

Learning 360° - Learning for Change and Resilience

International Programme 2021 – 2024

Fact Sheet

INTERACTION and three member organizations – Food for the Hungry, The Leprosy Mission and Morija – are realizing a joint programme, “**Learning 360**”, with the aim of **strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable** in 8 countries of the global South. Acknowledging the link between global North and South, the programme also strives to sensitize Swiss Christians about global sustainability, poverty and justice issues. A holistic and multi-layered programmatic approach addresses poverty and injustice through an education-learning lens focusing on the human right to education.

Where?

The programme is being implemented in 8 developing countries. In Sub-Saharan Africa, programme countries include **Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Togo** and **Uganda**. In South Asia, the programme implements activities in **Bangladesh**. Except for Togo, all countries are characterized as fragile states, whereas 3 are characterized as extremely fragile according to the OECD¹. Furthermore, sensitization work is being implemented all over **Switzerland**.

Map of Sub-Saharan Africa



Map of South Asia



For whom?

The programme reaches **500'000 individuals in the global South**, specifically targeting some of the most vulnerable, hard to reach and marginalized people in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, also referred to as Agenda 2030)² to leave no one behind. By enhancing existing resilience of local people, a significant learning-related change process is triggered.

¹ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, 2018), States of Fragility 2018, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264302075-en>.

² United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, Agenda 2030), <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>.

In the **global North**, the programme raises awareness among more than **200'000 Swiss Christians** on SDGs as well as global justice and poverty issues through the StopPoverty campaign³. Different dimensions of sustainable development, their interconnectedness and the North-South link are brought to the attention of the Swiss target group.

What?

The intervention strategy functions along **6 education-learning dimensions** (see graph to the right). Basic education and vocational training activities are part of integrated approaches ensuring a suitable learning environment for children and the disadvantaged. Education is seen as a cross-cutting issue in non-educational interventions. WASH and Health programming go hand in hand with thoroughly educating service seekers. The StopPoverty campaign⁴ sensitizes in Switzerland. Learning between development and humanitarian organizations is facilitated among 36 INTERACTION members. This holistic approach is realized by **inducing 5 interrelated outcomes contributing to 11 SDGs**.



Outcome 1: Basic living conditions of marginalised groups are improved through an educative approach across sectors.



Basic living conditions for rural communities, people affected by Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs, such as leprosy and lymphatic filariasis), persons with disability as well as conflict-affected and displaced communities are improved in three areas: food security, healthcare and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).



Covering basic needs is essential in order to achieve learning outcomes. The programme fosters the implementation of educative content across different non-education sectors. This combined approach brings more resilience to vulnerable groups in fragile contexts.

In the field of WASH, constructing and maintaining sanitary facilities and safe water points is complemented with the necessary trainings to ensure adequate maintenance. By setting up community-led WASH management committees, sustainability of the interventions is ensured. Covering basic healthcare needs is stressed by operating health facilities in Bangladesh and Burkina Faso, while several nutrition centres in Burkina Faso support the physical and cognitive development

³ More on the StopPoverty campaign in the German part of Switzerland can be found here: www.stoparmut.ch. More on the campaign in the Swiss French part here: www.stoppauvrete.ch.

⁴ Ibid.

of children, ensuring the preconditions of early childhood development. Thorough awareness-raising on improved health behaviour accompanies these activities.

Outcome 2: Opportunities for quality education have increased for marginalised children and young people.



Quality basic education for all is a fundamental human right. This outcome emphasizes conflict-affected, disabled and stigmatized children, children from minority groups, and especially girls from poor households living in rural areas, who tend to be among the most marginalized and hardest to reach.

The programme supports students from leprosy-affected families in Bangladesh at primary, secondary and university level. To increase the quality at schools in Burkina Faso and Chad, teachers are coached on active pedagogy. In these countries, the programme ensures that education can be provided in safe, secure and hygienic conditions which in turn foster learning and increase school attendance of girls. Further, it ensures that schools have safe and clean drinking water, sanitary latrines, a proper waste-water system, menstrual hygiene facilities and a school garden in order to teach students about sustainable agriculture and the circularity of the environment.

Outcome 3: Resilience capacities of vulnerable groups are strengthened through lifelong learning and increased participation.



To foster resilience in food production, an agroecological transition of small rural farming families, facing land degradation and effects of climate change, are induced in Burkina Faso, Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Togo and Uganda. In order to scale-up agroecological techniques, smallholder farmers are coached as promoters of the practices.



In Burkina Faso and Chad, women's economic resilience is strengthened by establishing savings groups that serve as insurances, enhance access to loans for investing into their businesses and eventually as a source of empowerment for women. By being able to access credits, women-led micro businesses are strengthened. In Bangladesh, vocational skills

are enhanced, which in turn leads to labor market integration of leprosy-affected people. The market environment is engaged to be more inclusive.

