

# Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021-2024

## How education contributes to its 4 objectives

23 March 2021



Education  
Network SDC



Réseau Suisse  
Education et  
Coopération  
Internationale

# Criteria for the strategic approach of Switzerland's international cooperation – what does this mean for education?



# Today's webinar

## 1. Welcome and opening

*SDC: Sabina Handschin, Head of Education Unit & Dominique Rychen, Inst. Partnership Division & Avisor Education for Sustainable Development*

*RECI: Beatrice Schulter, Executive Director Swiss Network for Education and International Cooperation*

## 2. Main features of the IC Strategy 2021-2024 and where general/basic education sits

## 3. Contributions of partners to Switzerland's IC Strategy: how RECI members and other education partners contribute to its implementations

## 4. Moderated Q&As and discussion

*NORRAG/SDC Backstopping: Lisa Sabot-Smith*

## 5. Overview of the Education Network's activities in 2021

# International Cooperation Strategy – 4 Objectives



- **Economic development:** contributing to sustainable economic growth, market development and the creation of decent jobs
- **Environment:** addressing climate change and its effects and managing natural resources sustainably
- **Human development:** saving lives, ensuring quality basic services, especially in relation to education and healthcare, and reducing the causes of forced displacement and irregular migration
- **Peacebuilding and governance:** promoting peace, the rule of law and gender equality

To which of the 4 ICS objectives general/basic education contributes?



# No education > no decent work – no climate change – no protection – no rights – no equality

## Economic Development

Sub-objective 1:  
Strengthening framework  
conditions for market  
access and creating  
economic opportunities

**Sub-objective 2:**  
**Promoting innovative  
private sector initiatives  
to facilitate the creation  
of decent jobs**

## Environment

Sub-objective 3:  
Addressing climate change  
and its effects

Sub-objective 4: Ensuring  
the sustainable  
management of natural  
resources

## Human Development

**Sub-objective 5:**  
**Providing emergency aid  
and ensuring the  
protection of civilians**

Sub-objective 6: Preventing  
disasters and ensuring  
reconstruction and  
rehabilitation

**Sub-objective 7:**  
**Strengthening equitable  
access to quality basic  
services**

## Peacebuilding and Governance

Sub-objective 8: Preventing  
conflicts, promoting peace  
and respect for  
international law

Sub-objective 9:  
Strengthening and  
promoting human rights  
and gender equality

Sub-objective 10:  
Promoting good  
governance and the rule of  
law and strengthening civil  
society



The pencil indicates where general/basic education and/or SDG 4 is mentioned and **bold** where explicitly referred to.



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# Economic Development > decent jobs

## Benefits for individuals

... translates into greater productivity, higher earnings and increased employability



Each additional year of basic education means 10% higher earnings in the future.

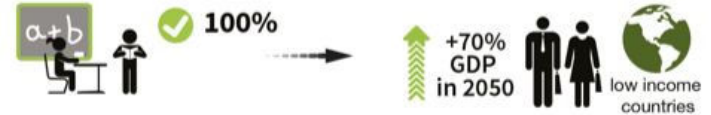
... in full scope ensures enhanced career growth and yields enormous wage boosts



Completing a full 12 year-cycle of basic education translates to earning increases of more than 300 percent.

## Benefits for societies

... accelerates and sustains economic growth



If all children were meaningfully engaging and learning in the classroom, GDP per capita in low-income countries would be almost 70% higher in 2050.

... reduces poverty



Achieving universal primary and secondary attainment in the adult population would help to lift more than 420 million out of poverty, thus reducing the number of poor worldwide by more than half.

