

PROJECT: LOCAL GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE - SOUTH ASIA



BUDGET

November 2008 to October 2011: 3 million Swiss Francs.

PARTNERS

In India:

Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR). Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA). State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRD). The Association of Local Governance of India (ALGI). India, Brazil, South Africa Local Governance Forum (IBSA). Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA). Institute for Social Sciences (ISS). Solution Exchange, Decentralisation Community. National Platform to Promote Decentralisation (NPPD).

In South Asia:

Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG - Kabul, Afghanistan). National Institute of Local Governance, Bangladesh. Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development. Civil Servants Training Institutions, Pakistan. Civil Society Actors, Nepal.

In Switzerland:

Research institutes of Swiss universities and associations of elected representatives.

PROJECT LOCATION

India, South Asia, Switzerland.

BACKGROUND

One of the pillars of the Swiss Development Cooperation's (SDC) work in South Asian countries is to strengthen local governance and decentralisation. A key initiative is to encourage knowledge sharing and cooperation between countries in the region. This initiative is based on a demand to support exchange programmes on decentralisation, which emerged in recent years from SDC offices and its partners in the South Asian region. An independent evaluation commissioned by SDC in 2007 furthermore encouraged a stronger cooperation with

Swiss actors. In addition there was a request from NGOs working with SDC, that more knowledge should be exchanged with and more information made available from developing as well as developed countries. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (Local Government) in India discussed with SDC the possible exchange of experiences and good practices of federalism with Switzerland. All this brought SDC to start the 'Local Governance Initiative South Asia' (LoGIn South Asia). The project seeks to disseminate and upscale good practices and lessons learnt from SDC supported projects in the field of local governance and decentralisation in India as well as in other South Asian countries where SDC works, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The project provides furthermore support to knowledge exchange between developing countries and between Switzerland and the countries mentioned above.



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GOAL

The overall goal of the project is to promote accountable, transparent and inclusive decentralised governance in South Asia. This allows greater involvement of the citizens in leading and managing local development while assigning priority to the needs of the economically weaker and socially marginalized groups of society.

APPROACHES

- The project promotes the exchange of knowledge between elected representatives of local government institutions, between federations of elected representatives, between training institutions for elected representatives on relevant decentralisation issues in the countries in South Asia, where SDC is present, as well as between developing countries. This happens through regional and international workshops, seminars, and learning events.
- The project also entails consolidation and capitalization of experiences in India.
- SDC experiences will be consolidated and the knowledge retained will feed into relevant policy processes and other state and donor supported programmes to upscale good practices and make them more sustainable and effective.
- The emergence of associations of elected representatives and multiple stakeholder platforms will be supported, to facilitate the knowledge and experience exchange of different stakeholders ranging from NGOs, elected representatives, government officials, self-help groups to academics and to strengthen advocacy and policy research in the field of local governance.
- Through collaborative research and exchange programmes, the sharing of experiences and lessons will be promoted between Switzerland and countries in South Asia. Good practices relating to strengthening federalism, direct democracy and to promoting fiscal devolution will be shared.

SUCCESS HIGHLIGHT

"This project is a first initiative in local governance in South Asia that promotes knowledge exchange from developed countries to developing countries and at the same time between developing countries."

RESULTS

Relevant stakeholders in India and the region will be aware of key learning from the projects supported by SDC on decentralisation and local governance and are able to implement them in their programmes.

The process of fostering knowledge exchange in the field of local governance across countries of South Asia will be institutionalized.

Civil society organizations and select federations of elected representatives in India will undertake policy research, disseminate knowledge, carry out policy advocacy, and promote the upscaling of good practices emerging from decentralisation projects supported by SDC.

Swiss experiences in direct democracy and fiscal decentralisation and good practices in local governance will be known to relevant actors in South Asia.

CONTACT

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LINKS

<http://www.sdcindia.in/en/Home/Links>



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC