

Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



r4d

programme

Unprecedented economic, environmental and societal risks undermine development in poor countries and challenge our way of functioning. The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development provides a road map for moving the world onto a more sustainable and equitable development path. Collaboration across borders, sectors, cultures and disciplines is imperative to ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring well-being for all.

The r4d programme seeks to mobilise the scientific community to support this global endeavour. With their knowledge, curiosity, creativity, scientific methods and independence, researchers are key partners in identifying the causes of poverty and inequalities, and in developing innovative approaches and solutions that can be replicated, shared or scaled up.

Science can have an impact and thus make a difference if stakeholders are provided with evidence, viable options and recommendations for tackling global issues in a more systemic and integrated manner.



Pio Wennubst Assistant Director General, Head of the Global Cooperation Department, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Science and research can play a valuable role in tackling current problems facing society in that they produce knowledge to inform politicians.

We are counting on the outstanding Swiss researchers in the *r*4*d programme to enter into new and closer partnerships* with researchers in Asian, African and Latin American countries in order to help find solutions. The r4d programme is providing the global network with the necessary skills to address the various challenges by combining international and local expertise.

These partnerships between researchers have a great deal of potential for sustainable development to help secure adequate food production, provide accessible health care and create jobs for all, while avoiding social conflicts and preserving the natural environment.



Martin Vetterli President of the National Research Council. Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

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Partnerships for research

Research supports the management of risks in the global economy, environment and society. The r4d programme of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Swiss National Science Foundation finances research partnerships between Switzerland and African, Asian and Latin American countries in order to provide policymakers with scientific and development-relevant knowledge.

FIVE THEMATIC AREAS

Research in the r4d programme focuses on five thematic areas. The themes reflect the strategic priorities of the SDC.

- Social conflicts: How can conflicts be resolved in the context of weak public institutions?
- Employment: What is required in order to bring more people into employment?
- Food security: How can innovation in agriculture be promoted and food supply systems be rendered more resilient?
- Ecosystems: How can ecosystems be managed so that they are able to meet the existing needs.
- **Public health:** Which financing mechanisms are the most suitable for public health systems?
- An additional module includes thematically open research.

There are many obstacles along the path to a sustainable and equitable world. The international community is constantly battling to reduce poverty, manage the risks associated with globalisation and make public goods available to everyone, such as affordable healthcare and a healthy environment. Addressing these global challenges calls for an adequate response, not only from politicians, but also from scientists.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) have joined forces to provide funding for inter- and transdisciplinary research between researchers in Switzerland and in African, Asian and Latin American countries. With the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme), both organisations want to tackle important issues in five thematic areas: social conflicts, employment, food security, ecosystems and public health. These topics reflect the strategic priorities of the SDC. The r4d programme consists of five focused modules, plus a thematically open one.

Together, the SDC and the SNSF are providing almost 98 million Swiss francs for research on global issues. The aim of the ten-year r4d programme (2012 to 2022) is to provide politicians and civil society with scientific knowledge and practical solutions in order to tackle global problems. Up to now (2016) it has awarded grants to 225 group leaders working together in 41 projects based in 42 countries. In each case, a Swiss institution has to act as lead applicant.

Towards development-relevant research results

The scientific quality of the projects and their relevance for development are equally important criteria for the selection process. The projects have to involve at least one research group from an African, Asian or Latin American country. Researchers in the r4d programme work together on an interdisciplinary basis. Stakeholders in the researched topics are closely integrated right from the start. The focus of the projects can be steered to their needs throughout the research phase, thus greatly facilitating the joint creation and dissemination of knowledge.

Review panels comprising international experts supervise the research conducted in the r4d programme. They evaluate the

preliminary as well as the finalised proposals and monitor the ongoing projects. The National Research Council of the SNSF and its Presiding Board take the final funding decisions. The Steering Committee comprising members from the SDC and the SNSF manages and supervises the programme at the strategic level, while the Programme Management at the SNSF is responsible at the operational level.

