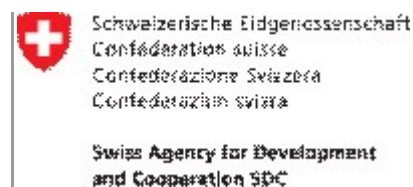




Dear reader,

The Dispatch on International Cooperation 2017–2020 is a manifesto for a world without poverty and in peace, and for sustainable development. It is an unambiguous act of solidarity and responsibility, in the interests of all peoples, their security and their prosperity. The new Dispatch focuses on areas in which Switzerland adds real value and enjoys considerable credibility.

The editorial team



Switzerland's international cooperation: the 2017–2020 Dispatch

In its Dispatch, the Federal Council sets out the strategic direction that development cooperation will take, including economic and trade policy measures. It aims in particular to strengthen emergency humanitarian aid, as well as Switzerland's contribution to conflict resolution. Civilian peacebuilding is also incorporated into the strategy for the first time.

- [Dispatch on Switzerland's international cooperation for 2017–2020](#)



Support for refugees landing on the Greek islands

Thousands of Syrian, Afghan and Iraqi refugees are arriving on the islands of Greece every day. Showers, toilets, drinking water distribution systems and emergency shelters must all be installed and maintained. Patrick Galli, a member of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit, has joined this mission.

- [Swiss humanitarian aid workers on the Greek islands](#)

Latest



FDFA interactive: join the debate

The new blog from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs aims to encourage an exchange of views on Switzerland's foreign policy and international cooperation.

- ["FDFA interactive" blog](#)

Conferences



Review of the Annual Conference of Swiss Humanitarian Aid and the SHA



Egypt: uniting Nile communities through music

Swiss singer Bastian Baker, project ambassador on behalf of the Democracy Without Borders initiative, is using his talent to help promote sustainable water use along the Nile. Although 11 countries depend on water from the river, there is still no collective vision for how this ecosystem should be managed. Through music and education the project opens up dialogue between the citizens of the Nile basin.

- [Bastian Baker in Egypt as Democracy Without Borders ambassador](#)
- [Video](#)



Access to water: showing solidarity with developing countries

The solidarit'eau platform offers an easy way for Swiss communes and water suppliers to support water distribution projects in developing countries. Swimmer Ernst Bromeis, project ambassador, talks about his commitment to providing clean drinking water for all.

- [Swiss communes support access to water in countries of the South](#)
- [Swimming in the North for clean drinking water in the South](#)



Chad: women's engagement in land and water management

Rémadji Mani is the SDC's national programme officer in Chad. To mark International Women's Day, she explains the importance of the work done by women, and tells about their involvement in a water run-off management project in the Sahel region of Chad.

- ["Women play a decisive role in the economy of Chad"](#)



Romania: microfinance saves jobs

Thanks to a microcredit of EUR 7,000, a Moldovan family's musical instruments business has been able to improve productivity and employ staff on a permanent basis. In Romania, small business owners find it difficult to secure loans, especially if they belong to the Roma minority. Switzerland is supporting a microfinance programme which benefits the Roma people as well as other disadvantaged groups.

- [Supporting jobs in Romania](#)

The Annual Conference of Swiss Humanitarian Aid and Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) focused on Syria and its neighbouring countries, the region in which Switzerland is running its largest humanitarian operation at present.

- [High points](#)



Retrospective on the Annual Conference of Swiss Development Cooperation

Revisit the high points of the 2016 Conference: "Together towards a sustainable future – the 2030 Agenda for Switzerland and the world".

- [Videos, articles, photos](#)

Supporting sustainable development



European Sustainable Development Week 30 May–5 June

The European Sustainable Development Week encourages and highlights activities which carry forward the 2030 Agenda that was recently adopted by the UN. What project or event would you like to organise to do your bit for sustainable development?

- [It's time to act!](#)
- [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

Agenda

15–23 April 2016

[Visions du Réel, international film festival, Nyon](#)

25 April 2016

[World Malaria Day, Bern](#)

27 April–1 May 2016

[African Book Fair, Geneva](#)



Ukraine: greater transparency thanks to e-governance

The Ukrainian people deeply distrust their national authorities on account of widespread corruption and the difficulty in accessing information. With its e-governance project, the SDC seeks to strengthen confidence in the Ukrainian government by giving people more transparent access to public services.

- [Greater transparency and less corruption thanks to e-governance](#)

29 April–8 May 2016

"Beyond our own four kitchen walls", exhibition at BEA, Bern's spring fair

[Other cultural events supported by the SDC](#)

[Other SDC events](#)



Sri Lanka: end of Swiss humanitarian aid work

Swiss humanitarian aid in Sri Lanka is coming to an end after 13 years of reconstruction work following the tsunami and recurrent outbreaks of conflict. Swiss efforts will nonetheless continue with support for Sri Lankan migrant workers, and reconciliation work.

- [Switzerland to pursue other forms of engagement in Sri Lanka](#)

Publications / Films



Investing in sustainable development in mountain regions

The world's mountains are not only home to 900 million people, but are also crucial in terms of the planet's reserves of water, energy, timber for construction, minerals and medicinal plants. This booklet presents a series of case studies which illustrate the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development in mountain regions.

- ["Investing in sustainable mountain development"](#)



Films from the South and the East

Tunisia before the fall of President Ben Ali. Young Farah has just gained a distinction in her baccalaureate. She plays in an underground band and likes drinking and singing in cafés frequented only by men. Ben Ali's secret police begin to take an interest in the band, which it thinks is taking too many liberties.

- ["As I Open My Eyes", Leyla Bouzid, Tunisia, 2015](#)



Educational films

In 2006, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became the first woman to be elected president of an African state. This film follows her during her first year as



President of Liberia, and provides an insight into her work in government. It is an excellent lesson in democracy.

- ["Iron Ladies of Liberia", Daniel Junge and Siatta Scott Johnson, Films pour un seul monde, 2007](#)

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[FDFA's Youtube channel](#)

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Title photo: ©UNDP, Environmental protection project, Macedonia, 2015

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