

Switzerland & UNDP



Advancing human development together

The partnership between Switzerland and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) delivers lasting results where they are needed most. Together, we are helping countries respond to today's toughest challenges, from poverty and unstable governance to the urgent need for climate-smart finance and digital innovation.

Development is one of the most effective — and most humane — investments we can make. It builds peace. It strengthens stability. It protects our planet. Above all, it unlocks human potential by giving people something no statistic can fully measure: a fair chance.

This strategic collaboration is firmly aligned with Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2025-2028. **With Swiss political and financial support, UNDP is helping to build strong institutions and the rule of law—the very foundations of economic resilience.** We are creating environments that attract investments, **that generate jobs, and that foster conditions for fair trade and sustainable value chains.**

Our joint work is also a lifeline for communities on the brink. UNDP reaches communities others cannot, bridging the gap between emergency relief and long-term development. By working hand-in-hand to mitigate conflicts, support early recovery, and to build resilience, **we are saving lives, preserving dignity, and reducing long-term humanitarian needs.** According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), every US\$1 invested in conflict prevention can save up to US\$103 in costs that would otherwise result from conflict—including humanitarian aid, economic disruption, and crisis response.

UNDP is the central operational agency of the UN system, with a presence in 170 countries and territories. UNDP is consistently ranked among the top five most trusted institutions for government advice and policy support, according to AidData's "Listening to Leaders" survey, one of the largest global surveys of government officials and development partners. This trusted reputation enables UNDP to support member states to deliver on their international commitments and to achieve their human development goals.

UNDP also regards Geneva as a strategic hub for global governance and multilateralism. Working with other UN partners, civil society, academia, and the Swiss private sector, the UNDP Geneva Office is actively engaged in developing innovative and collaborative solutions on thematic areas related to peace and crisis response, human rights, digital transformation, health, and sustainable finance.

Impact 2022-2024 thanks to Switzerland

Thanks to the generous support of Switzerland and other partners, between 2022 and 2024, UNDP was able to achieve remarkable global results, including:

160 MILLION PEOPLE supported with essential services, like healthcare, vocational training, and clean water.

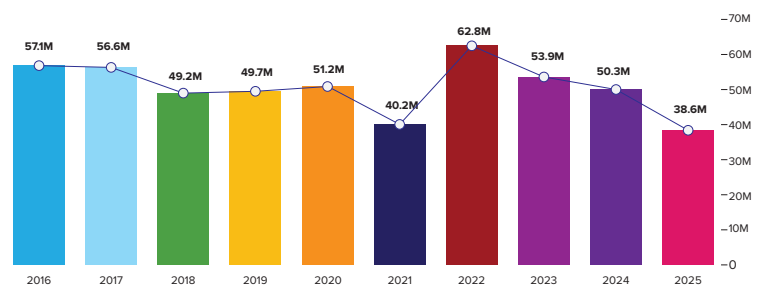
259 MILLION PEOPLE supported with access to financial services.

816 MILLION REGISTERED VOTERS in connection with 57 elections in 43 countries.

\$867 BILLION mobilised in public and private investments for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

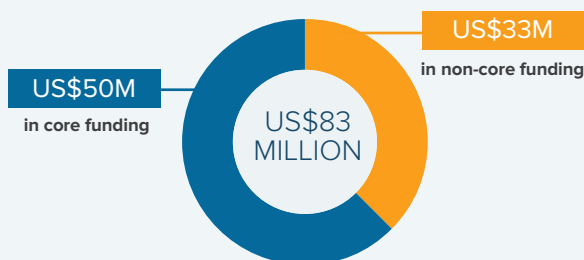
IN 60 FRAGILE COUNTRIES supported in building resilience, protecting livelihoods, and enabling the safe return of displaced individuals.

Trend of Core Contributions 2016–2025



Switzerland's contribution to UNDP in 2024

In 2024, Switzerland contributed a total of US\$83 million to UNDP.



