

## Fact Sheet

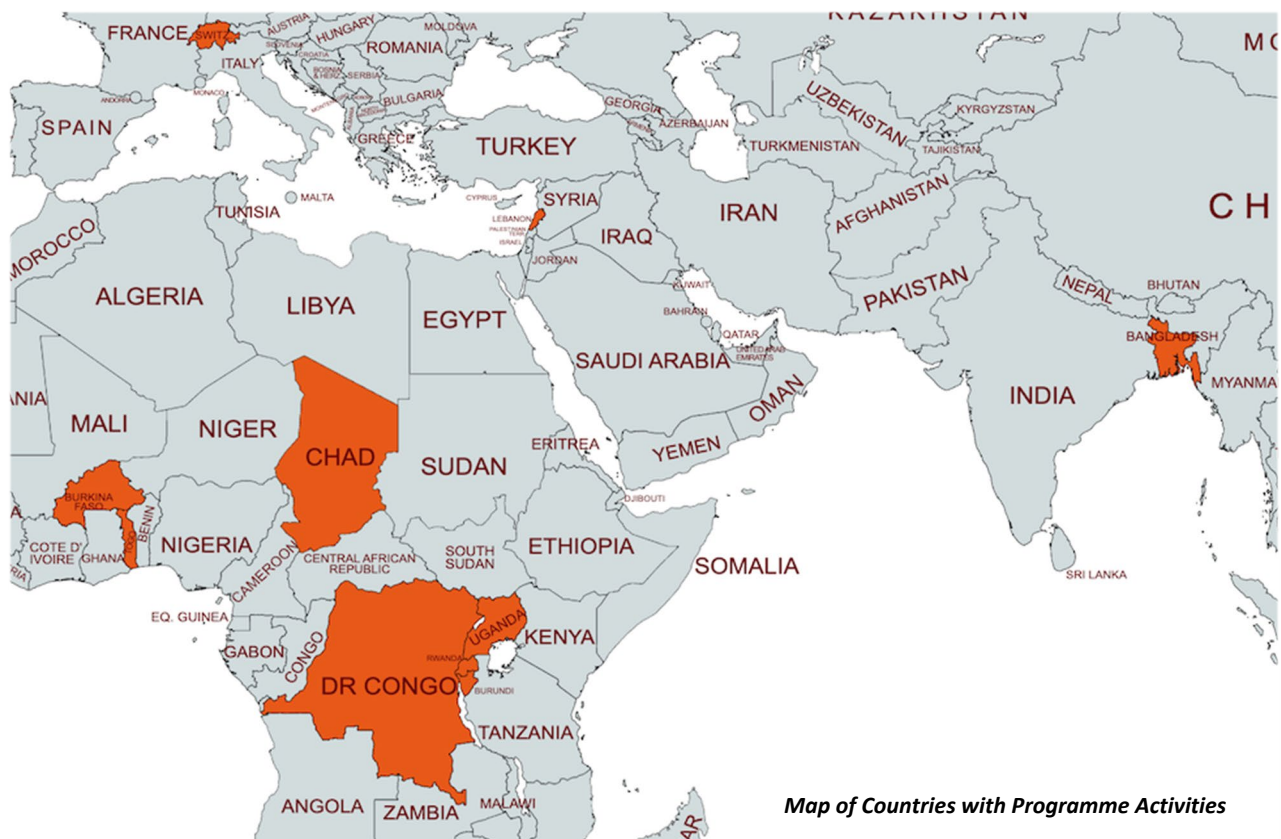
# Learning 360° - Learning for Change and Resilience

### International Programme 2021 – 2024

INTERACTION and four member organizations – FH Switzerland (Food for the Hungry), The Leprosy Mission, Medair and Morija – are realizing the joint programme “**Learning 360**” with the aim of **strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable** in 9 countries of the global South. Acknowledging the link between 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 9 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** and in the Middle East, in **Lebanon**. Except for Lebanon and Rwanda, programme countries are characterized as fragile states, whereas 3 are characterized as extremely fragile according to the OECD<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, sensitization work is being implemented all over **Switzerland**.



*Map of Countries with Programme Activities*

<sup>1</sup> Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, 2020), States of Fragility 2020, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/ba7c22e7-en>.



