



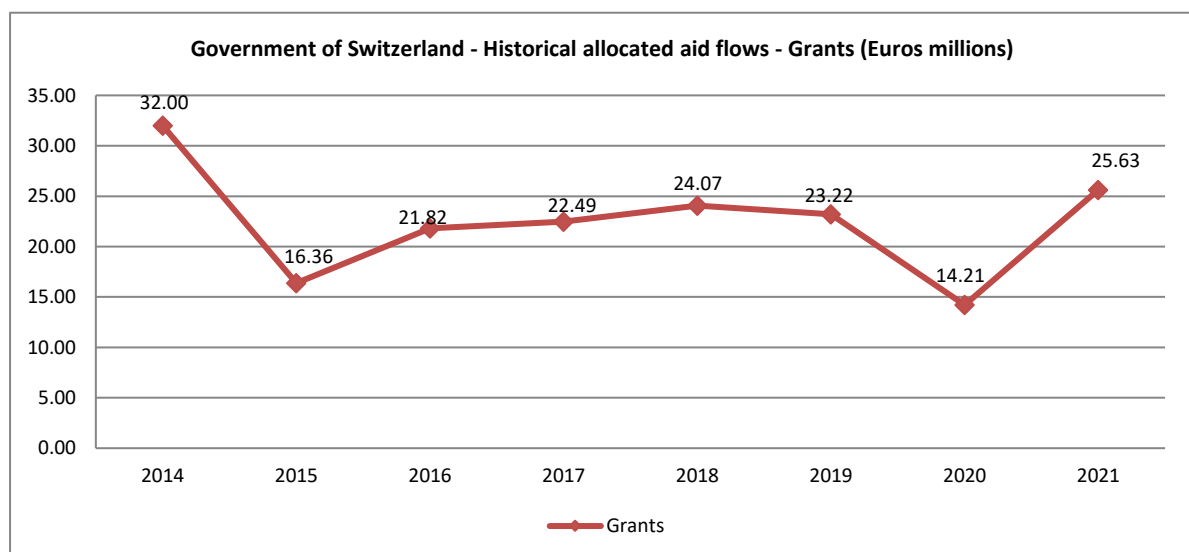
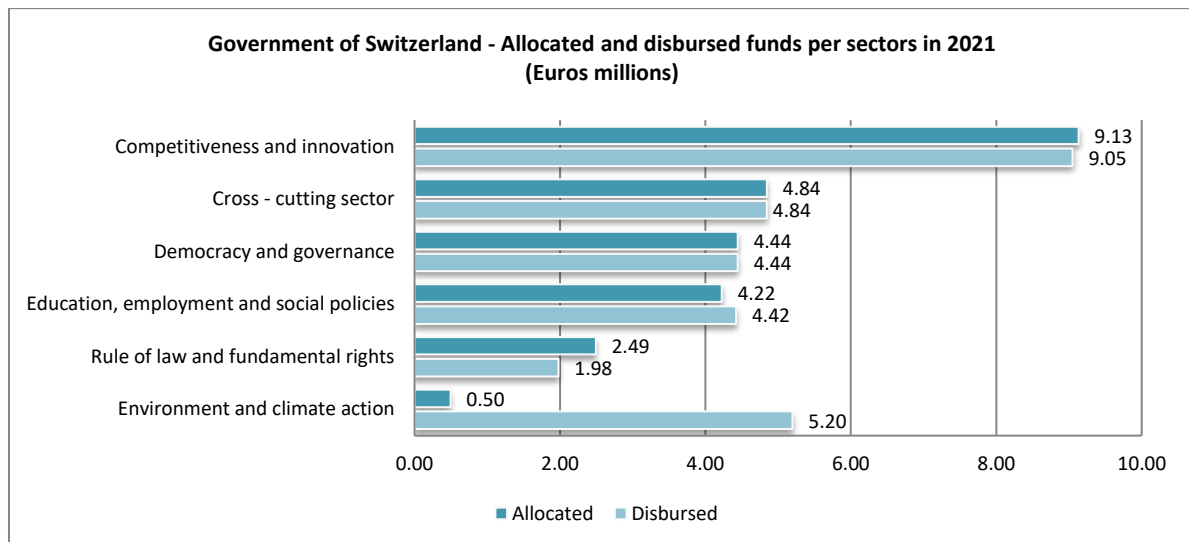
Switzerland

Policy approach

The Government of Switzerland provides its support to reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina within the framework of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy BiH 2017-2020. A particular focus is given to support the establishment of supportive normative frameworks at all institutional levels and quality services to citizens, responsive to their needs, particularly of the most vulnerable and excluded population.

