

South and Southeast Asia

SWISS
FOUNDATION
FOR TECHNICAL
COOPERATION



Why Asia, Why Now



Prashant Rana
Director, South & Southeast Asia

Message from the Regional Director

Across Asia, we stand at a defining crossroads. The region is experiencing significant growth but also faces mounting challenges - global crises, shifting geopolitical priorities, and donor fatigue are reshaping the development landscape that threaten the promise of shared prosperity. These challenges demand innovation, collaboration, and shared responsibility.

At Swisscontact, we believe that the future of development lies in building inclusive and climate-resilient economies where people are not just passive recipients of aid, but active agents of change through solutions co-created with the private sector.

This is a moment for renewed solidarity among development partners, donors, and private foundations. Asia's future will be shaped by how we respond today. Let us invest not only in projects, but in people - their resilience, creativity, and capacity to build a more inclusive future.



We have country offices in Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Indonesia but are active beyond these countries.

352,541

People Reached

540

Partnership Formed

28,374

Green Skills Training

Nepal

○ ● 3.6 M ● 8 M

Bangladesh

○ ● 4 M ● 8.8 M

Myanmar

○ ● 306,609 ● 469,081

Laos

○ ● 27,460 ● 732,706

Cambodia

○ ● 1.6 M ● 345,904

Indonesia

○ ● 172,215

- Private Sector Investment Leveraged (In actual CHF)
- Income Increased (In actual CHF)

About Us

Based in Zurich, Swisscontact is the independent, business-oriented foundation for international development cooperation. Founded in 1959 by leading Swiss companies, Swisscontact has promoted skills development and entrepreneurship to make a sustainable contribution to economic growth in developing and emerging countries.



What We Do

Through the promotion of education, innovation, and entrepreneurship, we contribute to sustainable jobs, fair incomes, and functioning local markets. We combine an effective partnership-based, market-oriented approach with evidence based adaptive management.

Get Involved with Us

Together with Swisscontact, you can create impact both locally and globally. We develop solutions that merge your values and business objectives, leading to sustainable projects and partnerships. Your expertise steers economic development directly to the people. We will accompany you from concept creation to measuring impact, providing guidance even when you are facing individual challenges.

Get involved with us [Click Here](#)

Enterprise Support



Regenerative Value Chains



Skills Development





● **Inclusive Economic Growth**



● **Market Linkages**

Why It Works

Our working principles enable us to implement projects efficiently and design them to scale, thereby anchoring them sustainably. Our principles ensure transparency vis-à-vis partners, donors, and the public; they are a key reason for the high quality and credibility of Swisscontact.

Climate Action

Swisscontact drives climate action by co-creating solutions with local actors and the private sector. We don't treat climate change as an isolated issue, but as an integral part of social and economic development.

Resilient Value Chains

Regenerative Agriculture

We promote farming practices that reduce environmental impact through climate-smart technologies. Yet, scaling agroecological methods means confronting entrenched chemical subsidies.

In **Nepal**, large cardamom farmers are threatened by climate change, pests, and volatile markets. Our partnership with a local manufacturer helped modify dryers that use less wood, dry 60% faster and uniformly, retain the cardamom's natural aroma and color, and reduce post-harvest loss.



Read our
success story
[Click here](#)

Another partner is using tissue culture to grow high-quality disease-free cardamom saplings, giving an alternative to traditional disease-prone varieties. They supply over 100,000 saplings annually to municipalities and are now testing tissue culture for ginger, banana, and tea.





The investment has helped me expand my business and I am confident that my firm will be able to supply more resilient crops through tissue culture technology.

Robin Rai

Founder
Monkshood Krishi Firm Pvt. Ltd.

Read our
success story
[Click here](#)



Cambodia faces a different challenge: heavy rains and droughts are degrading soil and cutting farm productivity. The Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture (ISA) programme is helping farmers to restore soil health through no-till farming, cover crops, and financing for agroecological transition.

Check out our work in
regenerative agriculture

[Click Here](#)

women's groups began regenerative shallot farming. These efforts are reducing emissions, increasing incomes, and cutting dependence on illegal palm oil production – showing how local action can balance livelihoods and protect biodiversity.

More about our programme
on sustainable landscape

[Click Here](#)

In Aceh, **Indonesia**, communities are protecting forests while sustaining livelihoods. With our support, 38 villages created land-use plans covering 26,881 hectares, including peatlands. Over 5,900 small farmers joined sustainable palm oil programmes, 819 achieved Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification, and

We implement similar activities in Bangladesh.

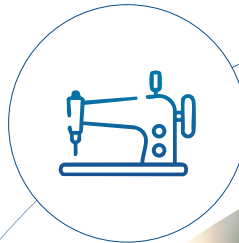
Learn more about our
disaster risk reduction and
climate change adaptation

[Click Here](#)



Resilient Urban Centers

To strengthen urban systems that respond to the growing challenges of climate migration in Bangladesh, we are working with the government to build inclusive and climate-resilient municipalities that support migrants displaced from coastal areas. By combining evidence generation, institutional strengthening, and participatory service design, we promote locally led solutions aligned with national policies. In parallel, we are advancing **sustainable housing** models to ensure climate-affected families can access safe, affordable, and resilient homes—creating pathways for dignified urban integration and long-term adaptation.



Readymade Garment Industries

In **Bangladesh**, Swisscontact has advanced climate action in the RMG sector by embedding sustainability, efficiency, and skills development in factories and communities. Energy efficiency, renewable energy, compliance measures, and carbon reporting are already setting industry standards. Workplace-based training has built greener skills, while savings and insurance have improved worker's financial resilience.

