

# newsletter

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

January 2015

Dear reader,

Romanian police officers learning Romany, the sorting of hazardous household waste in Bulgaria, the implementation of basic health care and home care, support for vocational training: these are just some of the ways Switzerland's contribution to the enlarged EU is being put into effect in Romania and Bulgaria. The CHF 257 million allocated by Switzerland to these two countries is enabling 28 projects to go ahead. Proposed by Bulgaria and Romania, the projects have been considered carefully by Switzerland and should be completed by the end of 2019.

The editorial team



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## Contribution to the enlarged EU: concrete plans for Romania and Bulgaria

Switzerland's objectives for Bulgaria and Romania are as follows: ensure economic growth and improvements in working conditions, boost social security, protect the environment, provide more stable living conditions for the people of both countries and strengthen civil society.

- [Swiss involvement in Bulgaria and Romania: a 5-year review](#)



## Haiti: 5 years on, the rebuilding continues

Five years on from the earthquake in 2010, the SDC is continuing its activities in Haiti in an uncertain political climate. It has adopted an approach that combines humanitarian aid and development cooperation. Its priorities are the rule of law and good governance, agriculture and food security, reconstruction and disaster risk reduction.

## Post-2015 agenda



## Goals to be applicable in all countries

The future Sustainable Development Goals must bring together the common interests of prosperous, emerging and poor countries. The reduction of poverty and inequalities, and the sustainable management of the natural resources, are some of the main priorities. Switzerland is actively participating in the search for meaningful goals.

- [Post-2015 agenda](#)

## New



- [The SDC's comprehensive approach in Haiti – joining forces for sustainability](#)



### Land governance: essential for food security

Three quarters of the world's poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture. They frequently have no rights over their plots of land and are thus defenceless against large investors. The SDC defends the interests of the smallholder farmers in order to ensure fair access to natural resources.

- [For responsible land governance](#)



### Rape as a weapon of war: a crime that all too often goes unpunished

The use of rape as a weapon of war is a phenomenon as old as war itself. Since 2008 the UN has worked actively to put an end to this intolerable crime. Interviewed is Zainab Hawa Bangura, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

- ["When you rape a woman, you destroy the spirit of a community"](#)



### Bolivia: more electricians, fewer lawyers

In Bolivia there are a great number of academics but for only very few corresponding job opportunities. 70% of the workforce works in the informal sector. Providing alternative training opportunities in technical subjects improves people's prospects on the job market.

- [Latin Brief: Swiss cooperation promotes technical training in Bolivia](#)



### HIV/AIDS: medicine, prevention and psychosocial support

The SDC-funded Newlands Clinic in Harare, Zimbabwe, has given Jacob M. – a HIV-positive patient – new prospects. Today Jacob M. helps other people infected with HIV so that they can benefit from the same support which he earned.

- [Jacob, 34 years old – HIV-positive and volunteer](#)



### The Green Climate Fund: low-emissions technologies and managing resources



### Handbook: humanitarian access in armed conflicts

Access for humanitarian organisations in armed conflict zones is often impeded or refused. Switzerland advocates improvements in this area with a manual providing guidelines for humanitarian practitioners concerned with the question of access.

- [Humanitarian Access in Situations of Armed Conflict](#)

#### Agenda

**22.2.2015**

[Concert by Kara Sylla Ka, 30th anniversary of Artlink, Bern](#)

**18.3.2015**

[Face2Face event: "Hidden Hunger and Social Business", Bern](#)

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

[Other SDC events](#)



The Green Climate Fund supports countries in developing and implementing their own climate policies. Interviewed is Anton Hilber, head of the SDC's Global Programme on Climate Change, on Switzerland's climate-related activities.

- [Switzerland contributes to the Green Climate Fund](#)



### Taxes: internal resources as a basis for democracy

Taxes enable countries to ensure their own financial independence and to improve the management of public affairs. But many countries do not have the administrative capacity to collect taxes, and large parts of the population do not have the means to pay them. The mobilisation of internal resources has become a key issue for development cooperation.

- [L'Accent multilatéral: Taxes at the heart of development \(de\)](#)



### Tsunami: 10 years on

26.12.2004. This date remains engraved on the memories of tens of thousands of victims of the tsunami that devastated parts of South and South-East Asia. The SDC played a major role in bringing emergency aid to the region, making the reconstruction of people's homes a priority. A staff member of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid recalls what happened and talks about the SDC's current activities in Sri Lanka.

- ["Nobody immediately grasped what had happened"](#)

## Publications / Films



### SDC magazine "One World"

Dossier: Local governance growing in importance for development cooperation. In Bulgaria the situation of the Roma minority has barely improved since the country joined the EU. The head of the SDC office in Kabul talks about the future of Afghanistan after the withdrawal of almost all foreign troops.

- [Order, download, subscribe \(de, fr, it\)](#)



### Films from the South and the East

Esma lives with Sara, her 12-year-old daughter, in



post-war Sarajevo. Sara believes her father died a hero in combat. But when mother and daughter broach this delicate subject, Esma's responses are evasive.

- ["Grbavica", Jasmila Žbanić, Bosnia and Herzegovina, trigon-film, 2006](#)



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### Films for educational purposes

The pursuit of fair skin as an ideal conception of beauty leads many African women into painful attempts to change their appearance. "Yellow fever" discusses the feelings of inferiority caused by racism and their reinforcement by the media.

- ["Yellow fever", Ng'endo Mukii, United Kingdom, Filme für eine Welt, 2012 \(de, fr\)](#)

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