Key activities in 2021

The Government of Switzerland **allocated € 25.63 million and disbursed € 29.94 million in 2021 in the form of grant** to the following sectors: Education, Employment and social policies, Cross - cutting sector, Democracy and Governance, Rule of law and fundamental rights, Competitiveness and innovation, Environment and climate action.



In the *Democracy and governance sector*, the Swiss programme has supported the establishing of strategic development planning systems in BiH and the introduction of innovative planning and management methodologies at the municipal level. Support has been provided for the improvement of the local governments' performance, access to services for citizens, particularly for socially excluded groups, and more citizens' participation in relevant decision-making processes. Particular focus has been at ensuring gender equality and social inclusion in all interventions.

In the *Environment and climate action sector*, Switzerland supported the rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation systems as well as the construction of the new facilities for wastewater treatment. In a joint programme with the UN agencies, support has been provided in introducing and operationalizing an integrated model of disaster risk governance.

In the *Rule of law and fundamental rights sector*, support has been provided to the High Judiciary and Prosecutor Council of BiH with an aim to raise efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the prosecutorial system and increase access to justice for all citizens. Access to justice for children has been specially targeted through the establishment of a functional and sustainable institutional set up in BiH's Juvenile Justice System. Support to state authorities in BiH has been provided for further improving the management of regular and irregular migration. Finally, support has been provided to development of efficient mechanisms for cooperation with diaspora, provision of better services for diaspora at different levels and business-to-business cooperation and know-how transfer with the diaspora.

In the field of *Employment*, interventions have addressed new and better employment opportunities by creating a favorable economic environment for businesses with the engagement of the public and private sector, including the diaspora. The Swiss Youth Employment Portfolio has continued to work on the three major aspects around the labor market (skills gap, connection gap, jobs gap) aiming at creating decent and sustainable jobs for young people. The development of social enterprises and support to self-employment of youth and their engagement in local communities has also continued.

In the *Competitiveness and innovation sector*, Switzerland has been working through the International Financial Institutions and other partners on creating better regulatory frameworks on national and entity levels for private sector growth and better export opportunities, as result of more transparent and efficient public financial management schemes. Also, Switzerland has been supporting innovations through improving entrepreneurial eco systems and supporting business start-ups. Mechanisms for sustainable infrastructure investments in the water sector, by using a performance-based approach, also have been established.

In the *Cross-cutting sector*, support has been provided to the health sector reforms and strengthening of primary healthcare. Support to improved community-based mental health services has been continued. Support has been also provided to the strengthening of the national mine action capacities and to demining in different communities. Small-scale grants have been provided for initiatives of the civil society, public and private organisations, including the institutional capacity building and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups.



Medium and long-term approach

In the medium term the Swiss Cooperation Programme in BiH 2021-2024 will be focused on the following areas of intervention: local governance and municipal services, economy and employment, environment and social inclusion as well as health. Switzerland will reinforce and scale up the performance-based approach across its programme. It will work with committed citizens, activists, entrepreneurs, officials and politicians who strive to work against general apathy, while advocating for citizens' interests, demanding a responsive government, and promoting change throughout the country. Changing social norms towards gender equality, social inclusion and citizen participation will be an integral part of the programme. Furthermore, the potential of digital transformation in all interventions will be systematically seized upon. Switzerland will continue its assistance in meeting the humanitarian needs of migrants stranded in the country and in mitigating a negative economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Development partners coordination efforts

Government of Switzerland participates in the work of the following groups for coordination of development partners:

- Local Governance
- Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
- Justice Sector
- Prosecutorial Service
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Education
- Environment sector
- VET
- Health

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