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Kyrgyzstan - Switzerland: Cooperation Programme 2022 – 2025



Foreword



Dear readers,

Thank you for your interest in our activity in Kyrgyzstan! Let me briefly tell you about the Swiss engagement!

Switzerland and Kyrgyzstan cultivate good diplomatic relations, which began shortly after Kyrgyzstan's independence. This was further reinforced when Kyrgyzstan joined the same voting group at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. Switzerland opened its embassy in 2012 and started consular services for the benefit of persons living in Kyrgyzstan and Swiss visiting Kyrgyzstan.

Switzerland has a large development program in Kyrgyzstan with more than USD 20 million per year. Since 1994, Switzerland has granted more than CHF 450 million in the form of technical, financial and humanitarian support to help improve the well-being of the population. The new Swiss Cooperation Programme for the period of 2022-2025 allocates more than CHF 80 million to Kyrgyzstan.

- 1992 - Establishment of diplomatic relations
- 1994 - Signing of cooperation agreement
- 1996 - Opening of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Kyrgyzstan
- 2012 - Opening of the Swiss Embassy in Kyrgyzstan

Switzerland is committed to continuing supporting the efforts of the Kyrgyz government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to improve the life of its citizens, promote democracy and human rights.

In this brochure you will find more information about the three domains we are working in and the Swiss projects currently being implemented in Kyrgyzstan.

Sincerely,

Dr. Olivier Bangerter
Ambassador of Switzerland to the Kyrgyz Republic

Achievements



Jointly with the Kyrgyz government and implementing partners, Switzerland has been able to successfully **reinforce national** development efforts in Kyrgyzstan. Here are some examples.



EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Switzerland provided support to improve the business climate. More than 3'500 small and medium enterprises improved their performance thanks to **aid** received. One of the development projects supported by the Swiss government back to mid-90s was transformed into successful private business "Suit Bulak" (operating under the trademark "Dairy Spring") owned by Swiss investor and local farmers.

WATER, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE. Switzerland assisted more than 450 water user associations to improve water accounting and distribution to water users. Switzerland **helped** about 1.5 million citizens in Bishkek, Karakol, Kant, Naryn, Osh and Jalal-Abad cities to have access to drinking water and wastewater services. Switzerland continues to **support** the efforts of authorities to manage all the sources of water at different levels, which allows to cope with climate change as well.

GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS AND DECENTRALIZATION. Switzerland provided **support** to improve access to quality public services. Now citizens can actively participate in budgetary processes at local level and influence decision-making processes. This **helped** over 500'000 people in 76 municipalities to benefit from improvements in pre-school and school facilities, better drinking water provision and solid waste management, renovated street lightening, education services for children with special needs, improvements in the area of recreation, sports and culture.

HEALTH. Switzerland provided **support** to the national budget for health. Thanks to this and other support, people in Kyrgyzstan now have free access to the basic services provided by primary health care system. More than 300 health facilities implement the hospital acquired infection control system and manage the medical waste according to the standards. Qualification of medical professionals is constantly increasing and contributing to the gradual improvement of the health care services. The primary health care system is better managing chronic diseases in collaboration with the Village Health Committees, which improved health literacy and healthier behaviour of the population.

ARTS AND CULTURE. Switzerland **contributed** to the diversity of cultural expressions and **supported** up to 10 local and international cultural events annually. Bishkek Jazz Festival, Bir Duino Documentary Film Festival, Dostuk Children's Festival through music concerts, film screenings, theatre performances and exhibitions provided access to cultural creativity in the capital and in the regions for over 6000 people annually.

Domains of the Cooperation Programme 2022-2025



Inclusive and sustainable economic development

Private sector is the backbone of economic development, growth and job creation. **Switzerland backs** the efforts of the private sector to increase its resilience by improved legislation and to improve the business climate.

Therefore, **Switzerland supports** the inclusive and sustainable economic development in the country. We **assist** businesses to have a greater access to capital, business services and skilled labour force. It **helps** to increase export and performance in textile, tourism, agri-business sectors and short term skills development. Among many others, **Switzerland supports** the training center for sewing operators in the garment industry, destination organizations in the Issyk-Kul region and farmers in the south of the country.

In addition, **Switzerland** pays high attention to development of women and youth entrepreneurship, especially in remote areas of the country.



Governance, human rights and service delivery

Good governance is key for progress of countries, notably because it contributes to improving the quality and relevance of public services to people, including the most vulnerable ones. That is why **Switzerland** provides **support** to ensure that women and men are able to participate in decision-making processes that have an impact on their lives, as enshrined in Kyrgyz legislation.

Accountable and transparent public finance management and sound macroeconomic framework are one of the keys for good governance and sustainable growth. Therefore, **Switzerland supports** Kyrgyzstan on revenue mobilization, fiscal sustainability and efficient public finance management.

Also to **improve** health services available to the population, **Switzerland backs** the Kyrgyz government in some of its strategic efforts to strengthen primary health care system, improve health management system and to modernize medical education. In addition, **Switzerland supports** the diversity of cultural creation through independent organizations that reflect the full richness of views and approaches to culture.



Water, infrastructure and climate change

Water is critical for life through its various uses, such as for drinking, sanitation, and irrigation. **Switzerland supports** the efforts of Kyrgyz authorities to implement the water code, which is about managing all sources of water in a strategic way and be prepared for inevitable implications of climate change.

The quality of drinking water and wastewater services impact the population's well-being very directly. **Switzerland will assist** in renovating and extending urban water systems by providing safe drinking water and wastewater services. This is for instance the case in Bishkek, Karakol and Naryn cities.

In addition, **Switzerland will specifically help** Naryn city to shape its urban development and align its future investments in a climate-resilient way. Results and lessons learnt in Naryn will serve as a showcase for resilient urban planning and development for further cities in Kyrgyzstan.

List of Swiss projects in Kyrgyzstan (as of 2022)

Inclusive and sustainable economic development

- Global Textile Trade Promotion Programme
- Kyrgyzstan Investment and Growth Project
- Environmental and Social Governance Program
- Central Asia Financial Inclusion Program
- Small Business Initiative Programme
- Small and Medium Enterprises Development in Alai and Chon Alai
- Promotion of Sustainable Economic Development
- Financial Sector Development Project Trust Fund
- Sustainable Winter Tourism Project
- Mobile Money/Electronic and Digital Financial Services Project

Governance, human rights and service delivery

- Capacity Building in Public Finance Management Multi-Donor Trust Fund
- Kyrgyz Republic Tax Reform Technical Assistance Project
- Public Service Improvement in the Kyrgyz Republic
- Debt Management and Financial Accountability System
- IMF Regional Technical Assistance Centres
- Contribution to the OSCE Academy in Bishkek
- Act for better life in new settlements
- Budget Support to the Health Sector Wide Approach
- Medical Education Reforms
- Effective management and control of Non Communicable Disease
- Health Facilities Autonomy
- Arts and Culture

Water, infrastructure and climate change

- Water and Waste Water Rehabilitation Project (Bishkek, Karakol, Naryn)
- At-Bashy Hydro Power Plant Rehabilitation Project
- Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings
- National Water Resources Management Project
- Naryn Urban Resilience Project

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