



Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

Voluntary National Review of Switzerland 2022



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Foreword



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Switzerland is regarded by the international community as a reliable partner with a stand-alone foreign policy. Since 2016 it has aligned its sustainable development strategy with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, which represents the global reference framework for all sustainable development-related policies. The Federal Council adopted its new 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy in June 2021. In doing so, it underscored its commitment, alongside all nations around the world, to playing its part in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals both nationally and internationally by 2030.

Switzerland enjoys a lively democracy, an interconnected economy, a diversity of species, habitats and cultural spaces, a strong academic and scientific sector and a long humanitarian tradition. It therefore has an enormous vested interest in implementing the goals of the 2030 Agenda, and is committed both at home and worldwide to sustainability in all of its dimensions. Each and every one of us can do our bit to achieve these goals. All actors should therefore be involved in the implementation. This is true equally of the federal government, cantons, communes, business, civil society and the scientific community. This diversity is one of Switzerland's strengths, and work to put the 2030 Agenda into practice is no exception.

As a leading centre of innovation, our country has an essential role here. Digitalisation also presents enormous potential through which to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In the preparation of our Voluntary National Review we therefore sought an innovative digital approach that would accommodate the wide range of actors involved. The online *SDGital2030* solution developed by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) facilitates a structured and systematic baseline assessment both within and outside of the Federal Administration. This status report will be published on the www.SDGital2030.ch website in the summer of 2022 and made available to the general public in Switzerland and internationally.

Diversity and innovation are what the international community need to grow the world more sustainably.

For a better future for all.

**Ignazio Cassis,
President of the Swiss Confederation**



Introduction

In 2022 we are almost at the midway point of work to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To date major progress has been made around the world to bring the international community closer to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets. For example, advances have been made on combating poverty, maternal and child health, gender equality and access to electricity. They are not enough to achieve the Goals by 2030, however. In view of the challenges that persist, such as reducing inequality, the outbreak of new conflicts, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and fighting hunger, the response must be a global one. The quest for shared solutions is of key importance here, especially in the light of the setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the still-unforeseeable consequences of the war in Ukraine. The Federal Council remains convinced that the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs provides the proper frame of reference by which to overcome these challenges alongside all *United Nations* member states.

Switzerland has participated in international reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda since the very beginning. The Federal Council has adopted a four-year reporting cycle up to 2030, in the form of a Voluntary National Review (VNR). Each such review is presented to the UN *High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)*, and is also intended to show the Swiss public where Switzerland stands on the path to achieving the SDGs. The first comprehensive Voluntary National Review was submitted in 2018.

The present VNR illustrates of the current situation for Switzerland and of which course was set during the 2018–20 reporting period, at federal level in particular, to stay on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Switzerland is able to build on a solid foundation in its implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and it has already made considerable progress towards achieving some of the SDGs, for example in education, healthcare provision and ensuring rule-of-law institutions. It nonetheless continues to face a number of challenges, especially with regard to sustainable consumption and sustainable production, climate, energy and biodiversity, and efforts to promote equal opportunities and social cohesion. Switzerland is working both at home and abroad to address these issues. In a concerted effort to advance sustainable development, in addition to the numerous activities run by the cantons, cities and communes the federal government is also able to count on the vital commitments of many actors from the business and scientific communities. The collective and individual engagement of civil society, with the

hard work of many volunteers for example, is a further important factor. The www.SDGital2030.ch website spotlights a collection of these multi-aspect initiatives from these various actors to implement the 2030 Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda covers a great diversity of themes that affect almost all sectoral policies. Recognising this, in 2018 the Federal Council created a new organisational structure to encourage transversal efforts towards policy coherence for sustainable development. In 2021 it adopted the *2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS)*.¹ The 2030 SDS defines the federal government's priority topics for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It thus represents a further step towards a coherent sustainability policy. The 2030 SDS focuses on areas with particular need for action and coordination in Switzerland. These are sustainable consumption and sustainable production, climate, energy and biodiversity, and equal opportunities and social cohesion. In addition, the 2030 Agenda has been embedded in a large number of Federal Administration strategies and activities since the last Voluntary National Review was published in 2018.

In fact, in 2016 Switzerland was one of the first countries to submit a VNR to the *United Nations*, in which it set out its initial moves to implement the 2030 Agenda. The second VNR in 2018 then for the first time contained specific information on progress and plans towards achieving the SDGs. The current Voluntary National Review presents a further progress report, while attempting also to take account of both synergies and trade-offs between the various Swiss goals. The baseline assessment that underlies the report was produced using a brand-new, bespoke digital solution that permits information to be gathered in a structured way. It also endeavours to factor in how the different SDGs and their targets interact.

Priority topics for Switzerland – key messages

Switzerland has a strong starting position with regard to many aspects of sustainable development. There is nonetheless more work to be done in future in a variety of areas if the country wishes to implement the 2030 Agenda successfully in the eight years that remain.

As it makes further progress towards the SDGs, the federal government will be guided in particular by the three priority topics defined by the Federal Council in the *2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS)*.² The objectives of these three priority topics are closely interlinked. To allow government action for sustainable development to be optimised, political decisions must therefore be analysed at an early stage in terms of their economic, social and environmental impacts. The task here is to create transparency about trade-offs and negative impacts, highlight solutions to avoid or mitigate such impacts, and make better use of synergies between policies. All of this is designed to improve policy coherence. The specific goals of the *2030 SDS* are to be achieved by means of dedicated action plans and advanced in connection with efforts to implement sectoral policies.

In addition, many challenges can be overcome successfully only with a joint effort involving the three levels of government (federal, cantonal and communal), business, the scientific community and civil society. The financial system and research both have a key role to play in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The lack of attention given to the environmental and social consequences of economic activity can present a key barrier to sustainability. At the same time, however, economic instruments and the business sector can be part of the solution. It is particularly important here to have the proper operating framework in place. In today's world, a financial sector that places sustainability at the heart of its decision-making secures both its competitiveness and its future viability. Finally, numerous civil society organisations and each and every individual play an important part in achieving the SDGs. Effectively bringing together public, private and civil society partners can encourage efficient collaboration and minimise negative consequences.

The key messages of this Voluntary National Review can be summarised by the three priority topics set out in the *2030 SDS*.

1. Sustainable consumption and sustainable production



Switzerland is one of the most prosperous countries in the world. Its economy is characterised by steady growth at all levels, productive full employment and the assurance of decent work. Resource efficiency is improving continuously. Yet despite efficiency gains, Switzerland's patterns of consumption and production continue to be based on high resource use both at home and abroad. The goal of achieving the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources by 2030 is an ambitious one. Particular consideration must also be given here to the negative impacts that the resident Swiss population's consumption patterns have on people and the environment in other countries. Economic activity in Switzerland should increasingly take a form that allows prosperity and well-being to be preserved while counteracting resource over-exploitation.

Developing a sustainable food system is a key action area because a healthier diet goes hand in hand with less strain on the environment. Food systems have an overarching effect on all 17 SDGs under the 2030 Agenda, and may therefore be crucial to achieving it. The vision of the *Swiss Nutrition Policy 2017-24*³ is therefore to promote a healthy and balanced diet to prevent non-communicable diseases and to strengthen the immune systems of the Swiss population. The *2030 SDS* also takes up the issue of a sustainable food system, connecting healthy eating and sustainable food production with its effects on the economy, environment and society. In its *National Pathway for Food Systems Transformation in Support of the 2030 Agenda*,⁴ presented at the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021, Switzerland set out a clear path towards this transformation on the basis of the *2030 SDS*.

2. Climate, energy and biodiversity



Switzerland has set itself the goal of lowering greenhouse gas emissions, reducing energy consumption and using energy more efficiently, and expanding the use of renewable energies.

Carbon emissions in Switzerland have been declining steadily since 1990. The objective of the *2050 Climate Strategy*,⁵ to reduce these emissions to net zero by 2050, is an ambitious undertaking, however. In 2021, the Swiss electorate rejected the comprehensive revision of the CO₂ Act, but the federal government has already taken steps to align national climate policy with the international goals. The Federal Council sent a new bill for consultation at the end of that year.

The increased incidence of extreme events as a result of climate change increases the risk of loss events around the world, including Switzerland. More and more, natural hazards will occur in areas and at times of the year that have so far been spared. It will therefore be even more important in future to adopt a conscious, anticipative approach to these dangers.

The *Energy Strategy 2050*⁶ leads the way where converting energy supplies to renewables and greater energy efficiency are concerned. Switzerland has met short-term guideline values for electricity production from renewable sources, and for electrical and energy efficiency, and thereby reached a first milestone. However, to reduce dependencies on other countries, achieve climate-neutral power supplies and improve long-term supply reliability at the same time, it is vital to expand power generation from renewable energies still further, accompanied by an increase in energy efficiency and a real-term reduction in energy consumption. In 2021 Switzerland initiated the next iteration of its Energy Strategy with this intention.

Biodiversity is to be preserved, promoted and restored, and ecosystem services – specifically Switzerland's forests, soils and other elements of its ecological infrastructure – should also be conserved for the benefit of society. The progressive loss of biodiversity threatens people's livelihoods and economic output worldwide, and Switzerland is no exception. Around a third of the country's native species and almost half of its habitats are endangered. The Action Plan for the *Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (2017–23)*⁷ defines measures to halt this development.

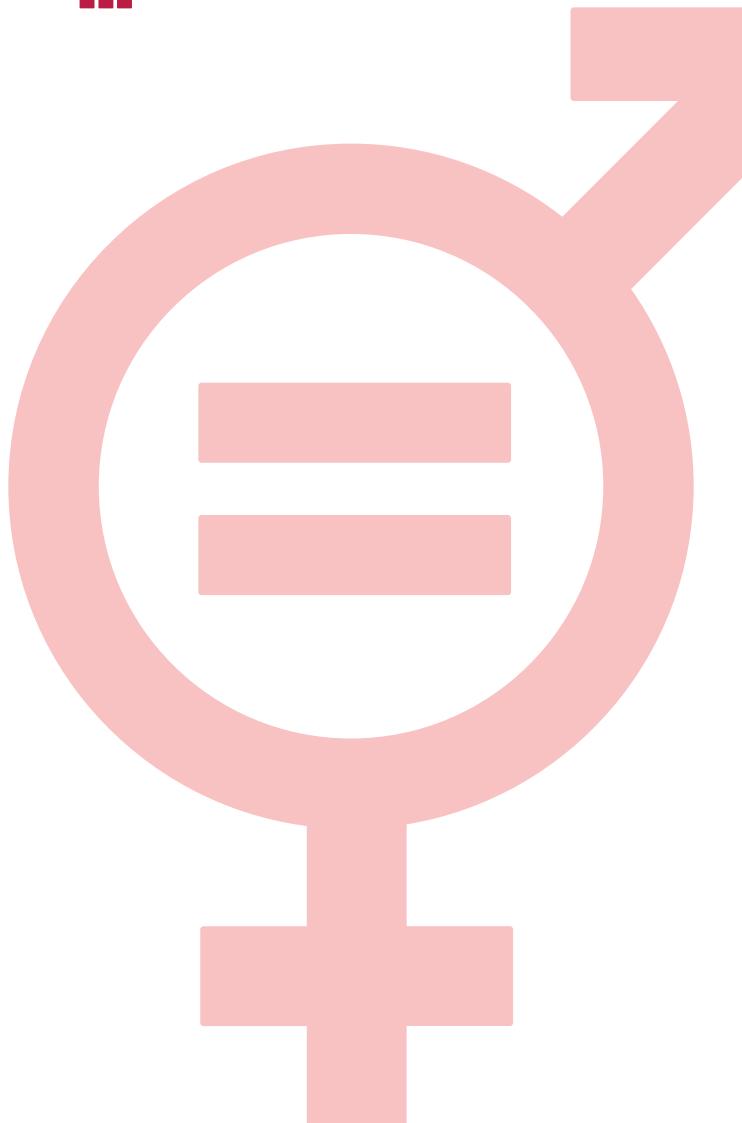
3. Equal opportunities and social cohesion



Switzerland strives to be an inclusive society in accordance with the principles of the Federal Constitution. The latter's preamble emphasises the determination of the people "to live together with mutual consideration and respect for their diversity". It corresponds to the UN promise to *leave no one behind*. In compliance with Art. 2 Federal Constitution, Switzerland also ensures the greatest possible equality of opportunity between its citizens. Everyone must enjoy the same opportunities to develop and realise their personal potential, including through their own achievements. The aim of equality of opportunity is not to smooth out actual differences, but to use legal instruments to open up equitable access and prospects to all.

Compulsory education is an important factor that furthers social cohesion and equal opportunities. The Swiss education system is characterised by its high standards and its permeability. The dual vocational education and training system is geared to the needs of the labour market, and therefore contributes to integrating young people and adults into the world of work. The Swiss approach already creates a good basis for an equal opportunity society. Challenges remain, however. Examples include social mobility and those with migration backgrounds, and illustrate how important it is for the education system to remain a work in progress.

Switzerland has recorded successes with regard to the legal and real-life equality of women and men. It adopted the *Gender Equality Strategy 2030*⁸ and has enacted amendments to the *Gender Equality Act*.⁹ Positive shifts can also be seen in the extension of marriage to same-sex couples and the greater proportion of women in the Federal Assembly and in cantonal parliaments. Gender equality continues to present a challenge, however, especially in terms of reconciling work and family life, wage equality, and combating gender-based violence.



New organisational structure for greater policy coherence

To support consistent policy-making in the interests of sustainable development, to meet the need for coordination and interconnection and to improve knowledge-sharing, at the end of 2018 the Federal Council created a new organisational structure within the Federal Administration to coherently implement the 2030 Agenda. Strategic coordination and management fell to the newly convened *2030 Agenda Steering Committee*. It is composed of the most relevant federal government agencies from all seven departments, plus the Federal Chancellery, all represented at the most senior management level. The *2030 Agenda Steering Committee* furthers the integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in sectoral policies and also fulfils a strategic, cross-sectoral role. How the SDGs are implemented in practice remains the responsibility of the individual government agencies that are responsible for the sectoral policies in question. Meanwhile, every single government agency has a responsibility to include the SDGs into their own policies, strategies and budgets. The effectiveness and efficiency of this organisational structure and its role are to be reviewed by the end of 2022 and amended if necessary.

To place the 2030 Agenda and its goals on an even stronger institutional footing, in 2019 the Federal Council further appointed two delegates, one from the Federal *Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC)* and one from the Federal *Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)*. Alternating every two years, they are responsible for the operational management of the Steering Committee's work. They also have a public role, representing Switzerland in international bodies, keeping the public informed about the 2030 Agenda, and involving the cantons and communes, as well as representatives of business, the scientific community and civil society in implementation and reporting.

The *2030 Agenda Advisory Group* is another body that provides operational support and the link between the federal government and non-governmental sustainable development actors. By adopting its new rules of procedure in the spring of 2022, the Steering Committee has reinforced the role of the Advisory Group by formally including it in the federal government's sustainability policy process. The Group consists of a balance of representatives from business, the scientific community and civil society. It fulfils an important function in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by contributing both strategic and subject-matter expertise, addressing synergies and trade-offs between the various sectors, and encouraging dialogue between the different groups of actors.

Cooperation with the cantons, communes and Parliament

Although the federal government bears an important responsibility in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, sustainable development in Switzerland is carried by the commitment of the federal authorities, cantons, communes, business, the scientific community, civil society and the population as a whole. Inclusive processes – for consultations and decision-making, for example – are needed at all levels to tackle the cross-sectoral challenges of the 2030 Agenda.

The cantons have a special part to play in this. In addition to implementing the 2030 Agenda in the general sense, constitutionally they exercise primary responsibility for some key policy areas, such as health and education. They are therefore able to exert considerable influence over the implementation process. They also make important contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda across the full spectrum of issues at the sub-national level. Successful implementation demands greater cooperation both horizontally between the cantons and vertically between the cantons and the federal government. Alongside existing federal-cantonal structures in many policy areas, joint coordination efforts between the federal government and the cantons on sustainable development matters have been supported since 2018 by the *Cantonal Sustainable Development Network (CSDN)*.

Cities and communes, too, help to implement and publicise the SDGs and to involve the public in 2030 Agenda activities. The federal government invites both the cantons and the communes to integrate sustainable development, as determined by the 2030 Agenda, into their regular planning and management processes. Many already have their own sustainability strategies and coordination mechanisms that are increasingly aligned with the SDGs. The federal government supports regional and local sustainability projects here, one approach being activities aimed at networking all of those involved.

November 2021 saw the establishment in the Federal Assembly of the *Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs)* parliamentary group. All parliamentary parties are represented in the group and its chair. These are the FDP Free Democratic Party, the GLP Green Liberal Party, the Greens, the Die Mitte centrist party, the SP Social Democratic Party and the SVP Swiss People's Party. The group seeks integrated, partnership-based and cross-party solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Embedding the 2030 Agenda in strategies and activities

The 2030 Agenda consists of 17 interlinked global goals. Switzerland is determined to take a cross-sectoral approach to achieving them. In its *2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS)*¹⁰ the Federal Council calls upon all federal agencies to do their part, within their areas of competence, to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Strategy. The *2018–22 Baseline Assessment* demonstrates that the 2030 Agenda has been embedded in many of Switzerland's sectoral policies in the period since the 2018 Voluntary National Review. The 2030 Agenda also serves as a key reference framework for many of the strategies drafted since 2018, and encourages consistency and synergies between these various policies. A range of topic areas are connected by their shared reference to the 2030 Agenda. The relationships between them can therefore be recognised more readily, and addressed jointly. Having a common reference point also makes it easier to identify areas of tension or even conflicting measures, and resolve them.

The *2030 SDS* sets out the priority topics for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also defines specific national goals and strategic directions both national and international to enable the Swiss Confederation as a whole to achieve the SDGs. Strategies, action plans and measures are further aspects of implementation in all areas of policy. These are determined as part of the regular decision-making cycles within those individual policy fields. The *2021–23 Action Plan for the 2030 SDS*¹¹ describes these policy areas in greater detail in new federal-level measures.

