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Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

Diplomatic Relations

- Switzerland established diplomatic relations with Pakistan in 1949, which have always been cordial and constructive. The Embassy of Switzerland covers both Pakistan and Afghanistan. Under the supervision of the Embassy, an office of the Swiss Development Cooperation has been present in Kabul (please visit their [website](#) for more information).

Recent activities of the Embassy included:

- During the last year's flood, the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit repaired 11 schools, eight suspension bridges and 16 water distribution systems in the Swat Valley.
- In December last year, the Government of Switzerland contributed US \$5.6 million to UNHCR to address the education and livelihood needs of refugees and host communities in Pakistan for over four years.
- A joint event was held under the Science Diplomacy Initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on agricultural technologies related innovations for sustainable agriculture in August 2021. Swiss and Pakistani start-ups, experts from major universities in Switzerland and Pakistan also joined the event.
- The 11th round of the Bilateral Political Consultations between the two countries was held in Islamabad in November 2021.
- The Embassy organized an event to promote inter-faith harmony in Pakistan through fine arts in collaboration with the Implementation of Minority Rights Forum (IMRF) and the Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (SPADO) at the Governor's House in Lahore in February 2022.

Investments by Swiss companies

- Switzerland has been one of the top 3 foreign direct investors in Pakistan after China and the USA. Switzerland's net inward equity position as of 2021 stands at USD 3 billion.
- All major Swiss companies operating in the sectors of food and beverages, energy, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and textile machineries are present in Pakistan employing around 15'000 people.

Bilateral Trade

- According to the latest figures, the bilateral aggregate trade volume between Switzerland and Pakistan is around USD 536 million.

Exports from Switzerland to Pakistan 2022

Pharmaceuticals	42%
Machines	16%
Dyeing Extracts	10%
Watches	10%
Chemicals	9%

Imports from Pakistan to Switzerland 2022

Textiles	77%
Leather Articles	6%
Agro-Products	9%

Economic Cooperation

- In the framework of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) of the World Bank, Switzerland as a bilateral creditor extended debt-relief to Pakistan.
- Switzerland takes the problem of illicit financial flows very seriously. In 2021, Switzerland started to exchange information on financial accounts with Pakistan. The exchange took place within the framework of the global standard on the automatic exchange of information (AEOI).

Swiss Business Council

Established in 2008 in Karachi, Pakistan, the Swiss Business Council (SBC) has worked together with Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) to improve trade and business linkages between the two countries. SBC also facilitate fact-finding missions of Swiss SME's to visit Pakistan to explore the potential for investment and trade.

Education

Since 2012, Switzerland offers yearly Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships for qualified Pakistani researchers. Around 40 young Pakistanis have to date availed this scholarship. See more information at [Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships](#).

Development Health and Social Activities

- From 1963 to 2017, the Swiss official development assistance to Pakistan amounted to roughly USD 750 million.
- After the phasing-out of the activities of the Swiss Agency of Development and Cooperation by the end of 2019, the Swiss development assistance is continuing through the Sectoral (Global) Programs and through the Multilateral Partners. Also, small development projects in remote areas continued e.g. in Chani Ragyul (Gilgit-Baltistan).
- Recently, the Embassy of Switzerland implemented a project called "Farmers to Farmers Learning" for the Honey Bee Keepers of District Karak, KP and Gilgit-Baltistan for building common understanding of cooperation between these two honey bee associations.
- Switzerland is member of the core group for the support platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) of UNHCR in Pakistan, where particular emphasis is placed on education programs.
- During the Covid-19 crisis, Switzerland continued its support. In July 2020, the Embassy of Switzerland donated 2,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) suits to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). In addition, Switzerland has been the 10th largest donor of vaccines to Pakistan under COVAX.