

Switzerland – Kyrgyzstan: Cooperation Programme 2017 - 2020



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Confederation

History of Cooperation

Swiss Cooperation with Kyrgyzstan began in 1993 shortly after Kyrgyzstan became independent and joined the Swiss voting group at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group¹. This special relationship was one of the reasons why Kyrgyzstan became one of the priority partners for the Swiss Cooperation in Central Asia.

On 14 November 1994, an official cooperation agreement was signed between the Swiss and Kyrgyz Governments and in 1996 the Swiss Cooperation Office was opened in Bishkek. Later, the Swiss Government decided to open an Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic, inaugurated on 5 November 2012. The Cooperation Office is an important pillar of the Swiss Embassy with more than 20 staff members.

Since 1994, Switzerland has provided more than CHF 350 million to Kyrgyzstan (more than KGS 24 billion) in the form of technical, financial and humanitarian support.

Main achievements of Swiss Cooperation

Health

- Support of the Kyrgyz Health Sector Strategy resulted in increasing the level of financing for health in the government budget;
- Quality of care at hospitals countrywide has improved;
- Medical education reform helped to address the issues of shortage and ageing of human resources at the Primary Health Care level; and
- Population awareness of the main health risks raised thanks to a network of village health committees expanding all over the country.

Public Sector Reforms and Infrastructure

- Reforms to improve public finance management led to increased transparency and efficiency in using public resources;
- Financial sector became more resilient and stable thanks to improved banking supervision;
- Participation of citizens in budgetary processes and their level of satisfaction with local governments increased; and
- Access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation in targeted municipalities increased while the management capacities and the financial situation of the water utilities improved.

Private Sector Development and Trade Promotion

- Costs of doing business for Kyrgyz companies and enterprises lowered due to less administrative regulations to comply with: permits, licences, compulsory reporting/filing, inspections, audits by state agencies; etc.;
- Commercial competencies of supported companies improved which enabled almost to all of them to transform from micro- and small enterprises into big companies with doubled turnover, and both enhanced production capacity and export potential;
- Access to business advisory services enhanced for small and medium enterprises as well as financial inclusion and financial literacy increased amongst population; and
- Volumes of sales abroad of local textile and clothing exporters maintained in spite of difficult economic conditions on main export markets.

Regional Programs

- Capacities of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan for an efficient, effective and sustainable management of their national water resources have been built up;
- Data exchange and of information systems on rivers shared by Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have been introduced and supported;
- Discussions over benefits of regional cooperation on water resources management have been facilitated in the framework of the Swiss supported hydro-diplomacy, and are, therefore, contributing to enhancing peace and security; and
- Awareness on richness of regional and national arts and culture increased through the Regional Arts and Culture program.

¹ Today, the members in the Swiss constituencies at the Bretton Woods Institutions are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Serbia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in the International Monetary Fund, and the same countries including Uzbekistan at the World Bank Group.

Swiss Cooperation in Kyrgyzstan

Switzerland supports Kyrgyzstan in its economic, social and political transitions.

The overall objective of its Cooperation Programme is to promote peace and social cohesion as well as responsive and inclusive institutions and a sustainable development to improve the well-being of the population.

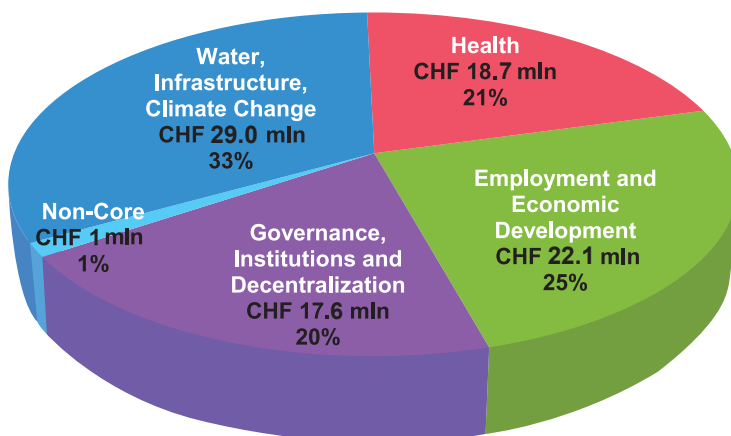
The Swiss Cooperation Office at the Swiss Embassy represents the Swiss Government and supervises Swiss projects implemented in Kyrgyzstan funded by two Swiss Federal Agencies – the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) in the following domains:

- Health;
- Employment and Economic Development;
- Governance, Institutions and Decentralization;
- Water, Infrastructure and Climate Change.

In addition, the Swiss Cooperation in Kyrgyzstan promotes arts and culture through its Regional Arts and Culture Programme and supports small project proposals from local organizations that are focused on poverty alleviation, human rights protection and development issues at local level.

Swiss official development assistance to Kyrgyzstan in millions of Swiss francs

Overall planned budget for the period 2017 – 2020 is CHF 88.4 million



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SWISS COOPERATION PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Overall objective: Peace and social cohesion as well as responsive and inclusive institutions and a sustainable development improve the well-being of the population.

Goal: Sectoral reforms and systemic interventions at policy and population level respond to the high demand for quality, efficient, accessible and affordable health care services.

Budget Support to Health Sector Wide Approach

Strengthening Governance in the Health System

Health Care Waste Management in Hospitals

Medical Education Reforms

Health Facilities Autonomy

Health

Goal: The private sector creates decent jobs and inclusive economic growth in a conducive and efficient business environment.

Trade Promotion

Investment Climate

Corporate Governance

Financial Markets

Micro, Housing & Responsible Finance

Financial & Advisory Services to SME

Sustainable Local Economic Development & Value Chains

Employment and Economic Development

Goal: Public institutions deliver efficient and effective services in an inclusive way and are accountable to citizens. Civil society participates in decision making processes.

Strengthening of Parliamentary Democracy

Elections

Public Finance Management Reform

Strengthening Voice and Accountability

Public Services Improvement

Peacebuilding

Governance, Institutions and Decentralization

Goal: Households, agriculture and other economic sectors have equitable access to and use well-managed water resources, quality infrastructure and public services; climate change consequences are considered.

Integrated Water Management

Urban Water and Wastewater Rehabilitation

Hydro Power Plant Rehabilitation

Water, Infrastructure and Climate Change

Regional Arts and Culture Program

Small actions