In fragile contexts, civil society organizations need to be empowered to have a stronger engagement in public space and a voice that can be heard by political representatives. Key civil society organizations are strengthened to promote the rights of disabled people, right to water and sanitation, right to access quality education and the right to climate justice.



Outcome 4: Christians demonstrate an increased commitment towards SDGs and global poverty issues and advocate for justice and peace in civil society as active catalysts for change.

To ensure holistic programming, the work in the global South is complemented with awareness raising on SDGs as well as global justice and poverty issues. Only by changing the mindset, attitudes and ultimately the behavioural patterns in the North, global sustainable development as defined in the Agenda 2030 can be achieved.



Whereas outcomes 1 - 3 are implemented by INTERACTION's partners, this outcome is implemented by INTERACTION in coordination with members through the StopPoverty campaign. The campaign addresses 200'000 evangelical Christians in Switzerland through different sensitization channels and materials, such as the Just People course, the Eco Church Network and the annual Stop Poverty conference, among others. It also taps into multipliers by inducing and supporting independent StopPoverty regional groups and churches taking up activities independently.

Outcome 5: INTERACTION is a stronger centre of expertise in faith-based international cooperation.



INTERACTION is strengthened as a resource and expertise centre for its 36 member organisations. Partners with stronger institutional and programmatic features bring more effectiveness towards the realisation of the Agenda 2030. Hence, the programme strives to strengthen the effectiveness and efficacy of INTERACTION members by offering needs-based training opportunities and coaching sessions. Through learning and working groups, exchange between INTERACTION members on contemporary topics in the development cooperation and humanitarian aid sector is fostered. Sharing best practices and lessons learned from activities of INTERACTION members ensures all profit from the experience made. Under this outcome, INTERACTION operates an Innovation Fund which co-funds member's initiatives in the global South.



Who implements?

Food for the Hungry Switzerland

Food for the Hungry Switzerland (FH) is a Christian association, founded in 1996, and based in Geneva. FH

Switzerland is part of the international network of Food for the Hungry organizations and a member of the Geneva Federation for Cooperation (FGC). FH Switzerland's mission is to fight against hunger and poverty together with communities, leaders and families. To treat the problem of hunger and poverty at the root, programmes focus on the following domains: agriculture, education, health, income generating activities and strengthening of civil organizations.



More information: <http://www.fh-switzerland.ch>

The Leprosy Mission Switzerland

The Leprosy Mission Switzerland was founded in 1905 and is part of The Leprosy Mission Fellowship, a global federation of

31 Leprosy Mission national organisations. The Leprosy Mission Switzerland works in partnership with the Fellowship and people affected by leprosy to implement projects in five partner countries: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Democratic Republic of Congo and Niger. TLM works with people marginalized by leprosy or disability, leading out of illness and poverty into an independent and dignified life. In Switzerland, it raises public awareness about leprosy and themes related to it, such as poverty, exclusion and development, and offers Swiss people the opportunity to support people affected by leprosy or disabilities and their families.



More information: <https://www.lepramission.ch>

Morija

Morija is a humanitarian aid and development cooperation organization founded in 1979, aiming at providing assistance to

vulnerable populations, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa. The NGO provides support, working in close collaboration with local partners sharing its values. Morija pursues its goals in the areas of nutrition, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), health, education and rural development. Morija is currently involved in 4 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa: Burkina Faso, Togo, Chad and Cameroon.



More information: <https://en.morija.org>



How much?

The budget over the period **2021 - 2024** amounts to almost **25.7 million Swiss Francs**.⁵

Who co-funds?

In addition to INTERACTION and the three implementing partners, the programme is co-funded by the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC**, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs at approximately 40%.⁶



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

And who is INTERACTION?

INTERACTION is the **umbrella of 36 Christian (faith-based) development cooperation and humanitarian aid organisations** working in over 100 countries. INTERACTION functions as the competence and resource centre of the Swiss Evangelical Alliance (SEA) in the fields of international development cooperation, humanitarian aid and Swiss-based sensitization work. INTERACTION represents the interests of its members towards different bodies and fosters sustainable development projects in the global South. Altogether, INTERACTION's members implemented projects worth around 200 million Swiss francs in 2020.

More information: <https://www.interaction-schweiz.ch> | <https://www.stoparmut.ch> | <https://www.stoppauvrete.ch>

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⁵ The budget is subject to change, and hence only indicative. For 2021 – 2022 an amount of CHF 12.5 million is approved.

⁶ SDC funding is secured for 2021 and 2022. No SDC funds are used for sensitization work in Switzerland (outcome 4).