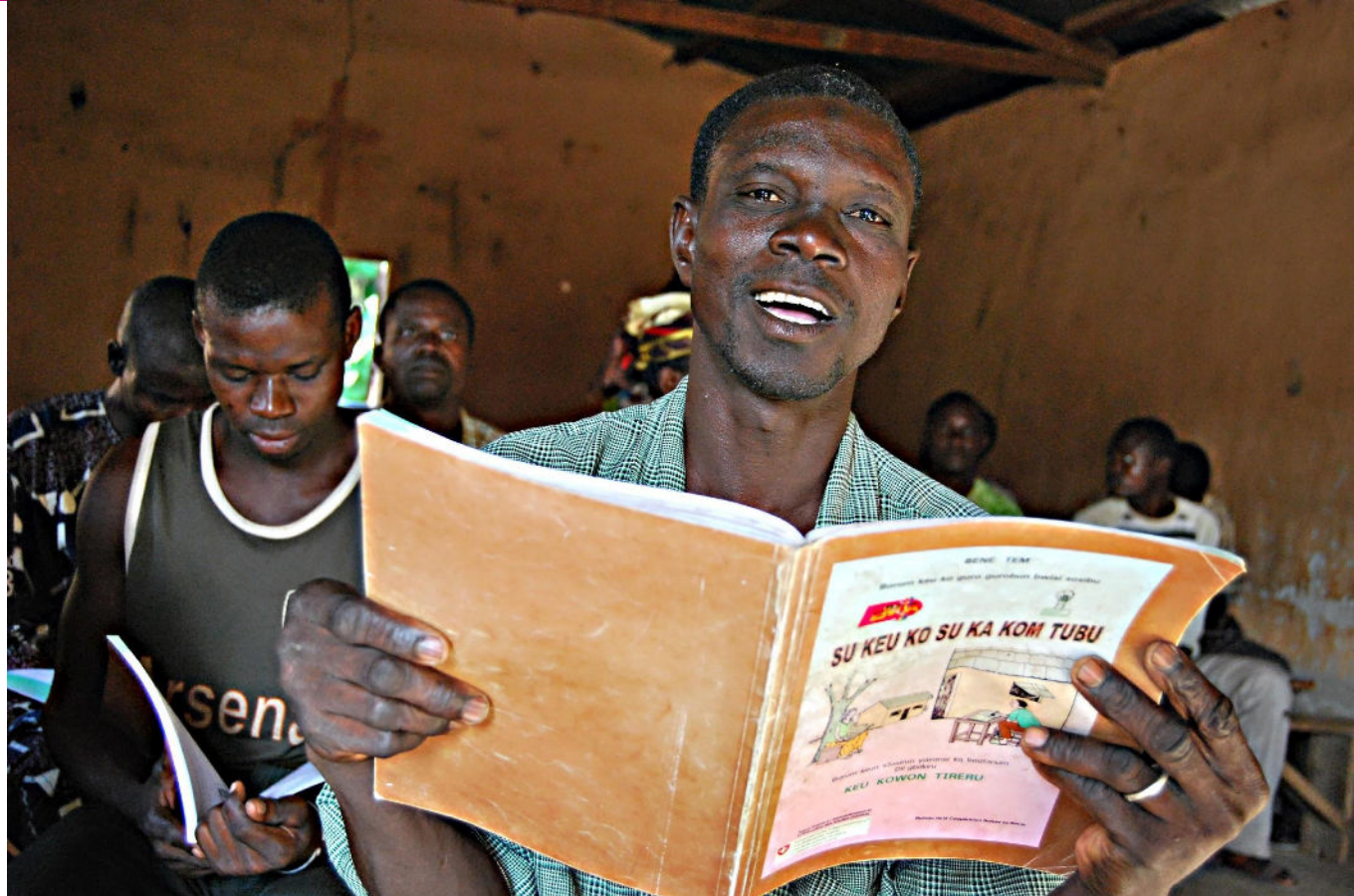
Inclusive quality education translates into higher earnings, greater productivity, sustainable and inclusive economic growth and lays the foundations for **decent work**.

**NEW!** Web page on [decent jobs](#) on Shareweb.



# Example: Catching-up foundational basic skills in Benin

Adult literacy/  
numeracy  
programme





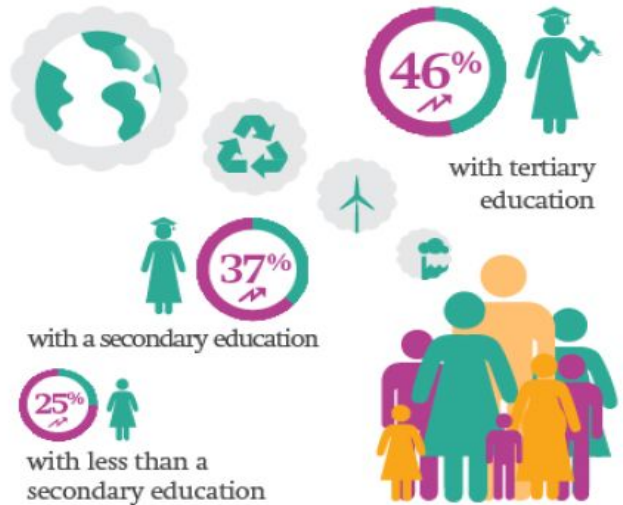


# Environment > climate change

Education has a powerful transformative potential to make people care about the environment, support sustainable behavior, mitigate natural disaster and be a lever to reduce **climate change**.

