

MEDIA RELEASE

Zurich – 15 May 2025

Swisscontact: Annual Report 2024

## **International cooperation: promoting prosperity and stability**

**The challenges for international development cooperation were more significant than ever in 2024. Despite armed conflicts in various regions of the world and natural disasters, Swisscontact was able to continue or launch 133 projects in 41 countries worldwide. This was made possible thanks to the many strong partnerships that Swisscontact has built over the past years.**

Philippe Schneuwly, CEO, emphasizes in the editorial video of the 2024 annual report: "Despite all the challenges, we see the current situation primarily as an opportunity to expand our partnerships with the private sector further. We have so much evidence of the effectiveness of our work: Through training, people become better-qualified workers who participate more actively in economic life and engage in entrepreneurial activities. This creates jobs and income. It even works in very fragile contexts."

The results of our activities support this assessment: Last year, Swisscontact supported almost 318,000 small businesses and enabled them to access improved services or products. 183,000 small-holders and SMEs generated an additional income of 103 million Swiss francs. And almost 42,000 jobs were created or saved.

### **More innovation, resilience, and opportunity**

In the 2024 Annual Report, Swisscontact presents a project from West Africa that demonstrates the importance and effectiveness of our work in fragile contexts: The integrated agricultural training sites in Niger, Mali, and Senegal address the significant challenges of agriculture, particularly the impacts of climate change, by building sustainable and resilient food systems. At the same time, they provide jobs and a sustainable livelihood for the many young people entering the labour market.

### **Pioneering Role with Sustainability Strategy**

In 2024, Swisscontact began implementing its sustainability strategy, which encompasses the nine material topics from the areas of environment, social, and governance. Around 40 individual goals

are defined within this strategy, to be achieved by 2028. With this sustainability strategy, Swisscontact positions itself as a pioneer in the industry. The progress made so far has been recorded in the first [sustainability report 2024](#), which adheres to the GRI standards.

**To the 2024 Annual Report:** [www.swisscontact.org/report 2024](http://www.swisscontact.org/report-2024)

*Swisscontact is an independent non-profit development organisation established in 1959 by representatives of the Swiss private sector and civil society.*

*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 the quality of life for all.*

*Our work is based on three foundational pillars: We strengthen the competencies of individuals so they can improve their income and their opportunities for employment; we enhance the competitiveness of businesses to help them grow and become more resilient; we promote socio-economic systems that favour comprehensive development for widespread prosperity.*

*The organisation is currently active in over 130 projects in 41 countries with around 1200 employees. It is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland.*

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