swisscontact

Myanmar Profile
Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation

Who we are

We are a leading partner organisation for the implementation of international development projects.

Founded in 1959 and registered under Swiss law, we are an independent non-profit organisation. We are politically and denominationally neutral.

Our values and beliefs

We believe that people, even in dire conditions have the ability and will to act and **liberate themselves from the shackles of poverty.** However, this is only possible in an enabling environment and level playing field.

We make an effective contribution to improve the framework conditions for sustainable development through the facilitation of access to skills, knowledge, markets, technologies and financial services.

We believe that balanced private sector and market-driven approaches in the context of an environmentally and socially sustainable market economy offer the best conditions for people to fulfill their potential and make sustainable development possible.
We act responsibly and respect people in their own contexts, societies and cultures.

We stand for professional quality and high ethical standards in our activities.
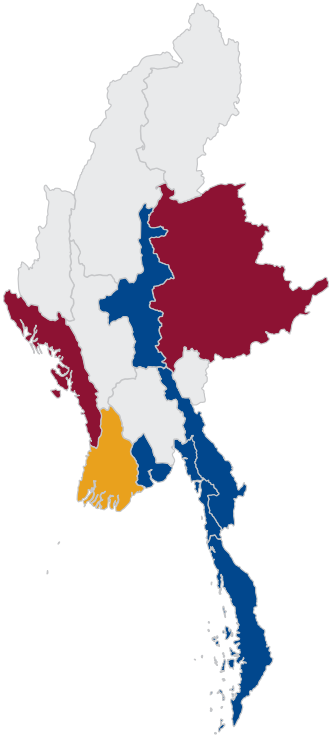
Our mission

We promote inclusive economic, social and ecological development to make an effective contribution towards sustainable and widespread prosperity in developing and emerging economies. With this objective in mind, we offer the chance to economically and socially disadvantaged people to improve their lives on their own initiative.

What we do

▪ We strengthen the competencies of people, improving their employability.

▪ We increase the competitiveness of enterprises, growing their business.

▪ We foster social and economic systems, promoting inclusive development.

Swisscontact Myanmar

Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP)

Project Duration
2014 – 2022

Target Areas
Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Mon, Kayin and Tanintharyi

Financed by
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Making Vegetable Markets Work for the Poor (MVMW)

Project Duration
2014 – 2018

Target Areas
Southern Shan and Rakhine

Financed by
Livelihoods and Food Security Trust (LIFT)

Linking Labutta to Markets (LLM)

Project Duration
2015 – 2019

Target Areas
Ayeyarwady

Financed by
Livelihoods and Food Security Trust (LIFT)

What we promote

Private sector partnership

In partnership with over 150 private sector partners to promote inclusive markets and market-driven employment opportunities.

National capacity building

Capacity of nearly 750 occupational practitioners strengthened to deliver vocational training courses in collaboration with four government ministries.

Technical support provided for the establishment of a national skills testing system in 28 occupations.

Social inclusion

Targeted vocational training with local implementation partners provided to disadvantaged target groups to create inclusive solutions for the urgent challenges inherent in youth unemployment, underemployment, and migration.

Gender equality

Gender based advocacy approach promoted to offer equal opportunities for men and women.

Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP)

The Program is underpinned by partnership with public and private sector stakeholders which nurtures workplace readiness of Myanmar's labour force and creates employment opportunities for disadvantaged women and men, subsequently promoting inclusive socio-economic development in the country. The Program strives to improve greater access to, and an improvement in the quality of, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) which is essential to better link skills development to labour market demand.
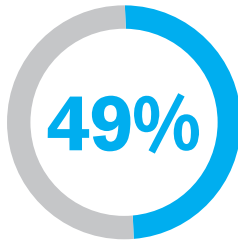
Program Highlights
(May 2018 – June 2019)

500+
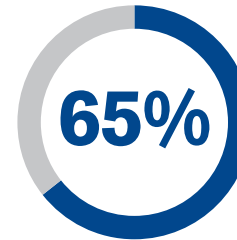private and public sector **trainers** and **teachers** trained

0.9m MMK
net increase of annual **income** per beneficiary

49% female beneficiaries

65% graduates employed or self-employed after training

4
government schools supported to implement vocational short courses

2,500+
disadvantaged **learners** and **hotel line staff** trained

Components

Local Vocational Training

- Targets learners from disadvantaged backgrounds who want to work as tailors, sales clerks, house wirers, beauticians, masons, plumbers or rural mechanics.
- Works in partnership with government ministries and private training institutes for the implementation of short technical and life skills courses.
- In collaboration with employers, links learners to employment opportunities after the training.