Top 5 recipients of Switzerland's contributions, 2024

Top 5 (UNDP's core funding)

1. Democratic Republic of the Congo
2. Ethiopia
3. Somalia
4. Afghanistan
5. Central African Republic

Top 5 (Non-core, projects)

1. Myanmar
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina
3. Serbia
4. Moldova
5. Tajikistan

Country impact highlights

Sudan: In 2025, Switzerland committed CHF3.5 million to a two-year UNDP project aimed at strengthening the well-being of internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and vulnerable host communities in East Sudan. The initiative directly benefits 160,000 people by improving food and livelihood security, expanding access to clean water and renewable energy, and promoting social cohesion through local conflict management and peacebuilding efforts, with active participation from women and youth.

Ukraine: Through core and earmarked funding from Switzerland, UNDP has supported Ukraine's recovery since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. With a robust operational presence in the country (470 staff), UNDP is strengthening national and local institutions for the provision of essential services. Through digital tools supported by UNDP, 20M+ Ukrainians have benefited from e-services, including IDP registration, pension services, and monetary support. UNDP's partnership with Switzerland also focuses on community-level recovery, addressing the needs of entire local areas, as well as human rights, governance, and mine action. Together, Switzerland and UNDP are supporting the resilience of 25,000 Ukrainian micro-, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), contributing to inclusive economic recovery.

Afghanistan: Thanks to Switzerland and other core funding partners, UNDP maintains a presence in Afghanistan and supports the most vulnerable populations. Since 2021, UNDP has advanced women's economic participation by supporting 80,000 women-led businesses, helping in turn to create livelihoods for 900,000 and benefiting 4.5 million people.

Indonesia and Peru: In partnership with the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), UNDP is driving change in the Indonesian palm oil and Peruvian coffee sectors—helping smallholder farmers boost incomes and strengthen resilience. By reforming policies, promoting inclusive governance, unlocking catalytic finance, and delivering practical training, these efforts increase production without harming the environment and build sustainable global value chains that benefit regional farmers and the Swiss economy. In addition, UNDP's governance assistance has unlocked \$2 billion in new public investments in these countries for increased sustainability in these commodity sectors.

Moldova: In 2022-23, UNDP and Switzerland teamed up to support the socio-economic inclusion of refugees from Ukraine and the capacities of host communities accommodating people fleeing the war. To mitigate the impacts of the conflict on energy security in Moldova, UNDP, Switzerland and the EU also helped establish a new Energy Vulnerability Fund which provided compensation to more than 800,000 households to reduce their energy poverty. They also supported more than 116 localities and 556,000 people who benefited from improved livelihoods and local public services.

Myanmar: With support from the Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNDP is helping 2 million people rebuild their lives in areas impacted by conflict, climate disasters, and economic crises. These projects are strengthening communities by meeting urgent needs, restoring water and agricultural systems, and creating livelihoods through direct assistance and cash-for-work opportunities—especially for women.

Core funding: An essential foundation for every success story

The support from Switzerland and other partners for unearmarked (core) funding is of paramount importance. It provides UNDP with a flexible foundation for impact, enabling rapid responses to emerging challenges while maintaining a focus on long-term development goals through predictable resources.

Core Support – Flexibility that delivers result.

Core funding gives UNDP predictable and flexible resources, enabling rapid response to emerging crises while advancing long-term development.

- **Reaches the poorest:** 80% of core funding is allocated to least developed countries, supporting some of the world's most vulnerable people in line with the commitment to leave no one behind.
- **Catalytic impact:** In 2024, every \$1 of core funding mobilized \$7 in additional investments. For every US\$1 received in funding between 2022 and 2024, UNDP also promoted nearly US\$60 in public and private investments aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Sustains UNDP operations:** Core funding maintains UNDP's local presence, quality standards, and independent oversight functions, including audits, evaluations, and ethics, ensuring development effectiveness.
- **Crisis readiness and response:** UNDP spends 50% of its resources in fragile contexts, investing in all 61 countries defined as fragile by the OECD. Core resources enable early warning analysis, crisis prevention advocacy, and immediate response to conflicts and disasters.