The percentage of people concerned about the environment in 29 countries<sup>1</sup>

**increased with education**



**NEW!** Web page on [climate change](#) on Shareweb.

# Example: Disaster Risk Reduction at schools in Myanmar





# Human Development

> protection of fundamental basic rights, migration



# Leave No One Behind

Protecting and ensuring basic human rights, enhancing social integration and providing equal prospects are the reasons why **education and health** as essential basic services are at the centre in order to leave no one behind – including during emergencies and protracted crises.

**NEW!** Web pages on [Migration](#) and on [Education in Emergencies and Protection](#) on Shareweb.

# Example: Ensuring children can complete a basic education in fragile contexts or in emergencies/crises



« Les enfants comptent parmi les groupes les plus vulnérables en situations d'urgence humanitaire, et la fermeture des écoles en raison de la pandémie de COVID-19 les a rendus encore plus vulnérables. Ils sont davantage exposés à la violence, mais aussi à des risques de santé et de malnutrition, du fait qu'à leur domicile, les mesures d'hygiène et l'eau potable peuvent faire défaut ou que les cantines scolaires ont fermé. »

**AMBASSADEUR MANUEL BESSLER**

RESPONSABLE DU DOMAINE AIDE HUMANITAIRE

© UNICEF/JUN1326810// Frank Dejongh



**AMBASSADOR  
THOMAS GASS**  
HEAD OF THE SOUTH  
COOPERATION DEPARTMENT  
AT THE SDC

«The impact of COVID-19 on education shows that close cooperation between health and education, and between humanitarian aid and development cooperation, is crucial. We need to work together to ensure that children can continue to learn during acute crises, and that education authorities in partner countries receive the necessary support to improve their education systems.»



Education in Emergencies for Children NOW!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXKmCz-qW6s>





# Peace and governance

## > Rule of Law and gender

... fosters higher levels of civic engagement and better-functioning institutions



Educated citizens exhibit higher levels of political engagement and support more inclusive and just public institutions.

... promotes the reduction of inequalities, social cohesion and peacebuilding

Citizenship and human rights education, value-based education, education for conflict resolution and a culture of dialogue contribute to **tolerance, respect and socio-political participation** – and education is a key lever for **gender equality**.

**NEW!** Web page on the [rule of law](#) on Shareweb.

# Example: Developing citizenship skills in schools in Ukraine

Implementing the Council of Europe's Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship/Human Rights Education by training of teachers and school principals on the integration of human rights and citizenship into secondary schools' curricula





# Other priorities and their importance for education



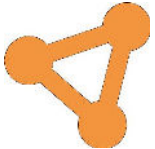
Private sector engagement



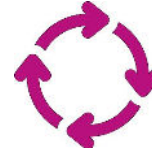
Digitalisation



Multilateral engagement



Cross-sectoral approaches



Nexus



Impact assessment



Added value of Swiss IC

NEW! Web page on [other priorities](#) on Shareweb.

# Private Sector Engagement as a modality to accelerate SDG 4



**Education  
Impact Lenses**  
illustrating that  
SDC's  
engagement  
with the private  
sector in BELL  
has a wide  
range of  
opportunities



## Increasing Availability of Finance

- Government-level financing
- Innovative financial mechanisms for scaling impactful programs
- Financial investments into education-related enterprises



## Improving Education Quality

- Teacher training
- Textbooks and learning materials
- Curriculum development and enrichment
- Tutoring and test prep
- Education technologies
- Home-based learning support



## Improving Access & Inclusion

- "Bridge" programs and "speed schools"
- Gender access / equality programs
- Transportation (bicycles, buses, etc.)
- Income smoothing for families
- Meeting special needs (glasses, etc.)