Factories mobilised CHF 2.2 million for green initiatives. Efficiency pilots across RMG factories have the potential to reduce 5,400 tons of CO₂ emissions by 2030 - but more importantly, they demonstrated how a sector employing millions can drive global supply chain transformation.



More stories
of change here:
[Click here](#)



learn more about our work in Sustainable development of tourism destinations
Click here



Sustainable Tourism

Tourism can provide climate-sensitive livelihoods and low-carbon jobs. With over 20 years of global experience, Swisscontact works with communities, governments, and businesses to build sustainable destinations.

In **Cambodia**, the Hospitality Kampuchea (HoKa), an excellent industry-based training offering high-quality hospitality vocational training to low-skilled workers, upskilled hotel managers and business owners in the tourism sector, alongside the project's greening initiatives that advance sustainable development.

[Learn more about HoKa](#)

[Click Here](#)



In **Nepal**, our Developing Inclusive and Green Opportunities (DIGO) project supports the adoption of sustainable tourism practices and products in two destinations by strengthening the capacities of tourism enterprises and upskilling tourism professionals, benefiting both the local population and the environment.

In **Indonesia**, the Sustainable Tourism Education Development (STED) project in Bali and Lombok launched green skills initiatives. With Global Sustainable Tourism Council training and certification, polytechnics and hotels began integrating sustainability into curricula, internships, and workplace practice. This laid the foundation for stronger collaboration between education and industry equipping students with relevant green skills.



I'm proud that SDP is one of our flagship projects. Working with Swisscontact, we bring Switzerland's dual VET approach to life. I'm particularly fond of the industry-based HoKa programme, which helps up- and re-skill workers in Cambodia's vital tourism sector.

Christian DISLER

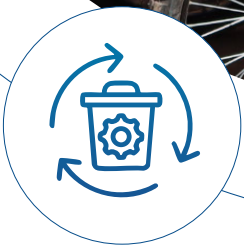
Deputy Director, Head of Programme Inclusive Economic Development
Swiss Cooperation Office and Consular Agency in Cambodia



The GSTC training shaped our sustainability policy. Our management and team now have clear guidance to apply socially responsible and environmentally sustainable practices,

Ketut Murta Jaya Kusuma

General Manager
Holiday Resort Lombok



Circular and Low-Carbon Economies

Sustainable Waste Management

In **Laos**, the 'Waste to Value' (W2V) project supports green businesses and improves livelihoods along the recycling value chain. By linking markets for recyclable materials such as plastic, the project increased incomes for informal waste workers while strengthening local recycling businesses.

Hospitality SMEs adopting food waste reduction saved up to 4,500 CHF annually. Informal waste pickers, mostly women, earned an extra 578 CHF a year due to safer working conditions and mobility equipment. SMEs cut food waste by 35% and plastic by 46%, reducing 1.5 tons of CO₂ emissions per enterprise each year. The outcomes show how waste management can deliver economic, environmental, and social gains.



My goal is to see more businesses in tourism and hospitality invest in sustainability, and for people in Laos, including tourists, to be more aware of the issue.

Vally Phommachak
Econox



Green Skills and Institutions

In **Nepal**, the QualiTY project is greening schools through eco-friendly teaching and daily operations. Eco-clubs, composting, and “Switch Off” campaigns are building a culture of sustainability. Approximately 279 schools appointed Climate Change Focal Persons, and 35 schools integrated waste management into their School Improvement Plans.

The Skills Development Programme (SDP) Phase III in **Cambodia** has expanded green skills across 12 provinces and 14 partner Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes. Trainers and learners benefited from lessons on resource efficiency, solar energy, sensor technology, and waste management. Green campus measures such as solar lighting, waste separation, and tree planting are reinforcing the shift.

In **Laos**, findings from Greening of Integrated Vocational Education and Training School study are guiding the Ministry of Education and Sports to develop green curricula including courses on e-bike repair and solar panel installation and maintenance.

Together, these initiatives show Swisscontact's commitment to equipping learners, educators, and workers in Asia with the skills to lead on sustainability.



Lessons Learned

Across Asia, our journey reaffirmed that progress happens where technology, partnerships, and people meet. In **Nepal**, a small digital pilot called Shramsansar became a national employment platform now owned by the Government, linking young jobseekers to training and work.

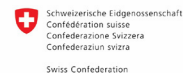
In **Bangladesh**, factory-based training tied directly to industry needs proved transformative - improving energy use, productivity, and women's financial resilience. **Indonesia** showed that when local business support groups are equipped with

knowledge and networks, they open doors for small producers to reach global markets. And in **Myanmar**, even amid fragile context, targeted support helped enterprises stay afloat and safeguard jobs.

Each of these moments reminded us that resilience grows when solutions are local, inclusive, and built to last. Our role is to stand beside partners so that innovation can take root and communities can thrive on their own strength.



Thank you



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We create opportunities

Publishing information:

Cover: Nepal Agricultural Market Development Programme, Sahaj, Nepal

Photos: Swisscontact SSA team

Layout: Arief Chandra Dharmawan, Indonesia

Report Architect | Editorial & Content Lead: Shradha Giri, South and Southeast Asia

Swiss NPO Code: The structure and management of Swisscontact conforms to the Corporate Governance Regulations for Non-Profit Organisations in Switzerland (Swiss NPO Code), issued by the presidents of large relief organisations. An audit conducted on behalf of this organisation showed that Swisscontact adheres to principles of the Swiss NPO Code.

ZEWO Seal of approval: Swisscontact was awarded the Seal of Approval 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.



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