A few examples are given below of how the 2030 Agenda has been embedded in various strategies and initiatives at national, cantonal and communal levels. Depth varies, however. While some instruments are mentioned primarily as important reference frameworks, other strategies or initiatives are geared comprehensively to the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Embedding the 2030 Agenda in federal policy

Sustainability forms one of the four thematic focus areas for the next legislative period under the *Foreign Policy Strategy 2020–23*.¹² The geographical sub-strategies such as the *MENA*,¹³ *Sub-Saharan Africa*,¹⁴ *China*¹⁵ and *Americas*¹⁶ strategies all derive from the Foreign Policy Strategy and reference the 2030 Agenda as an important set of guiding principles.

The 2030 Agenda with its 17 SDGs continues to set the direction of Switzerland's international cooperation activities.

In addition to safeguarding Swiss interests, the aims of this international cooperation work reflect Switzerland's commitments with regard to sustainable development, as emphasised by its adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The four mutually complementary objectives of the *International Cooperation Strategy 2021–24*¹⁷ all help to achieve sustainable development and thus in particular to alleviate poverty. As part of this Switzerland assists developing countries with their own implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The *Foreign Economic Policy Strategy (2021)*¹⁸ provides medium to long-term orientation for Swiss foreign economic policy, and shows how it can contribute to maintaining and increasing prosperity in Switzerland. Under this Strategy, Switzerland actively supports economic relations that help to achieve sustainable development both domestically and in partner countries. It furthers the effective application and development of globally recognised standards to protect the environment, biodiversity, human rights and workers' rights. It provides for binding sustainability regulations in bilateral trade agreements and encourages selected developing and newly industrialised countries on their path to fulfilling sustainability goals and obligations.

The *Digital Foreign Policy Strategy 2021–24*¹⁹ sets out how digitalisation will be used in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and determines prosperity and sustainable development as priority action areas.

In its *Digital Switzerland Strategy (2020)*²⁰ the Federal Council underscores the importance of the digital transformation to sustainable development in Switzerland, and its positive effect on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Strategy also explains how Switzerland is engaging with new technologies in order to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, and illustrates for each action area how technology helps advance us towards the SDGs.

Sustainable development and equal opportunities are incorporated as cross-cutting themes into the Dispatch on the *Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation 2021–24*,²¹ and are therefore accorded particular attention across all areas of funding.

The new *Gender Equality Strategy 2030*²² adopted by the Federal Council in 2021 represents a further milestone on this issue, as required by the 2030 Agenda.

Furthermore, the Long-Term *Climate Strategy to 2050*²³ adopted by the Federal Council in 2021 refers to the targets set by the 2030 Agenda for climate conservation, and describes how the target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 can be met. Climate action here is supported by the *Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change*²⁴ and the targets, priority areas and measures determined as part of the *Energy Strategy 2050*.²⁵

The Action Plan Against Food Waste is a guide to how Target 12.3 should be achieved in Switzerland. The report entitled *Massnahmen des Bundes für eine ressourcenschonende, zukunftsfähige Schweiz (Grüne Wirtschaft)* (*Federal Measures for a Resource-Conserving and Future -Proof Switzerland (Green Economy)*) also points out the diverse opportunities for a low-resource circular economy and synergies with the 2030 Agenda.

Embedding the 2030 Agenda in cantonal and communal policy

The 2030 Agenda also provides an important frame of reference at the cantonal and communal levels. The following examples illustrate how numerous activities and strategies in Switzerland's cantons and cities in all of the country's linguistic regions draw on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The government of the canton of Ticino presents targets and measures, as well as how they relate to the 2030 Agenda, in its new programme for the 2019-23 legislative period.²⁶ Vaud's own 2030 Agenda, issued by the cantonal government, establishes sustainable development as a shared central reference point that affects all of the canton's public policies.²⁷ The administration of the canton of Valais also has a *2030 sustainable development strategy* and an action plan that is revised annually.²⁸ Meanwhile, in the canton of St. Gallen the 2030 Agenda serves as the foundation on which both government and non-government actors are building a broad network.²⁹ In the canton of Geneva, the cantonal *2030 sustainable development plan* defines the guidelines and strategic directions of priority interventions in sustainable development issues up to 2030.³⁰ The cantonal government of Fribourg's *sustainable development strategy 2021-31*³¹ is aligned comprehensively with the goals of the 2030 Agenda. The 2020 report on *sustainable development in the canton of Aargau* provides facts about the three dimensions of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) and information on how the 2030

Agenda is being implemented in the canton. The report's findings provide a substantive basis for strategy processes in the various Aargau cantonal government departments, and for legislative planning, i.e. the development vision.³²

Sustainable development is also to become a guiding principle of local government action in the city of Bern. Its *RAN2030 sustainable development framework strategy*³³ is geared to the 2030 Agenda and designed to do as much as possible towards achieving its goals.³⁴ The city of Zurich has committed itself to the global goals of the 2030 Agenda and is engaged in implementing them locally.³⁵ Yverdon-les-Bains was one of the first communes in Switzerland to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals at the communal level. Its sustainability strategy provides the commune with a vision that forms a shared reference framework for all of the town's public services.³⁶ The city of Fribourg has also produced a wide-ranging sustainability strategy on the basis of the 2030 Agenda, with the SDGs translated into the local context.³⁷ The city of Lugano conducts projects and initiatives at communal level to identify shared solutions to the enormous challenges facing our planet. The aim of the *Lugano sostenibile*³⁸ project, for example, is to bring the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs to life for the public with an inclusive and interactive approach.

Alongside the federal government, the cantons and the communes, many organisations from the business and scientific communities, as well as civil society, are a considerable force driving the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Indeed, large numbers of actors in Switzerland reference the 2030 Agenda in their strategies, programmes and activities. For more information on the commitments and contributions of this wide range of stakeholders, please visit the www.SDGital2030.ch website.

SDGital2030: the digital solution to compiling Switzerland's Voluntary National Review 2022

This Voluntary National Review takes stock of Switzerland's progress with implementing the 2030 Agenda. This requires a reliable basis of quantitative data, combined with qualitative assessments and information. For the former, Switzerland relies on the tried-and-tested *MONET 2030 system of indicators* from the Federal Statistical Office. For the latter, as in 2018 a comprehensive baseline assessment was conducted on Switzerland's implementation of the 17 SDGs and their more specific 169 targets between 2018 and 2022 (*2018-22 Baseline Assessment*).

At its heart, the assessment evaluates the progress and challenges attached to all of the SDGs and targets, records action taken and action planned, and assesses the targets themselves. It was produced in a collaborative process involving all seven government departments and the Federal Chancellery.

The process leading to the *2018-22 Baseline Assessment* was digitalised using the bespoke SDGital2030 IT tool. This simplifies the work and ensures better coordination and consistency within the Federal Administration in its appraisal of progress towards the 2030 Agenda. In total more than 500 federal employees from approximately 50 federal agencies took part in the baseline assessment. The teamwork and public information-gathering facilitated by this IT tool can make it easier to identify synergies and trade-offs between the different policy sectors, and encourage dialogue in the interests of developing shared solutions.

The way in which the *2018-22 Baseline Assessment* was structured and digitalised also aims to lower the barriers to participation. With this in mind, the cantons, cities and communes, as well as organisations from the business and scientific communities and civil society were given access to *SDGital2030*. This gave them the opportunity to enter their information according to the same structure as is used at federal level. This first round attracted responses from 93 organisations and administrations, including 14 cantons, 26 communes and 53 organisations.



The resulting database tracks how Switzerland is implementing the 2030 Agenda and reflects the multifaceted nature of sustainable development nationwide. It provides a basis for this Voluntary National Review, which gives an overview of the most important aspects of implementation work at the federal level. The full Baseline Assessment is to be published on the www.SDGital2030.ch website. The site synthesises the federal government's findings with contributions from cantons, communes and non-governmental actors, and intends to offer the Swiss public a source of information on sustainability in the sense of the 2030 Agenda. While the federal government will update the baseline assessment every four years, all other actors can input new items of information at any time, the idea being for an increasingly complete picture of 2030 Agenda implementation in Switzerland to emerge as time progresses.



The website should also improve awareness of the 2030 Agenda, add qualitative context to quantitative data, and present the various actors' differing views on where we stand with regard to sustainable development. It provides additional depth to the information given in this Voluntary National Review and adds the assessments of a broader range of actors. In addition to describing progress towards the 169 targets, it provides an analysis of the interdependencies of 52 priority targets for Switzerland based on a scientific study by the *Center for Development and Environment (CDE)* at the University of Bern. Visitors to the website can access the contributions from individual actors, compare different organisations and download excerpts in the form of a customised report.

Digitalising the process has resulted in a collection of information that not only ensures continuity of data management to 2030 and beyond, but can also be built on continually. It addresses the complexity of this field by limiting the scope of information and structuring it effectively. Finally, the *SDGital2030* approach to producing the baseline assessment has led to the inclusion of various individuals in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and has restructured the process overall by introducing clearly defined steps.

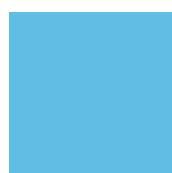
How Switzerland implements the 2030 Agenda

The following sections describe the current status of implementation in Switzerland, examining each SDG in detail. The information stems from the *baseline assessment for the period from 2018 to 2022* and concentrates on changes compared with the previous assessment produced for the 2018 Voluntary National Review.

The first part of each section provides a status report based on the most important aspects and developments concerning the SDG in question. It then outlines the progress Switzerland has made since the 2018 assessment, and which challenges remain. Here, the report offers a summary of the key elements and focuses primarily on action taken by the federal government. The www.SDGital2030.ch provides a complete assessment of the 17 SDGs and the 169 targets. The links inserted in each section lead directly to the dedicated SDG page of the *2018-22 Baseline Assessment*.

These qualitative assessments have been combined with quantitative data to supply additional, complementary information on the status of progress towards the individual SDGs. The goals and requirements of the 2030 Agenda are monitored in the Swiss context by means of the *MONET 2030 system of indicators* consisting of 103 indicators. In addition, the System also tracks selected specific sustainability-related issues in Switzerland. Progress towards each SDG is illustrated by the rating icon for the indicator linked to that goal, as well as by a key indicator represented by a pictogram. The latter has been selected from among the system's indicators due to its most representative character for that SDG.

The rating icons show whether or not the indicator is moving in the desired direction according to sustainable development objectives.³⁹ Where the goal is quantitative and dated, the target trend corresponds to the trajectory that would theoretically have to be taken to achieve the goal by the planned deadline. With few exceptions, trends are analysed from 2000 up to the latest available figures or, in the case of more recent time series, from the first available date.⁴⁰ This may result in inconsistent observation periods. Analysed trends are classified as follows:



Positive

trend following target path



Negative

trend counter to target path



Unchanged

no significant trend



No classification possible

for technical reasons (such as a break in the time series or irregular progression) or because the time series is too short

Trends in selected indicators are examined in detail in the statistical annex, as well as in interactive form at www.SDGital2030.ch.

Progress cannot be measured without reliable data and statistics. The COVID-19 pandemic has been another striking example of the importance of evidence-based political decision-making, freedom of opinion and democratic debate.

This Review also highlights various interdependencies for some of the SDGs. These have a scientific foundation, formulated by the interdisciplinary *Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)* at the University of Bern, which gauges the trade-offs and synergies between individual targets. Further information, covering the methodology in particular, can be found at www.SDGital2030.ch.

The key to implementing the 2030 Agenda efficiently and effectively is to recognise that the individual SDGs influence each other. Action to achieve a given goal or target will often have a ripple effect on one or more others. A systematic and inclusive approach can maximise these positive interdependencies (synergies) while minimising the negative ones (trade-offs). In this report, interdependencies have been assessed based on the 52 targets that Switzerland has prioritised. They are classified as follows:



Trade-offs describes interdependencies in which achieving goal A makes achieving goal B difficult or impossible.



Multipliers of positive side-effects describes goals that, once achieved, have a positive effect on other goals.

The following analysis of these interactions is based on expert opinions and represents a first step towards the strategic inclusion of these interdependencies in the political process. Priority goals should be negotiated and their interdependencies debated in ongoing dialogue between all of the actors in society. In the interests of consistently and successfully implementing the 2030 Agenda there should also be support for research to understand these relationships more closely.



Goals which tend to be achieved by means of progress on other goals are termed **systemic buffers**.



Systemic feedback describes positive interplay between at least three priority goals. In other words, achieving goal A has a positive effect on the attainment of goal B, which then furthers the achievement of goal C, which then feeds back into progress towards goal A.

1 NO POVERTY



SDG 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

True to the principle of *leave no one behind*, the aim of SDG 1 is to end poverty in all its forms around the world, to help close the poverty gap, to increase the resilience of those living in poverty in precarious situations and to reduce their vulnerability to economic, social and environmental risks.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Poverty rate | 8.5% in 2020
| +1.9 pp since 2014



Poverty of employed persons | 4.2% of the employed population in 2020 |
No significant evolution since 2014



Risk of poverty | 19.6% pop. with a migration background, 11.3% pop. without migration background in 2019
| Growing difference since 2014



Total social security expenditure
| 29.1% of GDP in 2019 |
+7.7 pp since 2000

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 1

With its extensive social security system, high employment rate and accessible supplies of basic goods and services, Switzerland is well prepared to prevent its population falling into poverty.⁴¹ The federal government and the cantons must nonetheless take targeted action to prevent poverty risks and to include the most heavily disadvantaged into the economy and society

Switzerland's aim is to minimise the risks of economic, social and environmental shocks and of natural hazards, to protect the population from the consequences of those shocks, and to strengthen resilience. This task falls to the federal government, the cantons, communes, insurance companies and the private sector as part of a system of integrated risk management.

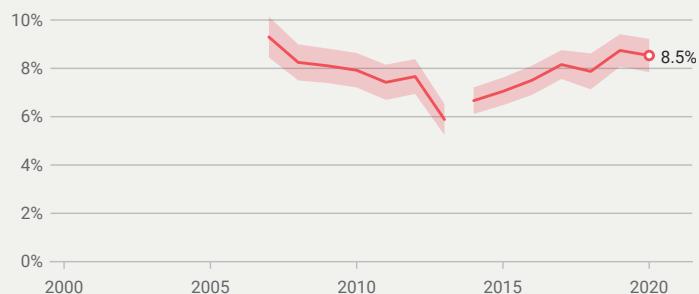
In its international cooperation work, Switzerland plays its part in containing global risks and reducing poverty. It helps the disadvantaged to live an economically, socially and culturally self-determined life, guided at all times by the principle of leave no one behind. Particular attention is paid to including the weakest sections of society, to gender equality, and to respecting and advancing the rule of law and human rights. With this in mind, Switzerland endeavours to improve living conditions by facilitating access for poor and marginalised population groups to incomes and employment, water, food, sanitation, health and education, and to the relevant decision-making processes. This includes those living in fragile and conflict-affected regions specifically. It also connects reducing poverty with tackling global challenges in terms of climate change and the environment, food security, migration, water and health.

Switzerland also helps developing countries to set up their own integrated risk management systems under the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.⁴²

Poverty rate

Share of the permanent resident population living under the poverty line

In 2020, 722 000 persons lived below the poverty line. 188 000 more than in 2014.



2014: break in the time series

Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: FSO – Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

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Progress



In the national context

Social security: There is a general continuity in efforts to prevent and alleviate poverty at the national level. This is evident from the reforms of several elements of the social security system, such as pension provision. Bridging benefits have also been introduced for those who lose their jobs shortly before they reach statutory retirement age.

Poverty prevention: Switzerland is active in this area as part of the *National Platform Against Poverty 2019-24*.⁴³ Priority areas for the 2019 to 2022 period were the social participation of those affected by poverty, and helping challenged young people and young adults to find their way into work. It is also setting up a national monitoring programme that will regularly deliver valuable findings about the development of poverty in Switzerland.

Integration and work: The aims of the *Integration Agenda Switzerland (IAS)*⁴⁴ include vocational training preparation for young people who are late arrivals to Switzerland, having joined family here. This improves their integration prospects.

Population resilience to natural hazards and other risks: Work to implement the federal government action plan and measures to mitigate natural hazards are in progress. This inclusive management process takes technological and social risks into account in addition to those originating from the natural world.



In the international context

Alleviating poverty: Alleviating global poverty and advancing sustainable development are the primary aims of all of the official development assistance (ODA) funding disbursed by Switzerland. Mobilising additional private-sector resources has now also been adopted as one of the priorities of *Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021-24*.⁴⁵ The federal government supports the creation of frameworks that encourage investment and private-sector initiatives, access to markets and financial institutions, and decent employment opportunities. Additionally it is increasingly involved in reinforcing social security systems in partner countries.

Disaggregated data: Switzerland uses a series of standardised indicators, including one on poverty, to improve the way it records the outcomes of its international cooperation work. These indicators require data that is disaggregated by gender and disadvantaged population group. This permits more detailed statements to be made about the extent to which poor and disadvantaged sectors of society have been reached and actually integrated, and promotes inclusive development.

Resilience to natural hazards: Switzerland has stepped up its disaster preparedness efforts in developing countries, providing both financial and technical support.

Challenges



In the national context

Poverty rate: The proportion of people living below the national poverty line in Switzerland in 2020 stood at 8.5% of the permanent resident population. In the working population it was 4.2% (please refer to endnote 41 for the definition of poverty). Reducing the number of people affected by income poverty remains a major challenge, not least because of the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, which will be seen only in the medium to long term, and the modest upward trend in the share of the population who live below the national poverty line.

Social security: Despite reforms, the long-term financing of the social security system remains a challenge, especially in view of demographic trends.

Disaster preparedness: Improvements have been made with regard to Switzerland's readiness to manage disasters. Examples include the launch of *Alertswiss* and the introduction of *emergency meeting points*. However, integrated risk management and the capacity to respond to the risks exacerbated by climate change requires comprehensive data resources and decision-making foundations that are kept up to date. Although Switzerland already has an excellent public warning system, it displays gaps that must continue to be filled.



In the international context

Alleviating poverty: Despite enormous progress, one in ten people worldwide is still affected by extreme poverty. More than half live in Sub-Saharan Africa, and numbers are growing. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the situation of those living in poverty, crisis and need even more acute.

Measuring poverty: Data is required to plan action to alleviate poverty and to measure progress at the national and international levels. Since this data is extremely patchy, especially where those living in extreme poverty are concerned, Switzerland assists its international cooperation partner countries with collecting and analysing the necessary information.

