

Mission and Values

Swisscontact

Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation

We are a leading 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.

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.

Our Values and Beliefs

We believe that people, even in dire conditions have the ability and will to act and liberate themselves from the shackles of poverty. However, this is only possible in an enabling environment and level playing field.

We make an effective contribution to improve the framework conditions for sustainable development through the facilitation of access to skills, knowledge, markets, technologies and financial services.

We believe that balanced private sector and market-driven approaches in the context of an environmentally and socially sustainable market economy offer the best conditions for people to fulfill their potential and make sustainable development possible.

We act responsibly and respect people in their own contexts, societies and cultures.

We stand for professional quality and high ethical standards in our activities.

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

Our Working Principles

Inclusive Systems Development

We apply a systemic approach: this means acting as trainers, facilitators and enablers, seeking to enable local organisations and partners, ensuring they take direct ownership. This is how we achieve sustainable impact at scale.

Learning Culture

We continuously develop and embed new learning methodologies, increasing knowledge, competence and performance within our organisation.

Evidence-based adaptive management

We manage our projects with an evidence-based and adaptive management approach, based on a standardised monitoring and results measurement system that allows for informed decision-making and timely corrective action.

Engaging the Private Sector

We seek to develop partnerships with local and international businesses to increase the range of opportunities for our partners and people we serve.

Our Sustainability Criteria

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

We promote gender equality, both in our project work and within our organisation. We strive for the social inclusion of all people.

Financial Inclusion

In our projects, we promote financial literacy and access to affordable and fair financial products and services.

Environmental Responsibility

We always consider the environment, actively exploring opportunities to enhance the resilience of individuals and communities to deal with climate change and promoting solutions for efficient and sustainable use of resources.

Good Governance

We promote transparent, accountable, participatory and effective decision-making processes. We support and strengthen governing institutions that foster economic growth, human development and social cohesion.

Agenda 2030

The goals of the Agenda 2030 are integrated into our projects and help to increase the impact and quality of our work. We contribute directly to the following sustainability goals:



Partnerships

We foster and develop partnerships with local, national and international knowledge and implementation partners. In Switzerland, we establish links between international co-operation and the private sector.

Certification and Taxes

The Swiss certification organisation ZEW confirms that Swisscontact utilises funds and donations as per their defined purpose, economically and effectively. Swisscontact is exempt from taxes. Donations are tax-deductible in Switzerland. Our financial accounting abides by the regulations of SWISS GAAP FER 21.