

Asia 2020



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Chemical engineering
and minerals
processing, Morowali,
S4C, Indonesia

EDITORIAL NOTE



Manish Pandey
Director
South Asia

Inequality across the globe has increased as have challenges faced by the populations at the base of the economic pyramid in the time of COVID-19 pandemic. Shared commitment to inclusive development by all is critical for stabilizing livelihoods

for the most disadvantaged and ensuring economic recovery. Our work remains relevant and continues while undergoing adaptations. These include recovery measures in the tourism sector, re-strengthening supply chains, new ways of teaching and capacity



Prashant Rana
Director
South East Asia

building, innovative measures to enhance employability of youth. As all of humanity is focused on overcoming the pandemic, our work remains underpinned by the goal of ensuring more resilient communities, inclusive economies, and lasting impact. ●

ADDRESSING DEVELOPMENT NEEDS



A learner preparing food, STED, Indonesia

Asian countries experienced a severe recession in the year 2020, which globally, is dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our development activities have been reorientated with a focus on ensuring the now-intensified development needs of the region is addressed.

Together with our partners, we enhanced relevance of our targeted sectors at the forefront of economic recovery, including tourism, agriculture and manufacturing.

Technical assistance, equipment and online adaptation support are

*« My daughter and I used to get sick from drinking polluted water, either by vomiting or suffering from diarrhea. Pretty often we would have to visit the doctor. At present, our health has been improved because of the clean water. We are feeling much better after drinking it, as price of water is very reasonable. » **Shapla Begum, Bangladesh***



ADDRESSING DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

provided to healthcare workers, local governments and local communities, to help in their fight against, and economic recovery from COVID-19.

We continue strengthening vocational training systems to support people from disadvantaged backgrounds, build their professional competencies and income

options. Scalable solutions for local economic development are facilitated via market-led approaches to promote competitiveness of micro, small, and medium enterprises while improving their environmental diligence.

To address insufficient food security and agricultural sector infrastructure,

our agriculture programmes that contribute to food security provide access to safe drinking water for the underserved population, while other initiatives in the sector encourage its readiness to leverage new technologies in the era of digital economy, and subsequent commercialization.

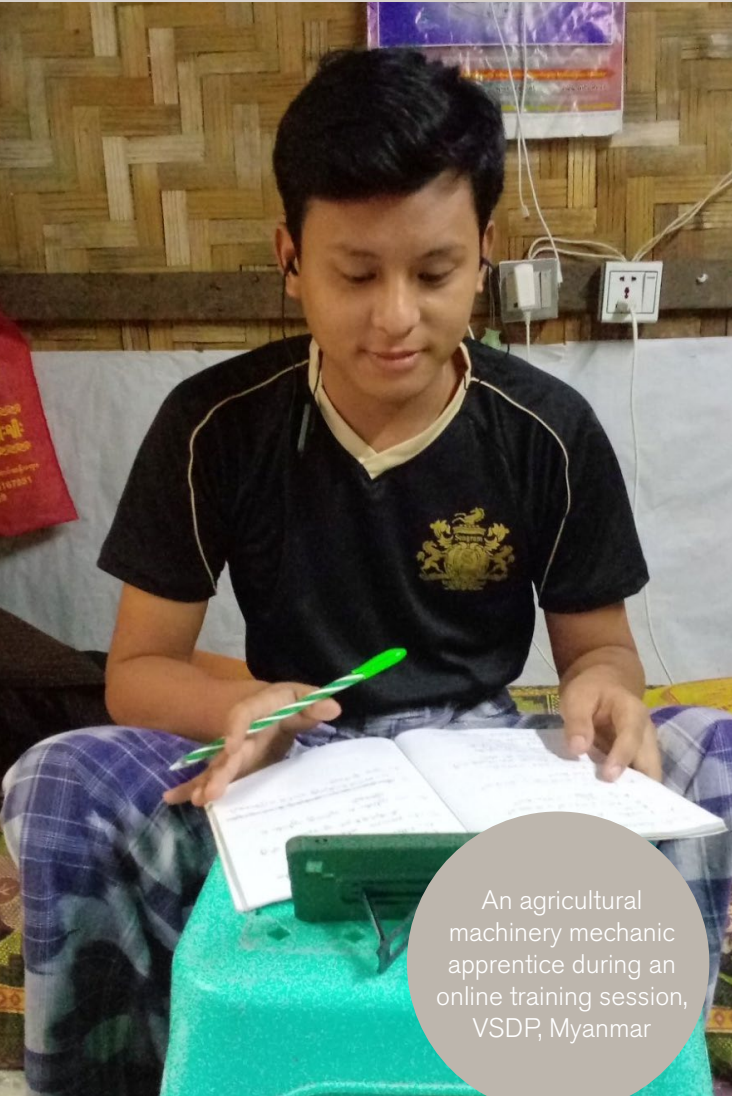
While implementing the much-needed flexibility measures, our development activities continue enabling private sector engagement and fostering gender equality and social inclusion. In a challenged environment, we will keep building on our technical expertise and cooperation and engage actively with key stakeholders in our strategic pursuit of inclusive economic development. ●



