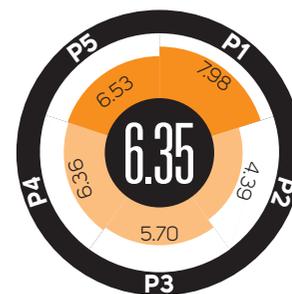


SWITZERLAND

HRI 2011
Ranking
6th

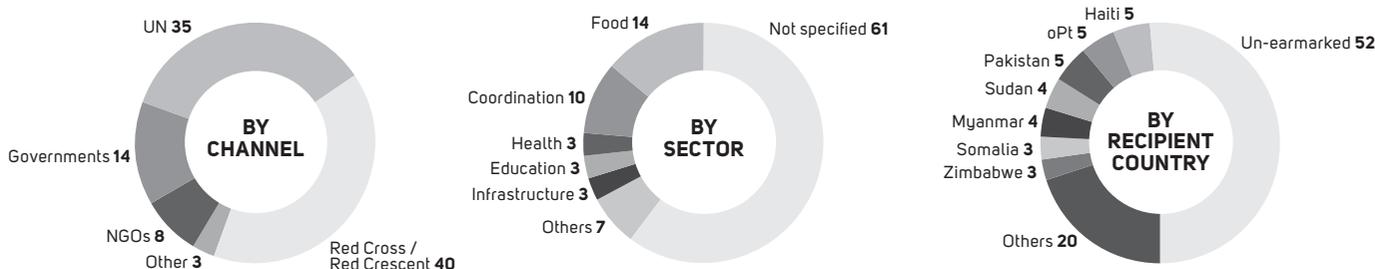


Group **1**
PRINCIPLED
PARTNERS

OFFICIAL
DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE **0.41%**
of GNI

HUMANITARIAN
AID **12.6%**
of ODA **US \$37**
Per person

HUMANITARIAN AID DISTRIBUTION (%)



GENDER RATING

POLICY

FUNDING

FIELD PERCEPTION

STRENGTHS

| Pillar | Type | Indicator | Score | % above OECD/DAC average |
|--------|------|---|-------|--------------------------|
| 5 | QT | Participating in accountability initiatives | 9.58 | +114.2% |
| 5 | QT | Funding accountability initiatives | 8.02 | +95.0% |
| 4 | QT | International humanitarian law | 9.95 | +62.6% |
| 2 | QT | Funding international risk mitigation | 6.51 | +36.2% |
| 4 | QL | Advocacy towards local authorities | 7.13 | +28.1% |

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

| Pillar | Type | Indicator | Score | % below OECD/DAC average |
|--------|------|--|-------|--------------------------|
| 2 | QT | Funding reconstruction and prevention | 1.92 | -57.1% |
| 3 | QT | Funding NGOs | 2.36 | -47.9% |
| 2 | QT | Reducing climate-related vulnerability | 3.02 | -25.0% |
| 2 | QL | Prevention and risk reduction | 3.58 | -20.7% |
| 4 | QT | Human rights law | 4.93 | -20.1% |

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Switzerland ranked 6th in the HRI 2011, improving one position from 2010. Based on the pattern of its scores, Switzerland is classified as a Group 1 donor, "Principled Partners". This group is characterised by its commitment to humanitarian principles and strong support for multilateral partners, and generally good overall performance in all areas. Other Group 1 donors include Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

Switzerland's global score was above the OECD/DAC average, but below the Group 1 average. Similarly, Switzerland scored above the OECD/DAC average in all pillars, with the exception of Pillar 2

(Prevention, risk reduction and recovery). It scored below the Group 1 average in all pillars, except for Pillar 1 (Responding to needs), where it scored above average.

Compared to its OECD/DAC peers, Switzerland did best in the indicators on *Participating in accountability initiatives*, *Funding accountability initiatives*, *International humanitarian law*, *Funding international risk mitigation* and *Advocacy towards local authorities*. Its scores were relatively the lowest in the indicators on *Funding reconstruction and prevention*, *Funding NGOs*, *Reducing climate-related vulnerability*, *Prevention and risk reduction* and *Human rights law*.