Resilience to natural hazards: In the future, risks arising from natural hazards are to be included more systematically into international cooperation programmes and projects.



Trade-off Economic growth supports efforts to reduce poverty, which is a key objective from the point of view of social justice. At the same time, economic growth must be decoupled from the consumption of natural resources and from greenhouse gas emissions, so that the targets of SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) can be achieved. A shift in understanding of what constitutes prosperity in society is conducive to this decoupling.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 1](#)

2 ZERO HUNGER



SDG 2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 2 sets out to eliminate hunger, end all forms of malnutrition, and set guidelines for promoting sustainable agriculture. Food systems have an overarching effect on all 17 SDGs under the 2030 Agenda, and may therefore be crucial to achieving it.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Nitrogen balance from agriculture |

89,600 tonnes in excess in 2019 | -9.2% since 2000



Arable land |

388,400 ha in 2018 |

-11% since 1985



Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture |

6.5 million tonnes CO₂ equivalents in 2019 | -5.7% since 2000



Plant genetic resources |

5,400 registered plants in 2020 |

+81 since 2016



Organic farming |

17% of the utilised agricultural area in 2020 | +9.3 pp since 2000



Fruit and vegetable consumption |

5 portions/day by 21.5% of the population in 2017 | +2.3 pp since 2012

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 2

Hardly anyone in Switzerland goes hungry, yet malnutrition is an issue. In fact, 42% of the resident population is overweight or clinically obese. The objective of the *Swiss Nutrition Policy 2017-24⁴⁶* is therefore to achieve a healthy, balanced diet for all.

The Federal Constitution states that the Confederation must create the conditions required to attain food security. Various policy fields are involved here, specifically agriculture, spatial planning, environment and trade. The Swiss agricultural sector produces more than half of what is consumed in Switzerland, and thus makes a significant contribution to food security. To achieve SDG 2, Switzerland must continue to implement, review and where necessary adapt the measures that are already being taken to address biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, nitrogen surpluses, soil fertility and food waste, and to ensure diversified imports and a healthy and sustainable diet.

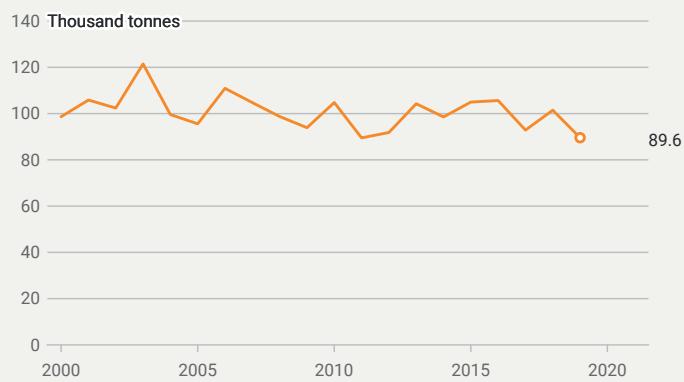
Switzerland contributes significantly to further the recognition of the food system approach, which takes a holistic view of all of the complex challenges surrounding food. At the international level, including its trade relations, Switzerland supports the transformation to efficient, resilient and sustainable systems to guarantee food supplies. It is also active in publicising and applying the agroecological principles determined by the *United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)⁴⁷* and the *High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE)* of the Committee on World Food Security

(CFS), and recognises agroecology as a relevant systemic approach to this transformation to sustainable food systems.

Nitrogen balance from agriculture

Difference between the quantities of nitrogen entering cultivated land and those extracted from it

A surplus of nitrogen is a source of air and water pollution.



Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: FSO – Nitrogen balance

© FSO 2022

Progress

In the national context



Sustainable food systems: The *2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS)* and its accompanying *2021-23 Action Plan*⁴⁸ firmly establish the transformation to sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad as an important transversal issue. Efforts focus on four quantifiable goals that address (1) the nutritional recommendations of the Swiss food pyramid, (2) avoidable food losses, (3) the carbon footprint of our food, and (4) the proportion of farms engaged in especially environment and animal-friendly production. In addition, Parliament has passed legislative amendments to further reduce the risk attached to pesticide use and to nutrient loss.

Agroecology: Switzerland advocates the application of agroecological principles as a relevant systemic approach to the transformation to sustainable food systems. Making the application of these principles an integral part of strengthening the resilience of food systems, by including them in the *2030 SDS* for example, ensures that greater attention is paid to resilience as an issue in its own right. Furthermore, the Federal Council will include agroecological principles in its proposals for the next iteration of the Agricultural Policy.

Healthy and sustainable nutrition: Progress has been achieved on information and education on healthy and balanced diets with schemes such as the *Nutri-Score*, as well as in more effective cooperation between the federal government, the cantons, experts and other actors. There have also been positive developments in the underlying conditions for healthy and balanced diets. For example, the federal government has been working more closely with the business sector to improve the composition of processed food, and in the healthy and sustainable community catering sector, lunchtime services to small-scale businesses and care homes have also been enhanced.

In the international context



Sustainable food systems: For more than ten years Switzerland has been furthering an understanding and consensus about the need for a holistic approach to promoting sustainable food systems. It has been particularly involved in the *One Planet Network (10YFP)*.⁴⁹ At the *UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS21)*,⁵⁰ Switzerland strongly advocated a transformation to sustainable food systems, and presented its own roadmap to 2030 on the basis of the *2030 SDS*. It has also joined the *Agroecology and Healthy diets from sustainable food systems for all coalitions*, as well as the *Global Methane Pledge Initiative*.⁵¹ Additionally, as a net importer of agricultural goods Switzerland has an interest in the transformation of food systems on a global scale, and promotes such moves in its trade relations.

Challenges

In the national context



Sustainable productivity: Sustainable productivity in agriculture and the food industry is key to maintaining Switzerland's long-term food security. Climate change and biodiversity loss present challenges to various areas within the food system. Appropriate responses must therefore be formulated and implemented. To this end, the *2030 SDS* intends to improve sustainability at each stage of the value chain and to make food systems more resilient, by fully applying agroecological principles for example.

Healthy and sustainable nutrition: There is a lack of comprehensive information about the eating habits of the Swiss population. Currently, it is impossible to know to which extent people are eating a healthy, balanced and sustainable diet according to the Swiss food pyramid. The question of a dedicated indicator will be examined when the Swiss Nutrition Policy is updated.

Food waste: Switzerland is estimated to produce an annual 330kg of avoidable food waste per person. The *Action Plan Against Food Waste* is designed to further efforts to halve food waste by 2030.

Equal opportunities and the ageing population: The proportion of farms run by women has increased over the past 20 years by only around 3 percentage points, from 3.3% in 2000 to 6.6% in 2019. A proper social safety net must be put in place for the spouses and partners who work alongside them on those farms. Efforts must also be made to tackle the generation gap that farming faces. The average age of farm managers in Switzerland is 51.

In the international context



Sustainable food systems: About half the food consumed in Switzerland is imported. This means that a considerable portion of the adverse environmental and social impacts of producing that food is felt abroad. The *UNFSS21* emphasised the need for a transformation to more sustainable food systems in response to such challenges. The task now is actually to implement the roadmaps and coalition work that have been announced and move ahead with the transformation.



Multiplier of positive side-effects Efforts to achieve Target 2.4 (farms engaged in especially environment and animal-friendly production) further the achievement of targets under SDG 6 (drinking water quality), SDG 12 (material and carbon footprint, food waste), SDG 13 (resilience and adaptability to the consequences of global warming) and SDG 15 (soil function, intact ecosystems).

[Click here to learn more about SDG 2](#)

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



SDG 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 3 represents better health for people everywhere. Everyone should be protected against disease, and have access to quality healthcare services and medication, without experiencing financial hardship.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Years of potential life | -40% for the women and -47.4% for the men since 2000



Smoking rate | 27% of the population in 2017 | -3.4 pp since 2002



Suicide rate | 9.8 suicides per 100,000 people in 2019 | -40% since 2000



Overweight | 41,9% of the population in 2017 | +4.7 pp since 2002



Measles vaccine | 89.7% of children under 2 years old vaccinated against measles in 2017/19 | +18.7 pp since 2005/07



Foregoing medical care for financial reasons | 6.1% of the population at risk of poverty in 2019 | No significant evolution since 2015



Particulate matter concentrations | 14.3 µg/m³ in urban areas | -49.8% since 2000



Life satisfaction | 72% of the population satisfied or very satisfied in 2020 | No significant evolution since 2014

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 3

Switzerland has an excellent health system, and the health status of the population is very good in comparison with other countries. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the attainment of SDG 3 in Switzerland, as it has elsewhere. For example, while the preventive measures that have been put in place have reduced the incidence of infectious diseases, the mental health of some sections of the population has suffered.

In its *Health Policy Strategy 2020-30 (Health2030)*⁵²

Switzerland has set itself the vision of an environment that is conducive to health and access to a high-quality, financially sustainable health system, regardless of an individual's state of health or socio-economic status. The implementation of a variety of national strategies, action plans and programmes will play an important part in achieving this goal.

Examples include the *National Strategy on Addiction*,⁵³ the *eHealth Schweiz 2.0 strategy*,⁵⁴ the *Radiss action plan to strengthen radiological security*⁵⁵ and the *action plan on suicide prevention*.⁵⁶

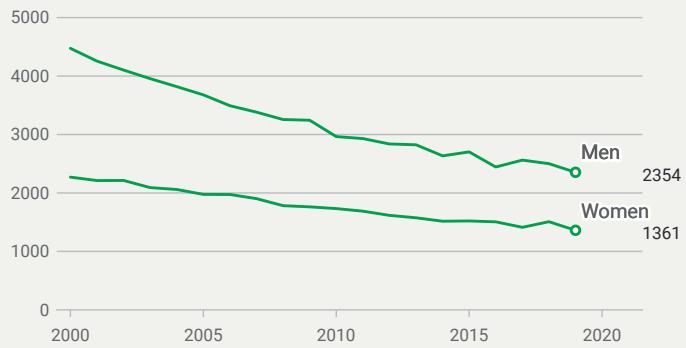
In the international context the Federal Council has adopted the *Swiss Health Foreign Policy 2019-24*.⁵⁷ With its participation in multilateral bodies and its support for projects with international cooperation partner countries, Switzerland lends its weight to the fight against communicable and non-communicable diseases, for

example, to sustainable improvements in access to medical products, and to reinforcing health systems in general.

Years of potential life lost

Standardised rate by age for 100 000 population, all causes of death

A decrease in years of potential life lost means an increase in life expectancy.



Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: FSO – Cause of death statistics (CoD)

© FSO 2022

Progress

In the national context



Health2030: The *Health2030 strategy* sets new priorities for Swiss health policy. It pays particular attention to technological and digital change, demographic and social trends, maintaining high-quality care and a financially sustainable system, as well as opportunities for a healthy life.

Health insurance: In 2021 the *Federal Act on Health Insurance (HIA)*⁵⁸ was amended to improve standards of healthcare in Switzerland and ensure that it is provided more cost-effectively. Healthcare providers are now obliged to improve the quality of their services.

Access to mental health services: To simplify access to psychotherapy and ensure suitable availability, in 2021 the Federal Council approved a change of system away from the present 'delegation' model – in which therapists work under a doctor's supervision – to a prescription model.

COVID-19: Switzerland is tackling the present health crisis with the necessary care and the requisite resources. The lessons learned from the crisis inform current and forthcoming work to improve the prevention and handling of future pandemic risks.

In the international context



Health systems: As part of its international cooperation work, Switzerland supports low and middle-income countries with measures to strengthen their health systems. The objective is to enable these countries to prevent and respond to pandemics and other health risks more effectively.

COVID-19: At the international level Switzerland acts in accordance with the priorities of its Health Foreign Policy. These also apply to the COVID-19 pandemic. Working in the *World Health Organization (WHO)* context, especially, it is committed to improving preparations for and responses to pandemics in the future. It is also a major financial backer of the *Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A)*⁵⁹ initiative, which promotes access to COVID-19 diagnostics, medicines and vaccines for all countries. Moreover, Switzerland supports the logistics of the *International Organization for Migration (IOM)*, *UNICEF* and the *International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)* as they distribute vaccines, tests and treatments in the field, ensuring that people in crisis-affected and remote regions in fragile contexts can be reached.

Challenges

In the national context



Prevention: Defining consistent, structural and effective behaviour-based preventive programmes requires close and well-focused teamwork between various sector policies and levels of the federal system.

Climate change: The direct and indirect impacts of climate change on health are already being felt. These will further accentuate despite climate action, and must therefore be addressed together with other environmental risks to health.

Cost control: The cost containment programme adopted by the Federal Council in 2018 places a responsibility on all healthcare actors to ensure that costs should increase only by a degree that is medically justifiable. New measures are examined, and implemented in stages. First measures under the programme entered into effect in January 2022, and others are at various stages of the legislative process.

COVID-19: Managing the crisis absorbed considerable resources and slowed down progress in attaining some of the targets. That said, cross-sectoral cooperation was reorganised to manage the crisis and became more efficient as a result. The challenge now is to turn the lessons learned into a lasting benefit for the future.

In the international context



COVID-19: The pandemic has set low and middle-income countries back enormously in their progress towards SDG 3. This extends to health in general and the determinants of health. The international response to the pandemic and its impact on the various targets remains a key challenge.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 3](#)

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 4 demands that all children, young people, adults and especially the poorest and most disadvantaged in society have access to a high standard of basic and vocational education.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Teaching staff at higher education institutions | 24% at UNI and 31.6% at UAS/UTE are women in 2019



Weit Continuing education erbildung | 68% of the population participated in continuing education activities in 2016 | +5 pp since 2011



1st diploma rate at upper secondary level | 94% of Swiss and 77.3% of foreign nationals in 2019



Digital skills | 41% of the population with advanced digital skills in 2021 | +0.75 pp since 2011



Reading skills of 15-year-olds | 76.4% reached level 2 and above in 2018 | No significant evolution since 2015

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 4

Compared with other countries, the Swiss education system is characterised by its high standards and its permeability. It offers a wide range of quality education and training programmes at all levels and in all areas. All children and young people attend compulsory education, be it in a free state school or fee-paying private one. The schools have strong local associations and are an important means of integrating students into Swiss society. Switzerland's dual vocational education and training (VET) system is recognised as a successful model. It is adapted continually to changes in the labour market and in society at large. Both federal and cantonal administrations encourage adults to acquire basic skills that guarantee they are able to benefit from lifelong learning, and also support adults as they join and re-join the labour market.

Furthermore, Switzerland's education system represents an important basis for achieving equal opportunities. The federal government's policy is to work alongside the cantons to continue developing the education system according to the criteria of effectiveness, efficiency and equity.

In its international cooperation, Switzerland seeks active educational partnerships at local and global levels. It promotes the reputation and openness of Swiss vocational education abroad, as well as international knowledge-sharing and dialogue. In developing countries, its aim is to support access to a high standard of inclusive education, to improve

the quality and relevance of education, and to enhance the governance and resilience of state education systems.

1st diploma rate at upper secondary level

Proportion of young people who obtained their first certification before the age of 25

Young people with no post-compulsory (general or vocational) education are at greater risk of unemployment and poverty.



Data state: 28.02.2022
Source: FSO – LABB

© FSO 2022

Progress

In the national context



Attainment and equal opportunities: The educational level attained by the Swiss resident population has risen further in recent years. The associated gender gap has also narrowed over time. The measures that higher education institutions have implemented to date in the interests of gender equality have generated positive momentum and brought about both structural and cultural change.

Dual VET system: Various projects have been instigated under the *Initiative Berufsbildung 2030*⁶⁰ VET initiative to align the vocational education and training system more closely with the needs of tomorrow. They are showing success, with measures improving areas such as career choice preparation and higher vocational training. The projects also promote vocational qualifications for adults.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD): ESD has been an integral part of education reporting since 2018. It was also recognised in the 2019 declaration by the federal government and the cantons on their joint education policy aims for Switzerland as an educational area.

Early years: The Federal Council regards the early years of childhood as an important social policy action area. It published a report on the topic in 2021, which for the first time sets out a contextual framework for government measures at federal, cantonal and communal level. The cantons, too, recognise the significance of a cross-cutting early years policy, and have committed to developing a joint approach.

In the international context



Education systems: Since 2017 Switzerland has significantly expanded its engagement in international cooperation programmes to help low and middle-income countries to improve their education systems. The human development objective of the *International Cooperation Strategy 2021-24 (IC Strategy 2021-24)*⁶¹ emphasises education as one of the core elements of quality basic services. More effective governance, improved access for disadvantaged groups, the quality of education and the education of children affected by humanitarian crises all receive special attention. In its international cooperation on education, Switzerland has also advocated more dialogue and mobility in education, albeit largely in a European context to date.

COVID-19: Swiss international cooperation projects have adjusted their education programmes in partner countries and launched COVID-19-specific initiatives to mitigate or eliminate the gaps in learning caused by the pandemic. Digital education solutions are also part of this.

Challenges

In the national context



Social mobility: Differences in socio-economic origin are discernible where certain transitions between educational levels, and educational qualifications, are concerned. The federal government is coordinating with the cantons to eliminate structural disadvantage and discrimination, for example by making the education system even more permeable and by optimising transitions between different educational levels as far as possible.

Lifelong learning: Participation rates in education and training are high in Switzerland compared with other countries. However, compared with other population groups relatively few adults with compulsory schooling as their highest degree go on to attend additional training. The challenge here is to reduce the barriers to access to training courses.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD): ESD must be promoted and/or consolidated at upper secondary level and in non-formal and informal education. The national éducation21 centre of competence is one body that might provide support. It is important in integrating ESD at all levels that institution-wide, holistic approaches be taken.

Early years: Even closer cooperation and coordination not only between public-sector actors, but also between public and private actors, is needed on early years education. Challenges persist. These include guarantees of low-barrier access to services for children from disadvantaged backgrounds and children with disabilities, as well as ensuring the standard and affordability of such services nationwide.

