

MEDIA RELEASE

Zurich – 17 May 2023

Swisscontact: 2022 Annual Report and new members of the Foundation Council

2022: a challenging year and a reinvigorated Foundation Council

Although the negative circumstances this past year have presented difficulties for international development cooperation around the world, in 2022 Swisscontact was still able to successfully implement 133 projects in 41 countries. These included business development projects, thanks to which around 3.8 million people gained access to better products and services. Starting in 2023, Swisscontact will gain even more knowledge and experience through our Foundation Council.

In a challenging 2022, Swisscontact's development work was more important than ever. "The changed situation in the world and global challenges constitute an additional burden for people in developing countries", explained Thomas D. Meyer, Foundation Council President, in an editorial for the 2022 Annual Report. Rising poverty, high energy and food prices, and the increasingly dramatic effects of climate change presented enormous obstacles to the changes we so strive for, according to Meyer. Consequently, flexibility was needed in the various Swisscontact projects, especially from the many international and local partners with whom Swisscontact collaborates on the ground. Thanks to such international cooperation, in 2022, we were able to implement 133 projects across 41 countries.

Acting together with public and private partners for humanity and the climate

Climate change is an essential area of focus of Swisscontact's development work. Its impacts affect many of the countries where we work, and quite severely. Therefore, the prevention of climate risks and adapting to new challenges are quite high on Swisscontact's list of priorities. Philippe Schneuwly, Swisscontact CEO, cites the example of a project in Cambodia, which has helped smallholder farmers transition to regenerative agriculture. The project is being implemented in collaboration with various ministries, the private sector, and scientific institutions. It not only benefits the rural Cambodian population, but also the climate, because in regenerative agriculture, the soil is able to absorb higher levels of CO₂.

Additional in-depth experience in the Foundation Council

To take on future challenges, Swisscontact can rely on additional support from the Foundation Council. In January and March 2023, the Foundation Council elected three new members: Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch was Director of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) from 2011 until 2022. She was appointed to the Foundation Board at the Foundation Council's Annual Meeting on May 16, 2023, thus enhancing Swisscontact's strategic leadership body. In addition to Ms Ineichen-Fleisch, the Foundation Council has been enhanced with the appointments of Peggy Grueninger, Director of Donations & Philanthropy at Roche, and Christoph Meier, Global Head Corporate Media Relations at Nestlé. With the latest Foundation Council appointments, Swisscontact believes it has acquired new skills and in-depth experience, and it looks confidently toward the future.

To/Read the Annual Report: www.swisscontact.org/report2022

Swisscontact is an independent non-profit foundation established in 1959 by exponents of the Swiss private sector.

Our development work focuses on unleashing the potential of private initiatives in developing and emerging countries. We foster sustainable and inclusive economic development with the objective of improving living standards, creating jobs, and bettering the quality of life for all people.

Our involvement is based on three foundational pillars: We strengthen the competitiveness of individuals so they can improve their opportunities for employment; we enhance the competitiveness of companies to help them grow; we promote socio-economic systems that favour comprehensive development in the affected regions.

Media Contact

Swisscontact – Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation

Hardturmstrasse 134, CH-8005 Zürich

Theres Meyer, Content & Public Relations Manager

theres.meyer@swisscontact.org

Tel. +41 44 454 17 14

www.swisscontact.org