The r4d programme will conclude with reports synthesising the results of the research groups targeted at various communities in science, politics, economy and civil society.

For more information please visit: www.r4d.ch

R4D PROGRAMME: FACTS AND FIGURES

Budget 97.6 million Swiss francs

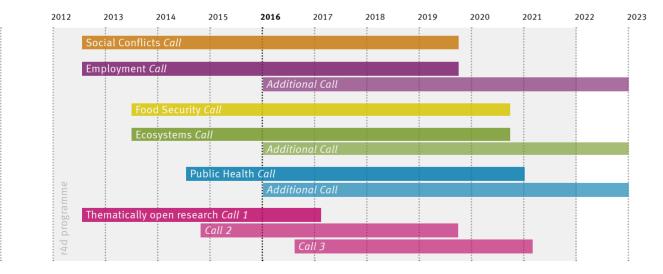
2012-2022

Funding agencies

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC): 72 million Swiss francs

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF): 25.6 million Swiss francs

Projects



TIMELINE OF THE R4D PROGRAMME

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

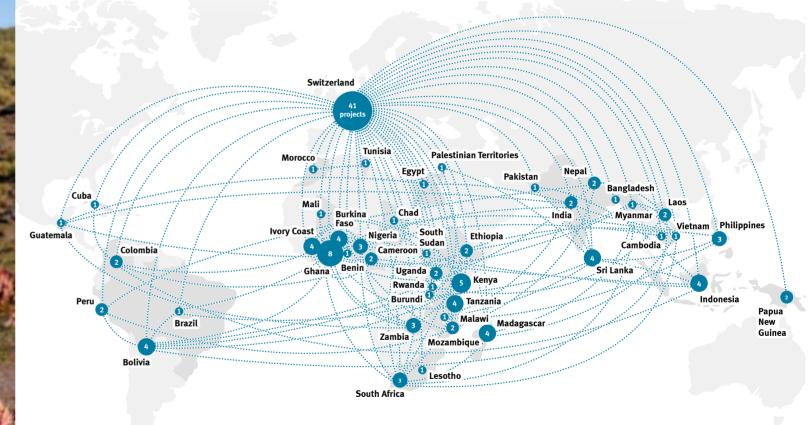
The r4d programme promotes sustainable development, and its main objectives are as follows:

- To generate scientific knowledge and research-based solutions for reducing poverty and global risks in African. Asian and Latin American countries.
- To provide national and international stakeholders with methods and options for finding integrated, holistic approaches to solving problems linked to issues of global importance.
- To enhance scientific skills and know-how in dealing with the complexity of global problems for the benefit of societies in African. Asian and Latin American countries.



armers harvesting quinoa in the Bolivian Altiplano. Iobal demand for the crop changes income and employment pportunities dramatically.

Global research network





Solving conflicts by strengthening institutions

When countries undergo serious political transformation or have just ended wars, their public institutions are usually weak. To solve the accompanying social conflicts, new ways have to be found that integrate the relevant players.

For the healthy development of societies it is essential for them to resolve their conflicts. To be able to deal with these in a constructive way and minimise human suffering, they need to have highly legitimate, strong and functional institutions. Fragile states lack such institutions.

The aim of the research in the r4d programme is to find new integrated ways of understanding crises stemming from serious conflicts. These are not sufficiently taken care of and processed by institutions due to their imperfect functioning or even complete absence. These crises can have national, regional and also global impacts, and this



makes research into institutions and policies highly relevant when it comes to dealing with social conflicts.

Inclusion of players from different sides

Understanding social conflicts relating to fragility requires better knowledge of many fundamental, unanswered problems. The initial causes of fragility, and its links to organised political violence and increasing conflicts over territories and resources, need to be addressed.

It is important to understand how societies can end decades of violent and non-institutionalised conflict and



A genocide memorial in Burundi acts as a reminder of past atrocities. Its message: "Never again".



