

More than half a century of Swiss cooperation (SDC)

Slow and steady wins the day

Innovative tailor-made solutions, emblematic of a long-standing partnership with Peru



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and Cooperation SDC

Since the first Swiss development professionals and the first cows arrived in Callao in 1964, the partnerships between Switzerland and Peru have become increasingly solid. Switzerland has worked without interruption since then, and has contributed significantly to economic integration and poverty reduction, working together with Peruvian government agencies, civil society and the private sector, with over 265 projects and a total investment of over 500 million dollars.

In SDC's 57 years' work in Peru, Switzerland has contributed to the country's development through its projects and programmes. These have a common pattern: they are flexible for adapting quickly to Peru's needs and have spirit of constant innovation together with local partners.

they were called at the time. Looking back, the cheese-making programme in the mountainous regions is emblematic, and was accompanied by intensive local innovation and adaptation.



OPENNESS TO SOCIAL ISSUES

Better rural technical training



The 1970s ushered in a change in the form of cooperation. The experiences of the early years showed how important it was to involve socio-economic aspects in technology and knowledge transfer. As a result, Swiss Cooperation projects aimed to alleviate the problems and new situation created by the land reform, promoting artisanal industry (National Cheese Industry Programme), and advisory programmes for a series of cooperatives and peasant farmer communities.

Training, knowledge transfer and capacity-building continue to be a characteristic of Swiss cooperation in Peru to this day. From 1966-2009, Swiss Development Cooperation projects trained young people and professionals in mainly rural programmes, geared to producing a collective effect.



THEMATIC DIVERSIFICATION

New forms of cooperation in local economic development

By 1980 the informal economy became an increasingly widespread social phenomenon. It was mostly made up of people from the countryside who migrated to the cities. In the big city shanty-towns they joined the huge number of unemployed and under-employed.



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Cows, a source of prosperity



In 1965, 12 bulls and 12 pregnant Brown Swiss and Herens cows and 12 goats arrived from Switzerland, marking the beginning of the on-going bilateral aid programme for Peru.

For many Peruvians, "Andino" and "Tilsit" milk and cheese are the most striking symbol of Swiss cooperation. In keeping with the spirit of the times, the experts were initially mandated to transfer know-how from the industrialised countries to the countries of the "Third World" countries as



Swiss support was given primarily to humanitarian programmes, such as the "Glass of Milk" breakfast programme. At the same time, in alliances with local partners it promoted new programmes for supporting and advising small and micro businesses and small farmers; identified alternatives for the rational use and renewal of natural resources in the Amazon rainforest; improved product quality and opened up new markets.

Two projects stand out in these years: the Programme to Support Micro and Small Enterprises in Peru (APOMIPE), which managed to open up access to local markets for poor farmers in Cajamarca, Cusco and La Libertad; and the potato projects - in alliance with the International Potato Centre - whose main beneficiaries continue to be small farmers living in poverty in the most remote areas of the country. During this period, SDC's second decade of cooperation, it achieved concrete results in:

- i) agronomic research on Waru Waru technology as a technological alternative for sustainable agriculture in Puno;
- ii) the development of Andean social forestry; and
- iii) the improvement of pastures in bofedales, and alpaca germ-plasm.

ACCES TO WATER AND SANITATION
Commitment and continued rural development

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation is essential for a life with dignity and respect for human rights. More than two decades have passed since Swiss cooperation decided to support the efforts of the Peruvian government and other sanitation agencies to address this challenge. The result was the joint construction of the Integrated Model of Rural Basic Sanitation Projects (SABA), which to date has benefited over two million people in Peru alone. The results are there to be seen: rural sanitation has gradually become a priority for local, regional and national government, in their management instruments, operational plans and in government rural water and sanitation policy.

The SABA Plus programme began 2009, and was gradually extended to 14 of Peru's regions, where the model was replicated. It reached its final scaling-up when the Peruvian government adopted the model as the basis for the national

rural water and sanitation policy, and ensured its future through the Constitutional Reform of 2017, which recognises access to water as a constitutional right.



SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATISATION
Better governance and support for human rights



At the end of 2000, SDC moved in line with Peru's renewed commitment to democracy by increasing its support in areas such as the defence of human rights and decentralisation, while continuing to intervene in basic services such as water and sanitation and in other areas such as agriculture, micro and small businesses, natural resources and the environment.

Several SDC projects focus on advocacy and on promoting democratic governance. This includes state decentralisation down to rural regions. SDC worked with municipalities to enable them to take on an active role. In particular, SDC created and promoted a network of municipalities in Apurímac, Cajamarca and Cusco, as part of the APODER project in 2002-2011.

SDC also strengthened the Ombudsman's Office, when this was first created. Its mission was the defence of citizens' rights, an important issue for rural dwellers. The main project priorities were the active protection of human rights and access to justice. It is estimated that by strengthening justice at the municipal level, 80 per cent of disputes are resolved locally rather than being referred to the overburdened courts in the cities. Justices of the peace are now recognised members of the Peruvian judiciary. Hundreds of thousands of rural inhabitants have benefited from the stronger courts.



WATER, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

SDC commitment to global challenges



Traditional cooperation between Switzerland and Peru took a new direction in 2012. SDC's Peru office in Lima has now assumed regional functions in the Andean region and throughout the Americas for two of its innovative global programmes, Climate/Environment and Water, which works at the national level on public policy in the respective countries and focuses especially on vulnerable groups.

In the Andean countries, equitable access to water for all remains one of the greatest challenges. The Andean region is also highly vulnerable to climate change, natural disasters are frequent and glacier retreat poses challenges never seen before.

The Global Climate Change Programme contributes to low-emission and climate-resilient development that promotes access to clean energy for all and sustainable management of natural resources. The Global Water Programme aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation in rural areas, providing solutions that ensure swift action in terms of more sustainable financing, innovative technologies and service delivery models and water management.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

A key condition for sustainable development



The Andean countries' high vulnerability to natural hazards has led Swiss Humanitarian Aid to create a Regional Hub for Disaster Risk Reduction and Rapid Response in Lima in 2018. It is a key pillar for sustainable development and supports Andean countries in protecting the public and their livelihoods from disasters and emergencies. The Programme also focuses on the most vulnerable population and uses a participatory approach, for effective disaster preparedness and response, strengthening disaster prevention and risk transfer systems.

In compliance with the terms of SDC's commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its programmes and projects, partners and allies in Peru and the Andean region have covered a wide range of topics for over half a century, ranging from rural development, the promotion of small and medium-sized businesses, governance and the promotion of human rights, water management, environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation, to risk management and humanitarian aid following natural disasters, always in close cooperation with partners and allies, partner countries and regional organisations such as the Andean Community or the Pacific Alliance.

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