

Water global programme and climate change and environment global programme

Project audits in Senegal, Peru, Uruguay and Sweden

Key facts

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) implements foreign policy in humanitarian aid, development cooperation and cooperation with Eastern Europe. The SDC's global programmes, which are part of the global cooperation area, were established in 2008 and had never before been the subject of an audit with a set focus by the Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO).

The SFAO analysed one project each from the selected global programmes on water and climate change and the environment. It was thus possible to understand how they work by means of onsite analyses and visits in Senegal, Peru, Uruguay and Sweden.

It is planned to use CHF 120 million¹ each from the bilateral international cooperation (IC) credit for the climate change and environment GP and for the water GP. This is intended to finance innovative pilot projects and programmes that meet the objectives of the respective global programme strategy. The Swiss Bluetec bridge project (water kiosk component in Senegal) and the programme adaptation to climate change (PACC) project in Peru were jointly supported by the SDC with some CHF 6 million. The PACC project in Peru was completed in 2017.

In order to achieve their three main objectives – political influence, innovation and transfer of knowledge and learning –, the global programmes work together with various international institutions (platforms). The SFAO used a case study in Peru to illustrate the interaction with the water global programme and the general structure of the global water partnership (GWP) platform used by the SDC. The GWP receives between CHF 500,000 and CHF 1 million in core contributions² from the SDC every year.

The SFAO included the federal platform called "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Promotion in International Cooperation" (REPIC) in its analyses.

The projects analysed by the SFAO paint a positive picture overall. Global programmes can influence international political dialogue through project experience, as shown by the example of the PACC project. Global programme projects can increase their impact by working together with other players. The SFAO believes that there is still room for improvement in this area.

The primary objectives of the global programmes can be achieved

Global programmes have the potential to bring about sustainable change both in development cooperation in the beneficiary country and at the international level by influencing institutional and political dialogue.

¹ For four years, 2017–2020 international cooperation dispatch

² 2009 to 2018

Both SDC projects and programmes can demonstrate achievements. Nevertheless, improvements are still possible. For example, the water kiosk model is promising, and the SDC should look at adapting it to other topics. The transfer of knowledge from global programme projects should be intensified also within the SDC and especially between global programmes.

PACC continuation without Peru's declaration of intent to roll out the lessons learned should be critically scrutinised

The PACC project was started by the Peruvian government with the intention of later extending the lessons learned from two pilot regions to other areas of the country. This took place during the second phase of the project within the framework of policies and programmes of the Peruvian government. It is precisely through the existing political structures (governance) that this further assurance or backing for sustainable programme success appears key. Political support is vital for the planned successor project.

In the SFAO's view, the programme designation of the PACC successor project should make a transparent reference to PACC in the name of the successor project and it should remain visible even if some programme content changes. The successor project is also a logical step in the approach of global programmes.

The global water partnership platform is in line with the objectives of global programmes and pursues good corporate governance

The SDC's financial support for the GWP is linked to a contractual right of inspection. The SFAO was thus able to trace the GWP's approach as a network to improve water management not only by conducting onsite reviews, but also by inspecting GWP business documents at the headquarters in Stockholm and Montevideo.

The SFAO came to the conclusion that the GWP acts in accordance with good governance and pursues consistent objectives and approaches like the SDC's global programmes. Cooperation with platforms like the GWP is expedient and should be pushed further.

Ambitious intentions in political and institutional dialogue

One of the objectives of global programmes is to influence political and institutional dialogue. The expectations associated with this, including those of local politicians, are high and appear to be very ambitious at least in connection with the projects analysed.

In the case of the PACC successor project, the SFAO concluded that the topic of governance needed to be strengthened.

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