



# Complementary Measures

## SECO's economic development cooperation

### Complementary measures in a nutshell

Complementary measures are flexible, demand-driven initiatives within SECO's economic development cooperation framework. These measures are not limited to predefined countries, allowing SECO to address emerging global needs. They complement the activities of other Swiss federal institutions, such as the SDC, SEM, SIF, FOEN, and SECO itself, while leveraging WE's thematic expertise. Complementary measures operate outside WE's priority countries and can take the form of bilateral or global programs, ranging from full-fledged projects to smaller actions.

### Strategic orientation of SECO's economic development cooperation complementary measures

SECO's mission extends beyond fostering economic growth and sustainable prosperity within its designated partner countries. It utilizes a flexible economic development cooperation mechanism that is not confined to specific countries, enabling SECO to respond to emerging needs and opportunities globally through complementary measures.

The application of these complementary measures is subject to specific criteria:

- They must align with the activities of other Swiss federal institutions, such as the SDC, SEM, SIF, FOEN, and SECO itself.
- They are based on WE's thematic competencies.
- They apply to regions outside WE's priority countries.
- They are demand-oriented, responding to specific requests or needs.
- They can take the form of bilateral or global programs.
- They may involve full-scale projects or smaller actions.
- They require improved coordination and exchange between SECO and SDC at all hierarchical levels, both formal and informal.

Through these measures, SECO ensures its efforts are responsive, collaborative, and adaptable, addressing economic development challenges effectively on a global scale.

### Country/Region

Global

### Budget

- CHF (yet to be determined)

### SECO Liaison Desk

WELG – Countries & Global  
Portfolio

### The added value of SECO's complementary measures

The added value of complementary measures lies in their flexibility and responsiveness. By not being restricted to predefined countries, these measures allow SECO to adapt swiftly to emerging global challenges and opportunities. They enhance the overall impact of Swiss development cooperation by complementing the efforts of other federal institutions and enabling targeted interventions that address specific needs. Furthermore, the ability to implement both large-scale and small, tailored actions ensures that resources are allocated efficiently, fostering innovation and strengthening partnerships across various regions and sectors.

Detailed information on SECO's economic development cooperation activities can be found here:

<https://www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch/strategy>

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### Further information

[www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch](http://www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch)  
[mael.fedrigio@seco.admin.ch](mailto:mael.fedrigio@seco.admin.ch)  
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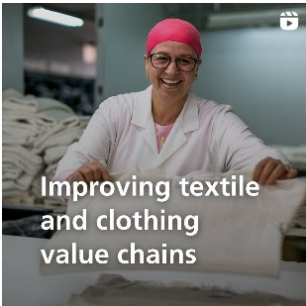
Example complementary measures

Global Textiles & Clothing Program in Sri Lanka

Switzerland remains committed to Sri Lanka through a coordinated, whole-of-government approach. As a priority for Switzerland's peace policy, Sri Lanka also partners with the State Secretariat for Migration. While not a priority country for economic cooperation and development, SECO supports other federal efforts through the Global Textiles & Clothing Program.

From 2024 to 2027, this program aims to strengthen Sri Lanka's textile and apparel sector, which supports over 650,000 jobs, many held by women. It helps small and medium businesses improve sustainability, operations, and exports, while enhancing collaboration with government agencies by improving regulations.

This initiative benefits companies, training institutions, and the economy by creating sustainable jobs and promoting fairer trade practices.



Gevgelija Wastewater Treatment Plant, North Macedonia

Switzerland has been one of the main donors in the water and wastewater sector in North Macedonia for more than 20 years.

In Gevgelija, the Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of Greece and SECO jointly financed the construction of a wastewater treatment plant, which was completed in 2024. Next to the construction of a completely new treatment plant, the staff of the public utility was trained and a photovoltaic system installed to ensure the sustainability of the plant. In addition, a solid waste landfill next to the plant, classified as an ecological hotspot in North Macedonia, was closed.

The project has improved the water conditions of the river Vardar and the environmental conditions in and around Gevgelija. The population in the Gevgelija region and downstream the population of Greece benefit from this project.

IDB Amazon Bioeconomy and Forest Management MDTF

Switzerland is one of the founding donors of the Amazon Bioeconomy and Forest Management Multidonor Trust Fund, established by the Inter-American Development Bank in 2021 and dedicated to the protection of the Amazon forest and the sustainable empowerment of its communities. It is in line with Switzerland's commitment to reducing deforestation, conserving biodiversity and improving the livelihoods of Amazonian communities.

Through this fund, Switzerland supports activities in eight Amazonian countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. The Fund has launched several initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable economic growth and environmental protection in the Amazon region. One of these is the Bioeconomy Ecosystem Hubs in Brazil. These hubs provide training, foster networking among local stakeholders and facilitate investment opportunities for bio-based businesses, helping communities transition to sustainable development while preserving their natural ecosystems.

