

SWISS  
FOUNDATION  
FOR TECHNICAL  
COOPERATION

Short version

# Annual Report 2024

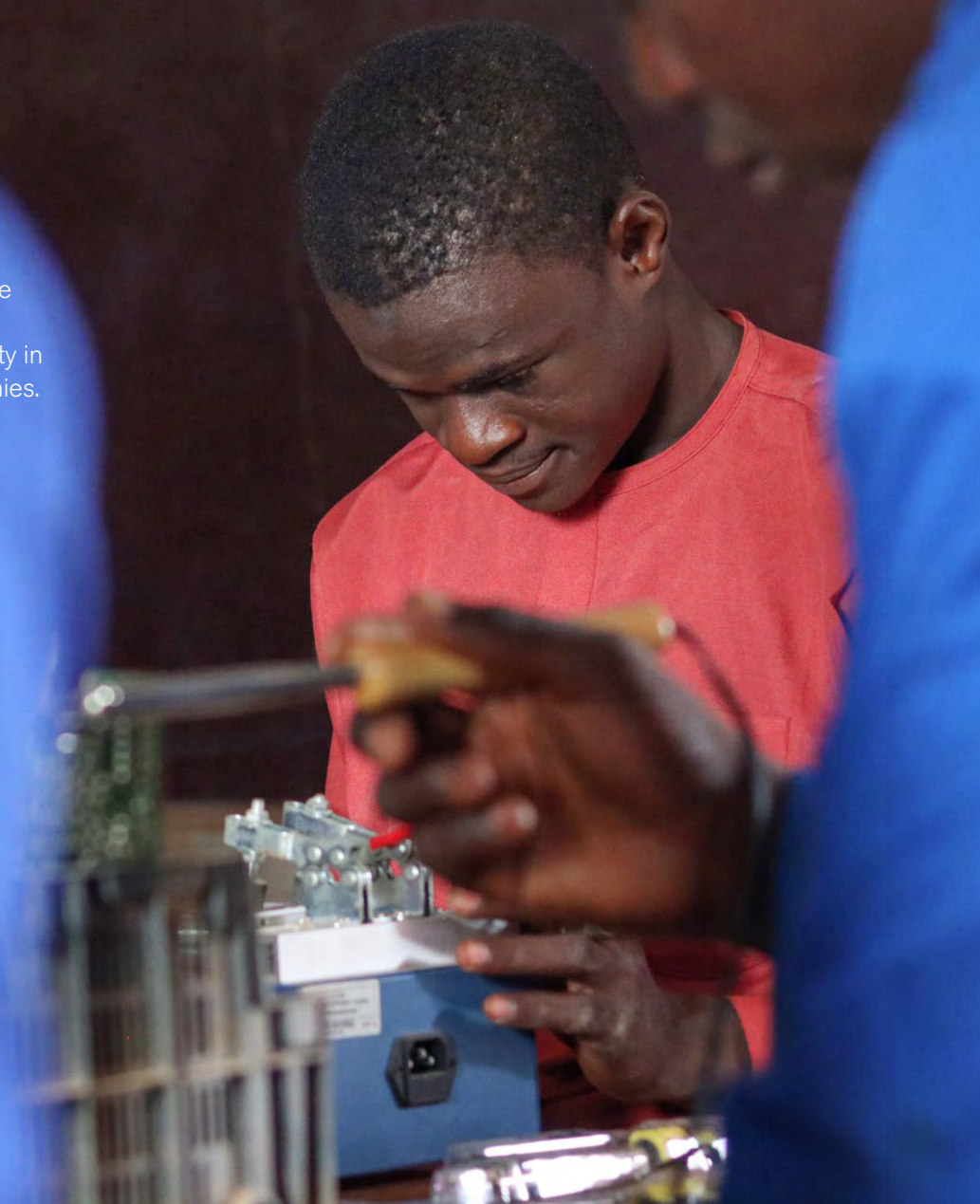


Full version online:  
[www.swisscontact.org/report2024](https://www.swisscontact.org/report2024)



## Mission

We unleash the potential of private initiative to foster sustainable development and shared prosperity in developing and emerging economies.