« Through years of the Conservation Agriculture [CA] experiments on my land, I have witnessed and become certain that this practice will cater to my benefit. I will seek for more funds to purchase the CA machines as I have saved up about 60-70% of the total cost now. »

***Mr. Chbunhour Leang**, a maize farmer who practices CA in Battambang's Ratanak Mondul district, Cambodia*

ADDRESSING DEVELOPMENT NEEDS



An agricultural machinery mechanic apprentice during an online training session, VSDP, Myanmar

« The Pheun Than Heng A Sip (PTHAS) Training programme was a good opportunity for us to find a job. We have learned and gained new skills and work experience from the project. We felt competent to do well at work. »
Mrs. Suphanny Silathong and Mrs. Sulikhan Suliyan,
Spring River Resort



« To help support the hospitality sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP) successfully delivered Supervisory Skills Training for hotel supervisors. This was a new training experience for me and a milestone in my career. The participants gained important knowledge for the future career and professional development. Personally, it was a great opportunity for me to be able to train participants online, a method which I had no prior exposure to. »
Akary Kyaw, *Trainer, Online Supervisory Skills Training*



WORKING AREAS

Vocational Education and Training (VET)



The Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP) improves livelihood opportunities for women and men from disadvantaged backgrounds in Myanmar through the provision of inclusive market-relevant vocational training, certification of skills, and labour market support measures.

Many countries face significant unemployment or underemployment. Young men and women transitioning from school to work are particularly affected. Our vocational education projects contribute to the transformation of existing systems to be more responsive to market needs. Together with public and private sector partners, we design and implement relevant and tailored schemes for vocational education, including apprenticeships and open opportunities for sustainable and relevant training offers.

Labour Market Insertion



Under the Youth Employment Project (YEP) in Nepal, unemployed youth benefited from market-oriented high-quality theoretical and practical vocational training. 70% of trainees found a salaried job or became self-employed contributing substantially to their family income after completing the skills development training.

In today's fast-changing environment, anticipating the demand for skills in the future is challenging. This circumstance contributes to a growing mismatch between the workforce available and the one requested by employers. We improve the linkages between enterprises, training providers, financial service providers and job seekers. Together with our partners, we enable local stakeholders to act at the interface between labour demand and supply.

WORKING AREAS



Upskilling and Reskilling



Under the Skills Development Programme (SDP) in Cambodia, the intervention area for hospitality training facilitates upskilling and certification processes for low-skilled workers in the sector. Provincial Training Centres are supported to offer improved training courses at all levels. Further, Private-Public Partnerships (PPP) are facilitated to foster industry-based training models, e.g., in-company training.

We build capacities of stakeholders active in upskilling and reskilling, like governments, training providers, private sector associations and enterprises. The goal is to develop and implement policies and programmes which will improve the long-term employability of working women and men and the viability of enterprises. Our interventions seek to promote continuing education in enterprises.



