We understand sustainable and inclusive economic development as a long-term process. It requires technological, institutional, and social innovation. Such development enhances resilience in communities, economies, regions, and countries. In so doing, it prevents humanitarian crises. Swisscontact sees itself as a catalyst for and facilitator of these processes.







HOW WE ASSESS SUSTAINABILITY

The UN's Agenda 2030 encompasses 17 development goals, none of which can be achieved without inclusive development. In line with these objectives, Swisscontact is particularly committed to:



Good Governance: We promote transparent, accountable, participatory and effective decision-making processes. We support and strengthen governing institutions, civil society organisations and interest groups that foster economic growth, human development, and social cohesion.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion: We promote gender equality, both in our project work and within our organisation. We strive for the social inclusion of all people.



Environmental Responsibility: We always consider the environment, actively exploring opportunities to enhance the resilience of individuals and communities to deal with climate change and promoting solutions for efficient use of resources.



Financial Inclusion: In our projects, we promote financial literacy and access to affordable and fair financial products and services.



HOW WE WORK

We implement our projects in adherence to four clearly defined working principles:





Inclusive Systems Development

We apply a systemic approach: this means acting as trainers, facilitators, and enablers, seeking to enable local organisations and partners, ensuring they take direct ownership. This is how we achieve sustainable impact at scale.

Learning Culture

We continuously develop and embed new learning methodologies, increasing knowledge, competence and performance within our organisation.

Evidence-Based Adaptive Management

We manage our projects with an evidence-based and adaptive management approach, based on a standardised monitoring and results measurement system that allows for informed decision-making and timely corrective action.

Engaging the Private Sector

We seek to develop partnerships with local and international businesses to increase the range of opportunities for our partners and people we serve.

OUR CORE AREAS OF ACTIVITY

Vocational education and training, retraining and labour market integration constitute a focus of our activities. In this way, we strengthen people's skills and offer them the conditions for a secure livelihood and the opportunity to actively participate in society.

In **business promotion**, we focus our work on five economic sectors with the best chances for sustainable development: tourism, trade, entrepreneurial ecosystems, green cities, and sustainable agriculture. This is where we focus our energy, in order to create productive jobs, improve incomes, and promote economic well-being without harming the environment.

In their daily work, our employees are committed to **implement projects, provide advisory services, and practical hands-on training**. We also engage in applied research.



Initial Vocational
Education and Training



Labour Market
Insertion



Upskilling and
Reskilling



Entrepreneurial
Ecosystem



Green Cities



Sustainable
Agriculture



Trade



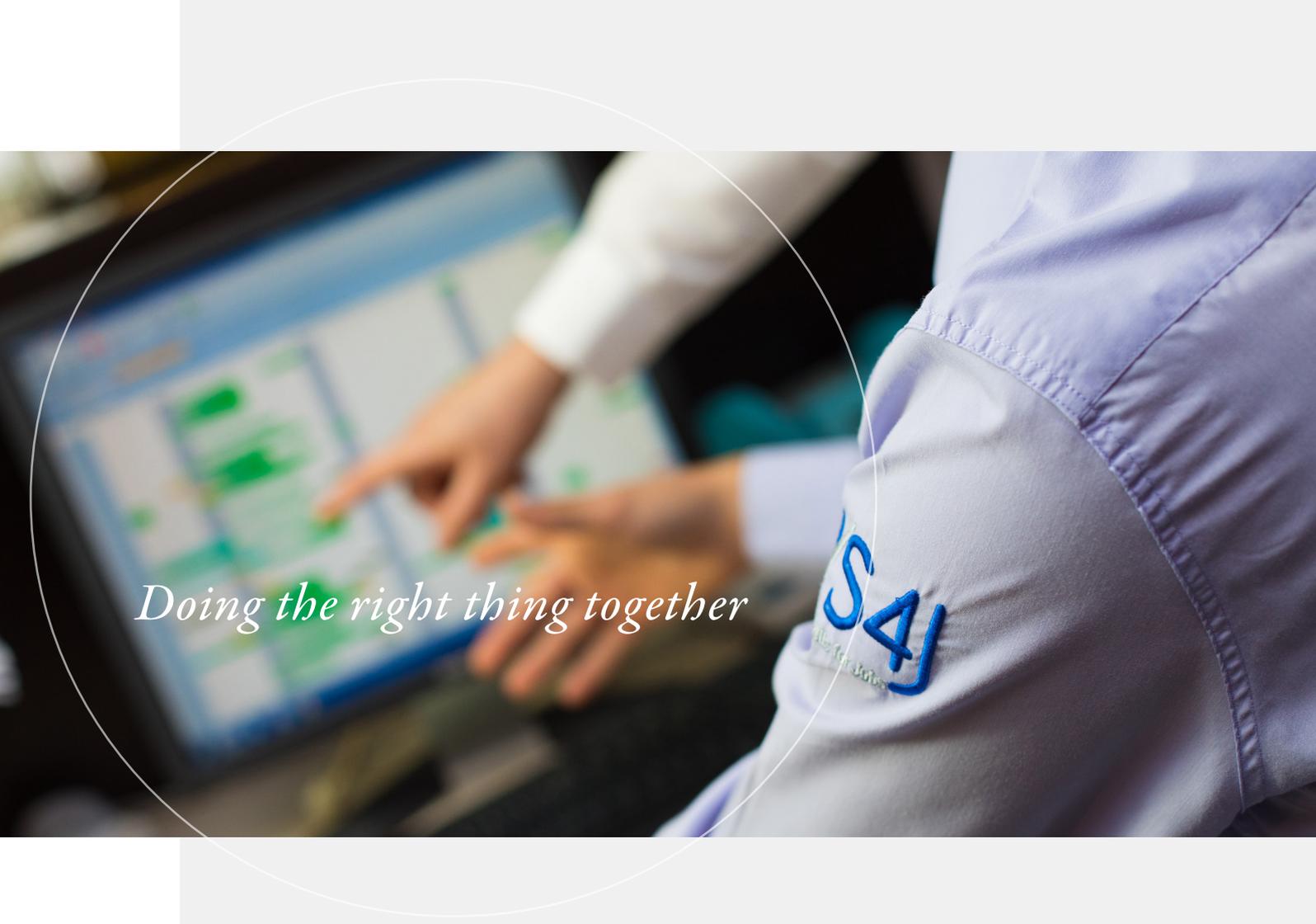
Tourism

PARTNERSHIPS ARE THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Solid partnerships at all levels are essential for development projects to achieve the best possible outcomes. This is a key takeaway from our more than 60 years of experience in international development cooperation. For this reason, we work closely with local, national, and international partners. Our partnerships focus on joint projects that benefit all stakeholders, especially local populations.

For people to be able to improve their lives on their own strength, the local private sector plays a key role. Therefore, we implement projects in partner countries together with local companies in the field. In this way, local SMEs, producers, and employees are able to participate in the economy. We also involve local authorities, organisations, and civil society. Thanks to our deep understanding of specific political, social, and environmental issues, we are able to extend the outreach of our efforts, use synergies, and impart our experience and know-how to beneficiaries in a targeted fashion.





Doing the right thing together

Swisscontact

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www.swisscontact.org

ZEWO quality seal of approval: Swisscontact was awarded the quality seal from ZEWO. It is awarded to non-profit organisations for the conscientious handling of money entrusted to them, proves appropriate, economical and effective allocation of donations and stands for transparent and trustworthy organisations with functioning control structures that uphold ethics in the procurement of funds and communication. Swisscontact is regularly audited on the adherence to these criteria. (Source: ZEWO)

Swisscontact is a member of Transparency International and UN Global Compact.