In the international context



COVID-19: The pandemic has undone some of the progress on SDG 4 made in developing countries in recent years. In the world's poorest countries this is likely to have a lasting impact on the right to education, learning outcomes, financing for education and safeguarding. Switzerland's international cooperation work involves keeping education high on the agenda. It does this in particular with appropriate financing, by making education systems more resilient with the corresponding support for local education ministries, and with ancillary education programmes to help vulnerable groups who have fallen behind to catch up.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 4](#)

5 GENDER EQUALITY



SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 5 calls for women and men to be given the same economic development opportunities, for all forms of violence against women and girls to be eliminated, and for there to be equal participation at all levels.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Wage gap | 13.8% difference between women and men in 2020 | 7.7 pp since 2000



Domestic and family workload | 3/5 carried out by women in 2020 | The gap with men is narrowing since 2010



Gender equality in politics | 42% of women in National Council and 29% in cantonal parliaments in 2019 | +16 pp resp. +5 pp since 2003



Professional position | 25.5% of women and 38% of men managers among employees in 2021



Serious domestic violence | 85 victims of whom 74% women in 2020

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 5

Equal rights for women and men are enshrined in the *Federal Constitution*⁶². Switzerland encourages both genders to participate at all decision-making levels in social, economic, political and public life.

Although Switzerland has made progress in this area, men and women still do not enjoy fully equal rights. More must be done to enable parents and carers to reconcile work and family life, and to achieve full wage equality and balanced representation in decision-making bodies and management positions. To close these gaps, in 2021 the Federal Council adopted the *Gender Equality Strategy 2030*,⁶³ which is aligned with the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals.

Gender equality has been embedded in the objectives of the *International Cooperation Strategy* since 2017 and is integrated as a mandatory overarching theme in all international cooperation activities. Switzerland engages in bilateral programmes with partner countries and makes considerable core contributions to multilateral organisations in order to enhance the relevant political frameworks for women and to improve their livelihoods.



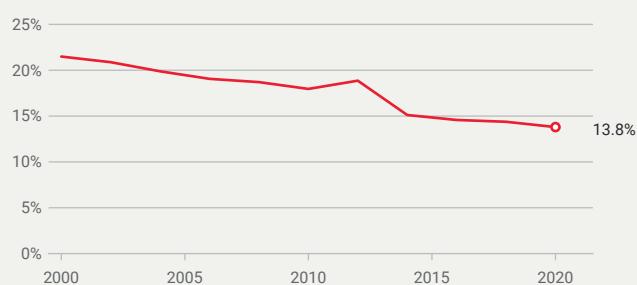
According to a UNICEF study, childcare in Switzerland is among the most expensive in the world, costing a couple some **30-50%** of one of their salaries. That is far higher than the international average of **14%**.



Wage gap between women and men

as a percentage of men's monthly gross wage¹, private sector

In 2018, 44.3% of the wage gap between women and men could not be explained by objective factors such as the person's profile, job characteristics and field of activity.



¹ compared to the median wage

Data state: 28.03.2022

Progress

In the national context

Gender equality: In the *Gender Equality Strategy 2030* and its *Action Plan*,⁶⁴ Switzerland has specific tools to advance legal and real-life gender equality, as well as measures to realise equality in working life, to reconcile work and family life, and to tackle gender-based violence and discrimination.

Wage equality: The fight against wage discrimination picked up pace with the entry into force in 2020 of amendments to the *Gender Equality Act*⁶⁵ (mandatory equal pay analysis), as well as the update to the *Logib* wage parity self-analysis tool.

Reconciliation of work and family life: The programme for the 2019–23 legislative period⁶⁶ provides for the adoption of a national strategy and dispatch on measures to help reconcile work and family life.

Violence against women and domestic violence: The federal government and the cantons have adopted a roadmap to address this issue. An action plan for the effective implementation of the *Istanbul Convention* is also scheduled for adoption in 2022. Work is currently in progress in partnership with the cantons and communes, and with the input of the most important non-governmental organisations concerned.

Participation of women in political and public life: Since 2021, it has been compulsory in listed companies with more than 250 employees for women to make up at least 30% of the board of directors and a minimum of 20% of the executive board. There has also been a significant increase in the proportion of women on the National Council. In 2019 it was 42% (84 women), compared with 32% (64 women) in 2015.

In the international context

Violence against women:

For a considerable time Switzerland has been conducting important work to prevent gender-based violence and to provide comprehensive professional care and support to those affected by violence in developing countries, specifically women and girls. It has continued to step up this engagement in recent years.

Economic resources for women: Switzerland has continued its efforts to enable women in developing countries to access qualified professional and vocational education and key economic resources. For example, in 2020 Swiss support allowed around 147,000 female smallholders to improve their income from agricultural output.

Participation of women in political and peace processes:

Switzerland played its part in the full, equal and effective participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution with its *Fourth National Action Plan to Implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2018-22)*. During the reporting period it also continued to provide substantial support to improve the representation and actual participation of women in developing countries in political bodies and decision-making processes.

Challenges

In the national context

Wage equality: In 2020 women were still earning 13.8% less on average than their male colleagues. In the private sector, a 2018 study found that, based on the arithmetical mean, 44.3% of this wage gap was unexplained. Furthermore, in 2021 22.5% of female employees held a management position, while the figure for men was 38%.

Unequal division of household and family tasks: In 2018, in 68.8% of couples in the 25–54 age group who had children, this work fell principally to the woman.

Violence against women and domestic violence: Women are the victims of domestic violence much more frequently than men, accounting for 74% of the total in 2021. Strengthening women's independence and curbing violence against women are therefore key objectives of the *Gender Equality Strategy 2030*.

In the international context



Violence against women: Violence against women and girls remains a problem in developing countries and around the world. Globally, one woman in three (some 736 million) has experienced physical or sexual violence. Protracted violent conflicts and the persistence of damaging role models and social norms make it more difficult to rein in this violence. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the problem while also removing access to support services for women.

Economic discrimination against women: Despite some improvement, gender inequality persists in developing countries in all areas of life, generally to the detriment of women. They are less able to access capital and qualified jobs, and are under-represented in the labour market. Their position is further weakened because they work primarily in the informal sector as well as in more poorly paid positions that are vulnerable to crises. In many respects women have also been more affected by the pandemic, and their unpaid household and care work simply multiplies the burden they carry. There are too few women helping to shape political and economic decision-making.

Behind schedule and underfunded: From the international cooperation perspective, the implementation of SDG 5 lags far behind the set timetable and also suffers from insufficient funding. A lack of gender-specific data makes it more difficult to take well-founded policy decisions and to steadily monitor progress.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 5](#)

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



SDG 6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

In addition to access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, SDG 6 includes targets to protect and restore water-related ecosystems. Water quality must be improved and the pollution of water with hazardous chemicals must be reduced.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Drinking water use | 296 litres per person/day in 2019 | -26.9% since 2000



Structure of watercourses | ¼ in an unsatisfactory ecomorphological state (1998-2006)



Nitrate in groundwater | 13.9% of monitoring sites with exceeding values in 2019 | No significant evolution since 2002

Source: FSO – MONET 2030



2 billion people around the world have no access to safe drinking water. Everyone in Switzerland has this access. In 2020, daily drinking water consumption per Swiss resident stood at **296 litres**.



Switzerland and SDG 6

The Swiss population has access to safe drinking water, and more than 97% of households are connected to an efficient central waste water treatment facility. Most of the waste water produced by the remaining three per cent, who live in remote areas, is treated in local systems.

Efforts are being made to encourage, connect and restore natural habitats. All hydroelectric power stations that harm fish migration, distort natural bed load movements or cause artificial fluctuations in downflow must be reconfigured by 2030. The plan is also to revitalise 4,000 km of Switzerland's rivers by 2090.

Switzerland's range of regional and global action has done a great deal towards achieving this SDG at the international level. Around the world, for example, Switzerland supports access to clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right, as well as initiatives to manage water resources sustainably, especially in cross-border areas.

Nitrate in groundwater

Percentage of monitoring sites with exceedances of nitrate level requirements (25 mg/l)

In Switzerland, some 80% of drinking water comes from groundwater.



Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: FOEN – NAQUA

© FSO 2022

Progress



In the national context

Water quality: Work is continuing apace with the expansion of waste water treatment plants that include an additional stage to eliminate micropollutants. In early 2021 around 10% of waste water in Switzerland was already being treated to remove organic trace elements.⁶⁷ There has also been progress in recent years with clean drinking water supplies to rural areas.

The Federal Council's *Action Plan to Reduce Risk and Promote Sustainable Pesticide Use*⁶⁸ and the amendments to the *Chemicals Act*,⁶⁹ the *Waters Protection Act* and the *Agriculture Act to reduce the risks of pesticide use*⁷⁰ adopted binding targets and measures to reduce the risk of pesticides. These should help to reduce the pollution of Switzerland's waters with these substances.

Climate change: The Federal Council has adopted its second *Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change*,⁷¹ which covers the period from 2020 to 2025. In common with the first, it too contains measures to mitigate the risk that climate change poses to Switzerland's rivers and streams.

Preservation and restoration of near-natural habitats: Steady progress is being made with revitalising lakes and rivers, refurbishing hydropower plants to higher environmental standards, and reducing pollution. Against the backdrop of climate change, these efforts to create near-natural habitats are vital.

In the international context



Biodiversity: Switzerland is an active signatory to conventions that seek to preserve biodiversity and water ecosystems.

Access to drinking water and sanitation: Switzerland has helped to provide millions of disadvantaged people with access to clean drinking water and sanitation.

Transboundary cooperation on water: Switzerland's work in this area, which includes support for the Global Water Conventions of the *UN Economic Commission for Europe*, encourages funding for cross-border cooperation on international waters.

Challenges



In the national context

Drinking water: In Switzerland, 80% of drinking water comes from groundwater in Swiss aquifers. To safeguard the quality of this drinking water over the long term, groundwater wells must be better protected from contaminants originating locally from settlements and other buildings and usages. Spatial planning measures are one of the options here. There must be continued support to connect rural areas to mains drinking water supplies.

Water quality: Depositions of micropollutants, pesticides and nutrients from urban areas and agriculture into Switzerland's waters must be reduced further, and prevented as far as is possible. To achieve this, the measures that have already been initiated must be implemented consistently and continued in the future.

Climate change: Measurable changes to flow regimes and an increase in water temperatures are already being felt. Extreme events such as drought and heavy rain are increasing in frequency and intensity. If reservoirs and aquifers are to continue supplying sufficient volumes of high-quality drinking water, while also offering habitats for animals and plants and recreation areas for the public, steps must be taken to reduce the strain and damage they face. To achieve this, Switzerland needs more near-natural river ecosystems, as it has had in the past.

In the international context



Access to drinking water and exacerbation by climate change: In the Global South, ensuring access to water and sanitation for poorer sections of the population in rural areas – and in towns to some extent – remains a major challenge. Having been exacerbated by climate change, pollution and sustainable water resource management are important tasks that must be taken in hand.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 6](#)

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



SDG 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG 7 calls for general access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services. In the interests of sustainable development, the proportion of renewable energies should be increased substantially and the energy efficiency improvement rate doubled.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Renewable energies | 27.2% of the energy consumption in 2020 | +10.2 pp since 2000



Composition of final energy consumption
| 44% from oil products in 2020
| -15.4 pp since 2000



Renewable electricity | 64.8% of the total production in 2020 | +4.2 pp since 2000



Final energy consumption | 82.2 GJ per capita in 2020 | -23.7% since 2000



Energy dependency | 72% of gross energy imports in 2020 | -7.8 pp since 2000

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 7

Switzerland is transforming its energy system with the *Energy Strategy⁷² 2050*. It sets out a number of objectives: phase out nuclear energy, increase energy-efficiency and the proportion of renewable energies, reduce energy consumption and cut energy-related carbon emissions. Energy supplies should remain extremely reliable, and energy prices should continue to represent value for money. *Energy-related legislation⁷³* has also been realigned, with the new laws entering into force in 2018. Moreover, in 2021 the Federal Council released the draft *Federal Act on a Secure Electricity Supply from Renewable Energies*,⁷⁴ thereby beginning the process of updating the *Energy Strategy 2050*. This will push ahead with the expansion of renewable energies and make power supplies more reliable in the long term. In addition, in early 2022 the Federal Council sent a bill for consultation to speed up proceedings for hydroelectric and wind power plants and reduce the red tape surrounding solar power while also granting it tax breaks. Also in early 2022, to improve power supplies at times of extraordinary shortages, the Federal Council decided to establish a hydroelectric power reserve, and to plan reserve power plants. In response to Russia's military aggression against Ukraine in early March, it also took action to protect Switzerland's gas supplies.

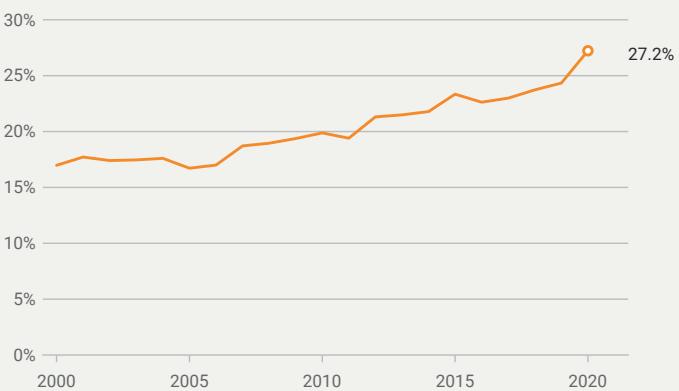
Furthermore, in 2019 the Federal Council decided that by 2050 Switzerland should no longer emit more greenhouse gases than natural and technical sinks are able to absorb. This is the net-zero emissions by 2050 target. Bearing in mind that around three-quarters of Switzerland's carbon emissions are caused by the use of fossil fuels, energy policy objectives are closely linked to those of climate policy.

Switzerland helps developing countries to create the right conditions to supply renewable energies and achieve energy efficiency. It works with international organisations and development banks to support sustainable access to low-carbon energies, for example, and encourage greater use of renewables. It also advocates ending subsidies for fossil fuels.

Renewable energies

In relation to final energy consumption

In 2019, 52% of the renewable energy consumed came from hydropower.



Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: SFOE – Swiss renewable energy statistics

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Progress

In the national context

Energy efficiency and renewable energies: Regular monitoring tracks progress with the transformation of the Swiss energy system, which is proceeding in line with the *Energy Strategy 2050*. The findings of the fourth monitoring report show that the Energy Strategy has reached its first milestone, in that the targets for electricity production from renewable energies and for electrical and energy efficiency – as laid down in the Energy Act for 2020 – have been achieved.⁷⁵ There is nonetheless still considerable pressure to act to have a secure and climate-neutral supply of energy in place by 2050.

Energy security: The findings of *Energy Perspectives 2050+ (EP2050+)*⁷⁶ show that Switzerland is able to transform its energy supply to be climate-neutral by 2050, while still guaranteeing reliable supplies⁷⁷. The report uses scenarios to describe the technological paths that the country might choose. The common factor with all of these is that domestic renewable energy generation must be expanded significantly by 2050. According to *Energy Perspectives 2050+* supplies could consist almost entirely of domestically produced, renewable power by 2050. The technologies needed to achieve this either already exist or are in development. The phased withdrawal from nuclear power and longer-term decarbonisation of the energy system are not without their challenges, however. Road traffic, for example, is powered largely by imported hydrocarbons, and the proportion of fossil energies used for heating is still relatively high. Improving energy efficiency and electrification or replacing fossil with renewable energies will therefore help to reduce Switzerland's dependence on other countries and improve energy security. This has taken on a new urgency following Russia's military aggression against Ukraine.



Trade-off Pursuing goals relating to clean energy (SDG 7), water quality (SDG 6) and preserving biodiversity (SDG 15) may result in considerable trade-offs. Output targets having a detrimental effect on the environment are one example here. Resolving these issues requires sectoral barriers in politics and government to be overcome, and rules and regulations to be coordinated in the interests of minimising trade-offs and creating buffers for areas that are heavily affected.

Challenges

In the national context

Renewable energy: The rate at which renewable energy generation capacity has been added to date is insufficient to achieve expansion targets compatible with net-zero emissions. Momentum is positive, however, especially where solar power is concerned. Permits for large new facilities are a challenge, because of potential conflicts of interest between conservation and the plant's use. Stricter environmental standards are also making it more difficult to maintain the current level of hydroelectric power generation. Additionally, the reliability of short and medium-term power supplies is a particular area of focus at present, after the Federal Council ended negotiations on an institutional agreement with the EU in May 2021, and there is no prospect of an agreement on electricity in the foreseeable future.

Energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption: *EP2050+* warns that a significant increase in electricity demand should be expected in the medium term if the net-zero target is to be met by 2050. Therefore, overall energy consumption must be reduced and further marked efficiency gains made in the medium to long term. Increasing the rate at which buildings are being renovated to save energy is a significant challenge in this regard. And there is still plenty of medium to long-term potential to increase energy efficiency. This must be harnessed.

Mobility and energy consumption: An even greater effort must be made in the transport sector to reduce energy consumption despite the greater need for mobility that the future will bring. Providing that the services are well used, the modal split towards public or collective transport will mean a considerable improvement in energy efficiency. Electromobility also has a major contribution to make in this regard.

Funding: Transforming the energy system to be net-zero-compatible will naturally result in additional costs. According to the baseline scenario laid out in *EP2050+*, an additional CHF 109 billion is needed on top of the investment that is already required. This represents an 8% budget increase. At the same time, this investment might save some CHF 50 billion in energy costs.



In the international context

Funding: Even greater efforts must be made to mobilise private-sector climate finance under the *International Cooperation Strategy 2021-24 (IC Strategy 2021-24)*⁷⁸ and the Paris Agreement. New funding instruments should also be examined in terms of their effectiveness.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 7](#)

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 8 covers targets for economic growth, productivity gains and decent job creation. These also include eradicating forced labour and human trafficking, and eliminating child labour. Moreover, sustainable economic growth should not be to the detriment of the environment.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland

		Labour productivity 140.5 index points (1991=100) in 2020 +26 points since 2000			Accidents at work 84 cases/1,000 secondary sector jobs in 2020 -29.2% since 2003
		GDP per capita CHF 81,760 in 2020 CHF +16,600 since 2020			Material footprint (RMC) 147 million tonnes in 2019 +9,8 tonnes since 2000
		Women's professional activity 58.5% in 2020 +4.4 pp since 2010			Disabled persons 39.3% in employment in 2019 No significant evolution since 2014
		Young people neither in employment nor in training 6.4% in 2020 -0.9 pp since 2003			Investments 25.6% of GDP in 2020 No significant evolution since 2000

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 8

Switzerland has already made considerable progress towards achieving SDG 8. However, to secure the long-term growth potential of the Swiss economy it is essential that natural resources are not overexploited. Efficient and effective environmental and climate policy should tackle environment-related market failures so that economic actors are able to make the most of opportunities for greater resource-efficiency.