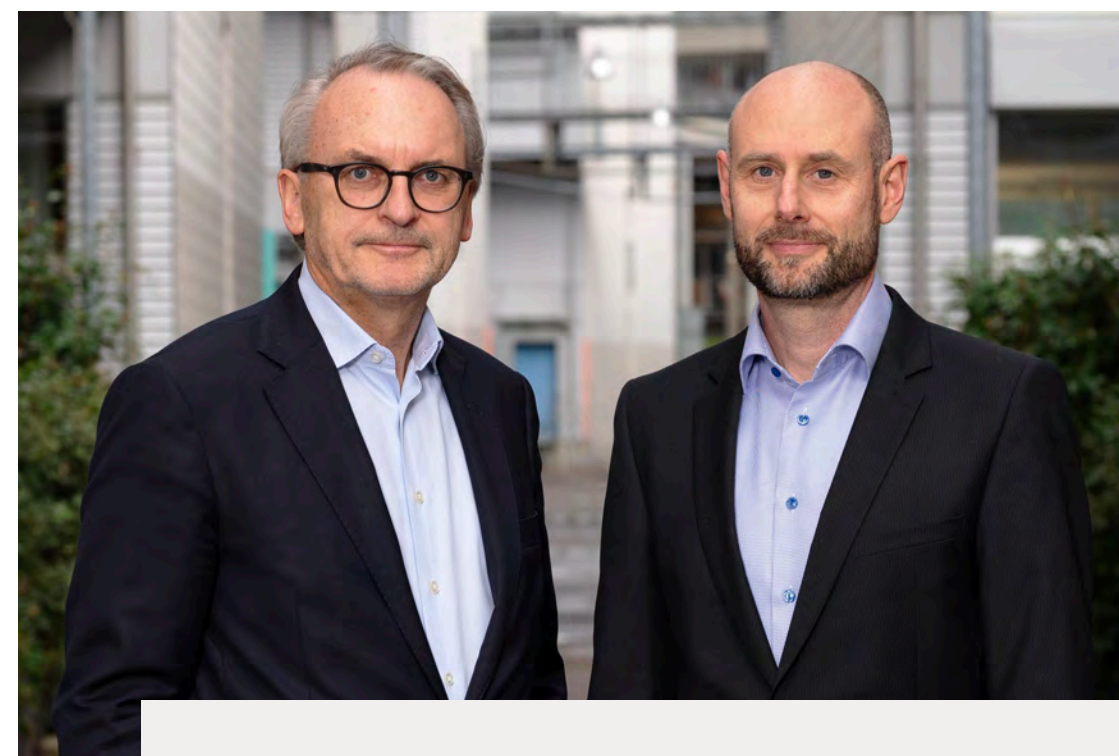
### WHAT WE DO

- We strengthen the competencies of people by promoting employment and generating income opportunities.
- We increase the competitiveness of enterprises to enable growth in their business.
- We foster inclusive social and economic systems by developing sustainable, resilient and scalable innovations.

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## International cooperation: promoting prosperity and stability



”

In the past year, we have supported 317,000 small businesses and we helped create almost 42,000 jobs. 41,000 people were able to find a job or start their own business through initial vocational training or further training. Beyond the social dimension, all this contributes to the creation of prosperity and stability.

Philippe Schneuwly, CEO

Photo: Thomas D. Meyer (left), Chairman, and  
Philippe Schneuwly, CEO



Editorial as a video:  
[www.swisscontact.org/report2024](https://www.swisscontact.org/report2024)

# Results and impact 2024

Swisscontact applies systematic impact assessment. Consistent and comparable tracking and measuring of results in various projects is an integral element of project management and quality assurance for Swisscontact.

