

**56 organisations and 201 individuals call  
for the importance of water for everyone worldwide**

**The SWP Position Paper on Water**

Together with its members and partners, the Swiss Water Partnership has submitted a joint position paper linked to the public consultation for the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2021 – 2024: [SWP Position Paper on Water](#). Its major demands are:

Water should be addressed as one of the **highest priorities** in the dispatch 2021 – 2024. It strongly encourages amendments of the dispatch to include

1. **water as a dedicated thematic priority**
2. **SDG 6 in all four development goals**
3. **water as a priority topic for all geographic focus regions**
4. **the share for water in the budget**

**because water**

- is a **dedicated SDG and human right, for which Switzerland** is one of the world's pioneers and engages for on the national and international agenda for years
- is at the core of **all dimensions of sustainable development** and thus for **all four overall development goals**
- is one of the **most essential and strategic resource** for international cooperation **in all regions worldwide**
- needs to be addressed and **managed holistically** to solve multi-dimensional, multi-level and cross-sectoral challenges.

The position paper was endorsed by **56 organisations**, of which 24 are SWP member organisations, and by **201 individuals**, almost all working in the water and sanitation sector. More than two-thirds of the organisations and individuals have stated that their work is related to the Swiss Development cooperation.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude for the supporting organisations and individuals. This has been a huge success for emphasizing the **importance of water for everyone!**

## Importance of water for Switzerland and beyond

- Switzerland depends on water from abroad through its consumed goods
- Switzerland has strongly advocated that water becomes a dedicated SDG and water as a human right for years

*Not only the fact that Switzerland is not immune against water stress due to its dependence on water for consumption and for each living being, but also due to its strong advocacy for water becoming a dedicated SDG and a human right over years show the importance of water for Switzerland and the necessity for coherence in its commitment:*

82% of Switzerland's water footprint is produced outside of Switzerland. This means that most of **the water required to produce all the goods and services consumed in our country comes from abroad. Therefore, Switzerland has a shared responsibility in respect of sustainable water management on a global level.**

Water needs to be included for **all dimensions of sustainable development and for all regions** as it is one of the **most essential and strategic resources** for global social well-being, economic development, the maintenance of ecosystem services and is directly linked to peace and security.

It is a dedicated **human right** and **SDG**, that Switzerland has been advocating for on the international agenda. This recognition in relation to water and sanitation has been at the heart of **Switzerland's strategy** in the national and international cooperation for years. Thus, Switzerland among its partners has committed to ensure **universal access** to safely managed water and sanitation for all humans. The **successes** to improve the access to basic services that Switzerland has achieved worldwide are only a first step. It is coherent and consistent to continue and leverage this **Swiss investment**.

In this regard, SWP encourages the commitment to manage the entire water cycle, including its economic, peace and governance dimension across regions. At the same time, cooperation with all stakeholders among all water-dependent sectors is necessary for achieving a systemic change towards sustainable management of water resources. It must continuously be at the centre of Switzerland's approach to humanitarian aid and development cooperation: Only **the holistic consideration of the entire water cycle, in cooperation with all partners**, has the potential to contribute to an improved health, food security and ultimately to sustainable economic growth, peace and security, which will give a perspective to the local population, with which Switzerland has established partnerships.

Switzerland has an interest and the responsibility in contributing to solving global water problems, as it has a direct and positive impact on our economy, our environment and, above all, on our well-being: Contributing to solving water problems has a **direct and positive impact** on the life of the people worldwide as well as in Switzerland.

Find more specific arguments on the importance of water on Page 9 of the [SWP Position Paper](#).

## **Background**

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Human Security Division (HSD) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), together with the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER), have been working for several months on the draft **Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2021–24 (DE, FR, IT)**. This process began in summer 2018 and will continue until the draft is adopted by the Federal Council and by Parliament in 2020.

The FDFA and the EAER have for the first time decided to launch an optional **public consultation (DE, FR, IT)** in order to **gather input from the cantons, political parties, umbrella associations and other stakeholders** involved in Switzerland's international cooperation. The **consultation has been open until 23 August 2019**.

[All responses](#) to the **Public Consultation regarding the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation (2021-2024)** were made available by the Federal Chancellery.

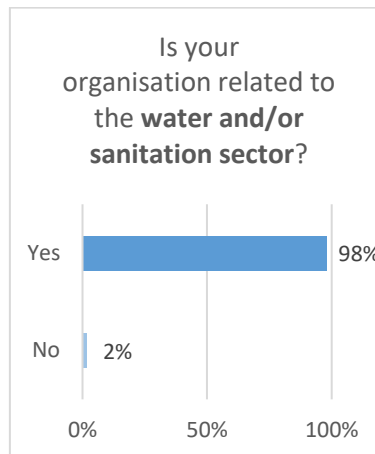
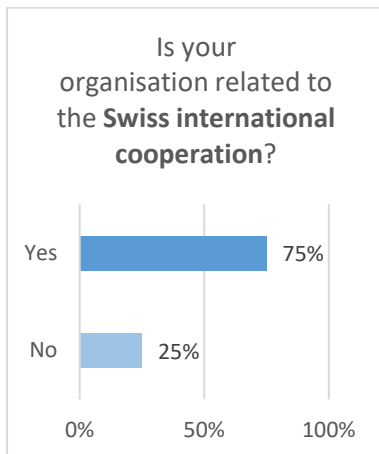
## Endorsing **SWP member** organisations



## Endorsing **partner** organisations

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1001fontaines Suisse   | Land and Water Bolivia Ltda             |
| Access to water  | Mwenya                                  |
| AFVMC Assistance to Families and Victims of Clandestine Migrations | My Imperative Actions                   |
| Agence PRIDAM sprl   | SDW                                     |
| Aqua-4D Water Solutions  | Slum life survival (SLS)                |
| Banka BioLoo   | Solidar Suisse                          |
| Batwa Rock and cave  | SUPSI                                   |
| Center for Watershed   | Swiss NGO DRR Platform                  |
| Daniel Iroegbu Global Health Foundation                            | SWISSAID                                |
| Dropstone sarl   | TAM Ceramics LLC of NY USA              |
| Engineers Without Borders Sierra Leone                             | The Darklands Foundation                |
| European Water Stewardship   | Vivamos Mejor                           |
| Geneva Water   | Water Access Consulting                 |
| H2O Energies   | Water Integrity Network e.V.            |
| HSR University of Applied Sciences Rapperswil                      | Young Water Solutions                   |
| International Secretariat for Water                                | Association pour la Sauvegarde du Léman |

## 56 endorsing organisations



## 201 endorsing individuals