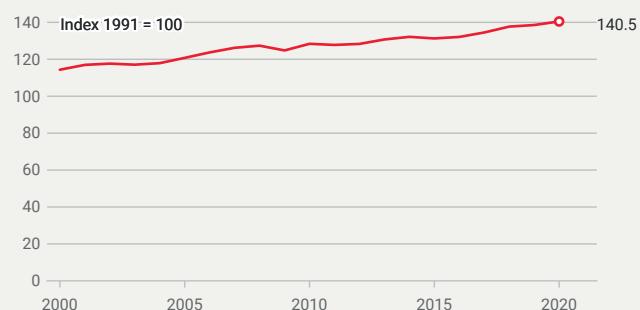
Switzerland aims to achieve sustainable economic growth on the basis of a coherent set of economic and employment policies. It is committed to continuous improvements in operating conditions for businesses, supports fair working conditions and equal opportunities, and encourages the development of appropriate framework and competitive conditions for innovation, the digital economy and sustainable tourism.

In its international cooperation work, Switzerland backs the innovative drive and expertise of the private sector, promotes stable economic policy frameworks and decent work, and makes strategic use of the potential offered by digitalisation.

Labour productivity

Hourly labour productivity at previous year's prices

The indicator measures the efficiency with which human resources are used in the production process.



2019 and 2020: provisional data

Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: FSO – National Accounts

© FSO 2022

Progress

In the national context



Sustainable economic growth: Federal government measures to achieve prosperity and sustainable economic growth are set out in the Federal Council's overview of action to strengthen Switzerland as a business location.⁷⁹ To extend this growth potential the Federal Council has made long-term improvements to economic operating conditions one of its top priorities.

Sustainability in the financial sector: In an effort to improve sustainability in the financial sector, the Federal Council has adopted a report and guidelines on sustainability, and determined key performance indicators for mandatory climate reporting by major Swiss companies. The climate compatibility tests offered regularly by the federal government help the financial sector to structure investment portfolios along sustainable lines.

Responsible corporate governance: The Federal Council promotes the implementation of SDG 8 in the private sector in particular with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Action Plan⁸⁰ and the *National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights 2020-23 (NAP)*.⁸¹

Employment: The COVID-19 crisis put pressure on the Swiss labour market and led to short-time working or new working models in a variety of sectors. To manage the economic ramifications, the federal government instituted a range of measures to support employment and household purchasing power, and largely succeeded in preventing negative impacts on jobs. Switzerland's *National Action Plan against Human Trafficking*⁸² raises awareness among the relevant actors of the signs of labour exploitation, to ensure that more victims can be identified.

In the international context



Sustainable economic growth: The *Foreign Economic Policy Strategy (2021)*⁸³ pursues strategic objectives to achieve prosperity and economic growth in Switzerland and in its partner countries. It also highlights areas where action is required.

Trade policy: Since the last baseline assessment was published the federal government has been able to help dismantle tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in all sectors, achieve better private-sector compliance with international quality standards, and improve the competitiveness of producers and businesses in developing countries.

Employment: Switzerland has joined the global Alliance 8.7 partnership, thereby participating in the international effort to eradicate child and force labour and human trafficking.

Challenges

In the national context



Framework conditions: To secure the conditions required for long-term economic growth, action must be taken to dismantle barriers to market entry, to prevent market failure as a result of external impacts, to open up the Swiss economy still further and to continue working on bilateral relations with the EU.

Sustainable economic growth: Although there have been steady improvements in resource efficiency, resource consumption remains at a high level. This makes it more difficult on a number of fronts to achieve sustainable economic growth. The failure to internalise costs is also a factor in the overuse of ecosystem services.

Pension provision: The rising number of people of retirement age and the pressure on public finances that this has triggered is likely to slow the rate at which per-capita GDP increases. In view of these demographic shifts, further reforms to pension provision are required to maintain the financial stability of the system overall, and also to improve resilience and generational equity.

Employment: More must be done to enable parents and carers to reconcile work and family life. These improvements must better reflect what parents actually need, reduce the related financial burden, and ensure that men and women are treated equally.

In the international context



COVID-19: The COVID-19 crisis is accentuating existing structural problems in developing and newly industrialised countries, increasing the pressure on public finances and creating further need for reform and funding. Switzerland's economic development cooperation work therefore concentrates on encouraging stable economic policy frameworks, on the one hand, and on targeted support for the private sector, on the other.

Sustainable economic growth: Switzerland is also committed to mitigating external impacts on transboundary economic activity. It does this primarily through its membership of international organisations, its trade conventions and international cooperation.



Systemic feedback Progress on Target 8.4 (promoting the circular economy) triggers positive cycles that can be used as entry points to implement the 2030 Agenda. Progress on Target 8.4 supports efforts to reduce material footprints (12.2). Sustainable resource use (12.2) has the effect of lowering greenhouse gas emissions (13.2). Efforts to reduce carbon emissions and use resources sustainably in turn have a bearing on Target 8.4.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 8](#)

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



SDG 9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

The task with SDG 9 is to build resilient infrastructures. To make both these and industries sustainable, by 2030 resources must be employed more efficiently, and clean and environmentally friendly technologies and industrial processes promoted alongside education, research and innovation.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Expenditure on R&D | Expenditure on R&D | 3.1% in comparison to the GDP in 2019 | +0.9% pp since 2000



Material intensity | 77 index points (2000=100) in 2019 | -23 points since 2000



Traffic congestion | 17 hours in 2020 | +13,265 hours since 2000



Modal split in freight transport | 37% by rail in 2019 | -5.2 pp since 2000



Distance from home to public transport | 344 meters in 2020 | No significant evolution since 2015

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 9

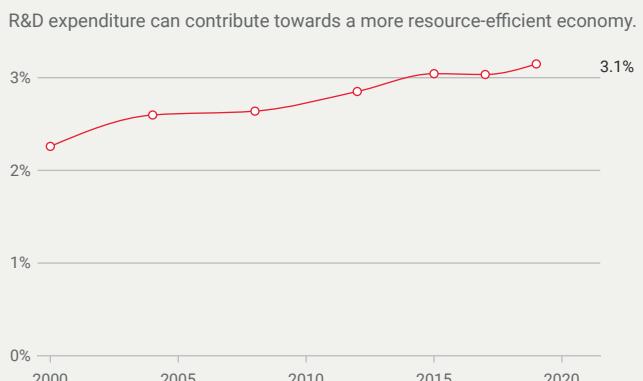
Switzerland enjoys a high standard of infrastructure. The *National Strategy for Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP)*⁸⁴ was updated in 2017 to improve its resilience still further. The Strategy sets out primary aims and operational principles for all actors, and describes measures to optimise the resilience, adaptability and regenerative capacity of the country's critical infrastructures.

In the *Dispatch on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation 2021-24*⁸⁵ Switzerland continues to advocate support for research and innovation so that it can remain a world leader in these fields in the future. As a key transversal theme, sustainable development is an integral part of this. Positive framework conditions are crucial to a high level of research and innovation output. Switzerland is therefore committed to laying the proper foundations for R+I, with an education system that caters to all, efficient funding instruments, and appropriate and effective protections of intellectual property.

As part of its international cooperation activities, Switzerland assists developing and newly industrialised countries as they build resilient infrastructures based on clean technologies. It supports reconstruction in disaster-hit areas, sustainable industrialisation, and innovation. To achieve this, among other things the federal government backs the creation of positive economic operating conditions and innovative private-sector initiatives.

Expenditure on research and development

In relation to gross domestic product



Link to the MONET 2030 Indicator

Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: FSO – Science and Technology

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Progress

In the national context



Transport infrastructures: Switzerland has created instruments to ensure that its transport infrastructures are well planned and funded in the long term. For example, the *Rail Infrastructure Fund (RIF)* was established in the interests of the safe, coherent and efficient development of the rail sector. Earlier key infrastructure programmes for rail passenger and goods transport have also made progress or been completed. Examples include the Lötschberg Base Tunnel (2007), and the Gotthard (2016) and Ceneri (2020) tunnels. The *National Highways and Urban Transport Fund (NAF)* was set up in 2018. It enables the federal government to secure long-term financing for the operation, maintenance and expansion of national highways, and to continue providing appropriate financial support to projects in Switzerland's major urban centres.

Promotion of innovation and research: Federal government support for innovation promotion facilities such as Innosuisse, funding for environmental technologies, centres of technological excellence and the Swiss Innovation Park has helped to improve knowledge and technology transfer and interaction between business, research and government. It is becoming an ever-more important factor in successful innovation in Switzerland.

In the international context



Infrastructure: Natural hazards and climate risks are being recorded increasingly systematically in the affected developing and newly industrialised countries concerned, while particularly at-risk population groups are being identified and included more often and consequences are being factored in more and more to (sub)national budget planning. All of this helps to reduce infrastructure-related risks more effectively.

Working conditions: The Federal Council helps business owners to create inclusive and sustainable working conditions. Examples of this include the *Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE)⁸⁶* and *Better Work⁸⁷* programmes in cooperation with the *International Labour Organization (ILO)*.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 9](#)



Underground projects hold potential for the future. Investment of almost **CHF 100 billion** is expected by 2030.



Challenges

In the national context



Efficient mobility system: Switzerland is already well advanced regarding industrialisation and resilient infrastructure. Major challenges persist, however.

To make transport infrastructure use more efficient, the strengths and weaknesses of each mode of transport must be analysed, including their external effects. Infrastructure development must then reflect these findings, for example with transport hubs that make it easier to change from a train to a bus, for example.

Furthermore, infrastructure operators, transport companies, private providers and, ultimately, transport users themselves require a better flow of information if they are to operate and use public and private transport infrastructures and services as effectively as possible. The aim is to establish a federal mobility data infrastructure (MODI) to allow the various actors to network, share data and engage in dialogue more easily.

Research and innovation: Technological change-related challenges exist in connection with the continued development, application and utilisation of new technologies. In particular, the current technology still does not permit this industry to be decarbonised. At the same time, artificial intelligence (AI) offers considerable innovation and growth potential, as well as opportunities because it taps into new sources of value creation. Meanwhile, the result of using increasingly autonomous systems can be socially problematic in some areas, for example people being discriminated against on the basis of decisions made by AI.

Potential to be found underground: As the population and economic output increase, so too does the need to (re)locate infrastructures underground. Current plans for subterranean passenger and goods transport projects envisage investment of around CHF 30 billion. The additional investment needed for further underground infrastructure construction is put at some CHF 67 billion by 2030. If this potential is to be given due consideration and more intensive use made of the space beneath our feet, spatial planning must be both inclusive and three-dimensional.



In the international context

COVID-19: Protectionist tendencies in international trade, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on value chains and liquidity for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are challenges that demand greater resilience and sustainability. The pandemic increased the need for liquidity, and made it more difficult for SMEs to gain access to their target markets.

Resilience to natural hazards: The effects of increasing climate-related natural hazards and climate risks are particularly marked in developing countries, where they often endanger people, infrastructure and the economy. It is therefore important that international cooperation continues to focus on construction methods that are sustainable, low-carbon and resilient.

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



SDG 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 10 stands for equal opportunities and freedom from discrimination. Its aim is to allow all to participate appropriately in social, cultural, political and economic life.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Imports from developing countries | 88% duty-free imports for the least developed countries in 2020 | +33 pp since 2012



Discrimination | 28.2% of the population felt discriminated against in 2020 | +6.8 pp since 2016



Remittances by migrants | CHF 7 billion in 2020 | CHF +4 billion since 2000



Distribution of disposable income (\$80/\$20) | Highest incomes 4.7 times higher than lowest in 2018



Distribution of primary income (\$80/\$20) | Highest incomes 50 times higher than lowest in 2018



Unemployment | 7.2% pop. with a migration background, 3.1% pop. without a migration background in 2020 | Stable since 2012

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 10

In Switzerland, the main elements helping to reduce economic and social inequalities are its education system, the social partnership, high labour market participation, the social security system, cantonal means-tested benefits and progressive taxation.

The Swiss constitution outlaws discrimination on the basis of certain protected characteristics. In 2021 the Swiss electorate voted in favour of the *Marriage for all* initiative, thereby setting a clear path for action towards legal equality and freedom from discrimination.

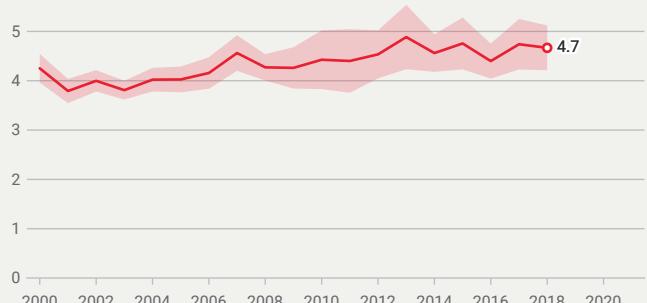
Switzerland's objective is to ensure safe and regular migration, that due consideration is given to the country's economic prosperity and social cohesion, and that refugees and the vulnerable are protected. The *Integration Agenda Switzerland (IAS)*⁸⁸ is a joint federal-cantonal scheme to integrate refugees and provisionally admitted persons more quickly and to reduce their dependence on welfare benefits.

Swiss international cooperation is well known for its long-lasting and consistent commitment to countries that face extreme poverty and fragility, including in crisis situations. It also has a long-standing tradition of humanitarian engagement. Switzerland also helps to reduce disparities between countries through its work to achieve good governance and to ensure that multilateral finance and development organisations are highly effective.

Distribution of disposable income

Ratio of income share of the population's highest income quintile to that of the population's lowest income quintile (\$80/\$20)

Disposable income is the income after government transfers such as taxes and social benefits.



Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: FSO – Household Budget Survey (HBS)

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Progress



In the national context

Equal opportunities: In Switzerland, legislation such as the *Act on the Promotion of Extracurricular Youth Welfare (KJFG)*⁸⁹ and facilities like the *National Platform Against Poverty (2019-24)*⁹⁰ do a great deal to reduce inequity and promote equal opportunities. The work of the latter includes drawing up foundations that will help young people and young adults who face multiple problems to join the labour market. Structures are also in place to encourage those affected by poverty to participate in the decision-making, planning, implementation and evaluation processes for measures designed to prevent and alleviate poverty. In addition, the Swiss *invalidity insurance scheme* has been enhanced to improve the integration of children, young people and those with mental health problems.

Combating discrimination: The Swiss electorate voted in favour of same-sex marriage in September 2021. Previously, in 2020 it had also approved the extension of criminal provisions against racism to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Integration: By adopting the *Integration Agenda Switzerland (IAS)* in 2019, the federal government and the cantons agreed on a shared instrument by which to integrate refugees and provisionally admitted persons more quickly into both the labour market and society.

In the international context



Leave no one behind: With its *International Cooperation Strategy 2021-24 (IC Strategy 2021-24)*,⁹¹ Switzerland continues to align its work with the most heavily disadvantaged population groups with the principle of *leave no one behind*. Migration is one of the Strategy's four thematic priorities.

Remittances: According to the World Bank, in 2021 remittances to low and middle-income countries rose by 7% to USD 589 billion. Switzerland's greater engagement in this area helped bring the topic to global attention, create a positive dynamic among the actors involved, and spark technological innovation. The country's financial sector is also witnessing a growing fintech and blockchain ecosystem, which supports remittances indirectly.

Development banks: When the *International Development Association (IDA)* reviewed its voting rights Switzerland argued successfully for voting powers to be enhanced and recipient countries to be included.



Systemic feedback Progress with Target 10.4 (progressive legislative reform to dismantle inequalities) sets in motion positive cycles that present specific reasons to further implement the 2030 Agenda. Progress on Target 10.4 might, for example, improve access to high-quality, affordable healthcare (3.8) and affordable housing (11.1). In turn, affordable housing and affordable access to healthcare for all reduce the proportion of those living in poverty (1.2). A lower poverty rate then itself helps to reduce inequalities (SDG 10).

Challenges



In the national context

Combating discrimination: Implementing anti-discrimination legislation in practice presents challenges for those who are affected, with the high legal costs involved in civil proceedings often preventing victims from pursuing a claim. A further challenge is multiple discrimination, i.e. that which is based on several protected characteristics at the same time, such as origin, religion or social status. Despite the measures that have been taken, there is still much to be done to achieve true equality for homosexual, bisexual, transgender and intersex people.

Reducing inequalities: Poverty has many causes. These range from the lack of resources, low incomes or unemployment to sub-standard housing and poor health, insufficient education and training, and social isolation. In 2019 the equivalised primary income (before government transfers) of the richest 20% of the population was 50 times that of the lowest-income 20%. However, this ratio is made ten times smaller by redistributions in the form of public or state-regulated transfer payments – mainly pensions, social security benefits and taxes. Consequently, that same year the equivalised disposable income of the richest 20% was actually 4.7 times that of the poorest 20%. With this in mind, reducing economic inequalities remains a major challenge.

COVID-19: The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the disparities in the social safety net available to different groups of workers (those in precarious employment, the self-employed and undocumented migrants, for example) and exposed the associated economic repercussions.



In the international context

Migration: From the international perspective, harnessing the potential of regular migration and tackling the causes of displacement and irregular migration effectively remain important and demanding tasks. The COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated existing challenges. Important work must still be done to improve coordination between European states on migration, and to ensure safe migration routes.

Remittances: Better use must be made of the potential for remittances to support sustainable development, for example by migrants and their families using needs-based financial products. New and innovative payment services could be of benefit here.