An Ethiopian researcher speaks during a workshop on the comparative examination for ethnic conflict management.

reconstruct their institutions through democratisation and social inclusion. Taking into account the involved players' different perspectives and perceptions of the same situation, and incorporating diverse reframing of the past and the future, research can facilitate the process of democratic reconstruction.

There is still a lack of empirical and comparative evidence to develop pathways for institution building and evidencebased policies to tackle the challenges posed by state fragility and violent conflict. The r4d programme brings together researchers from a wide range of disciplines to fill this knowledge gap with new approaches and tools.

JOURNALISTS THIRSTY FOR RESULTS

Researchers often have to push hard in order to transfer their knowledge to society, but Hamid Ali from the American University in Cairo recently experienced a reversed situation: at a workshop for stakeholders in New Cairo in October 2015, journalists and civil society organisations from Sudan and South Sudan were explicitly asking for research results. The critical analysis of their conflicts helps civil society groups, media and scholars in the region. Ethnic and conflict studies, as well as comparisons with other crisis areas, provide greatly appreciated outside views of their situation. Ethiopian worker at a furniture workshop in Addis Ababa encountered during a project site visit in October 2015.



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Creating job opportunities

A successful transition from a subsistence economy towards a more productive society employing a large number of people has to overcome a variety of challenges. Here, traditional values need to be adapted and the effects of globalisation have to be moderated.

The ability to earn an income is the key issue for a better life for most people in African, Asian and Latin American countries. Research within the r4d programme aims to generate knowledge for policymakers in national governments and international organisations about how to create more jobs and better income, especially for poor and marginalised populations.

Creating sustainable employment in African, Asian and Latin American countries is a challenging task in several respects. Investors for the foundation of new companies are hard to find, and tax revenues for governments are scarce. Modern market rules have only been established to a limited extent in many countries. At the same time, basic infrastructure for water supply, transport and the supply of electricity is often of poor quality, as are public services in many cases.

RESEARCH ON EMPLOYMENT

- 1. Which economic, political and social conditions are favourable for the creation of gainful employment?
- 2. Which kinds of technical, political and social innovation are able to support more productive employment?
- 3. How does employment affect society, the economy and the environment?
- 4. What are the risks and opportunities of globalisation for employment in African, Asian and Latin American countries?

In many African, Asian and Latin American countries, 80% or more of the population live on a subsistence economy – mainly agriculture. The available human resources are ill-prepared for a transition to modern forms of employment and production. Better education and training is crucial in order to make potential employees more attractive for companies. Traditional values, people's behaviour and social structures often impede the fair division of labour between men and women, and the employment of social and regional minorities.

Using the opportunities offered by globalisation

To increase the degree of gainful employment and bring about higher productivity, a high level of legal certainty and an open labour market are essential, but they both represent challenges for governments with regard to the definition of national policies and their implementation at the regional and local levels.



Small companies such as this steel factory in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, offer employment opportunities.

Globalisation opens up opportunities for employment in some industries, while certain domestic sectors suffer from global competition. And during economic crises, swift responses often neglect the natural environment and disregard the negative impacts of implemented measures on local culture. In such situations, it is important to carefully consider the various needs.

The r4d programme's research projects aim to identify the social and political conditions that are necessary for driving the supply of, and demand for, labour and increasing the rural population's participation in the labour markets of the country's involved. The proposed measures also have to balance the positive and the negative effects of globalisation.

In Nepal, employment is mainly found overseas, and only for young people. A Dalit woman in Pokhara explains to a researcher how the elderly manage.



FROM COFFEE COOPERATIVES TO THE ILO

Researchers involve the various stakeholders at both the local and the global level. Empirical studies carried out by Heinzpeter Znoj and his colleagues from the University of Bern are examining the hands-on expertise of small farmers in the Bolaven Plateau Coffee Producers Cooperative in Laos. The intricacies in multinational negotiations for better working conditions are best known to the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The research groups led by Joseph Francois at the World Trade Institute in Bern and Marcelo Olarreaga from the University of Geneva hold periodical meetings with the ILO. The different focal points reveal that modernisation does not simply involve the passage from unemployment to employment, but also has to take account of a wide range of informal and formal types of employment, as well as the subsistence economy.