Switzerland's global impact with UNDP

Crisis Work: #Staying and Delivering in Fragile Contexts:

With flexible funding from the Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNDP is accelerating joint work with UN humanitarian and peace actors to better address underlying causes of fragility and conflict, notably through the deployment of Peace and Development Advisors (Joint UNDP-DPPA programme). Swiss support to UNDP in fragile contexts also helps the restoration of effective state institutions, the delivery of basic services, and access to vital justice, all key components to foster stability and sustainability.

Climate action: UNDP has supported 140 countries in raising their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions and has assisted 84 countries in developing Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), underscoring that climate action and economic development are mutually reinforcing. UNDP is working with the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) around the CO2-compensation programme, supporting low-carbon solutions in developing countries.

Private Sector Engagement and Financing for Development:

- **Insurance and Risk Finance Facility:** Partnering with entities such as **SwissRe** and **Zurich, Blue Marble and Celsius Pro**, the UNDP Geneva Office hosts the Insurance and Risk Finance Facility (IRFF), working with the private sector to strengthen the protection of vulnerable communities from socio-economic, climate, health, and other shocks. Through collaboration with industry actors, UNDP helps to scale up financial protection for underserved populations through insurance innovation.
- **Business & Human Rights:** Working with governments, businesses, civil society, human rights defenders, academia, and other stakeholders, UNDP helps implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to advance responsible business practices and to ensure sustainable global supply chains, including in fragile and conflict contexts where heightened due diligence is required.
- **UNDP at Building Bridges:** Fostering cross-sectoral dialogue, UNDP contributes to this initiative launched by the Swiss public authorities, the finance sector, the United Nations, and international partners, to promote impactful strategies for climate action, social equity, and economic resilience.
- **Procurement from Swiss private sector:** In 2024, UNDP bought US\$57.67 million of goods and services from Swiss individuals and companies.

Leveraging digital transformation and AI: In 2024, UNDP supported 70 countries in designing national digital strategies and deploying digital solutions that improve governance, service delivery, market access, and financial inclusion for over 200 million people. UNDP established an AI Hub for Sustainable Development and delivered 43 digital readiness assessments, accelerating the adoption of frontier technologies in Africa and beyond. In Bangladesh, UNDP also worked with the Government to digitalize access to services, improving governance.

UN Coherence: Under the leadership of UN Resident Coordinators, UNDP works with the entire UN system at country-level, providing back-office and operational services to 70+ UN entities, including management of common premises, HR and finance payments, generating savings across the entire system.

Swiss voices at UNDP



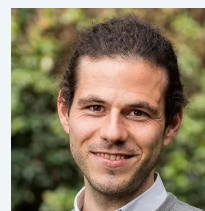
Susan Brown
Assistant Secretary General, Assistant Administrator, and Director of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy

With decades of experience in global advocacy, policy, and communications, having previously worked in GAVI, WWF, and as a journalist and senior adviser, she is an expert in sustainable development, gender, and public health.



Isabelle Tschan Harada
Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India

With over 20 years of experience in international development, she has held leadership and managerial positions with UNDP in India, Burkina Faso, and Istanbul (Türkiye). Throughout her career with the UN across different regions, she has held policy advisory roles and led programme initiatives advancing governance, peacebuilding, and resilience, with a strong contribution to gender equality.



David Mueller
Regional Specialist, Insurance and Risk Finance - UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub

From Zurich to Pretoria, he has built a career in sustainable finance, supporting UNDP, governments, and the private sector to deliver SDG investment solutions, manage for impact, and build the financial resilience of countries and communities across Africa, through insurance and risk financing tools.

Swiss nationals in UNDP

UNDP currently employs **34 Swiss nationals** (as of Aug 2025), deployed in **18 countries, including 17 international positions (one in senior leadership)** and **three Swiss-funded JPOs**.