Global inequalities: Despite a reduction in poverty and income disparities in the global context, economic and social inequalities within many developing countries continue to pose a major challenge. They jeopardise the stability of those countries and can also impact on economic growth.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 10](#)

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



SDG 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 11 is aimed at sustainable, long-term spatial planning in the interests of compact and resilient urban development, and emphasises the importance of access to adequate housing for all.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Modal split of passenger transport

| 20.7% by public transport in 2019 | +3.5 pp since 2000



Distance from home to public transport |

344 metres in 2020 | No significant evolution since 2015



Urban sprawl | 2.5 urban penetration units per m² in 2010 |

+27% since 1980



Independent use of public transport |

70% of people with disabilities in 2017 | No significant evolution since 2007



Traffic noise | 31% of the population affected in 2019 |

+8.5 pp since 2011



Natural dangers | CHF 40 million in damages

in 2020 | CHF 6.5 billion since 2000



Housing costs | 33.7% of the budget for the poorest, 10% for the richest (2015/17)

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 11

Switzerland's target is to conserve its farmland, undeveloped spaces, landscape and natural and architectural heritage and to safeguard the country's appeal as a place in which to live and work. The *Spatial Planning Act*⁹² in combination with the *Nature and Cultural Heritage Act*⁹³ provide the legal framework for this. The *Baukultur policy*⁹⁴ on architectural heritage also calls for a high standard of inward urban development, as well as attractive green and open spaces offering a high degree of biodiversity. All levels of government provide input to spatial planning, although principal responsibility lies with the cantons and communes.

By implementing its *Agglomeration Policy*⁹⁵ and the *Policy for Rural and Mountain Areas*⁹⁶ Switzerland has taken on board the challenges facing urban and rural spaces and is working towards coherent spatial development nationwide. To permit poorer sections of the population to live and participate in society in urban centres and tourist areas, Switzerland is taking action to improve the availability of affordable housing.

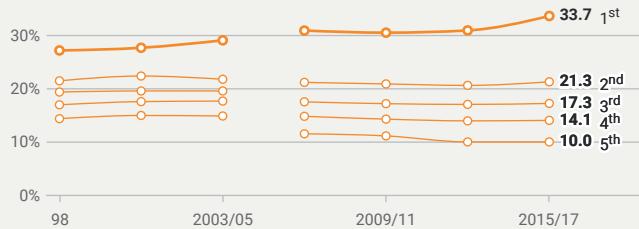
Protecting the population against natural hazards and managing further disasters and emergencies is a responsibility shared between the federal government, the cantons, communes, insurers and civil society. Measures to reduce risk are laid out, for example, in the *Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change*,⁹⁷ the *National Strategy for Critical Infrastructure Protection*⁹⁸ and the *NCS Strategy against cyber risks*.⁹⁹

In its international cooperation work, Switzerland helps developing and newly industrialised countries to make settlements more resilient to natural hazards and climate risks.

Housing costs

Proportion of housing costs (incl. utilities) in gross household income, by income category (quintiles)

Housing costs have a three times greater impact on the budget of the 20% poorest households (1st quintile) than on that of the 20% richest (5th quintile).



2006/08: break in the time series

Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: FSO – Household Budget Survey (HBS)

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Progress

In the national context



Inward settlement development: The first phase of reform of the *Spatial Planning Act (SPA 1)*,¹⁰⁰ and the resulting revision of cantonal structure and communal land use plans create an important foundation from which to encourage sustainable settlements. Close cooperation and networks of government and non-governmental actors is the key success factor in attractive, quality inward urban development.

The 2020 update to the *Swiss Landscape Concept*¹⁰¹ provides Switzerland with a coherent set of targets for quality-based settlement development that is embedded in the local landscape. The targets and measures of the *Baukultur policy* demand that all spatial planning activities ensure that Switzerland upholds its high architectural standards.

Coherent spatial development: Initiatives such as *model projects*¹⁰² and the *Suburban Transport Programme*¹⁰³ encourage innovative third-party approaches, including cooperation in functional spaces, and cross-sectoral coordination. This helps to highlight model approaches with a diversity that improves urban and rural spaces.

Access to adequate housing: The framework credits¹⁰⁴ for federal government schemes to encourage the construction of social housing have been increased, thus enabling more projects to be supported.

In the international context



Resilient settlements: Switzerland is continuing its support for sustainable, low-carbon and resilient construction methods and infrastructure investments in developing and newly industrialised countries. This also includes rebuilding basic infrastructure as part of the federal government's humanitarian aid work.

Using urbanisation potential: Switzerland helps towns and cities in developing countries to harness the huge potential of the present surge in urbanisation to generate climate-friendly economic growth and to alleviate poverty. Measures in this context might include support for integrated urban planning, preparations for investments in public infrastructure, support for sustainable mobility, or improved access to financing to actually take the action that is required.



Multiplier of shared benefits Efforts to achieve Target 11.a (coherent spatial planning), such as the implementation of integrated risk management or efforts to curb urban sprawl help to achieve targets relating to water quality (SDG 6), resilience and adaptability to the consequences of global warming (SDG 13), and soil protection and biodiversity conservation (SDG 15).

Challenges

In the national context



Inward settlement development: The quality inward development called for by strategies and policies is intended to make existing settlements more attractive to more people than today, as well as more homely places to live. Open and green spaces are under pressure from the expansion in construction, population growth and increasing mobility. There is also a lack of effective measures to improve landscape quality, biodiversity, and residential surroundings that encourage an active lifestyle.

Coherent spatial development: Regional disparities, especially where access to certain services is concerned, present an obstacle to social cohesion. Challenges remain in particular with cooperation in functional spaces, such as the search for appropriate forms of governance, or mechanisms to balance the burdens and benefits of spatial planning measures.

Preventing damaging events: The increasing frequency of extreme events combined with the high proportion of sealed ground in traffic and urban areas increases the risk of events causing serious damage. Assuming integrated risk management is in place, approaches to natural hazards¹⁰⁵ and other disasters and emergencies must focus more on risks in future.

Access to adequate housing: Affordable housing is in short supply in urban and many tourist areas. Hence, there must be continued efforts to improve access to housing for population groups that are at a disadvantage on the housing market.

Advancing sustainable mobility: Transport caused CHF 13.7 billion of damage to the environment and health in Switzerland in 2018, as a result of factors such as air pollution and noise. At the same time, society benefited to the tune of almost CHF 1.4 billion from the external effects on health of pedestrian and bicycle traffic. In practice this takes the form of better overall health so that people fall ill less often. Ensuring that individuals take these effects into account in their mobility choices remains a challenge.

In the international context



Resilient settlements: In view of growing climate-related natural hazards and climate risks, the effects of which are felt most keenly in developing countries, it is important that international cooperation continues to focus on encouraging sustainable, low-carbon and resilient construction methods. Settlement development that is outside of high-risk zones, or that is at least built to withstand those risks, should be the top priority here.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 11](#)



SDG 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The idea behind SDG 12 is to ensure sustainable patterns of consumption and production and thereby improve wellbeing in society. Producing and consuming sustainably means reducing the associated resource consumption so as not to overload ecosystem capacity.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Material footprint per person |

17.1 tonnes in 2019 |
-8% since 2000



Greenhouse gas footprint intensity |

72 index points (2000=100) in 2019 | -28 points since 2000



Rate of separately collected municipal waste |

52.8% in 2020 | +7.5 pp since 2000



Municipal waste |

6.1 million tonnes in 2020 | +29% since 2000



Jobs in the environmental sector |

4% of employees in 2020 |
+1.7 pp since 2000



Consumers aware of environmental impact |

72% when buying small electrical devices and 43% when buying food in 2019



Greenhouse gas footprint per person |

12.6 tonnes CO₂ eq. in 2019 |
-21.3% since 2000



Petroleum tax relief |

3.8% in 2020 | +1 pp since 2002

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 12

Just as in other countries, a sound environment is an essential basis of life in Switzerland and especially for health, welfare, the economy and competitiveness.

Despite efficiency gains, Switzerland has not yet achieved the goal of sustainable resource use. Ecosystems around the world are at their capacity limits. In some cases those ecological boundaries have been overshot. With levels of per-capita resource consumption that are high in both European and broader international comparisons, Switzerland is part of the problem here.

Aside from various pieces of legislation and sectoral policies, many of the measures taken by the federal government address public-private partnerships, support for independent initiatives or foundational work such as the provision of data for lifecycle analyses. However, market failures and a lack of international coordination mean that the negative impacts of production and consumption on the environment are not sufficiently priced in to the cost of goods and services. This results in the excessive use of natural resources.

Switzerland plays an active part in the *United Nations' 106 Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production*. It also supports a range of initiatives and various international organisations and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Furthermore, it promotes the implementation of the *United Nations Guiding Principles*

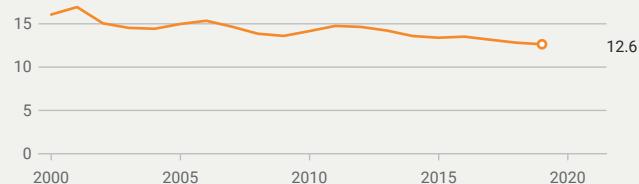
on Business and Human Rights,¹⁰⁷ the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises*,¹⁰⁸ environmental standards, and commodities and infrastructure-related initiatives. International cooperation work is targeted in part at making food systems more sustainable, inclusive and resilient.

Greenhouse gas footprint per person

Greenhouse gas emissions caused by the consumption of goods and services in Switzerland

In 2019, 64% of these emissions occurred abroad.

20 Tonnes of CO₂ equivalents



2019: provisional data

Link to the MONET 2030 Indicator

Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: FSO – Environmental accounts, STATPOP

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Progress

In the national context



Conserving resources: The 2030 SDS contains two overarching goals: to reduce the per-capita material footprint in line with the 1.5-degree target of the *Paris Agreement*¹⁰⁹ and to cut the per-capita greenhouse gas footprint associated with the final demand for foodstuffs by a quarter compared with 2020 by 2030.

Sustainable food systems: An *Action Plan Against Food Waste* has been produced to achieve the goal of halving avoidable food waste by 2030. The provision and consumption of food is responsible for around a quarter of Switzerland's overall environmental footprint. Yet another quarter thereof is generated by avoidable food losses. Internationally, as part of the *One Planet Network (10YFP)* Switzerland's work includes promoting all aspects of sustainable food systems.

Greater corporate responsibility: The measures set out in the *action plans on corporate social responsibility (CSR)*¹¹⁰ and *business and human rights (NAP)*¹¹¹ are designed to encourage sustainable production in Swiss companies' global value chains. Furthermore, in 2020 the Federal Council adopted specific measures to make Switzerland a centre of sustainable finance. This specifically targets transparency, risk analyses and Switzerland's international engagement. It also enacted a statutory obligation from 2022 onwards for companies to report on sustainability, as well as due diligence, conflict minerals and child labour.

Sustainable procurement: The entry into force of *revised public procurement legislation*¹¹² and the adoption of the *Federal Administration's Public Procurement Strategy*¹¹³ improved the framework for sustainable procurement at federal level. Switzerland supports and promotes public procurement through the *WÖB knowledge platform for sustainable public procurement* and by providing training.



Multiplier of positive side-effects

Efforts to achieve Target 12.6 (corporate responsibility) support the achievement of targets under SDG 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture), SDG 8 (sustainable economy), SDG 12 (resource-saving consumption and production) and 5 (reconciliation of family and working life, women's full and effective participation at all levels of decision-making) and SDG 13 (urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts).

Challenges

In the national context



Conserving resources: Switzerland's patterns of consumption and production are based on high resource use. Extracting and processing these resources places a strain on the environment both at home and abroad, in the form of greenhouse gas emissions, land use and water stress, for example. The social costs caused by the negative environmental impacts of goods production and use are not sufficiently factored in to prices. This results in the excessive use of natural resources.

Circular economy: The high demand for materials to produce goods, buildings and infrastructures exceeds the available volume of recycled materials. Further efforts are therefore needed to reinforce the circular economy and improve resource conservation. One example would be to extend the useful life of the products sold. Construction materials are responsible for approximately 10% of Switzerland's greenhouse gas footprint, and large volumes of construction waste are still ending up in landfills. There is considerable potential for its recycling and re-use, and for the use of environmentally friendly materials.

Sustainability of the food value chain: Food systems are one of the principal drivers of challenges such as biodiversity loss and climate change. The 2030 SDS sees scope for action to enhance sustainability throughout the food value chain in terms of true cost pricing and transparency about the origins of food and how it is produced.

Food waste: According to estimates, around 2.8 million tonnes of waste is produced annually along the food value chain in Switzerland. This is the equivalent of some 330kg per person. The goal of halving food waste by 2030 is an ambitious one. If it is to be achieved, we need practicable solutions and information, as well as commitments from both the business sector and the public.



In the international context

Chemicals, waste and pollution: No international body of experts yet exists for chemicals, waste and pollution. Switzerland therefore actively supports the creation of such an intergovernmental scientific panel. It also advocates an international plastics convention that covers their entire lifecycle.

Negative impacts of subsidies: Internationally, Switzerland supports a reduction in damaging subsidies. Examples include its membership of the *Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform*, which aims to achieve political consensus on the need for reforms, and its participation in negotiations on an *Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS)*.¹¹⁴

[Click here to learn more about SDG 12](#)



SDG 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG 13 calls upon governments to incorporate climate action in their national policies and to support each other in addressing the challenges. Resilience to climate-related natural disasters is also to be improved.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Assessment of dangers associated with climate change | 87.8% of the population in 2019 | +8.4 pp since 2011



Greenhouse gas emissions | 43.4 million tonnes CO₂ eq. in 2019 | -13% since 2000



Greenhouse gas footprint | 109 million tonnes CO₂ eq. in 2019 of which 64% took place abroad



Fatalities caused by natural events | 1 death in 2020 | 94 deaths since 2000

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 13

Like any other country, Switzerland is affected by climate change and must face the associated global challenges. By ratifying the *Paris Agreement*¹¹⁵ Switzerland set itself the target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% of its 1990 levels by 2030. By 2050, Switzerland should no longer be releasing more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than can be absorbed by natural and technical sinks. This is referred to as net-zero emissions. In January 2021 the Federal Council adopted the *Long-Term Climate Strategy to 2050*,¹¹⁶ which sets out how this carbon balance can be achieved.

The CO₂ Act¹¹⁷ defines targets and provides details of national-level measures. Today's mix of instruments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions includes, for example, the carbon levy on fuels, emissions trading, schemes to promote building-related energy efficiency, CO₂ regulations for new cars, mandatory carbon offsets for importers of fossil fuels, a technology fund and industry agreements. Climate action is also taken as part of strategic planning and in specific measures in other policy areas, such as energy, agriculture and forestry.

The federal government acts as a coordinator where adaptation to climate change is concerned. Early and coordinated warnings and alerts about natural hazards are also crucial to mitigating the impacts of climate change.

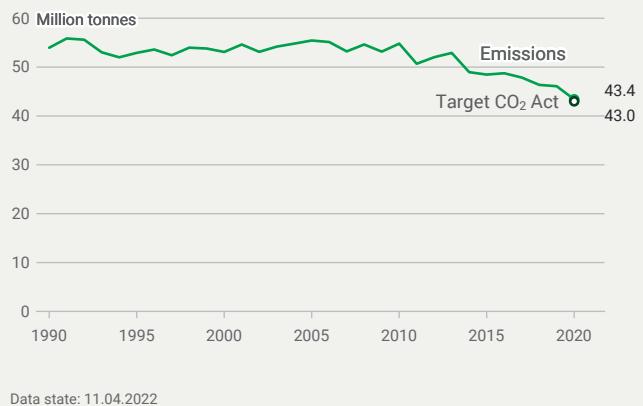
As part of its international cooperation work Switzerland supports developing countries in their efforts to curb climate change and adapt to its consequences. It also supplies a fair share of international climate financing. Through offset projects abroad, it invests in climate action beyond

its territorial borders. The emissions reductions that this achieves are then credited to Switzerland's account.

Greenhouse gas emissions

CO₂ equivalents without the carbon sink effect from the forest

The 2020 target value in the CO₂ Act takes into account the deductible carbon sink capacity of forests.



Progress



In the national context

Greenhouse gas emissions: Switzerland's greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 were around 19% lower than in 1990. A significant reduction was achieved in the buildings sector thanks to improved energy efficiency and people increasingly replacing their oil and gas-fired heating systems with heat pumps and renewable energies. Emissions from the industrial sector have also dropped since 1990 but have remained relatively stable in recent years. Transport emissions are retreating only slowly.

Since the interim 2020 target for carbon emissions from fossil fuels was missed, starting in 2022 the CO₂ levy has been increased from CHF 96 to CHF 120 per tonne of CO₂.

Climate services: The members of the *National Centre for Climate Services (NCCS)* take scientific information and data about climate in the past, now and in the future and its impact on the environment, economy and society, bundle it and develop it in areas of strategic importance. These climate services provide a basis for climate action and adaptation to climate change at communal, cantonal and national level.

Adaptation to climate change: The concluding assessment on the implementation of measures in the *Action Plan on Adaptation to Climate Change (2014–19)*¹¹⁸ was a positive one. Numerous measures are currently in progress or have already been completed successfully. Efforts will be continued and enhanced under the new *Action Plan on Adaptation to Climate Change (2020–25)*.¹¹⁹

In the international context



Funding: Funding for climate-related international cooperation is to be boosted from CHF 300 million annually (2017–20) to approximately CHF 400 million per year by the end of 2024, corresponding to around 15% of the international cooperation budget. These funds will be disbursed as part of the international cooperation mandate to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development, and to curb climate change or adapt to its impacts.



Multiplier of positive side-effects Efforts to achieve Target 13.3 (all actors have sufficient transformational knowledge and scope to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions) furthers the attainment of Targets 2.1 (balanced diet) and 8.4 (promoting the circular economy), as well as SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 3 (health) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities).

Challenges



In the national context

Goal-oriented climate policy: Total greenhouse gas emissions from Switzerland have been declining steadily in recent years. However, the national target for 2020 – a 20% reduction in emissions compared with 1990 – could not be attained despite the mild winter and the measures put in place to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. To achieve the climate targets set for 2030 and beyond, Switzerland must therefore be disciplined in pursuing and stepping up its efforts to reduce its emissions. Transport is the greatest challenge in this regard.

In 2021 the Swiss electorate rejected the comprehensive revision of the CO₂ Act. However, numerous measures remain in place or have been extended on the basis of a parliamentary initiative. Switzerland now faces the task of aligning its national climate policy consistently with international targets. The Federal Council sent a new bill for public consultation in December 2021.