Two women clear prosopis shrubs along the Awash River in Ethiopia. Invasive woody species affect ecosystems and their benefits.

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Driving innovation in agriculture

Growing populations and a changing climate require increased food production in order to meet future demand. Agriculture in African, Asian and Latin American countries has to innovate at all levels in order to ensure a high resilience of the world food system.

Ensuring that the world is able to feed its huge population nutritiously and sustainably is a fundamental task for the global community. Without access to safe and nutritious foods, societies in African, Asian and Latin American countries cannot fulfil their potential. Projects within the r4d programme aim to improve agricultural production by stimulating innovation and finding new ways for transferring knowledge from research into practice.

Less land for more food

There are various challenges facing the global food system. The world's population is expected to reach nine billion by 2040 – 30 per cent more than today. This requires a corresponding increase in agricultural output. At the same time, the diets of people in African, Asian and Latin American countries are changing in response to growing incomes

RESEARCH ON FOOD SECURITY

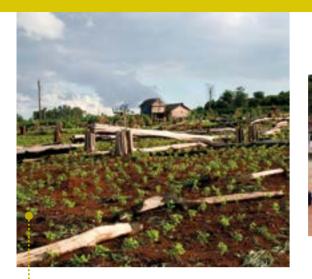
- 1. Which conditions are required for the sustainable agricultural production of food?
- 2. How can the resilience of food systems be increased?
- 3. How can the transfer of agricultural innovations into use be facilitated?
- 4. Which policies are required for the future world food system?

and urbanisation, with increasing demand for meat and dairy products, which in turn calls for the increased production of animal feed for livestock.

Apart from increased consumption, external pressures also threaten food security. The competition for fertile land, combined with dwindling water resources for irrigation, is rendering the task of food production ever more difficult. In addition, extreme weather events and high climatic variability – some of which may be related to climate change – add to the complexity.

Environmentally friendly intensification

To overcome the various challenges, the level of agricultural yield has to be increased without harming the natural environment and social structures. The resilience of the



A family farm plot marks presence for securing land rights. It is situated in the midst of forest remnants and largescale plantations in the Cambodian Ratanakiri province.

overall food system needs to be improved so that minor problems cannot trigger a regional or global crisis.

The main aims of the research projects are to identify the barriers to changing agricultural practices and provide alternative ways for organising the food system. Opportunities for innovation at the farm level and for investments in the value chain are being closely examined.

The successful implementation of new practices needs to include all stakeholders: farmers and agricultural advisers, civil society and the private sector, men and women. To reinforce the human right to food, the research projects aim to propose new agricultural and rural development policies. The fair distribution of food, preventing harvest losses and avoiding food wastage are the main priorities. Farmer's market organised by the Bolivian producer-consumer network "Plataforma Agroecológica" in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.



PLATFORMS FOR FARMERS AND RESEARCHERS

When researchers propose solutions for improving agriculture, their advice is often not put into practice – for a variety of reasons. To better understand the barriers to knowledge transfer, innovation platforms are a practical tool for all stakeholders to identify the needs of each party and to develop opportunities, scenarios and pathways. In the YAMSYS project, for example, a group led by Emmanuel Frossard at the ETH Zurich, is discussing ways to improve the cultivation of yams in order to increase yield and income for farmers, on two innovation platforms in Ivory Coast and two in Burkina Faso. Andreas Fliessbach from the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in Switzerland and his research partners are using innovation platforms in Ghana, Mali, Kenya and Zambia in their ORM4soil project in order to find acceptable ways for farmers to manage the fertility of their soils.



Large-scale deforestation, such as in Indonesia, marks the transformation of landscapes for expanding oil palm plantations.

Managing the natural environment

Human well-being depends on the ability to harness the benefits provided by ecosystems. The r4d programme is looking for ways in which people in African, Asian and Latin American countries can continue to benefit from ecosystems in order to increase their prosperity without destroying the environment.

