

SWITZERLAND

1. Measures to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015

In 2010 the Swiss government published an interim report on its contribution to the MDGs. Switzerland will maintain or likely increase its current ODA volume over the next five years to support achieving the MDGs. With Swiss development programmes traditionally focused on health and water, no major changes were needed there to align with the MDGs. Switzerland also strives to focus other areas of engagement to advance economic and political governance and human rights.

2. Changes in development policy and what drives them

In addition to short term measures in response to emergency situations triggered by the financial and economic crisis, Switzerland continues to support partner countries in creating stable economic conditions, strengthening competitiveness and financial sector infrastructure, diversifying trade and mobilising private sector investment. Special emphasis is put on fostering development cooperation beyond the provision of aid for poverty reduction, and on identifying opportunities to integrate global issues such as climate change, migration, global food security and water into Swiss cooperation programs. Recognising the important countercyclical role multilateral institutions play in crisis response, Switzerland supports the increase of capital and the replenishment rounds of the World Bank and the regional banks. In addition to short term measures in response to emergency situations triggered by the financial and economic crisis, Switzerland continues to support partner countries in creating stable economic conditions, strengthening competitiveness and financial sector infrastructure, diversifying trade, and mobilising private sector investment.

3. Measures to improve predictability of aid

Switzerland's parliamentary aid budget cycles of four years provide partner countries with a sufficient level of predictability. It communicates its forward expenditure plans to its partners through Cooperation Strategy Papers that include sector expenditure plans for the four subsequent years. Country offices are encouraged to update partners regularly on projects and programmes. Switzerland subscribed to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and expects to start implementing IATI Phase 1 by end of 2011. It is also developing guidelines to foster the predictability of aid through the provision of regular and timely information on annual commitments and disbursements and on forward spending plans.