## Increasing the Strength of the Education Ecosystem

- Physical and digital infrastructure
- Data collection and monitoring / evaluation and training
- Governance and budgeting
- Support of entrepreneurial ecosystems

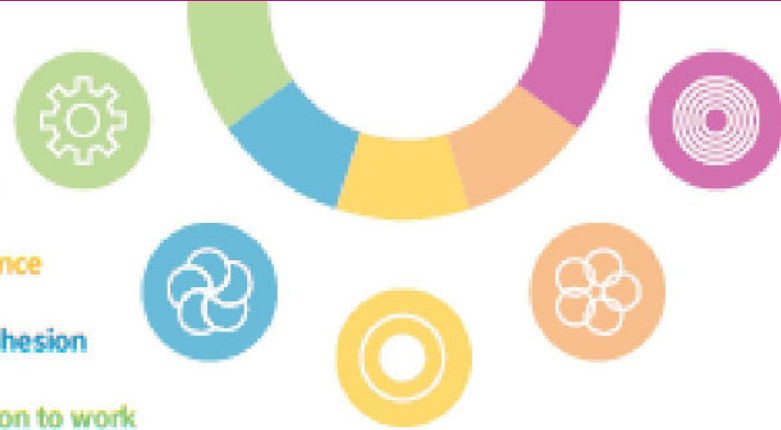


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# Added Value of the Swiss Education System



Inclusion and equity  
Education system governance  
Quality and relevance  
Sustainability and cohesion  
Transition to work



# Education for Sustainable Development

ESD an integrated educational concept



Source: éducation21

Swiss comparative advantage and internationally best practice:

- Promoting ESD through a whole of government and whole of school approach
- Make use of the transformative role of education for sustainable development (SDG 4.7).

# Contribution of partners

## How RECI contributes to the implementation of the Swiss ICS 2021-24

Beatrice Schuler, Executive Director, Swiss Network for  
Education and International Cooperation RECI



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# RECI – Swiss Network for Education and International Development



## Together for Quality Education for All!

- **30+ members:** NGOs, academic institutions, experts
- Reaching more than **60 countries**
- 2007: Informal network
- 2015: Association

[www.reseau-education.ch](http://www.reseau-education.ch)





# RECI – Swiss Network for Education and International Development

Vision	All people enjoy the right to quality education				
Strategic Pillars	Improved practices for quality education for all			Improved policies and funding for quality education for all	
Areas of intervention	Bundling of expertise, mutual learning, dissemination of knowledge	Capacity building	Research, standards, tools	National policy dialogue and advocacy	International advocacy



# Importance of Quality Education for All

A goal in itself and a means to achieve all other goals



A human right in itself and a means to realise all other human rights



## Human Rights



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# Quality Education for All - Leave no one behind

Address complex and varied reasons for lack of access or exclusion from quality education for different groups and individuals and across their lifespan.

## Focus on **specific groups**:

- remote areas, rural communities
- girls/ women
- people with disabilities
- indigenous groups, national minorities
- early childhood education
- ...

## Focus on **specific approaches**:

- inclusive education
- intercultural education
- peace education
- multilingual education, mother tongue-based multilingual education
- Continuum of education
- ...



# Thematic priorities

## Teacher Training for Quality Education

- Systemic approach to TTQE
- Competencies of teachers to provide quality education

## Education in Emergencies

- Exchange of experience thematic day 2017
- Workshop on psychosocial support
- Education and Migration -> Report
- Collection of useful materials to deal with the Covid-19 situation

## Continuum of Education

- How to respond to diverse situations that can disrupt lifelong learning
- Multi-stakeholder approach
- How to ensure permeability between different education levels and forms  
→ Report



# Plans 2021 and How to engage with us

## ■ **Teacher Training**

**for Quality Education:** formation of Working Group in progress



## ■ **Education in Emergencies:**

Working Group constituted with 9 members, convener Valeria Kunz (Save the Children). Planning for the year end of April.



## ■ **Education Continuum:** Launch of the

French version of the report, under the leadership of our members NORRAG and the Zurich University of Teacher Education. April or May.



Series of 4 events in new format: « **Online RECI Open Space** » « **OROS** ». 1-2 hour online events.

Topics, format and audience (internal or public) defined by members.

Annual public conference « **Thematic Day** »  
November 9, 2021.