Ecosystems provide various benefits for society, ranging from fertile soils and clean water and air through to genetic resources for biomedical and agricultural use. But over-exploitation of natural resources can quickly impact those who depend on them. Excessive water use and soil erosion caused by deforestation can push millions of people back into poverty. Researchers involved in the r4d programme are setting out to identify new and innovative options to reverse the destruction of ecosystems as well as new pathways for the sustainable management of natural resources.

Nature has been heavily exploited

Over the past 100 years, as the global population has increased and people's incomes have risen, humans have influenced the quality of the world's ecosystems. The massive increase in demand for natural resources has placed many ecosystems under considerable pressure. The impacts have

RESEARCH ON ECOSYSTEMS

- 1. Which are the drivers of change in ecosystems?
- 2. What benefits do ecosystems provide in African, Asian and Latin American countries?
- 3. How can the economic, social and environmental benefits of ecosystems be harnessed?
- 4. How can ecosystems be managed sustainably?

been dramatic: irreversible soil and water loss, the extinction of numerous species, as well as irreparable damage to some of the most beautiful places on earth.

For many years, humans were able to exploit nature while causing little overall damage, and many industrialised countries owe their wealth to such exploitation. But today, things have changed and pressures on our ecosystems are now much greater. This is especially the case in African, Asian and Latin American countries that rely more directly on ecosystems for their wealth and livelihoods. In addition, climate change may affect the natural conditions of ecosystems.

Need for mutually supportive policies and actions

In order to secure well-being throughout the world, countries have to reverse the degradation of natural resources and restore them. While this is a challenge even in high-



Forest boundaries have to meet local development aspirations, as well as global supply demands.

income countries, it can become a major problem for lowerincome countries that have weak institutions and inadequate information systems. Paradoxically, the future wealth of these countries will very much depend on their ability to manage their natural resources prudently.

The r4d programme combines research with the activities of development workers. By doing so it aims to help policymakers, farmers, land owners and companies understand the key drivers of ecosystem change. This forms the basis for the development of new policies and practices that can dramatically improve outcomes.

The success of improved management strategies does not depend on one single factor, but rather on a combination of mutually reinforcing policies. What is required is a judicious mix of global, regional and national actions.



GAMES TO INVOLVE MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS

Oil palm plantations are one of the main reasons for the loss of large areas of rainforest. The OPAL project is bringing stakeholders such as oil palm growers, government employees, NGOs and companies in Indonesia, Cameroon and Colombia together around a table to play a specially designed board game. The group led by Jaboury Ghazoul from ETH Zurich presents them with a virtual situation depicting plantations alongside rainforests that are traversed by waterways and irrigation channels where they can simulate the effects of their decisions. By iteratively and communally playing this game, various scenarios for the future management of oil palm plantations can be explored and defined.



Financing an evolving public health system

An increasing number of players are entering in public health systems in African, Asian and Latin American countries. The r4d programme aims to identify new ways of improving these systems and financing mechanisms in such complex contexts.

Health care is central to poverty reduction and an essential precondition for, and outcome of, sustainable development. An effective and efficient health care system is crucial for ensuring social security, economic stability and peace. Sustaining efforts to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health and combat diseases such as AIDS and malaria calls for innovative solutions. Increasing costs, changing disease patterns and inadequate health care systems are additional challenges to improving the level of public health. The r4d programme is setting out to design evidence-based policies for improving public health.

New players are now contributing to efforts aimed at Treating more diseases with fewer resources improving global health. Emerging economies such as There are numerous challenges along the path to improved Brazil, India, China and South Africa are acting as bilateral global health. Health care systems in African, Asian and donors. Philanthropic foundations such as the Bill and Latin American countries tend to be inadequate, the wealth Melinda Gates Foundation are launching new research gap within and between countries is widening and populaprojects, and pharmaceutical companies are developing tion figures are on the rise in many countries. an interest in new markets. At the same time, civil society

RESEARCH ON PUBLIC HEALTH

- 1. Which are the key steps towards an inclusive health care system in African. Asian and Latin American countries?
- 2. Which conditions are necessary in order to guarantee equitable access to health care?
- 3. How can gains in health care be sustained while populations continue to grow?
- 4. How can health care systems be adapted to emerging communicable and non-communicable diseases?