Entrepreneurial Ecosystem



Partnering with water technology companies, the Shujola project supports local entrepreneurs in Bangladesh to establish safe drinking water booths in ready-made garments (RMG) workers residential communities and create awareness amongst the community members on the benefits of safe drinking water.

We provide direct and indirect support to entrepreneurs and ecosystem support organizations (ESOs) to bolster entrepreneurship and innovation and strengthen the overall ecosystem. We build the capacity of entrepreneurs technical assistance providers, mentors, and coaches. We also facilitate capacity building for and networking between ESOs to improve support services, knowledge transfer, connectivity, policy, and culture within the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

WORKING AREAS



Sustainable Agriculture



In Cambodia, the Conservation Agriculture with a Fee (CASF) project complements the efforts in conservation agriculture to engage the private sector in providing services to the farmers. The approach that CASF has taken is the early adopter model, in which the demonstrations are done by the early adopter farmers.

Our goal is an active agricultural sector that benefits from the potential of local and global agricultural development for food security and poverty reduction. In cooperation with scientists and public and private sectors, we develop strategies to enable sustainable growth of production and income for poor male and female farmers. We pay special attention that this growth does not happen at the expense of the environment.



Trade



The Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO) in Indonesia integrates developing and transition countries into world trade. Targeted export promotion services delivered through Business Support Organizations (BSOs) strengthen the competitive position and facilitate market access and exports of companies in partner countries to Switzerland, the EU and regional markets.

Together with our local partners and based on our extensive on the ground experience in value chains and economic sectors, we identify trade constraints such as gaps in local market infrastructure, high transaction and transportation costs, gaps in access to, and interpretation of, information on product standards or trade hampering local or national regulations. Our facilitation work for international trade aims to integrate less developed economies better into the global economy.

WORKING AREAS



Tourism



In Laos, The Mekong Inclusive Growth and Innovation Programme (MIGIP) promotes public-private partnerships to demonstrate innovative models for sustainable destination development and management at subnational level; and strengthens the institutionalization of destination management structures and processes to increase the competitiveness of the tourism sector.

Our approach in tourism development is demand-oriented, systemic and inclusive. It ensures lasting economic success while taking social and environmental impact into account. We support destinations and stakeholders in their development towards a balanced tourism sector growth. The goal is to create better places for people to live in and visit, maximising the positive and minimising the negative impacts of tourism on people, planet and prosperity.



Tourists cycling in Mr. Vieng's traditional longhouse, coffee shop, MIGIP, Laos


HIGHLIGHTS 2020

Bangladesh



training community paramedics

COVID-19 preparedness

In Bangladesh, the ASTHA project conducted series of online training on COVID-19 preparedness for Community Paramedics (CPs) to restrict the spread of COVID-19 in rural communities. ASTHA provided Personal Protective Equipment to the CPs to ensure their safe services. The CPs also supported the government in collecting COVID-19 test samples. [Watch the video >](#) 

Cambodia

65% graduates gain access to employment six months after training



12,726 farmers gain access to agriculture-related services

In Cambodia, 65% of the 1,198 graduates (418 women) have access to gainful employment six months after training completion, out of which 45 graduates (37 women) are self-employed. Whereas 12,726 farmers gained access to different agriculture related services.

HIGHLIGHTS 2020

Indonesia

**\$199 million
income increase**

**introduced to
patent for
intellectual property**



Since 2010, Swisscontact Indonesia has assisted 615,000 smallholder farmers increased their additional income of around USD 199 million by integrated better farming and more than thousand SMEs have applied better business practices which result in increased annual turnover of USD 2.46 million. In 2020, all facilitated five well-known Polytechnics which applied DACUM received good accreditation ratings and around 180 researchers and 30 patent examiners introduced to Patent for Intellectual Property which will increase the competitiveness of SMEs in Indonesia.