AID DISTRIBUTION

In 2010, Switzerland reduced its Official Development Assistance (ODA) from 0.45% of Gross National Income (GNI) in 2009 to 0.41% of GNI. Humanitarian assistance represented 12.6% of its ODA in 2010, or 0.051% of its GNI.

According to data reported to the United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service (FTS), in 2010, 40.2% of Switzerland's humanitarian funding

was channelled to UN agencies, 27.1% to the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, 18.7% bilaterally to affected governments, 10.5% to non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and 1.3% to private organisations/foundations. Over half of Switzerland's funding was not designated for a particular region or country. In 2010, Switzerland supported 24 crises in Africa, 18 in Asia, seven in the Americas, three in Europe, and one in Oceania.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Switzerland's humanitarian aid is provided by the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) – which is part of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The 1976 *Swiss Federal Law on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid* clearly separates the objectives of humanitarian aid and development in their budgets (SDC 1988). Switzerland's humanitarian policy, outlined in the humanitarian strategy, *Concept of Commitment of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid (HA) and the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) from 2009 to 2014*, is grounded in both international humanitarian law and the

Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) (SDC 2010a). The *Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Confederation: Strategy 2010* regards Swiss humanitarian action as an investment in sustainable development and emphasises support for humanitarian principles and coordination as strategic priorities (SDC 2010b). SDC has also published specific policies on gender, human rights, corruption, climate change, and disaster risk reduction. Switzerland's Humanitarian Aid Unit, Swiss Rescue Team and Rapid Response Team are available for rapid deployment to humanitarian emergencies.

HOW DOES SWITZERLAND'S POLICY ADDRESS GHD CONCEPTS?

GENDER

SDC has a comprehensive policy regarding gender, including its relation to humanitarian aid, a specific Gender Unit and a toolkit to help collaborators implement gender mainstreaming in planning (2011b). Most notably, SDC published *Gender & Humanitarian Aid: Why and how should SDC integrate gender into Humanitarian Aid?* in 2008. Gender is also addressed in *Gender Equality: A key for poverty alleviation and sustainable development*, especially in terms of capacity building (SDC 2003). In its *Guidelines for Disaster Risk Reduction*, Switzerland recognises that disasters can provide opportunities for societal change in power structures including gender (SDC 2008b).

PILLAR 1

RESPONDING TO NEEDS

Switzerland's policy expresses a strong commitment to the principles of neutrality, impartiality, independence, adding that it also "unwaveringly promotes respect for these same principles by other players," (SDC 2010b, p. 6). Swiss humanitarian aid policies state that decisions are based on the greatest need, level of fragility and vulnerability and pay special attention to vulnerable groups including women, children, sick, elderly, poor and disabled persons. Switzerland's humanitarian policy also recognises the importance of timeliness in the provision of humanitarian assistance (SDC 2010b).

PILLAR 2

PREVENTION, RISK REDUCTION AND RECOVERY

Prevention and preparedness are highlighted as strategic fields of activity in the *Swiss Confederation Humanitarian Aid Strategy 2010*. This includes the early anticipation, identification and reduction of disaster risks and damage. The 2008 *SDC Guidelines on Disaster Risk Reduction* is intended to instruct SDC staff on the best way to ensure disaster risk reduction is integrated into programming. These guidelines, together with the 2009-2014 humanitarian strategy, stress the importance of capacity building (SDC 2008a and SDC 2010a). Switzerland also acknowledges the need for affected populations to participate in the humanitarian programmes it supports, and considers them partners with important decision-making capabilities. Reconstruction and rehabilitation are underscored as strategic fields of activity, and in 2010, Switzerland published *Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Concept of the Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Confederation and the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit* to guide implementation (SDC 2010c).