Negative emissions technologies: The long-term net-zero target requires that, in future, CO₂ is removed from the atmosphere and stored permanently, effectively resulting in negative emissions. However, the negative emissions technologies known to date are either untested in practice or not yet sufficiently scalable to actually have an effect on the climate. At present, the focus is therefore on creating conducive operating frameworks and doing the foundational work to facilitate negative emissions technologies and CO₂ storage in Switzerland and abroad.

Financial flows: Investment decisions made today – on energy supplies, for example – are a factor in greenhouse gas emission levels tomorrow. Switzerland has set itself the goal of climate-friendly financial flows, reflecting the corresponding objective in the Paris Agreement. This means that, in the future, actors on the financial market should redirect their investments from greenhouse gas-intensive technologies and energies into promising environmentally-friendly solutions.

Education and awareness-raising: To close current information, knowledge and education gaps, the federal government will ensure that the public has the information and scope of action they need to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions, as well as to adapt to climate change. Action on adaptation is already a necessity, and will become increasingly important in the future.

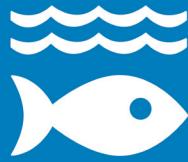


In the international context

Impact of climate change: In many cases, the challenges that result from climate change are themselves the cause of conflict and poverty, and may jeopardise the progress that has been made to date. The impact of climate change could push 100 million people back into extreme poverty by 2030, and 143 million are at risk of becoming climate migrants by 2050. At the same time, the proportion of global greenhouse gas emissions originating in developing countries is on the rise.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 13](#)

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



SDG 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

SDG 14 demands a significant reduction in marine pollution of all kinds. Marine and coastal ecosystems should be sustainably managed and protected. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing should also be ended.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Nitrogen load exported |

42,739 tonnes in 2018 |
-29.2% since 2000

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 14

Switzerland has set itself the goal of reducing the nitrogen load in air and water. Since it shares many of its national waters with other countries, this will indirectly have a positive effect on the world's seas and oceans. Waste water treatment plants already lower nutrient levels in water considerably, but the pollution from agriculture in open waters is still too high.

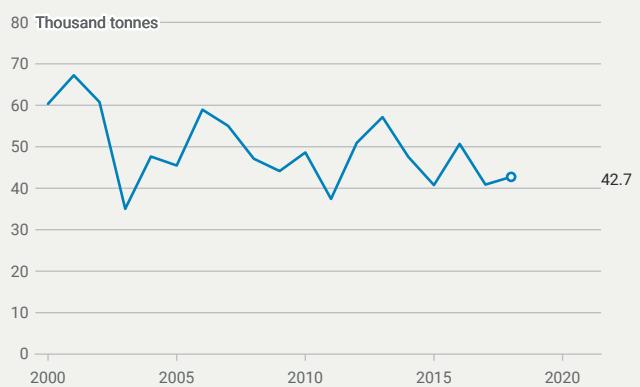
As a landlocked country, Switzerland has limited scope for action on marine issues. It nonetheless works at the international level towards tougher regulations on the preservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources. It has ratified a variety of international conventions on marine conservation that will help, among other things, to prevent and reduce pollution from inland and maritime navigation.

Importing countries such as Switzerland can do their part to combat IUU fishing with effective controls that prevent these products reaching the market. This is ensured in practice with the *Ordinance on the Inspection of the Lawful Origin of Imported Marine Fishery Products*.¹²⁰ Switzerland is also actively engaged in the *Committee on Fisheries (COFI)* within the *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*, and participates in *WTO* negotiations on regulations banning harmful fisheries subsidies.

Nitrogen load exported

Total nitrogen load in the Rhine at Basel

Exported nitrogen contributes to nutrient overload in the oceans.



Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: Federal Office for the Environment

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Progress

In the national context

Illegal fishing: Checks on the lawful origin of imported marine fishery products have been conducted since 2017 and improved continually. Further improvements are planned to make such inspections even more effective, one example being a new IT system, due in 2022, to facilitate data entry and enforcement.

In the international context

Water pollution: Switzerland advocates a legally binding convention on plastics. The vision is to eliminate plastic waste and microplastic deposits in the sea. It is also working to ensure that existing international organisations and agreements, such as the *Basel Convention*¹²¹ and sustainable production and consumption initiatives are an effective part of the solution.

Biodiversity: In the context of negotiations on the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*¹²² Switzerland supports the target of conserving a total of 30% of the earth's surface, both land and water, for biodiversity by 2030. This is to be achieved by means of a combination of protected zones and other area-based measures.

Challenges

In the national context

Water pollution: The quality of Switzerland's surface water is unsatisfactory in many areas. Waste water treatment plants must therefore eliminate harmful substances more effectively, while the agricultural sector must cut its nutrient emissions.

In the international context

Illegal fishing: The latest figures from the FAO show that the percentage of sustainably fished fish stocks worldwide sank from 90% in 1990 to around 66% in 2017. Effective action must be taken urgently to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and overfishing. Since Switzerland does not have its own marine fishing fleet and does not subsidise such activities, it has only very limited means to combat IUU fishing.

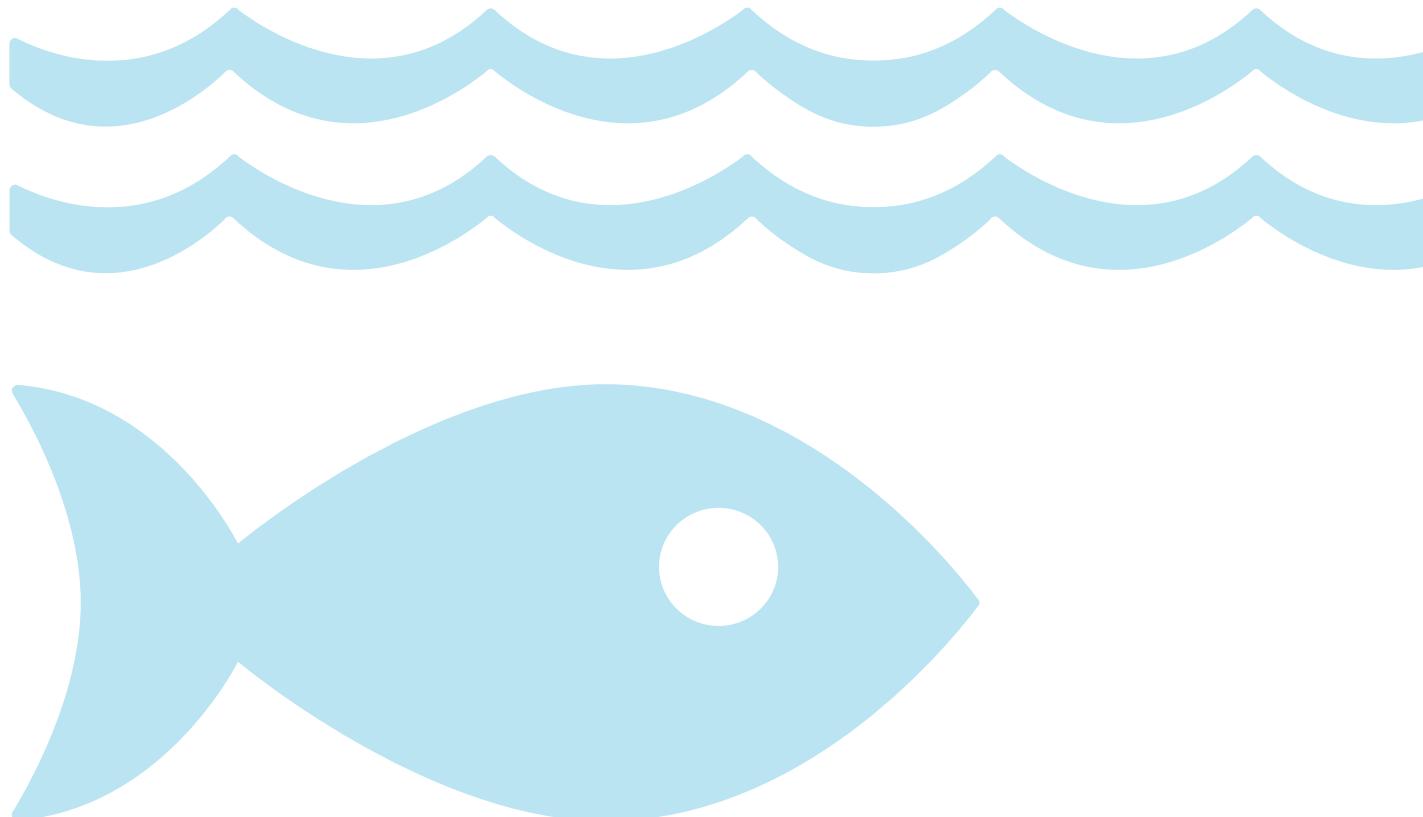
Furthermore, WTO members were unable to conclude negotiations on fisheries subsidies by the end of 2020. These negotiations are ongoing and Switzerland will remain an active participant in them.



Swiss waters are polluted primarily by plastics from tyre abrasion, as well as from other sources such as households, industry, construction and littering. Of this, at least **20 tonnes** of microplastics enter the oceans every year via Swiss rivers.



[Click here to learn more about SDG 14](#)



15 LIFE ON LAND



SDG 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

SDG 15 calls for ecosystems to be preserved, restored and used sustainably.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Swiss protected area | 6.6% of the entire Swiss territory in 2020 | +1.6 pp since 2000



Population of breeding birds | 97 index points (1990=100) in 2020 | -3 points since 1990



Sustainable wood harvest | Ratio use/growth 0.7 in 2020 | +7.7% since 2001



Biocoenosis diversity in meadows and pastures | 59/100 points for plants and 46/100 for molluscs in 2019 | -2.2% resp. -18.1% since 2001



Biodiversity related expenditure | CHF 592.6 million in 2020 | +46% since 2011



Invasive plant species | 41 in 2014 | +21 since 2006



Soil sealing | 5% of the territory in 2018 | +1.4 pp since 1985

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 15

Biodiversity in Switzerland has declined since the mid-19th century. More than a third of our country's animal and plant species and almost half of all habitats are now at risk. Instruments such as the *Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (SBS)*¹²³ and its Action Plan, as well as the *Swiss Landscape Concept*¹²⁴ are designed to halt biodiversity loss. In addition, the federal government's policy on biodiversity links in with other policy areas and uses the synergies between them in the interests of nature. As part of its indirect counterproposal to the people's *Biodiversity Initiative*, in 2021 the Federal Council declared that it would create sufficient habitats for plants and animals, invest more in biodiversity, and improve biodiversity in settlement areas in particular.

The objective of the *Swiss National Soil Strategy*,¹²⁵ adopted in 2020, is to preserve the functions, fertility and capacity of the soil for society, the economy and the environment. From 2050 onwards, net soil loss in Switzerland should be zero. With its *Forest Policy 2020*¹²⁶ and *Forest Policy: objectives and measures 2021-24*¹²⁷ Switzerland ensures that forests are managed sustainably and naturally, and creates the operating conditions for an efficient and innovative forestry and timber sector. In 2020 the Federal Council adopted the updated

Swiss Landscape Concept, which defines the framework for a coherent and quality-based development of Swiss landscapes while respecting their natural and cultural values.

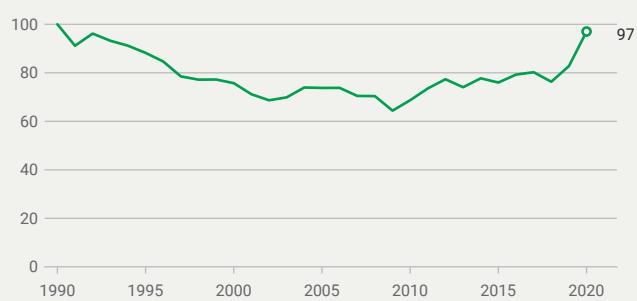
Switzerland furthers the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as part of numerous multilateral processes. These include the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*¹²⁸, the *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*,¹²⁹ the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)*.¹³⁰

Populations of breeding birds

Trend in breeding bird populations from the Red List

Index 1990 = 100

The breeding bird populations serve as a gauge of biodiversity. As biodiversity requires a long-term observation, the period presented begins in 1990.



Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: Swiss Ornithological Institute

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Progress



In the national context

Biodiversity: The land area devoted to forest reserves and to promoting biodiversity in agriculture is gradually expanding. It currently stands at around 13% of Swiss territory.

Forest ecosystems: The diversity of structures and tree species has grown, as have the populations of breeding birds. Considerable progress has been made with research into and the implementation of future adaptations to Switzerland's forests, and biodiversity will continue to take a central role. Work is also under way to develop a national strategy for adapting forests to climate change.

Biotopes and wetlands: The revision of inventories of federally protected biotopes and wetlands is an important step in protecting natural habitats and endangered species. It has increased the national land area dedicated to biodiversity by 0.4%.

Policies and implementation: In the first implementation phase of the *Action Plan to the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (2017-23)*, immediate action on protected areas and forest biodiversity is being taken to remedy deficits, synergy measures are being implemented to better use the potential held by various sectors, and pilot projects conducted in areas in which action on biodiversity is particularly urgent. The aims of the Forest Policy 2020 will be pursued up to the end of 2024, and action on natural forest management has been updated including factors in climate change. Key forest-related programmes will continue to be supported by the forests programme agreement between the federal government and the cantons, along with the sub-programmes for protected forests, forest biodiversity and forest management.

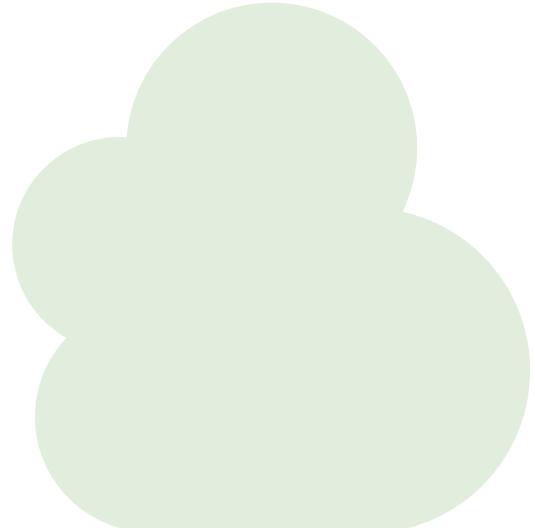
Soil: By adopting the Swiss National Soil Strategy and the revised crop rotation area sectoral plan, the Federal Council has recognised the preservation of intact soils as an important political concern. With this in mind it has instructed the federal authorities to design a nationwide soil mapping programme so that, in a few years' time, it will have the knowledge base needed to deal sustainably with soil as a non-renewable resource.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 15](#)

In the international context

Biodiversity: In the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Switzerland is working towards an ambitious global biodiversity framework for the post-2020 period. This framework should set measurable targets with a standard set of indicators that address the principal causes of biodiversity loss. Switzerland also works towards establishing a more effective reporting and review mechanism that will enable progress on implementation to be assessed and lessons to be learned. Switzerland believes that this new framework should apply to the entire international biodiversity regime, and should strengthen and harness the positive interplay between the various conventions and processes.

Agroecology: Through its international cooperation activities and its membership of international institutions, Switzerland has been promoting agroecology for several years as a decisive element in the transformation to sustainable food systems. It includes promoting agrobiodiversity to safeguard diverse and sustainable agriculture around the world.



Challenges

In the national context



Biodiversity: Cantonal and federal monitoring programmes, scientific research findings and *OECD* reviews show that the means and measures applied to date to preserve biodiversity have been effective to some degree, but are not sufficient to halt the ongoing loss of habitats and species or the deterioration in biological quality.

Ecosystems: Biotopes of national importance in Switzerland include lowland and upland moors, floodplains, amphibian spawning grounds and dry grasslands. Although these areas are strictly protected, their environmental quality has worsened over the past 20 years. This has been caused by high levels of environmental pollution from nitrogen and pesticides, legacy issues in terms of neglected maintenance or a failure to deal with contamination, as well as shortcomings in the way conservation measures are actually implemented. Resilient ecosystems, and especially their capacity to adapt to climate change and sustain biodiversity are crucial to the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources.

Soil: The analysis underlying the Swiss National Soil Strategy revealed that Switzerland is not currently using its soils sustainably, despite the enormous ecological and economic significance of the soil and the services that it provides to Swiss business and society. The reasons for this are complex and are not limited to individual sectors or policy areas.

Cooperation and policy coherence: Protecting, conserving and promoting biodiversity can lead to conflicts of interest with other forms of land use, such as settlement development and agriculture. The achievement of SDG 15 depends first and foremost on the various environmental policy instruments working together, as well as the involvement of all sectors, levels of the federal government and decision-makers in politics, the scientific community and society. For example, there are plans to link the next iteration of Switzerland's agricultural policy even more directly with the goals of the *Swiss Biodiversity Strategy*. The political debate on the future direction of agriculture in Switzerland has not yet concluded.

In the international context



Holistic approach: A whole variety of factors affect biodiversity, and they have an effect on multiple sectors simultaneously. Examples include advancing urbanisation, the overuse of resources and environmental pollution. A better understanding of these causal relationships will be essential to step up Switzerland's engagement in biodiversity conservation and in the restoration of ecosystem functions. This is intrinsically linked with climate action and efforts to promote a healthy and sustainable diet. Switzerland will therefore increase its systemic interventions in the context of its international cooperation work. 'One Health' schemes will take centre stage together with a holistic approach to driving the transformation to sustainable food systems.



In Switzerland more than **30%** of animal and plant species and almost **50%** of habitats at risk. Some **37,400** species around the world are facing extinction.



16PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

SDG 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

SDG 16 demands a reduction in all forms of violence, the end of torture, and action to combat all forms of organised crime. It also calls for a significant decrease in corruption and bribery, and illicit financial and arms flows.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Corruption's perception | Rank 7 of the countries with the lowest corruption in 2021 | Decline of 1 place since 2012



Political participation | 47.3% during the votes in 2019 | +0.6 pp since 2003



Trust in the Federal Council | Mark 7.3 of 10 in 2021 | +1 since 2000



Violent offences | 1,064 victims in 2021 of whom 74% women | +6.5% since 2009



Multilingualism | in daily life 40.7% of the population spoke at least 2 languages in 2019 | +4 pp since 2010



Voluntary work | 41% of the population dedicated time to it in 2020

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 16

Switzerland has transparent and democratic processes, and thus largely meets the target of inclusive and representative decision-making at all levels. The political system is characterised by the decentralisation of power by means of direct democracy, the separation of powers, federalism and the principle of part-time public service.