Hospitality Training

- Strengthens the capacity of hotel supervisors at partner hotels to deliver training to line staff and learners from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Supports the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (MoHT) to improve the quality of training in the hospitality sector.
- Works with selected hotel groups to develop in-company hospitality training capacity.

Dual Apprenticeship Training

- Delivers on- and off-the-job training over 18 months to apprentices in the occupations of cook and agricultural machinery mechanic.
- Works in partnership with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (MoHT), the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) and private sector companies.

Policy and Stakeholder Engagement

- Provides technical support and inputs to government stakeholders on TVET policies and approaches for implementation of vocational training.
- Engages with the National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA) to support the development and realisation of a national system for skills testing and certification.

Making Vegetable Markets Work for the Poor (MVMW)

The Project aims to tackle the key constraints for increased farmer productivity: inputs, financial services, information, off season production, technology, post-harvest production options, and government extension. It works with private sector partners in reaching out to vegetable farmers in Rakhine and Shan State.
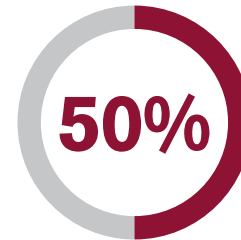
Making Vegetable Markets Work for the Poor (MVMW)

~26,000 farmers using improved inputs and services

39 companies adopted inclusivity into their business models

50% **income increase** from project interventions reported

Linking Labutta to Markets (LLM)

The Project facilitates linkages to higher value rice and employment markets locally, regionally and nationally for smallholder rice farmers and vulnerable women and men. The project partners with construction, garment and farm machinery companies for workplace training and subsequent employment. Furthermore, the project strengthens the training capacity of one government technical training school and two local civil society organisations.

Linking Labutta to Markets (LLM)

1000+

farmers received agricultural training and were supported to form farmer producer groups

83,000+

paddy baskets traded with millers and dealers through the contract rice farming model

50+

manufacturing and service sector **companies** employing LLM graduates

1,350+

landless youth equipped with technical and vocational skills

A Skillful Life - Income through Skills

Saw Tin Tun happily mentioned that he is now applying technical and life skills learned during the VSDP training, to support farmers in his rural community. He also shared how he aspires to eventually start his own business:

"

I took part in the rural mechanic training offered by VSDP, because I was interested in the occupation and did not need to have a strong educational background to attend. During the training I was able to handle machines myself and learn practical skills. I learned how to fix motorbikes and agricultural machines, as well as solar machines and invertors. Being a training graduate boosted my technical skills and reliability, which is helping me get more customers. After attending the VSDP training, my lack of formal education is no longer holding me back from pursuing a career as a mechanic.

"

"

"Although I had no prior exposure to cooking, the combination of theory and practice really helped me learn and grow through the apprenticeship course. I am happy when I see myself in the cook uniform as it gives me a sense of professionalism."

Yu Par Aung
Cook Apprentice

"The VSDP training was a stepping stone that helped provide support and guidance for me to reach my career goals."

Nan Kay Kay Kyaw
Sales Clerk

"The lessons we learned at the hospitality courses gave me the skills I needed to perform this job and my experience working part-time at banquets built my skills even further."

Kyaw Kyaw Moe
Waiting Staff, Food and Beverage Service

Voice of Partners

"Because of the partnership with Swisscontact, we were able to provide livelihood opportunities to the youth in rural villages.

Their vocational training is offered for multiple occupations and ultimately leads to strengthened training capacity in our government institutions. This develops faster learning processes, more satisfaction among the learners and a greater sense of security about their futures."

Daw San Wint Khine
Pa-O Ethnic Affairs Minister, Mon State Government

"The uniqueness of Swiss training lies in its quality, consistency, and service-oriented approach. I knew that this was something that could improve in Myanmar's hospitality sector.

The moment Swisscontact came to me, and after finding out that the Dual Apprenticeship Training was based on the Swiss-model, I was keen to become a partner."

U Ye Htut Win
MasterChef judge and founder of Sharky's restaurant chain
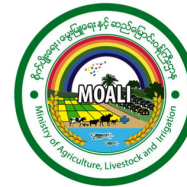
Our Partners

Partner Ministries

Ministry of Hotels & Tourism
(MoHT)

Ministry of Education
(MoE)

Ministry of Labour, Immigration
and Population (MoLIP)

Ministry of Agriculture,
Livestock and Irrigation
(MoALI)

Private Sector Organisations

150+ private sector companies
30+ civil society organisations

We create opportunities

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February 2020

For more information,
please scan