Our achievements in 2024:

## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



**191 168**  
**people,**

51.2% of whom are women, have completed programmes in skills development, entrepreneurship, and labour market insertion. Of all these people, 67.5% belonged to particularly marginalised groups.



**40 985**  
**people,**

56.3% of whom are women, found a job or started their own business. Of all these people, 49.2% belonged to particularly marginalised groups. An additional income of 26.3 million CHF per year was generated in total.

## BUSINESS PROMOTION



**317 825**  
**smallholders and SMEs**

gained access to improved products and services. Of these, 47.4% were led by women, 14.7% belonged to particularly marginalised groups.



**CHF 103.2 M**  
**in additional income per year**

generated by 183 501 smallholders and SMEs (30.2% led by women). Of these, 25.3% belonged to particularly marginalised groups.



**41 812**  
**jobs**

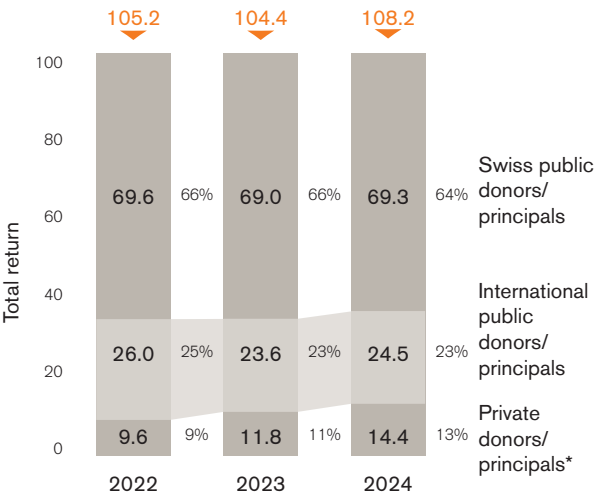
created or saved.

These 2024 global results are derived from Swisscontact's impact measurement system. All figures are traceable.

# Financial statement 2024

## SOURCE OF FUNDS

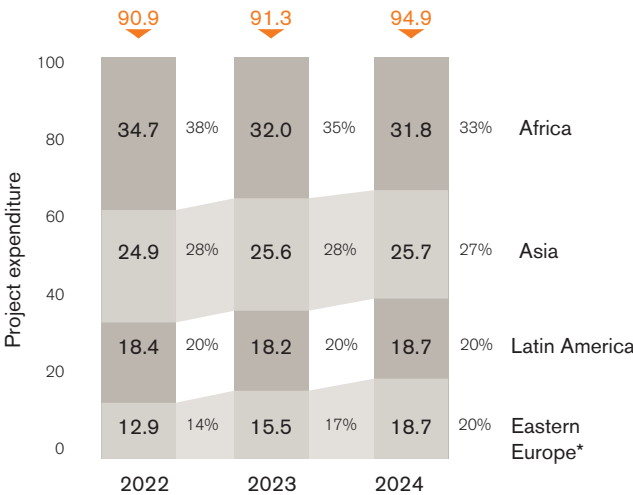
Return in million CHF



\* The source of funding has been stated more precisely for 2022 and 2023. Project revenues from private contractors in public development cooperation are now included in public donors.

## EXPENDITURE

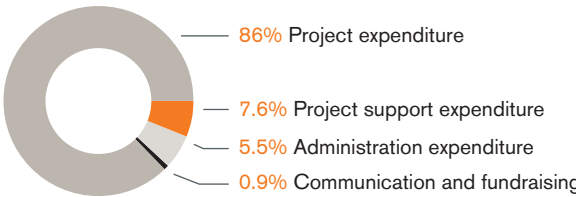
Project expenditure per region in million CHF



\* including Switzerland (SEC, DC dVET, expenditure in Switzerland for global programmes, small projects managed from Switzerland)

## EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES

in relation to total expenditures



Financial Report 2024 (in German):  
[www.swisscontact.org/finanzbericht2024](http://www.swisscontact.org/finanzbericht2024)

## Private partners and their contributions in 95 projects in 2024



## Private implementation partners and their contributions 2024





# Highlights 2024

Selected insights

## Swisscontact Development Programme: a success story continues



In our development programme, which includes 30 projects in 21 countries, we design our own projects and develop innovations.