Lao PDR

**334
tourism
& hospitality SMEs
supported**



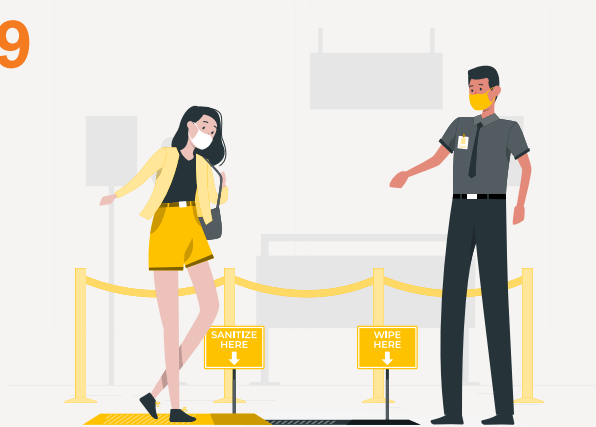
334 tourism and hospitality SMEs (35% women-owned) were supported to increase their competitiveness. 618 trainees (52% female) from disadvantaged backgrounds were enrolled in the Initial Vocational Education and Training (IVET) training in 7 provinces of Laos and 25 Employment Support Coaches were established.

HIGHLIGHTS 2020

Myanmar

6 COVID-19 quarantine centers

workplace health and safety training in 12 states



In Myanmar, 6 COVID-19 quarantine centers were supported with meals and emergency kits, and local communities with cloth mask production. Technical and COVID-19 workplace health and safety training were provided in 12 of 14 states/regions for improved hospitality sector resilience.

Nepal

higher farm-income

12,500 farm-households benefitted

1,050 new jobs



In 2020, Sahaj partnered with different private and public sector players in Nepal to create 1,050 new jobs in the local economy. The project benefitted 12,500 farm-households through higher farm-income (40 percent from disadvantaged groups and 38 percent women headed households).



Community paramedics collecting samples from a potential COVID patient, ASTHA, Bangladesh

1 Capacity Development

The Pheun Than Heng A Sip (PTHAS) training programme in Laos addresses the issue of low service quality in tourism and hospitality businesses and includes over 170 tailor-made training units and competency-based assessments. Over 800 existing workers have benefited from training under the programme.

In Bangladesh, ASTHA aims at contributing to the development and expansion of sustainable and high-quality healthcare at the community level by training young adults (50% women) from seven rural districts as skilled health workers.

Establishment of the National Vocational Qualifications Framework spearheaded by the Nepal Vocational Qualifications System (NVQS) project, contributes to organise and validate qualification according to predefined level of knowledge and skills. The project facilitates the development of a formalized framework which will support skills development, assessment and recognition, increasing employability, especially for disadvantaged groups. ●

2

Local Business Performance

The Sarathi project's activities are directed to finding market-based and scalable solutions in Bangladesh that address underlying constraints such as inadequate financial literacy, lack of access to formal banking services, and commercially viable business solutions for commercial banks to cater to the needs of the ready-made garments (RMG) workers.

The establishment of an Intellectual Property (IP) system in Myanmar, which is an essential component to create favourable conditions for sustainable trade,

is supported through the Myanmar - Swiss Intellectual Property Project (MYSIPP), which will encourage further growth in various sectors such as retail trading, technology and manufacturing sectors.

In Cambodia, USAID RISE incubated a platform to provide technical assistance (TA) to small and growing businesses through a combination of business development service providers and corporate volunteers – building pipeline and de-risking investments for impact-oriented investors. Senior Expert Contact

Entrepreneurial skills training, RISE, Cambodia



WE PROMOTE

leveraged retired Swiss expertise to improve operations of businesses and other local institutions. Moreover, the Credit Suisse Swisscontact Initiative has mapped the entrepreneurial ecosystem through social network analysis to support ecosystem building efforts in Phnom Penh.

