Profile
Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation
Swisscontact, a Swiss private and independent operating foundation, promotes sustainable economic growth in developing countries.

Founded in 1959, we work exclusively in international cooperation and development and implement our own as well as mandated projects. Our headquarters are in Zurich and we have maintained close ties with the private sector since our inception.

Who we are

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Our values

We treat everyone we serve and all our partners with respect. We respect the environment in which we work and faithfully adhere to our code of conduct.

We strive for professionalism and quality in project implementation and focus on ethical principles to accomplish our mission. We ensure compliance with equal rights and equality of opportunity.

We make sustainable development the main objective of our project activities and measure the results of our work against internationally recognized standards and methods.

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What we do

We promote economic, social, and environmental development by supporting people in their efforts to integrate into local economic life by developing their skills to secure employment or start a business.

We act as facilitators in project implementation by supporting the creation of an entrepreneurial environment and access to information, skills, and markets. This is how we help create the conditions for employment and income generation.

Skills Development
Productive employment and earning an income through market-oriented vocational training and improved labour market access.

Enterprise Promotion
Strengthening productivity and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises through sustainable value chain interventions, improved market access and local economic development.

Inclusive Finance
Empowering entrepreneurially-minded people by improving their access to financial products, services and financial literacy trainings.

Climate-Smart Economy
Creating green jobs through efficient use of natural resources and clean production.
Our goal is to impart technical and business skills so that we can increase competitiveness of small businesses, service providers, and producers.

Entrepreneurship forms the basis of private sector development. Our work in SME development focuses on addressing the lack of economic opportunities in both urban and rural areas.

Our goals include strengthening skills and fostering labour market integration. We help create the basis for secure livelihoods. This is how we make it possible for people to contribute to and benefit from their economy and society.

Together with our local partners we implement comprehensive vocational training programmes. We support international institutions building quality education systems, while helping selected providers to improve the quality of their training courses. By involving the private sector, we are able to develop concepts for hands-on, apprenticeship-based vocational training.

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Enterprise Promotion
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Enterprise

Our goal is to impart technical and business skills so that we can increase competitiveness of small businesses, service providers, and producers.

Entrepreneurship forms the basis of private sector development. Our work in SME development focuses on addressing the lack of economic opportunities in both urban and rural areas.
The objective is to provide small businesses and farms with access to customized and affordable financial solutions including savings products, microcredit, payment systems, and insurance.

Using inclusive finance approaches, we increase the customer's financial knowledge and support financial institutions to develop appropriate products and services.

The goal is to promote environmentally sustainable economic growth that includes the economically disadvantaged while also supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Through the promotion of sustainable resource management, people can actualize potential business opportunities associated with long-term development.
Swisscontact is committed to market development principles. The objective of our work is to introduce systemic change. To achieve impact, we use an inclusive markets approach: supporting the development of local markets improves opportunities for disadvantaged populations, whether they are producers, workers, or consumers. Through these efforts we are able to facilitate job creation and expand the market for goods and services available to poorer and underresourced segments of the population.

How we work

Swisscontact is recognized as an expert organisation in various sectors in developing countries around the world. We offer businesses, foundations, and individual investors value for social investing in sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Our partnerships consist of joint projects that leverage public and private resources to benefit all stakeholders, especially the local population. These projects involve vocational training, efficient resource management, strengthening local SMEs, and developing the financial services sector.

Doing the right thing together

With over fifty years of experience in market-oriented private sector development, our efforts are based on a solid understanding of local situations, including political, social, and environmental conditions, together with the challenges and opportunities for economic growth.
Swisscontact
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ZEWO Gütesiegel: 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)

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