

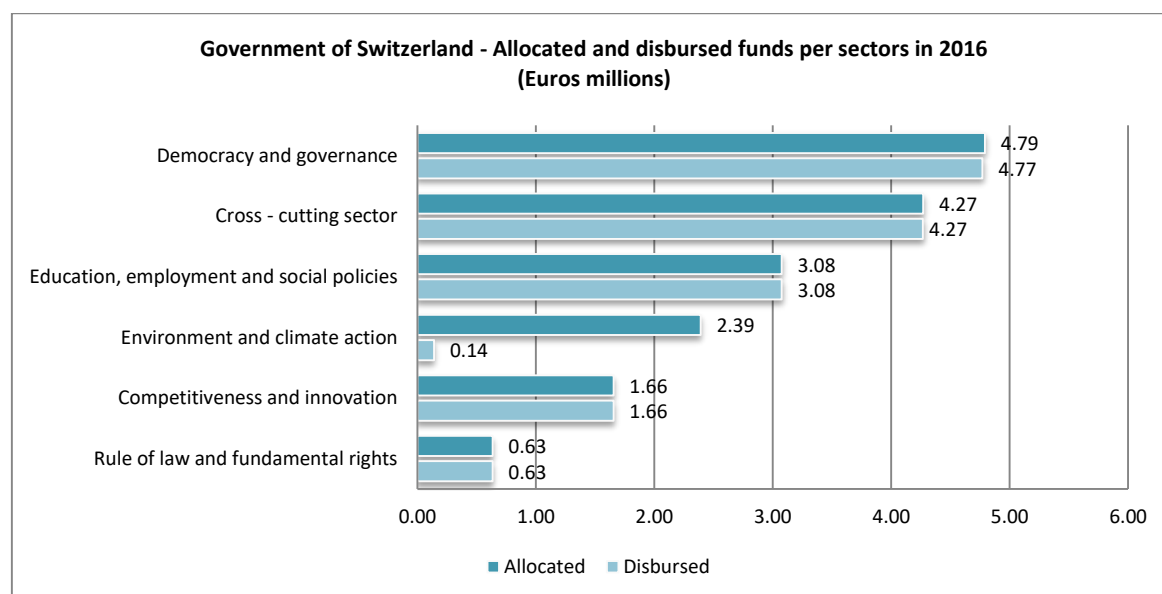
Switzerland

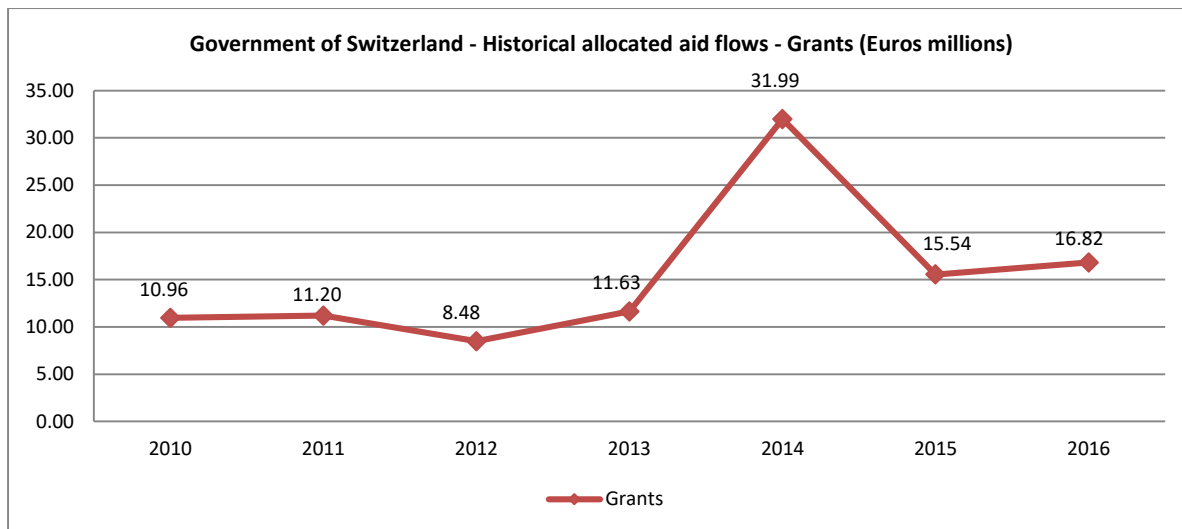
Policy approach

Switzerland aims to contribute to the transition of BiH towards a socially inclusive market economy and a decentralized democratic political system, with the longer-term perspective of European integration. The Swiss Cooperation Strategy for BiH 2013-2016 aims to support BiH in addressing remaining challenges in line with the priorities defined by national strategic documents for specific sectors. It focuses on three thematic domains: Economy & Employment, Local Governance & Municipal Services, and Health. The foreseen financial commitments for the period 2013 – 2016 amount to 79 million CHF.

Key activities in 2016

The Government of Switzerland **allocated € 16.82 million and disbursed € 14.55 million in 2016 in the form of grant** to the following sectors: Democracy and governance, Cross - cutting sector, Education, employment and social policies, Competitiveness and innovation, Rule of law and fundamental rights and Environment and climate action.





Medium and long-term 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 establishing supportive normative frameworks at all institutional levels, supporting quality services to citizens, responsive to their needs, particularly of the most vulnerable and excluded population.

In the **Democracy and governance sector**, Switzerland will maintain its focus on the local level. Budget support based on performance will be used for municipal investments. Empowering civil society and citizens and improving their democratic capacities will also be in the focus. In cooperation with SIDA, engagement of citizens in municipal decision making, in the provision of municipal quality services and in the implementation of local development initiatives is fostered through the revitalisation of sub-municipal units (Mjesna zajednica) as spaces for citizens' participation and social inclusion. Focused activities support the setting up of functional vertical cooperation mechanisms and the strengthening of capacities at all relevant institutional levels.

In the field of **Environment and climate action**, investments in infrastructure for drinking water and waste water treatment and institutional strengthening of public utilities will remain a focus. Switzerland, together with the German Promotional Bank (KfW), supports the rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation systems in the towns of Tuzla and Zenica. Furthermore, targeted interventions with the aim to lower emissions and foster climate resilience (e.g. through renewable energy and energy efficiency) are envisaged.