Sahaj-NAMDP Phase II enhances provision and access of agricultural and non-agricultural services to agribusinesses in Province Number 1 Nepal, helping agribusinesses improve their productivity and competitiveness and increase trade value. This will increase demand for smallholders' produce, including them in value-added supply chains and building resilience in rural communities through higher employment and income. ●

RMG worker using POS terminal to buy daily needs, Sarathi, Bangladesh



WE PROMOTE



Skills development policy workshop with private and public sector stakeholders, VSDP, Myanmar

3

Stakeholder Engagement

The Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP) provides technical support and

inputs to government stakeholders on vocational skills development related policies and implementation approaches. It also engages with public and private stakeholders in selected states and regions to encourage coordination on skills development activities, as well as to gather information on the local labour market to identify skills development priorities.

Under the Mekong Inclusive Growth and Innovation Programme (MIGIP) the Southern Laos Marketing Taskforce was supported to coordinate targeted tourism destination marketing to reach higher spending experiential travellers. Public-private partnerships such as these can demonstrate innovative models for

sustainable destination development at sub-national level.

Through the MIGIP project in Cambodia, Swisscontact along with partners, Department of Agricultural Land Resources Management/GDA, Department of Agricultural Engineering/GDA, CIRAD, Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Nutrition (CE SAIN) of the Royal University of Agriculture, Swisscontact, and Kansas State University the idea of Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC) was promoted and now established under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

WE PROMOTE

The Sustainable Cocoa Production Program (SCPP) was the largest Public Private Partnership development program for one single commodity in Indonesia, funded by multi donors and private contribution, in which State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) is the main funder, and collaborates with 11 local and multinational cocoa and chocolate companies. It became a centre of excellence and adopted by relevant cocoa sector to continue its good practices. ●



Cocoa field visit,
SCPP, Indonesia

PROJECTS

CLICK ON ANY PROJECT TITLE TO ACCESS THE PROJECT'S WEBSITE



BANGLADESH



8 Divisions | 29 Districts

Achieving Sustainability Towards Healthcare Access (**ASTHA**)

Bangladesh Micro-Insurance Market Development Program (**BMMDP**)

Building Skills for Unemployed and Underemployed Labour (**B-SkillFUL**)

Improve Access to Safe Water through Local Entrepreneurship (**Shujola**)

Making Markets Work for the Jamuna, Padma and Teesta Chars (**M4C**)

Local Economic Development (**PRABRIDDI**)

Progress through Financial Inclusion (**SARATHI**)

Skills for Better Life (**Uttoron**)

NEPAL



7 Provinces | 77 Districts

Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness (**CASA**) Programme

Nepal Vocational Qualifications System (**NVQS**) Project

Sahaj: Nepal Agricultural Market Development Programme (**NAMDP**)

Senior Expert Contact (**SEC**)

Youth Employment Project (**YEP**)

MYANMAR



13 States | 34 Districts

Linking Laputta to Markets (**LLM**)

Myanmar-Swiss Intellectual Property Project (**MYSIPP**)

Vocational Skills Development Program (**VSDP**)

6
COUNTRIES

31
PROJECTS

PROJECTS

CLICK ON ANY PROJECT TITLE TO ACCESS THE PROJECT'S WEBSITE



INDONESIA

19 Provinces | 144 Districts

Indonesian-Swiss Intellectual Property Project (**ISIP**)

Skills for Competitiveness (**S4C**)

Sustainable Cocoa Production Program (**SCPP**)

Sustainable Tourism (**SusTour**)

Sustainable Tourism Education Development (**STED**)

Swiss Import Promotion Programme (**SIPPO**)

Technical Assistance to Promoting Rural Income through Support for Markets in Agriculture (**PRISMA**)

CAMBODIA

16 Provinces | 39 Districts

Cambodia Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition (**CHAIN**)

Conservation Agriculture Service with a Fee (**CASF**)

Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (**GATF**)

Mekong Inclusive Growth and Innovation Programme (**MIGIP**)

Regional Investment Support for Entrepreneurs (**RISE**)

Senior Expert Contact (**SEC**)

Skills Development Programme (**SDP**)