The 2021–2024 phase exceeded targets despite initial

challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlights include our collaboration with local governments in Albania and Nepal to create digital job platforms for access to the labour market.

In Mozambique, we established a training programme focused on practical skills, supported by robust collaborations between public and private sectors. Implementing green initiatives in Bolivia and Laos, such as better waste management systems and the development of eco-friendly businesses, led to significant and enduring environmental and economic improvements.

We introduced new models, like Bangladesh's social business for safe drinking water, blending market solutions with community engagement. Prioritising opportunities for women, youth and vulnerable groups drove inclusive growth, reinforcing our dedication to equitable development.

## Digitalisation and artificial intelligence

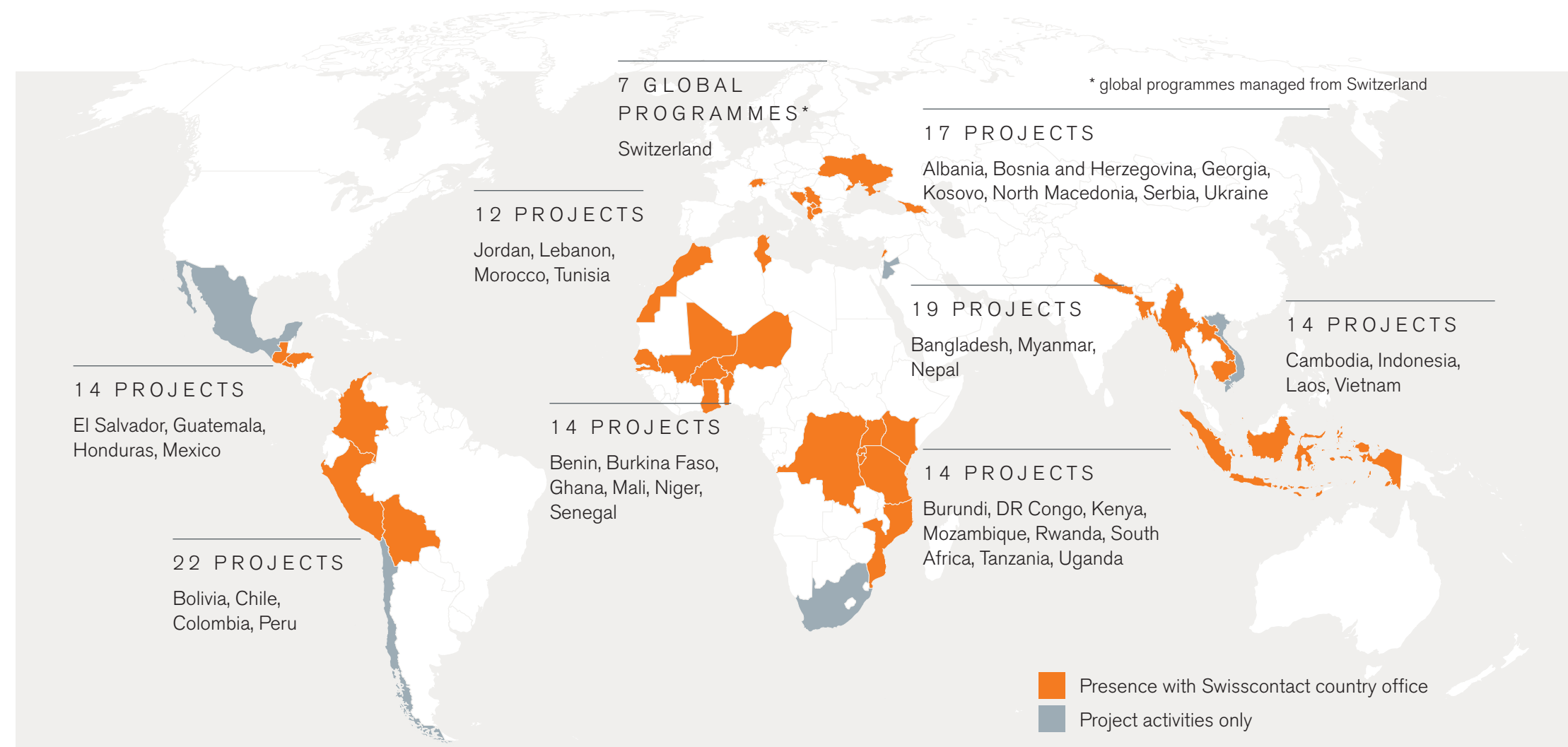
How can digitalisation and artificial intelligence (AI) contribute to poverty reduction? Swisscontact explored this question at an event for clients, partners, and interested parties. Around 150 guests attended the presentations and the lively panel discussion, which was held at Google's headquarters in Zurich in November 2024.

