



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN lead agency on international development. Its mandate is to end poverty, strengthen democratic governance, as well as to support countries preventing and responding to crisis. It supports countries in formulating long-term, socially responsible and sustainable development strategies. With its presence in 170 countries, the UNDP has the largest external network within the UN and is the SDC’s most important UN partner in terms of financial volume.

Strategic Objectives

In its 2026-2029 Strategic Plan, UNDP defines four objectives and three accelerators.

Objectives for UNDP’s strategic direction:

- Prosperity for all
- Effective governance
- Crisis resilience
- Healthy planet

Accelerators for systemic change:

- Digital and AI transformation
- Sustainable finance
- Gender equality

Key Results and Challenges

In 2025, UNDP directed over half of its expenditure towards crisis, conflict or fragile settings. In these settings, 2.6 million people secured jobs, and 5.2 million internally displaced people, refugees and host communities received support.

Furthermore, UNDP supported 95 million voters in 18 countries, thereby contributing to credible, inclusive and peaceful elections. UNDP also supported the digital transformation of various public services. It enabled 13.3 million people to obtain legal identification, enabling them to access essential public goods and services, including education, healthcare and decent work.

UNDP also played a central role in climate and nature initiatives. It improved the management of 358.7 million hectares of protected areas and supported the restoration of 18 million hectares of forest. Between 2022 and 2025, 36 million people gained access to clean and affordable energy.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Type of organisation

United Nations’ leading agency on international development

Head of organisation

Alexander De Croo (BE), Administrator

Headquarters

New York (USA)

Country offices

170

Total Personnel

approx. 23,000

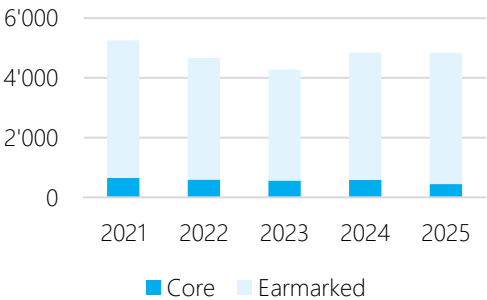
Established in

1965

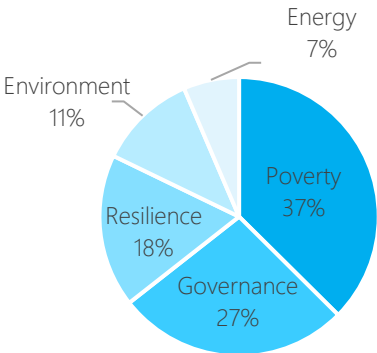
Steering

Executive board with rotating membership

UNDP Revenues 2021-2025
Core vs. Earmarked, in million USD



UNDP Expenditures 2025, by thematic areas (%)





Through stabilisation efforts in northeast Nigeria, women are creating safe spaces, bringing communities together and amplifying women's voices. ©UNDP Nigeria/Amalachukwu Ibeneme/Daniel Amao

Switzerland and UNDP

Switzerland's strategic priorities

1. Prevention and management of crises: Switzerland supports UNDP's efforts in preventing, managing and recovering from crisis. In a world marked by protracted crises, it is critical to break cycles of fragility.
2. Governance, democracy and rule of law: Switzerland encourages UNDP to strengthen inclusive, accountable and effective governance, through its support for elections, democratic institutions and delivery of services to all, including marginal groups.
3. UNDP's Institutional Governance: Switzerland supports efforts to improve UNDP's efficiency, governance and oversight by being an active member of the executive board and through its strategic dialogue with the organisation.

Furthermore, Switzerland notably focuses on improving the audits and evaluation functions, as well as the organisational culture of the organisation.

Cooperation at country level

Switzerland contributes to the implementation of UNDP's Strategic Plan at country level through specific contributions. In 2025, for example, Switzerland channelled CHF 35.5 million to 28 UNDP country programmes, supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Caribbean. In particular, Switzerland funded UNDP's resilience and social cohesion initiatives in Myanmar, Sudan and Moldova. In Ukraine, Switzerland and UNDP partner to support Ukraine's recovery efforts in war-affected communities in the country's East and South to ensure the restoration of key services across different sectors.

Cooperation at global level

At global level, Switzerland collaborates with UNDP in two thematic areas: crisis response and sustainable commodity production. It supports the deployment of peace and development advisers in conflict-affected contexts to assist governments and civil society in their peacebuilding efforts.

Switzerland also supports the Green Commodities Programme, which aims to transform agricultural commodity sectors in countries such as Ghana, Indonesia and Peru. The programme promotes multi-stakeholder platforms and sustainable production practices to reduce deforestation and improve livelihoods.

SWITZERLAND and UNDP

Contributions (2025)

Total: CHF 67.5 million (17th largest gov. donor)

Core: CHF 31.8 million (4th)

Earmarked: CHF 35.7 million

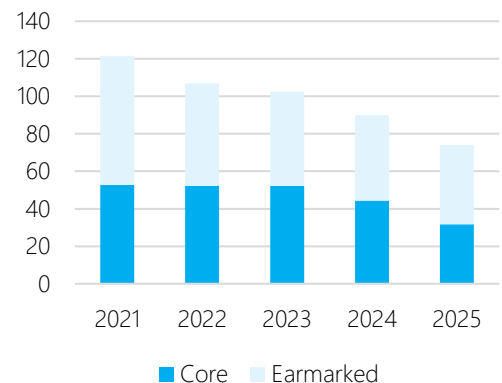
Number of Swiss staff

17

Involved Swiss government entities

SDC (UN&MDB), PHRD, SEM, BAFU, SIF

Swiss Contributions 2021-2025 Core vs. Earmarked Funding, in million CHF



UNDP in Myanmar: Sustainable Development in a Fragile Context

In Myanmar, SDC and UNDP address urgent humanitarian needs while strengthening long-term resilience in Rakhine State. Conflict, displacement and climate-related shocks have deepened poverty, with over two-thirds of the population experiencing multidimensional poverty and one-third living in severe poverty. Joint efforts focused on restoring essential community infrastructure and services, including the rehabilitation of roads, bridges, embankments and water facilities benefiting over 58,000 people, while livelihood and agricultural support reached more than 500,000 people across 12 townships, strengthening food security and economic resilience. UNDP also supports access to legal aid, justice and protection services as well as community initiatives on gender-based violence prevention, social cohesion and disaster preparedness.

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