In the **Rule of law and fundamental rights sector**, support to the High Judiciary and Prosecutor Council of BiH continues with an aim to raise efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the judiciary and increase access to justice for all citizens. The establishment of a functional institutional set up in BiH's Juvenile Justice System will be further enhanced. Swiss support to the State authorities in BiH will be continued in improving the management of regular and irregular migration in BiH, including effective readmission of returnees, immigration and asylum procedures, safe return/deportation, and proper treatment of migrants.

In the field of **Education, employment and social policies**, interventions address new and better employment opportunities by creating a favourable economic environment for businesses with the engagement of public and private sector, including the Diaspora. Swiss Youth Employment Portfolio will continue to work on the three major aspects around the labour market (skills gap, connection gap, jobs gap). Young people's employment will be supported through an improved intermediation system within Public Employment Services. Policy dialogue, as an integral part of all interventions, will contribute to achieve systemic changes. This relates in particular to the reform of Public Employment Services, vocational education and training reform, the regulation of adult education, as well as the involvement of the Diaspora.

In the **Competitiveness and innovation sector**, Switzerland continues to work through International Financial Institutions in creating better regulatory frameworks on national and entity levels for private sector growth and better export opportunities; also as result of more transparent and efficient public financial management schemes. Counselling services provided by municipalities to over-indebted citizens will be scaled up, thus increasing financial literacy.

In the **Cross - cutting sector**, support to health sector reforms and improvement of primary health care services is continued. Further efforts will be invested to strengthen the role and position of nurses in order to raise the system's performance and cost-effectiveness. A successfully developed community nursing model, targeting specifically excluded and poor persons, will be rolled out throughout the country. Special focus will be put on multi-sectoral collaboration (whole-of-government approach) for prevention and control of major non-communicable diseases. The role of local communities in creating health-promoting environment will be strengthened.

Donor coordination efforts

Government of Switzerland participates in the following donor coordination groups:

- Local Governance Donor Coordination Group
- Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Coordination Group
- Justice Sector Coordination Group
- Prosecutorial Service Donor Coordination Group
- Educational Sector Coordination Group
- Education Donor Coordination Group
- Health Donor Coordination Group
- Migration & Development Coordination Group

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