"AI should be developed *with* people – not only for them. If we want this technology to truly serve humanity, we must put the common good above profit," said Kasia Odrozek, Director, Insights at the Mozilla Foundation and one of the panellists.



# Global presence

133 projects in 41 countries



## Bangladesh: making markets work

More than 2 million people live in the northern chars – islands created from river sediment that are particularly exposed to the tides – of Bangladesh. These smallholder farmers mainly earn their livelihood through agriculture (crop farming, livestock, fishing) and seasonal employment opportunities.

The focus of the M4C ("Making Markets Work for the Chars") project, which ended in 2024 after 12 years, was focussed on building local market systems, such as for the processing of agricultural products, and improving financial services for the affected households. The project enabled around 75,000 people in the chars to achieve a better income.



Highlights 2024:  
[www.swisscontact.org/report2024/highlights](https://www.swisscontact.org/report2024/highlights)



# Case studies

NIGER, MALI, SENEGAL

## West Africa: More innovation, resilience and opportunities

Integrated agricultural training sites (SIFAs) were established to tackle critical challenges in West African agriculture, including the impacts of climate change, soil degradation, and rapid population growth. With the region's population projected to double by 2050, the demand for sustainable and resilient food systems is more urgent than ever. Moreover, this population surge will bring a significant wave of young people onto the labour market, intensifying the need for job creation and viable livelihood opportunities in rural areas. SIFAs offer a critical solution by equipping individuals with the skills to adopt sustainable practices and turn agriculture into a profitable and attractive career path.



Launched in Niger in 2012, SIFAs provide agro-ecology training tailored to local contexts. These programmes empower farmers to adopt sustainable practices such as integrated pest management, organic soil enrichment, and crop diversification. By combining traditional knowledge with modern techniques, SIFAs help reduce reliance on expensive chemical inputs while improving productivity and restoring degraded ecosystems.



More about this project:

[www.swisscontact.org/report2024/westafrica](http://www.swisscontact.org/report2024/westafrica)

### RESULTS

The first SIFA was opened in **2012**.

Since then, **22 700** people have been trained, **13 891** of whom were women.

Today, a total of **34** SIFAs offer training in Niger, Mali und Senegal.



COLOMBIA AND BOLIVIA

## Latin America: Circular economy for a sustainable future

Improper disposal of waste is harmful to biodiversity, human health, and the economy, and the cost of mismanaged waste is high. Municipalities in large cities are often overwhelmed with the task of managing waste. A circular economy offers a solution to improve the situation. By ensuring that materials do not become waste, it reduces environmental impact and promotes a sustainable, resilient economy through collaboration between governments, businesses, civil society, and consumers.