At the international level, Switzerland supports access to justice and impartial legal systems in its work on dealing with the past, in the fight against impunity, and in efforts to promote the rule of law, for example. Switzerland strengthens local democracy by promoting participatory decision-making processes and reforms to decentralise the political system.

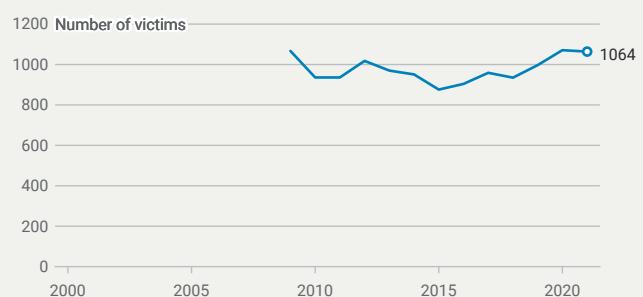
Switzerland helps to promote peaceful and inclusive societies at the international level in particular as it fulfils its international commitments and collaborates on the development and implementation of international standards and partnerships. In its traditional capacity as a neutral state, Switzerland is an active mediator that brings conflicting parties to the negotiating table. It also intervenes to ensure that human rights are respected and that displaced persons and those in situations of armed conflict are protected. Switzerland encourages dialogue and capacity-building for peace and international security in partnership with many organisations, and the three Geneva Centres

specifically: the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance.

Violent offences

Number of victims for completed serious violent offences known to the police

In 2021, 788 women (74%) and 276 men were victims of completed serious violent offences (murder, serious bodily harm, female genital mutilation, violent robbery, hostage-taking and rape).



Data state: 28.03.2022

Source: FSO – Police Crime Statistics (PCS)

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Progress

In the national context



Openness and participation: Progress has been made with a variety of initiatives to make it easier to exercise voting rights and to participate in the democratic process. For example, experiments with electronic voting have resumed with a new focus, and the way in which election and voting documents are sent to Swiss citizens abroad has been improved. The legislative consultation process has also undergone a digital redesign to simplify access and encourage citizens to exercise their participation rights.

Corruption: Adopted in 2020, the *Federal Council's Anti-Corruption Strategy 2021-24*³¹ is a significant milestone in the fight against corruption in Switzerland. It sets a binding framework in the Federal Administration.

Transparency: The Swiss parliament passed the fully amended Data Protection Act, which is intended to improve transparency about the way in which private individuals and public authorities process data, and give the individual more power over what happens with their information. Parliament also adopted an amendment to the Political Rights Act to shed greater light on how politics is financed.

Illicit financial flows: The Swiss government is continually seeking further improvements to the preventive instruments that are provided for in law to combat money laundering, terrorism financing, and tax evasion. It regularly updates its risk analyses in an effort to identify the latest challenges.

In the international context



Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies:

Switzerland contributed to the peaceful resolution of armed conflicts in numerous contexts, including Syria and Colombia. It has also been a factor in peaceful national elections, for example by supporting initiatives such as codes of conduct for political parties and candidates to prevent violence in elections in Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Georgia. Furthermore, Switzerland has encouraged respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law through dialogue with governments and in international bodies such as the *United Nations*.

Asset recovery: As part of its international policy on the repayment of financial assets obtained illegally, Switzerland has been able to recover funds of over CHF 330 million for the benefit of the people of Peru and Nigeria.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 16](#)

Challenges

In the national context



Access to institutions, decision-making processes and information:

Challenges exist in specific areas, such as digital participation in political decision-making processes, and discussions about the composition of the electorate in terms of voting age and the inclusion of people with a mental disability.

In the international context



Illicit financial flows: To reduce the inflow of criminal funds to Switzerland from developing countries, the Swiss government assists them in better managing revenues from the commodities sector, improving tax transparency, building the capacities of tax administrations, preventing tax evasion and combating money laundering and corruption. The automatic exchange of both financial account information and country-specific reports by multinational companies presents a challenge. Many factors stand in the way of its effective implementation. There is a lack of awareness, for example, as well as a lack of political will, capacity, resources and the necessary foundations in law. In sum this means that many developing and newly industrialised countries do not yet meet the set requirements for confidentiality, data security and data protection. Combating illicit financial flows demands a coordinated effort at the international level, and Switzerland is an active member of the forums responsible.

Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies: Attaining this goal depends in many respects on external factors that cannot be controlled directly. Volatile political situations and the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, increase the risk of violent extremism and other forms of violence. Armed conflicts are also on the rise again; they last longer and involve a growing number of parties. This makes resolving them a more complex task. In view of these challenges, security policy and military responses continue to prevail, and investment in preventing the causes of violence is often neglected.



In 2021 Switzerland **ranked 7th** among countries with the **lowest levels of corruption**.
The *Federal Council's Anti-Corruption Strategy 2021-24* is a significant milestone in this regard.





SDG 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

SDG 17 focuses on facilitating sustainable development around the world, and in developing countries specifically. From the Swiss perspective this relates primarily to its commitments as part of its international cooperation work, and to its responsibility to promote positive economic conditions around the world.

Indicators for the monitoring in Switzerland



Official Development Assistance |
0.49% of the gross national income
in 2020 | +0.2 pp since 2000



**Official development assistance for
poor countries** | CHF 997 million
in 2020 | +115% since 2000



Direct investments in developing countries
| CHF 7.751 billion in 2020 | yearly average
of CHF 8.522 billion from 2004 to 2020

Source: FSO – MONET 2030

Switzerland and SDG 17

Switzerland fosters working partnerships between the federal government, the cantons, communes and non-governmental actors, with a particular emphasis on national networks and platforms for dialogue. Policy coherence is furthered by various consultation processes, which include the federal agencies concerned, joint reporting procedures, and public consultations.

Within international finance institutions, *United Nations* organisations and global multi-stakeholder partnerships, Switzerland actively supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Under the umbrella of the World Trade Organisation it also promotes an open and universal trading system that is rules-based, fair and sustainable.

The 2030 Agenda is based on the UN target to set aside 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) for official development assistance (ODA). Switzerland achieved an ODA/GNI ratio in 2021 of 0.51% (2020: 0.49%). The main reasons for this increase were the additional funding dedicated to cushioning the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the humanitarian assistance provided to the Afghan people following the Taliban takeover in August 2021.

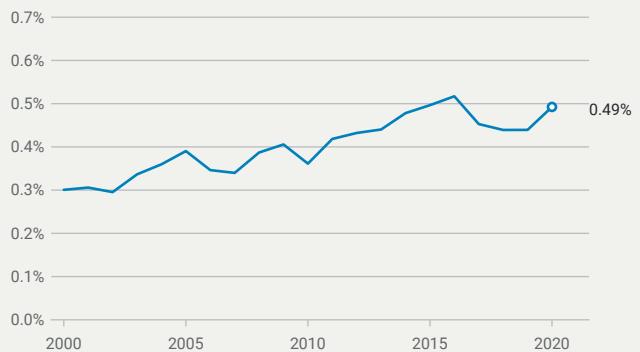
In addition to providing public development aid (APD), an important function of Switzerland's international cooperation is to mobilise tax revenues in developing countries and private-sector resources to alleviate poverty and advance sustainable development. One of the vehicles for this is the *Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets*, which promotes private investment in developing countries.

To enhance North-South and South-South partnerships Switzerland works to create suitable frameworks that facilitate access to knowledge and technology. Appropriate and effective protections for intellectual property are part of this. Switzerland is also committed to achieving the digital transformation in developing countries.

Official Development Assistance

In proportion to gross national income (GNI)

In 2020, official development assistance to the least developed countries (LDCs) amounted to 0.14% of GNI.



Data state: 28.02.2022

Source: SDC; SECO; FSO – National Accounts

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Progress

In the national context



Policy coherence: Within the Federal Administration a new organisational structure was created specifically to implement the 2030 Agenda. This is the *2030 Agenda Steering Committee*, comprising representatives of all government departments and the Federal Chancellery, as well as two delegates from the Federal Council. It represents an important step in improving the coherence of Swiss policy on sustainable development because it covers all three of the latter's dimensions. The *Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs)* parliamentary group was established in 2021. This non-partisan body seeks cross-party solutions to achieving the SDGs that are inclusive and partnership-based.

The *2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS)*¹³² was adopted in June 2021 as a cross-disciplinary strategy that affects all policy areas.



In the international context

Effective development cooperation: As co-chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation from 2019 to 2021 Switzerland helped to improve the quality and impact of international cooperation as a means of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Domestic resource mobilisation: To promote the fair and effective mobilisation of domestic resources in developing countries, Switzerland supports national authorities and institutions with regard to tax revenues. One example is the *Addis Tax Initiative*,¹³³ which aims to improve tax systems in light of recognised gaps in development finance.

Digitalisation and data: Digital technologies are an innovation driver that holds significant potential to implement the 2030 Agenda more efficiently around the world. The *International Cooperation Strategy 2021-24 (IC Strategy 2021-24)*¹³⁴ specifically emphasises this potential for the first time. By organising the UN World Data Forum 2021 in Bern, Switzerland stepped up to advance the global dialogue on the importance of data to sustainable development. Switzerland frequently supports initiatives to build capacity in the cybersecurity field.

Multiplier of positive side-effects

Policy coherence is key to progress with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Effective political action for sustainability demands an inclusive effort across multiple policy areas to minimise trade-offs and make the best possible use of synergies between the individual targets.



Challenges

In the national context



Policy coherence: The *2030 SDS* sets out the framework for Switzerland's implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It can succeed only if global goals are integrated into sectoral policies, conflicts of interest avoided, and individual policies are well coordinated.



In the international context

Policy coherence: Enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development remains a significant challenge, both for Switzerland domestically and for its relationship with other countries. It cannot be achieved without ongoing negotiations and compromises, as well as qualitative assessments and quantitative analyses of the long-term international effects of Swiss policy.

Financing for sustainable development: The COVID-19 pandemic plunged many countries into deep recession, forcing them to realign their priorities as gaps in financing for sustainable development widened. Mounting debt globally, and how to service it, will be one of the biggest challenges to the financial system in the medium term.

Effective development cooperation: Effective international cooperation that supports sustainable development requires better liaison between the various actors concerned, tougher and more applied rules, and the coordinated and strategic selection, planning and monitoring of financed activities, followed up by a proper performance review.

Digitalisation and data: While technological innovation opens up a world of new possibilities, it can also give rise to significant risks, such as cyberattacks. It is therefore important that the set legal frameworks keep up with developments. As an operational platform for the realisation of the 2030 Agenda, International Geneva offers considerable potential to encourage the digitalisation and technology debates towards sustainable development. Furthermore, to measure progress towards the 2030 Agenda more fully, there is an international need for better data and greater statistical capacity in developing countries in particular.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 17](#)



Looking ahead

The global Sustainable Development Goals are ambitious. Achieving them is important because it sets a course for the future, beyond the term of the 2030 Agenda. Many ecosystems are already at or past their capacity boundaries, and economic and social inequalities are widening rather than contracting around the world. The profound impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have caused enormous additional challenges for the international community. This has slowed the implementation of the 2030 Agenda markedly, and even undone some of the achievements to date. Then war broke out in Ukraine, on the European continent, in February 2022. The world is already beginning to feel its effects on energy supplies and food security, but it is too soon to gauge what the longer-term consequences will be for the implementation of sustainability targets in Switzerland, Europe and globally. Despite these complications the Federal Council remains convinced that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides the proper frame of reference by which to overcome these challenges. Peace, in particular, is a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable development.

With this Voluntary National Review and the launch of its sister *SDGital2030.ch* website, Switzerland's aim is to question where and why it has fallen short on implementation, while also giving due credit to its commitments across a broad front, and to the progress that it has achieved. Compared with other countries, Switzerland was able to embark on work towards the 2030 Agenda from a comfortable position in 2016 and since. In areas such as education, healthcare, infrastructure and competitiveness it was and is well on its way. This situation was acknowledged in the 2018 Voluntary National Review. However, Switzerland is still not entirely on track to achieve all of the Goals by 2030, whether in domestic or foreign policy. Much action and coordination is still required, especially in those areas that the Federal Council designated priority topics in its *2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS)*. These are sustainable consumption and sustainable production, climate, energy and biodiversity, and equal opportunities and social cohesion.

Switzerland's activities up to 2030 will therefore concentrate on ensuring the prosperity and well-being of society and on leaving no one behind. However, it has high per-capita resource consumption relative to the international and European mean, and this must be kept within the capacity limits of the world's ecosystems. There must also be a successful transition to sustainable food systems. Furthermore, greenhouse gas emissions must be cut, biodiversity preserved and restored, energy consumption reduced significantly and the use of renewable energies expanded. Switzerland also works to achieve equal opportunities and promote a life of self-determination for all, and has set itself the goal of guaranteeing real equality between women and men.



In Switzerland, sustainable development is a central policy principle at all levels of government. The country's democratic, federalist system offers enormous opportunities to promote and embody diversity. That said, this decentralised approach also requires all levels of government and all sections of society to push together towards the Goals. It will take commitment from all actors, including the cantons and communes, the private sector, civil society, the scientific community and the public. The necessary resources must be made available and the required organisational structures established or expanded to ensure that this commitment translates into action.

Looking ahead to the eight years that remain of the 2030 Agenda, it is clear that the goals can be achieved only with resolute action across all sectoral policies and throughout society. With this in mind, the Sustainable Development Goals must be embedded more firmly in the different areas of policy, strategies and budgets in the years to come, without the systemic overview becoming lost. By setting up the *2030 Agenda Steering Committee*, incorporating the 2030 Agenda into strategies and activities and adopting new rules of procedures for the *2030 Agenda Advisory Group*, the federal government laid important foundations for this work. It intends to uphold and reinforce its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and will adopt a new *2024-27 Action Plan* on the basis of the 2030 SDS reporting on the implementation of these and other measures in the next Voluntary National Review in 2026.

Taking a cross-sectoral approach to the Sustainable Development Goals in the interests of policy coherence remains an important objective to make the most of synergies and mitigate trade-offs. The transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda can be realised only with a systemic mindset, so decision-making processes must be designed accordingly. One-dimensional solutions are simply not up to the task. Closer collaboration between all of the actors concerned can identify areas of reciprocal benefit and develop broadly supported ways of tapping into them. However, for this to succeed the positive and negative impacts on sustainable development of specific action must be reported even more clearly, and a specific effort made to reduce harmful effects. Data and statistical systems enable the various policy areas to develop according to the evidence, and to be coordinated for the good of social, economic and environmental sustainability. Switzerland will continue to work towards a high standard of reliable, current information and to promote national and international data partnerships.

At the international level, the 2030 Agenda continues to guide development cooperation and also plays an important role in sectoral policies. To further extend its impact, its implementation should become an even more important factor in international relations and negotiations in the future.

Alongside sustainable development, digitalisation also necessitates a process of transformation throughout society. There is a close logical link between the two and they will become increasingly inextricable as time progresses. Greater use must therefore be made of digitalisation going forward to further improve the efficiency of the organisational structures and processes needed to implement the 2030 Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has lost none of its urgency. It remains hugely relevant to Switzerland both nationally and internationally. By engaging the whole of society in its implementation, and by submitting its Voluntary National Review to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development every four years, Switzerland clearly demonstrates its intention to be part of a more sustainable world.

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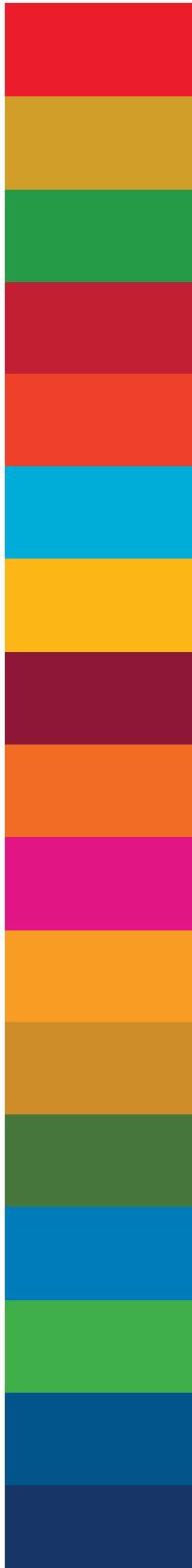
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Abbreviation list

ACCTS	Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability
ACT-A	Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator
AI	Artificial intelligence
APD	Public development aid
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDE	Center for Development and Environment at the University of Bern
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CHF	Swiss francs
CIP	National Strategy for Critical Infrastructure Protection
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
CSDN	Cantonal Sustainable Development Network
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DETEC	Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications
EP2050+	Energy Perspectives 2050+
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FDFA	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
FDP	Free Democratic Party
FSO	Federal Statistical Office
GLP	Green Liberal Party
GNI	Gross national income
HIA	Federal Act on Health Insurance
HLPE	High-Level Panel of Experts
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IAS	Integration Agenda Switzerland
IC	International Cooperation
IDA	International Development Association
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
kg	Kilogram
KJFG	Act on the Promotion of Extracurricular Youth Welfare
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MODI	Federal Mobility Data Infrastructure
NAF	National Highways and Urban Transport Fund
NAP	National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights 2020-23
NCCS	National Centre for Climate Services
NCS	National Strategy against cyber risks
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
RAN2030	Sustainable development framework strategy by the City of Bern
RIF	Rail Infrastructure Fund

R+I	Research and Innovation
SBS	Swiss Biodiversity Strategy
SCORE	Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SP	Social Democratic Party
SPA 1	Spatial Planning Act
SVP	Swiss People's Party
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFSS21	UN Food Systems Summit
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VET	Switzerland's dual vocational education and training system
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WÖB	Knowledge platform for sustainable public procurement
2030 SDS	2030 Sustainable Development Strategy of the federal government
10YFP	One Planet Network



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