LAO PDR

15 Provinces

Mekong Inclusive Growth and Innovation Programme (**MIGIP**)

Pheun Than Heng A Sip (**PTHAS**) Training Programme

Vocational Training and Employment Support Services (**VTESS**)

6
COUNTRIES

31
PROJECTS

PARTNERSHIPS



Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar and a local restaurant chain owner in discussion during apprenticeship training kitchen opening, VSDP, Myanmar

We partner with public and private market actors to improve systems and deliver goods and services that benefit the underserved and disadvantaged populations. We ensure the sustainability, conducive enabling environment, and the scalability of our programme by identifying the right incentives for our partners, building their capacity, while confirming our

exit strategies from the beginning. We work with key stakeholders across different sectors in promoting inclusive economic development to improve competitiveness of sectors that have huge potential such as high-value agriculture sub-sectors which can include large numbers of producers, as well as the tourism sector and manufacturing sectors. ●

« I thank Sarathi for helping us to reach out to the ready made garments workers effectively and efficiently which wouldn't have been possible if we had done it on our own. »

Seyed Faisal Omar, Senior Executive Vice President,
Southeast Bank Limited, Bangladesh



PARTNERSHIPS

« The 10 years of work that was gathered by SCPP and a lot of key partners here, actually has been quite amazing. We have stabilized the declining crop, We have built amazing capacity.

» **Fay Fay Choo**, Asia Director for Cocoa Sourcing, MARS Inc., Indonesia



« In the Conservation Agriculture (CA) project, we specialised in CA technicalities, but lacked private sector engagement, and this was where Swisscontact fit in. Now the new CA technologies are commercialised. » **Dr. Hok Lyda**, Director of Center of Excellence on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Nutrition (CE SAIN), Cambodia

« With support from Swisscontact, Nepal Vocational Qualifications System Project (NVQS-P) has obtained Governments approval on the National Vocational Qualifications Framework, institutionalised Recognition of Prior Learning approach of assessment and certification, accredited skill-testing centers for quality skill assessment in the provinces, and functionalised Sector Skill Committees – all leading towards an established vocational qualifications system in Nepal. »

Mr. Tek Bahadur Malla,
Director of National Skills Testing Board,
Nepal



OUR DONORS



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



European Union

EVI DIETHELM-WINTELER-STIFTUNG



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Global Affairs
Canada
Affaires mondiales
Canada



Investing in rural people



Julius Bär



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Laguna
Foundation



LEOPOLD BACHMANN
STIFTUNG



Livelihoods and Food Security Fund



Luxembourg Development
Cooperation Agency



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK
Danida



Rural Development and Cooperatives Division
Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Symphaxis



The Social Entrepreneurs Charitable Foundation



from the British people



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

OUR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



OUR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



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Participants
learning to cut and
measure during a
Training of Trainer
program for Shuttering
Company Carpentry,
NVOS, Nepal



About us

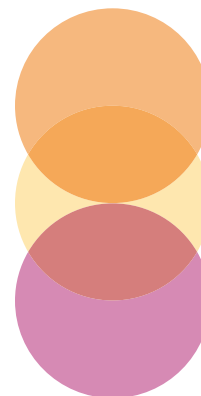
MISSION AND VALUES

We are a leading partner organisation for the implementation of international development projects. Founded in 1959 and registered under Swiss law, we are an independent non-profit organisation. We are politically and denominationally neutral.

PEOPLE

ENTERPRISE

ECONOMY



OUR MISSION

We promote inclusive economic, social and ecological development to make an effective contribution towards sustainable and widespread prosperity in developing and emerging economies. With this objective in mind, we offer the chance to economically and socially disadvantaged people to improve their lives on their own initiative.

WHAT WE DO

- We strengthen the competencies of people, improving their employability.
- We increase the competitiveness of enterprises, growing their business.
- We foster social and economic systems, promoting inclusive development.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Project Implementation
- Advisory Services
- Training
- Applied Research

We create opportunities

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