



Promoting good governance in a global context of democratic backslide

Inclusive and accountable governance is fundamental to delivering sustainable development. The 2023 Evaluation highlights positive results of SDC's engagement on governance, including in challenging country contexts. *SDC engagement*

Strengths

Effective

SDC delivers results. Achievements are easier to come by in countries that are stable, but good results also emerge in countries where there is democratic backslide, and in countries burdened by conflict.

Trusted & consistent

Switzerland stays engaged in challenging contexts, providing an important counterweight to anti-democratic trends and actors in a global context where democracy is under threat. At country level, Switzerland excels at finding entry points and reform champions to work on governance despite democratic reversals.

Well-designed & people centred.

SDC's programmes are designed in a way that connects governance engagements to specific sectors, such as water, health, or electricity, which lead to tangible improvements in the lives of citizens, especially at local level, that are felt by- and benefit citizens and communities.

almost 70%

Governance-related engagements have increased and amounted to almost 70 percent of SDC's spending, close to reaching the target of 75 percent.

43%

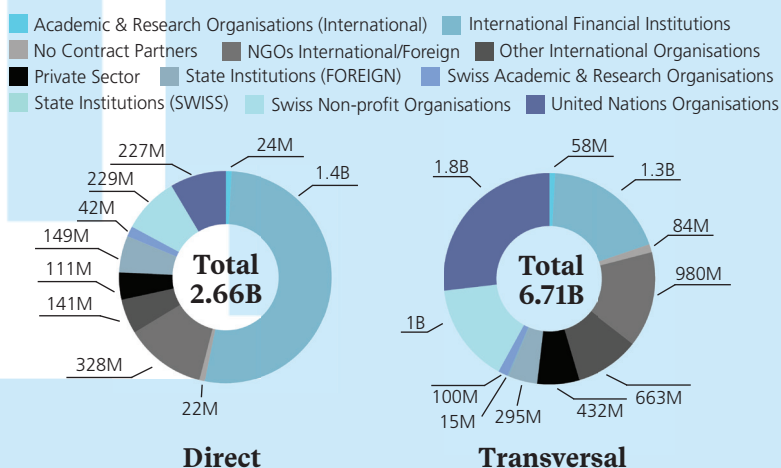
Democratization and decentralization account for 43 percent of SDC's core governance programmes.

80%

A remarkable 80% of staff use SDC's learning tools and guidance documents to help the institution navigate the complexity of working with democratic governance.

Direct and transversal bilateral governance interventions, 2017 until present

Types of implementing partners. Amounts in million (billion) CHF



Recommendations

→ Human Rights

Work more directly to strengthen human rights, while ensuring that such engagements do not jeopardize safety of partners and staff. Maintain and further develop indirect approaches, including strategically designed cultural interventions.

→ Stay engaged

Stay engaged at local level in countries experiencing democratic reversals, increasing authoritarianism and fragility. Pursue entry points for engagement at national level, and when national level engagement is restricted, step-up engagement at regional and global levels.

→ Transversal governance

Prioritise governance as a transversal theme and continue to develop staff capacities and resources in particular through face-to-face interactions and Learning Journeys. Consider how to strengthen incentives to work on transversal governance in humanitarian settings hereunder tailoring the transversal governance checklist to be more suited to humanitarian aid.

→ Modalities

Contributions should be considered as the preferred modality in governance programming, with careful consideration of advantages and disadvantages in specific contexts.

The SDC commissions 80–100 project evaluations and 3–4 thematic or institutional evaluations each year, mainly based on international OECD-Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria such as relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

The SDC's senior management takes note of the evaluation-results and outlines measures to be implemented in response to each recommendation. The senior management response is published together with the full report and can be accessed through the QR-code.