PILLAR 3

WORKING WITH HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

According to the *Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Confederation Strategy 2010*, Switzerland coordinates with public institutions, the private sector, governments and state actors, UN agencies, regional organisations, the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement (especially the International Committee of the Red Cross), Swiss NGOs, as well as international and local NGOs (SDC 2010b). Despite earmarking 10% of its budget for food supplies, Switzerland acknowledges the need for flexibility in its humanitarian policies. Additionally, Switzerland considers that "new kinds of crises and complex emergencies require flexible and adaptable measures as well as innovative solutions," (SDC 2010b, p.9).

PILLAR 4

PROTECTION AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

SDC does not have any publicly accessible policy documents specific to human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law in humanitarian aid, but did publish two related documents for its development work: *SDC's Human Rights Policy: Towards a Life in Dignity, Realising rights for poor people* (SDC 2006a) and *Promoting Human Rights in Development Cooperation* (SDC 1998). The *Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Confederation Strategy 2010* lists advocacy as one of Switzerland's strategic fields of activity, which further specifies the importance of protection "through presence and testimony," (SDC 2010b, p.10). Switzerland commits to increasing security training for its employees including behavioral exercises and continuing education (SDC 2010a, p.11). A new group of experts dedicated to security was created to improve self-protection for Swiss mission personnel (SDC 2010a).

PILLAR 5

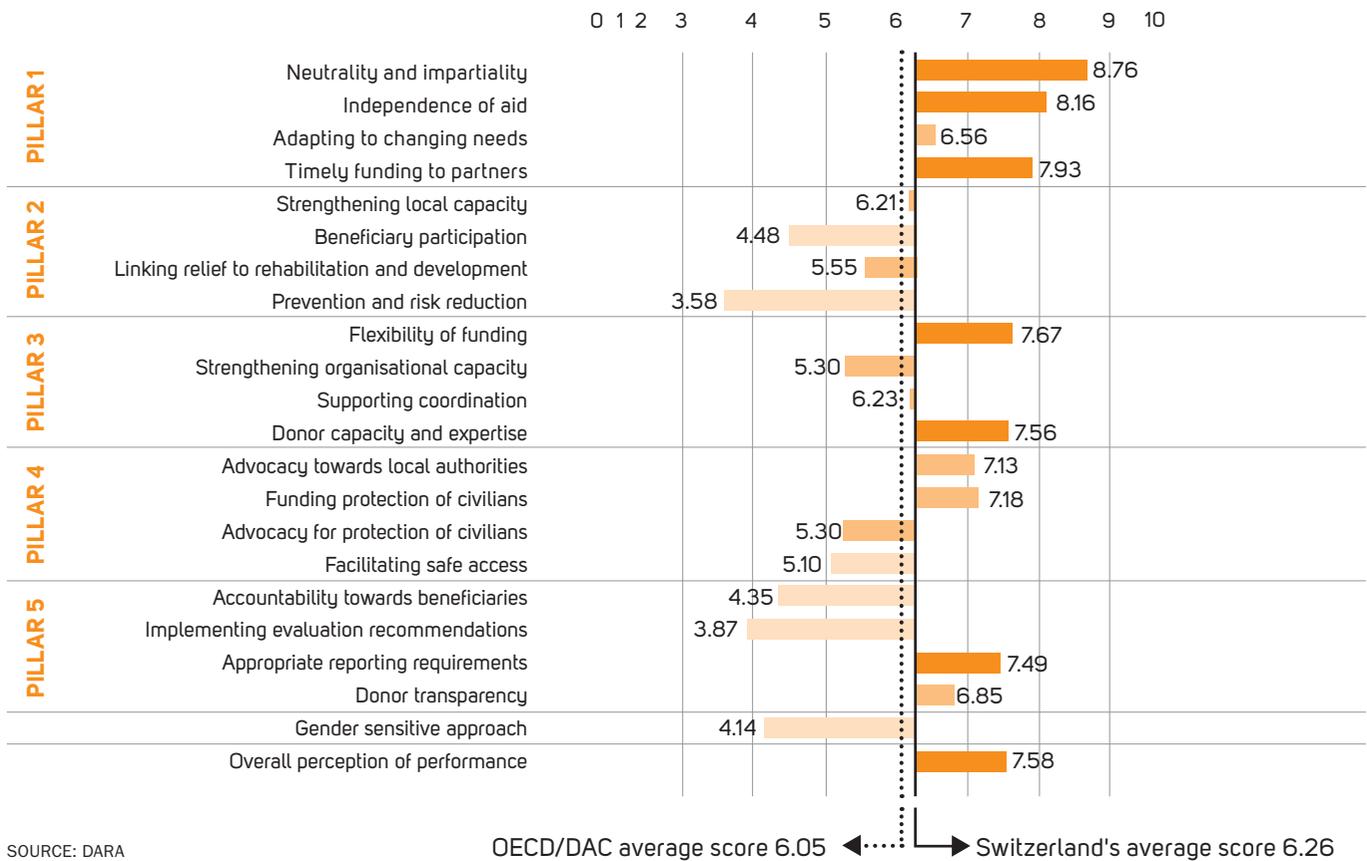
LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Although Switzerland's humanitarian policy does not specifically mention accountability, *Fighting Corruption: SDC Strategy*, one of its development policies, addresses transparency and accountability (SDC 2006b). The Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) is also listed as one of the partners of SDC (SDC 2011a). SDC states that it is committed to transparent planning, implementation, and reporting, and considers the transparent delegation of decision-making powers and responsibilities a way to maintain efficiency and reduce bureaucracy. Transparency is also seen as a means of raising awareness of humanitarian activities among Swiss and global citizens. Furthermore, Switzerland acknowledges the need for evaluation and quality control. In 2002, SDC published *Guidelines Evaluation & Controlling*, which details programme cycle management and independent evaluation. *Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Confederation Strategy 2010* expresses a commitment to the *Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) Principles* and Swiss Humanitarian Aid's Rapid Response Teams have received ISO 9001:2000 certification to ensure conformity with international standards.