And now, new threats are being added to the already high burden of disease. Examples here include the emergence of Ebola, the Zika virus and antibiotic-resistant strains of tuberculosis. In addition, non-infectious diseases (often referred to as "non-communicable diseases") – for example, diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and cancer – are on the rise in African. Asian and Latin American countries due to changes in lifestyle and an ageing population.

Managing complex architectures



Floods deposited silt and mud in front of this house in the Philippines. For an elderly person with mobility aids it is difficult to enter and leave the house.



After a stroke that paralysed her body, this grandmother is left alone in the house when everyone goes off to work or school.

groups are lobbying for greater participation and increased efficiency in the health care sector.

The increasing number of players is driving innovation, but at the same time can also lead to a fragmentation of efforts. Together with the other challenges, this new architecture requires better coordination between the various organisations and countries.

In this context, the question is how to provide health care services in an efficient and effective manner with limited resources and without excluding poor and marginalised populations. The r4d research projects aim to propose new policies and forms of intervention for decision-makers in order to alleviate the economic pressures and improve the standard of health care.

CONDUCTING FAIR MEDICAL RESEARCH

..... Research projects often focus on delivering products rather than on building sustainable health care systems that address the needs and concerns of people in African, Asian and Latin American countries. To raise awareness of the importance of fair collaborative partnerships - not only in medical research – the r4d programme invited the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) to conduct a workshop for r4d researchers in Bern. On 27 March 2015 Carel Ijesselmuiden and colleagues provided insights into practical tools developed by COHRED with the goal of generating fairer outcomes in research partnerships.

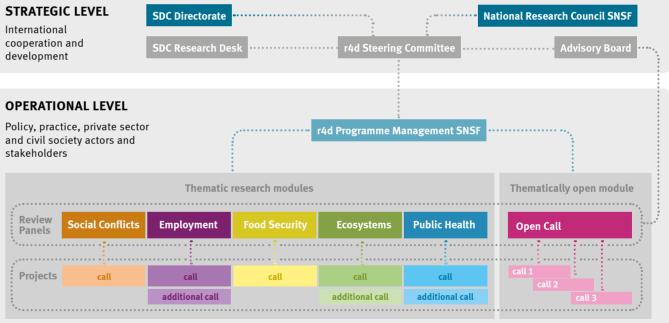
Organisation of the r4d programme

The r4d programme is a cooperation between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). Its six research modules are supervised by review panels comprising international experts, who evaluate the project proposals and monitor the projects. The National Research Council of the SNSF is responsible for taking the final funding decisions, and the Steering Committee and Programme Management are respectively responsible for the strategic and operational management of the programme. The Advisory Board is composed of the review panel presidents.

STRATEGIC LEVEL

cooperation and

SDC Directorate		 •••	•••	•••	•	• •	•	•	• •	•	•••	•••
SDC Research De	sk	 	• •	• •		• •						



Members of the review panels

Fifty international experts are involved in the r4d programme for the purpose of carrying out evaluation and monitoring tasks.

SOCIAL CONFLICTS MODULE

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Seasonal employment, labour exchange or self-sufficiency: a mother collects sticks for climbing beans, an important export product in Rwanda.



THE R4D PROGRAMME IN A NUTSHELL

By providing scientific knowledge, the r4d programme supports policymaking in the area of global development.

A network of 41 projects carried out between researchers in Switzerland and in African, Asian as well as Latin American countries is focussing on social conflicts, employment, food security, ecosystems and public health.

The programme is a joint funding initiative between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).



Together they are providing a budget of 97.6 million Swiss francs over 10 years.

www.r4d.ch