## For whom?

The programme reaches **600'000 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)<sup>2</sup> to Leave No One Behind (LNOB). By enhancing existing resilience of people, a significant learning-related change process is triggered.

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 campaign<sup>3</sup>. 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 campaign<sup>4</sup> sensitizes in Switzerland. Learning between development and humanitarian organizations is facilitated among 34 INTERACTION members. The holistic intervention strategy induces **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 disabilities 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> More on the StopPoverty campaign in the German part of Switzerland can be found here: [www.stoparmut.ch](http://www.stoparmut.ch). More on the campaign in the Swiss French part here: [www.stoppauvrete.ch](http://www.stoppauvrete.ch).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

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 and supporting health facilities in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso and Lebanon, while several nutrition centres in Burkina Faso support the physical and cognitive development of children, ensuring the preconditions of early childhood development. The quality of health services is ensured by regular trainings, coaching, close monitoring as well as by providing equipment and supplies. Thorough awareness-raising on improved health behaviour accompanies these activities.

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



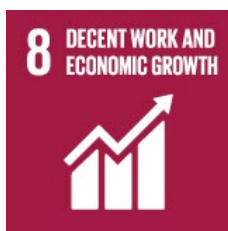
Quality basic education for all is a fundamental human right. This outcome emphasizes conflict-affected, disabled and stigmatized children, children from minority groups, and especially girls from poor households living in rural areas, who tend to be among the most marginalized and hardest to reach.

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 labour market integration of leprosy-affected people. The market environment is engaged to be more inclusive. In Lebanon, psychological health and capacities to cope with daily stressors are built by training volunteers on Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) who in turn hold psychosocial awareness sessions for communities.



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 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 Christians in Switzerland through different sensitization channels and materials, such as the Just People course, the Eco Church Network and the annual StopPoverty 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 34 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 benefit from the experience made. Under this outcome, INTERACTION operates an Innovation Fund which co-funds member's initiatives in the global South.

***Other Cross-cutting Themes***

While education is a cross-cutting topic among all partners, they are also motivated to work on other cross-cutting issues. Morija and Medair are continuously developing and strengthening their Triple Nexus approaches. TLM is strongly engaging in dialogue with policymakers and ensuring civil society organizations representing disadvantaged groups are heard by district and national authorities. FH Switzerland organizes farmers in formalized cooperatives, thus enhancing their income and reducing conflict by offering peaceful income opportunities as opposed to joining armed groups.





## Who implements?

### ***FH Switzerland (Food for the Hungry)***

FH Switzerland is a Christian association, founded in 1996. 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 these issues at their root, programmes focus on agriculture, education, health, income generation and strengthening civil society organizations.



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

### ***The Leprosy Mission Switzerland***

The Leprosy Mission (TLM) Switzerland was founded in 1905 and is part of The Leprosy Mission Fellowship, a global federation of 31 Leprosy Mission national organisations. TLM Switzerland works in partnership with the Fellowship and people affected by leprosy to implement projects in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Democratic Republic of Congo and Niger. TLM Switzerland works with people marginalized by leprosy or disability, leading them out of illness and poverty into an independent and dignified life. In Switzerland, TLM raises public awareness about leprosy and themes related to it..



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

### ***Medair***

Medair is an impartial, independent, and neutral humanitarian organisation inspired by Christian faith to save lives and relieve human suffering in the world's most difficult-to-reach and devastated places. Since 1989, Medair has been helping people in crisis – regardless of race, creed or nationality. Medair works in approximately 12 countries and reaches around 3.5 million persons annually.



More information: <https://www.medair.org>

### ***Morija***

Morija is a humanitarian aid and development cooperation organization founded in 1979, aiming at providing assistance to vulnerable populations in Sub-Saharan Africa. Morija pursues its goals in the areas of nutrition, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), health, education and rural development, and works closely with local partners. Morija is currently involved in 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**.<sup>5</sup>

## Who co-funds?

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



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**

## And who is INTERACTION?

INTERACTION is the **umbrella of 34 Christian development cooperation and humanitarian aid organisations** working in 120 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 members implemented projects worth 160 million Swiss francs in 2021.

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

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

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