Sign up for our **public newsletter:**  
[www.reseau-education.ch](http://www.reseau-education.ch)

Follow us on **LinkedIn** – RECI Swiss Network for Education and International Cooperation

**Join us as a member!**



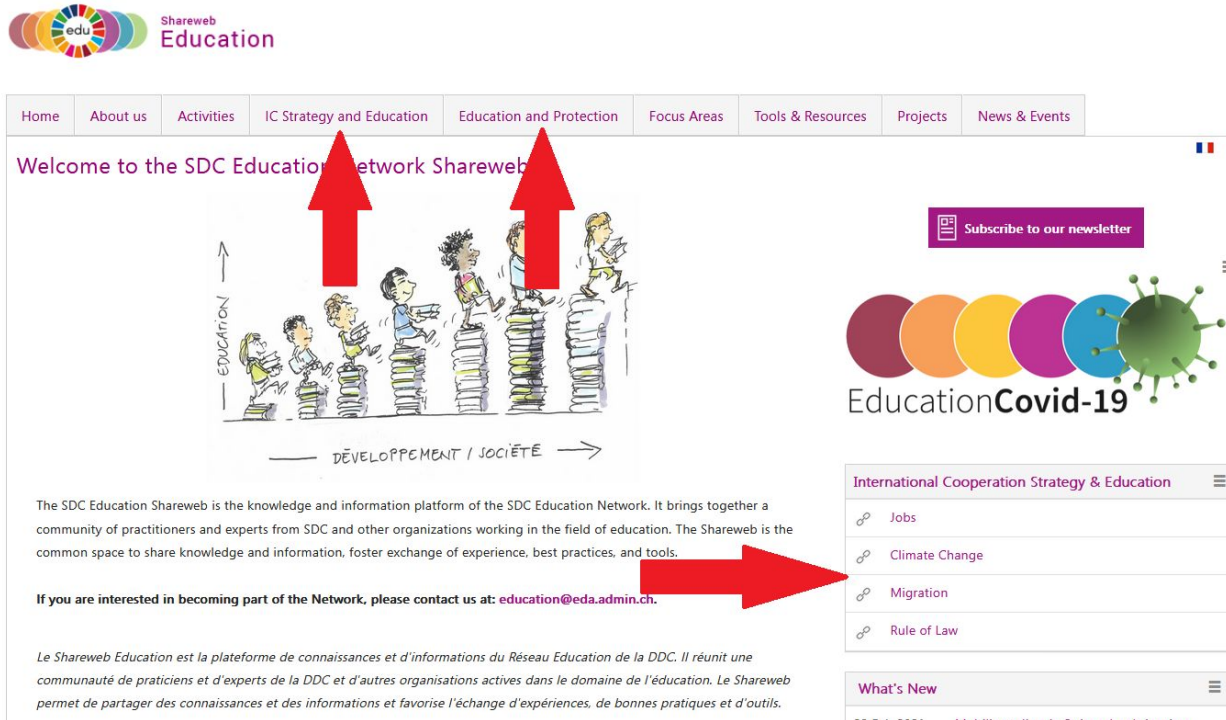
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# Q&A and Discussion





# Thank you for joining



The screenshot shows the SDC Education Shareweb website. At the top, the logo consists of a colorful circular graphic with the word 'edu' in the center, followed by the text 'Shareweb Education'. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: Home, About us, Activities, IC Strategy and Education, Education and Protection, Focus Areas, Tools & Resources, Projects, and News & Events. The main heading reads 'Welcome to the SDC Education Network Shareweb'. Below this is a cartoon illustration of five people standing on a series of increasing stacks of books. A vertical arrow on the left is labeled 'EDUCATION' and a horizontal arrow at the bottom is labeled 'DÉVELOPPEMENT / SOCIÉTÉ'. Two large red arrows point upwards from the stacks of books towards the 'Education and Protection' link in the navigation bar. To the right of the illustration is a 'Subscribe to our newsletter' button. Below the newsletter button is a graphic with five colored circles and a green virus-like icon, with the text 'EducationCovid-19'. Further down, there is a section titled 'International Cooperation Strategy & Education' with a list of links: Jobs, Climate Change, Migration, and Rule of Law. A large red arrow points from the contact information text below towards the 'Migration' link. At the bottom, there is a 'What's New' section. The contact information text states: 'If you are interested in becoming part of the Network, please contact us at: [education@eda.admin.ch](mailto:education@eda.admin.ch).' Below this is a paragraph in French: 'Le Shareweb Education est la plateforme de connaissances et d'informations du Réseau Education de la DDC. Il réunit une communauté de praticiens et d'experts de la DDC et d'autres organisations actives dans le domaine de l'éducation. Le Shareweb permet de partager des connaissances et des informations et favorise l'échange d'expériences, de bonnes pratiques et d'outils.'

Check out the SDC EDU-Net: <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Education>

And get in touch: [education@eda.admin.ch](mailto:education@eda.admin.ch)