FIELD PARTNERS' PERCEPTIONS

SWITZERLAND'S FIELD PERCEPTION SCORES

Collected questionnaires: 27



SOURCE: DARA

Colours represent performance compared to donor's average performance rating:

■ Good
 ■ Mid-range
 ■ Could improve

HOW IS SWITZERLAND PERCEIVED BY ITS PARTNERS?

GENDER

In relation to gender, one interviewee reported, “No one looks at different gender issues, and cultural issues. I’ve never been given feedback on a proposal in this regard.” Another noted, “We mainstream gender in our programmes, and donors are not requesting this from us at all,” referring to Switzerland, as well as the other donors supporting their programmes. Some report that while gender is a requirement, it may be reduced to “just check[ing] on paper. That’s all.”

PILLAR 1

RESPONDING TO NEEDS

Switzerland's partners seem to consider its humanitarian funding neutral, impartial, independent and timely. Interviewees also praised SDC for funding based on need, including "things that are not only life saving" and in areas where other donors decided to withdraw. Another interviewee described Switzerland as a "fantastic donor in all senses." In relation to *Adapting to changing needs*, one of Switzerland's partners reported the following: "The Swiss cooperation does field visits. They invite us to elaborate annual plans with them. They discuss with us and get involved in the response. They organise meetings for all NGOs working with them, local and international, and we exchange opinions and good practices." Another interviewee indicated that Sweden was more reactive than proactive in this regard: "We tell them the needs have changed. They trust our capacity."

PILLAR 2

PREVENTION, RISK REDUCTION AND RECOVERY

With the exception of *Strengthening local capacity*, where it received somewhat higher scores, Switzerland's partners were critical of the country's support for the other indicators that comprise Pillar 2. Switzerland received its lowest qualitative score for its support of prevention, preparedness and risk reduction. Partner organisations held mixed views of Switzerland's support for *Linking relief to rehabilitation and development (LRRD)*. While one organisation recognised SDC for supporting a multiyear early recovery programme based on an LRRD approach another interviewee commented, "Our donors could do more. Recovery is not funded." On a more positive note, Switzerland's partners stated that SDC is known for strengthening local capacity, with programmes driven by community knowledge and supporting community rehabilitation.

