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**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**

# Swiss Cooperation Programme Horn of Africa 2022 – 2025

Contributing to the realization of a stable and resilient region that supports the wellbeing, inclusion and empowerment of most vulnerable communities and women.



# Switzerland's Engagement in the Horn of Africa

**Since When?** Switzerland has been committed to supporting the Horn of Africa (HoA) since the 1990s and increasingly so, after the famine in 2011.

**Where?** Swiss activities in the region are concentrated in Somalia (including Somaliland), the arid and semi-arid zones of North-eastern Kenya and South-eastern Ethiopia.

**For who?** The target populations of the Swiss programme are the (agro-)pastoral communities, displacement-affected communities, women and those furthest left behind in their societies, in particular, minority communities and nomadic communities of the arid and semi-arid zones.

**How?** Switzerland contributes to the region by supporting peacebuilding, humanitarian aid and development projects in the areas of *Good Governance, Food Security, Health, Migration & Protection*, aimed at strengthening the stability of the region. Good Governance, Gender and Conflict-Sensitive Programme Management are cross-cutting themes.

**Why?** The Horn of Africa is among the most conflict-prone and fragile regions in the world where developmental progress is of importance, but is hampered by the following challenges:

- **Food insecurity and climate change:**

The Horn of Africa is strongly affected by the cumulative effects of climate change. Frequent droughts and environmental degradation such as soil erosion and desertification cause famines, lead to widespread poverty, resource-based conflict and social and economic crises. Somalia is considered one of the most vulnerable countries in the world, in terms of climate change.

- **High number of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):**

The region has seen an increase in refugee and IDP populations due to conflict, natural disasters and most recently, the Covid-19 pandemic.

- **Lack of access to basic services:**

Public services such as healthcare is of low quality, inaccessible and unable to meet demand. Services from private sector is too expensive for the most vulnerable and marginalized, who rely on donor-funded services.

- **Fast population growth and urbanization:**

The HoA has a young and growing population, with Somalia having one of the highest fertility rates worldwide. Although this provides opportunities, it also increases youth unemployment. The HoA region is also urbanizing rapidly, providing economic opportunities. However, poor planning and mismanagement, increases instability.

- **Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic:**

Covid-19 has affected national economies, caused increased unemployment, food insecurity, displacement and exposed corruption, leading to public mistrust. This has slowed down development efforts in the region.



Ilbarok women's group garden © Food for the Hungry / Millennium Water Alliance



Immunization campaign in Ufeynd district (Bair, Puntland, Somalia) © Save the Children International

## Switzerland's Longstanding Commitment in the Horn of Africa

- Switzerland has provided significant humanitarian, development and peacebuilding assistance in the region, especially following the 2011/12 drought and famine, which has led to longer-term support to the Horn of Africa.

- In order to achieve its objectives, Switzerland uses a Whole of Government Approach. This means that all the relevant actors of the Swiss authorities work together, i.e. the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Peace and Human Rights Division (PHRD) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), and the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) of the Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP).

- Switzerland uses a regional approach to tackle shared challenges and opportunities of the population, in the areas of intervention across the three countries.

- Switzerland will continue contributing to positive change and progress in Somalia, and its neighbouring countries.



Irrigation water canal in Unaa village, Dollow © DRC

## The Four Priorities of Switzerland's Cooperation Programme

Between 2022 and 2025, Switzerland is investing approximately CHF 215 million in the region, through its programming in Somalia (incl. Somaliland), Kenya and Ethiopia.

Switzerland works closely with local, national, regional and international partners, in order to achieve its objectives, while ensuring a focus on improving gender equality in its programming and addressing the negative effects of climate change. Roughly 1% of SDCs budget will be allocated to a long-term regional culture programme.

### Good Governance

Switzerland supports peacebuilding and state-building interventions especially in Somalia, including improved dialogue, partnerships and strengthening of core state functions. The aim is for a more accountable, inclusive and transparent government system that enables socio-economic development.

- Switzerland's support to state-building in Somalia is towards a more inclusive and stable political settlement that addresses major political challenges, including lack of trust among political actors and constitutional issues such as vertical power and resource sharing.

- Switzerland supports the establishment of legitimate and accountable local governance institutions, which are able to provide public services in an inclusive and transparent manner.

- Switzerland's key contribution is systematically supporting bottom-up state building and peacebuilding processes, for a more citizen-owned social environment and improved institutional capacities.

### Food Security

Switzerland contributes to building resilient, inclusive and stable livelihoods for (agro-)pastoral communities in the region. Switzerland also supports these communities to better adopt and cope with climate variabilities and shocks such as droughts.

- Switzerland supports pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, to improve their natural resource management, productivity, quality of produce and access to markets.

- Switzerland supports local institutions to create conducive framework conditions for sustainable natural resource management, resulting in improved food security.

## Health

The Swiss projects ensure that women, children and displaced people have access to affordable high quality health care. They support primary health care service delivery and establish sustainable health governance systems.

- Switzerland supports a 'One Health' approach to (agro-)pastoral communities, ensuring the provision of health services to both the people and their livestock.
- Switzerland supports projects aimed at increasing access to basic primary care services, with a focus on reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health services, mainly in Somalia.
- Support to service delivery will be implemented through NGOs and national institutions, while at the same time testing partnerships with the private / informal sector, to complement public health efforts.

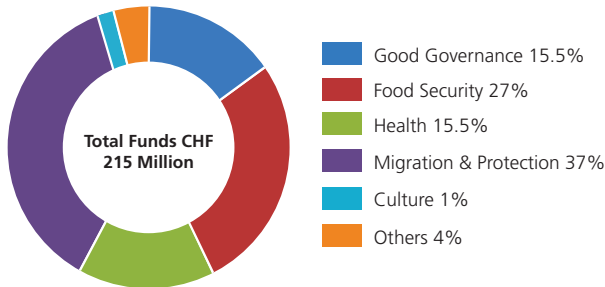
## Migration & Protection

Switzerland aims to support displacement affected populations and migrants in vulnerable situations, to access protection services and advance durable solutions, thus gaining self-reliance and sustainable reintegration.

- Switzerland's contribution is towards ensuring refugees, migrants, IDPs and host communities, receive adequate protection services.
- Switzerland supports solutions for improved self-reliance, social cohesion and sustainable integration of displacement affected communities.

# Switzerland's Horn of Africa Commitment in Numbers

Total budget 2022 - 2025: CHF 215 million



## Map of the Horn of Africa

