Myanmar Profile
Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation
At a glance

Swisscontact was established in 1959 as an independent organization by notable figures from the worlds of commerce and science in Switzerland. It is exclusively involved in international co-operation and since 1961 has been carrying out its own and mandated projects. Since it was founded, Swisscontact has had close ties with the private sector.

In 2015 Swisscontact is active in 29 countries with over 900 employees and 100 projects ongoing. The organization is based in Zurich, Switzerland.
Core Areas:

- **Vocational Education and Training**: enabling access to the labor market and creating the conditions for gaining an occupation and earning an income
- **Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises**: promoting local entrepreneurship with the goal of strengthening its competitiveness
- **Financial Services**: creating access to local financial service providers who offer credit, savings, leasing and insurance products
- **Resource Efficiency**: promoting the efficient use of resources through production methods that are efficient in their use of energy and materials, and through taking measures to promote clear air and sustainable waste disposal.
Swisscontact began its activities in Myanmar in 2013 and is currently implementing 3 projects.

- **Linking Labutta to Markets (LLM)**
  - Project duration: 2015 to 2018
  - Target Area: Labutta Township, Ayeyarwaddy Region

- **Making Vegetable Markets Work for the Poor in Southern Shan State (MVMW)**
  - Project duration: Jun 2014 to May 2017
  - Target Area: Southern Shan State and Rakhine State

- **Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP)**
  - Project duration: Feb 2014 to Jan 2018
  - Target Area: Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Kayin and Mon States
Making Vegetable Markets Work for the Poor in Southern Shan State (MVMW)

This Program aims to tackle the six key constraints for increased farmer productivity within the market system: inputs, financial services, information, off season production technology, post-harvest production options, and government extension. In partnership with Mercy Corps, Swisscontact received a grant award from the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) for a 3-year program.

Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP)

The Program is implemented in Myanmar by a consortium consisting of Swisscontact and the German company INBAS (Institute for Vocational Training, Labour Market and Social Policy). The program is financed by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The overall goal is to contribute to gainful and market demand-driven employment or self-employment and better income for disadvantaged persons in targeted areas of Myanmar.

Linking Labutta to Markets (LLM)

This Program facilitates linkages to higher value rice and employment markets locally, regionally and nationally for 3,700 smallholder rice farmers and vulnerable women and men across 26 village tracts and 276 villages. Swisscontact implements this program in partnership with Mercy Corps and the program is also financed by LIFT.
Focus on the VSDP

Vocational Skills Development Program

Hotel Training Initiative (HTI Component)

Local Vocational Training (LVT Component)

Support to the National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA Component)
The **Hotel Training Initiative** facilitates the availability of skilled persons for the hospitality industry. It is training about 3,000 persons with disadvantaged background in selected hospitality occupations in cooperation with selected hotels in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw as well as with the relevant industry associations. In addition to skills development courses the Component has established a cascading system of Training of Trainers (ToT) courses as well as activities that aim at assuring financial self-sustainability of skills development in the Myanmar hospitality industry.

The **Local Vocational Training Component** improves competencies of disadvantaged women and men in the South-East of Myanmar according to labour market demand. The geographical focus is on Mon and Kayin States, where socio-economic development was delayed until recently by decades of conflict. Economic sectors and occupations have been identified that are expected to provide employment, self-employment and income for disadvantaged groups. Skills development will endow more than 3,000 of these persons with the needed vocational competencies and life skills. The component trains local vocational practitioners as trainers. The implementation of apprenticeships, as a more structured form of learning, is being pursued. In addition the component is identifying and working with local stakeholders to sustain skills development in the future.

The **NSSA Component** complements HTI and LVT components by promoting the development of skills standards and a credible system of skills testing and certification through support to the National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA), a government organisation under the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLES). Activities include advice in the development of relevant regulations and guidelines, assessor training, test item development, a test item database, training of workplace instructors who host apprenticeships and support in the establishment of regional NSSA structures in the South East (including equipment for regional NSSA offices). The component also provides a fund that allows training providers wishing to become assessment centres can also apply for a fund within the component to upgrade their equipment.
We create opportunities

Swisscontact
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