More about this project:

[www.swisscontact.org/report2024/latinamerica](http://www.swisscontact.org/report2024/latinamerica)

"Circular Cities" is a collaboration between Zurich (Switzerland), Santa Cruz (Bolivia), and Cali (Colombia) to improve solid waste management through circular economy principles. This approach focusses on reducing waste, reusing material and recycling to create a closed-loop system that minimises environmental impact.

In Cali and Santa Cruz, the initiative supports the formalisation of waste picker associations, improving their working conditions and income by providing training and market access. Recyclable materials collected by waste pickers are reintroduced into local production chains, reducing the need for virgin materials. Additionally, composting solutions transform organic waste into valuable resources.

### EXPECTED RESULTS 2024-2027

At least **70 000** households in Cali and **50 000** in Santa Cruz separate their waste correctly.

More than **10 000** tonnes of organic waste are collected and properly treated.

The conditions of at least **300** waste pickers have improved.

At least **35 000** tonnes of recyclable material are collected and valorised.



# Going the extra mile – sustainably

In 2024, our sustainability focus was on our new strategy, which makes our activities more sustainable and motivates us to reach our agreed-upon targets. Our new sustainability strategy includes nine material topics spanning environmental, social, and governance issues.

To break up the broader challenges of increasing our impact and reducing our exposure to risk, we have set ourselves around 40 targets to be met by 2028. They cover various aspects of our work. Some targets are internally focussed, like minimising the gender pay gap, while others, like the promotion of biodiversity, are of global relevance and support our mission.

In the interest of transparency, we publish our results each year. We do this with reference to the GRI standards. You can read about the progress we have made so far in our first-ever Sustainability Report.



Our Sustainability Report 2024:  
[www.swisscontact.org/report2024/sustainabilityreport](http://www.swisscontact.org/report2024/sustainabilityreport)

## Laying strong foundations – selected objectives

### GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

A sustainable future depends on reaching net zero. In 2024, Swisscontact adopted ambitious emissions reduction targets in line with the 1.5°C pathway. The first step was to calculate a baseline carbon footprint using data from 2023. We did this for the whole organisation, working with a team of specialists in over 70 offices in 40 countries. Together, we found that our main sources of emissions are vehicles, office electricity and flights.

The next step was to look at concrete measures to reduce our use of fossil fuels. Over the next five years, we will decarbonise our activities as far as possible while maintaining our current high levels of impact and quality. Our plans include sourcing more electricity from renewables, improving the energy efficiency of our offices, replacing inefficient vehicles, and cutting the number of flights taken.

Greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced:

Scope 1 and 2 by **30%** until 2028

Scope 3 by **18%** until 2028



### GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Our projects are already designed in a gender-sensitive way, taking account of the fact that women and men experience unequal access to resources and decision-making power. Now, we want to go further and increase the proportion of our projects that tackle the harmful gender norms underpinning this inequality. These high-potential interventions are termed “gender-positive” or “gender-transformative”.



**100%** of projects to be gender-sensitive

**75%** of projects to include gender-positive or gender-transformative interventions

They include activities like leadership training for women, the promotion of non-traditional jobs and the facilitation of discussions about masculinity.

To give one example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), we worked with masculinity groups. The aim was to encourage men to adopt positive attitudes towards women working outside of the home. Over nine months, while women attended skills training, their husbands reflected on what it means to have a wife participating in the labour market. They explored and overcame psychological barriers to the idea. As a result, these men became role models for progressive attitudes within their communities.

**“Adopting positive masculinity is very beneficial for the household, not only financially but also for the personal fulfillment of the spouses.”**

Jean Claude Cizungu, member of the masculinity group in Kaniola, DRC

### GOVERNANCE

When we tackle governance, we are not only thinking about our own organisation. We recognise that we are in a good position to support partners with their governance challenges. Indeed, that remit comprises a formal part of some partnership agreements or project aims.