PILLAR 3

WORKING WITH HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

Partner organisations' perception of Switzerland's support for coordination was somewhat mixed, although the organisations were appreciative of Switzerland's efforts in this regard and spoke of a "true partnership" with Switzerland because "they get involved and discuss annual plans." Another interviewee said that Switzerland regularly asks for information from another humanitarian organisation which communicated with a party of the conflict. Switzerland was praised for its support and use of the cluster system, pooled funding mechanisms, communication with other organisations, engaging with the humanitarian coordinator and other coordination procedures. However, one interviewee noted a difference in acceptance between the local and headquarters levels of a pooled funding mechanism. Field organisations' feedback on the flexibility of Switzerland's funding was largely positive.

PILLAR 4

PROTECTION AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

According to one interviewee, Switzerland advocated by slowly pushing authorities to fulfill their responsibilities. Another noted that “the Swiss cooperation does advocacy on technical issues. They are totally neutral for everything else.” Partner organisations praised Switzerland’s funding for protection, though seemed to be more critical regarding the facilitation of humanitarian access and security of humanitarian workers. One organisation complained that “they don’t do anything, even with threats of abduction,” in reference to Switzerland, as well as their other donors.

PILLAR 5

LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Many field organisations reported that Switzerland did not do enough to ensure accountability to affected populations. According to one interviewee, Switzerland “does not require accountability to beneficiaries; they just audit the funds, but do not go beyond that.” Regarding the implementation of recommendations from past evaluations, Switzerland’s partners would like to see some improvement. One organisation reported, “Donors give you funding and almost forget about you. There is no follow-up,” referring to Switzerland, as well as its other donors. Switzerland’s partners provided much more positive feedback regarding its transparency and reporting requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

● INVEST ADEQUATELY IN PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, RISK REDUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION

Switzerland received some of its lowest scores on indicators related to prevention, preparedness, risk reduction and reconstruction. In 2010, Switzerland allocated 7.7% of its humanitarian aid to prevention, preparedness and reconstruction, while the OECD/DAC average is 18.6%. Switzerland's partners confirm this, giving the country its lowest qualitative score for its support for prevention, preparedness and risk reduction.

● STRENGTHEN SUPPORT TO REDUCE CLIMATE-RELATED VULNERABILITY

This indicator measures the extent to which donors have fulfilled their commitments in the Kyoto Protocol and funding to Fast Start Finance, which supports climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Switzerland provided only 41.9% of its fair share³ to Fast Start Finance, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 102.4%, which seems to indicate that Switzerland could do more to support efforts to reduce climate-related vulnerability.

● LOOK FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SOLUTIONS TO CHANNEL MORE FUNDING TO NGOS

Switzerland's total allocations to NGOs represented only 7.8% of its humanitarian average, while the OECD/DAC and Group 1 average is 15.3%. To reduce the administrative burden of a large number of contracts, Switzerland could explore flexible working models, such as shared management arrangements with other donors, or supporting NGO umbrella organisations and NGOs of other nationalities.

● RENEW COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS

Just as in 2010, Switzerland received the highest score of all OECD/DAC donors for *International humanitarian law*. However, it also repeated its low score in *Human rights law*, which measures signature and ratification of human rights treaties, accreditation of national human rights institutions and funding to OHCHR, the guardian of international human rights treaties. Switzerland has ratified 49 of 66 human rights treaties, and provided 0.00048% of its GDP to OHCHR, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 0.00065%.

● ENSURE AID MEETS THE DIFFERENT NEEDS OF WOMEN, MEN, BOYS AND GIRLS

Switzerland's humanitarian policy expresses a firm commitment to gender and requires partners to integrate gender in funding proposals. However, Switzerland's partners do not feel this is being translated into practice and indicate that greater effort is needed to support partners throughout implementation.

 Please see www.daraint.org for a complete list of references.