The Promoting Private Sector Engagement (PPSE) project, for example, partners with the Kosovo Association of Municipalities (KAM). The aim is to build up the capacities of subnational governments so the Kosovo can benefit from the burgeoning tourism industry. As a result of Swisscontact's support, KAM now provides municipalities with a wealth of information on developing and operating tourism products.

It also plays a pivotal role in terms of convening public actors to address tourism-related issues. For individual municipalities, the introduction of an accommodation tax will give them some financial independence from the central government and the means to finance the implementation of newly developed tourism strategies.

**100 partners** to be supported with their organisational governance each year



# Organisation

(as per 31 December 2024)

## FOUNDATION BOARD



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Solidar Suisse; Member of the  
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## Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers AG,  
Zurich



All Foundation Council members and  
their mandates:  
[www.swisscontact.org/report2024/organisation](http://www.swisscontact.org/report2024/organisation)

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**Manish Pandey**  
Director Operations &  
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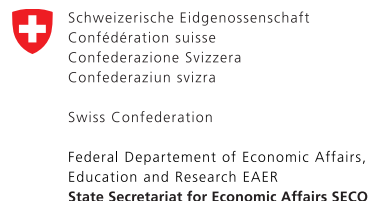
**Stefan Schneider**  
Director Finance &  
Technology



Regional directors and Middle  
Management:  
[www.swisscontact.org/report2024/organisation](http://www.swisscontact.org/report2024/organisation)

# We would like to thank our partners

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS



In alphabetical order

## PUBLIC PARTNERS

### Governments and multilateral institutions

Agence Française de Développement AFD  
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade DFAT  
Belgian Development Agency ENABEL  
British Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office FCDO  
Dutch Good Growth Fund  
European Union  
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ  
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Liechtensteinischer Entwicklungsdienst LED  
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The State of the Netherlands  
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Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency SIDA  
Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation SDC, Bern  
United States Agency for International Development USAID  
United States Department of State

### Communes, towns, cantons and parishes

Canton of Aargau  
Canton of Basel-Landschaft  
Canton of Glarus  
Canton of Schaffhausen  
Canton of Thurgau  
Canton of Zurich  
Catholic City of Zurich  
City council of Frauenfeld  
City council of Rapperswil-Jona  
City of St. Gallen  
City of Zurich  
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Däster-Schild Stiftung, Bern  
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Evi Diethelm-Winteler-Stiftung, Zurich  
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BHP – Brugger & Partner AG, Zurich  
CARITAS Schweiz  
CEMETS –The ETHZ Reform Lab for VET Systems, Zurich  
CIRAD –The Agricultural Research Centre for International Development, Paris, France  
Eidgenössische Hochschule für Berufsbildung EHB, Bern  
ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology), Zurich  
ETH4D – ETH for Development, Zurich  
International Labour Organization ILO, Geneva  
International Trade Centre, Geneva  
Involas Institut für berufliche Bildung, Arbeitsmarkt und Sozialpolitik GmbH, Offenbach am Main, Germany  
NADEL – Global Cooperation and Sustainable Development, ETH, Zurich  
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Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa, Bern  
Swiss Sustainable Coffee Plattform SSCP, Bern  
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We would also like to express our sincere thanks to all the individuals who have supported us in 2024.



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The detailed online version of the Annual Report 2024 and the Financial Report are available on our website.

[www.swisscontact.org](http://www.swisscontact.org)

## We create opportunities.

Swisscontact

### **SWISS FOUNDATION FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

Hardturmstrasse 134  
CH-8005 Zurich  
Phone +41 44 454 17 17

Cover  
Villageworks, Cambodia

Photos  
Swisscontact employees and friends

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**Zewo quality seal:** Swisscontact was awarded the Zewo quality seal. It is awarded to charitable non-profit organisations that are trustworthy, use their donations economically, effectively, and for their designated purpose, and provide transparent information. Swisscontact is regularly audited on its adherence to these criteria. (Source: Zewo)

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**Your donation  
in good hands.**

