



Annual Report 2019



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SWP Annual Report 2019

Foreword

Starting the new year in 2019 also meant starting a new phase for the Swiss Water Partnership. Whereas Phase 1 enabled to launch and build up the platform, Phase 2 resulted in a consolidation of the international recognition of Swiss water expertise. An important element of the new, third phase is a shift from a “safe space to a safe and uncertain space” as suggested by the external review. This will mean for instance bringing in more controversial debates and inviting external organizations in SWP events. This is expected to enhance the level of enthusiasm and participation of the members.

The representation of the Swiss Water Partnership and the Swiss water sector at the World Water Week 2019 with 20 members was highly recognized and appreciated internationally. With the awarding of the Swiss Youth Water Prize and the launch of the SWP Youth group, the first activities of the new SWP Youth Strategy were successfully implemented and with it, the recognition that combined efforts are needed to render the sector more attractive to young people, has increased. Also, this year, SWP members and partners have jointly developed a position paper on the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2021 – 2024. This created an interesting dialogue with key actors of the sector in Switzerland and resulted in a strong argumentation for water to be a dedicated thematic priority, in line with the three criteria for Swiss engagement in international development cooperation. Last but not least, a Study Tour on Integrated Water Resource Management was facilitated by Swiss Water Partnership for policy makers from Pakistan.

Thanks to all members and partners for their efforts to contribute to the SDG 6 to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Olga Darazs
SWP Chair



1. About the Swiss Water Partnership

The Swiss Water Partnership (SWP) was launched in 2012, on the initiative of SDC, with the aim to contribute to solving global water challenges and position Switzerland at the forefront of the international water community. More specifically, the SWP aims to contribute to achieving water-related SDG targets by providing space for reflections and partnership creation, developing innovative solutions, and raising visibility of good practices at international level.

Switzerland's privileged situation as Europe's water tower and the fact that around 80% of its water footprint is affecting other countries call for the country to take responsibility to support others in achieving water security for their population and aquatic ecosystems.

Switzerland has a vibrant water sector. Swiss water professionals have demonstrated capacity to develop effective and pragmatic solutions to improve transboundary water management, flood protection, and water pollution control, among others. Swiss water research and the Swiss water and wastewater operators' training and continuing education system are globally recognized. Many countries show interest in Swiss water technologies such as on micro-pollutants, waste management (waste to energy), and hydropower. Finally, Switzerland's development cooperation in water is highly recognized, in particular for its long-term institutional and capacity building, contribution to water for peace, local governance, risk management, innovative partnerships with the public and the private sector, and contributing to global water policies, such as the shaping the water targets under SDG 6, a key milestone in the global water architecture.

The SWP is an independent, value-based multi-stakeholder platform that brings together 68 member organizations from the Swiss academic, civil society, public and private spheres. The SWP is a non-profit association that develops, shares, and promotes innovative solutions for water challenges in developing and transition countries.

2. SWP Phase3 (2019-2021)

2.1 Review Phase 2

Whereas during Phase 1 (May 2012 -April 2015) the platform was launched and built up (mobilizing members, developing a vision and a business model), Phase 2 (May 2015 -December 2018) resulted in a consolidation of the international recognition of Swiss water expertise. This was achieved mainly through a strong presence at the annual World Water Week, high visibility at the World Water Forum in Brasilia, and continuous dialogue with key sector actors such as the World Bank, regional development banks, and other national water partnerships. Moreover, the management of the platform was professionalized (consolidation of the strategy



through a 9 years plan, optimization of internal processes and communication products).

Based on the Phase 2 lessons learned, the SWP will continue to be strongly present at key international events such as at the World Water Week and the World Water Forum, to ensure continuous dialogue with key sector actors and to facilitate space for dialogue in Switzerland.

2.2 SWP Strategy and Objectives Phase 3 (2019-2021)

In 2019, the Swiss Water Partnership started the 3rd phase with a new strategy. A number of new elements were introduced in the new phase, in view of both enhancing the contribution of the SWP to achieving SDG 6 and to create value for the members.

The SWP's **vision** is to be a globally recognized brand of high-quality solutions for water security. Concretely, the SWP aims at becoming a global leader on selected water-related topics. Besides, the SWP wants to become a model network with a dynamic core group and secretariat and an impact network influencing the sector. In Switzerland, the SWP aims at acting as the hub for water-related issues.

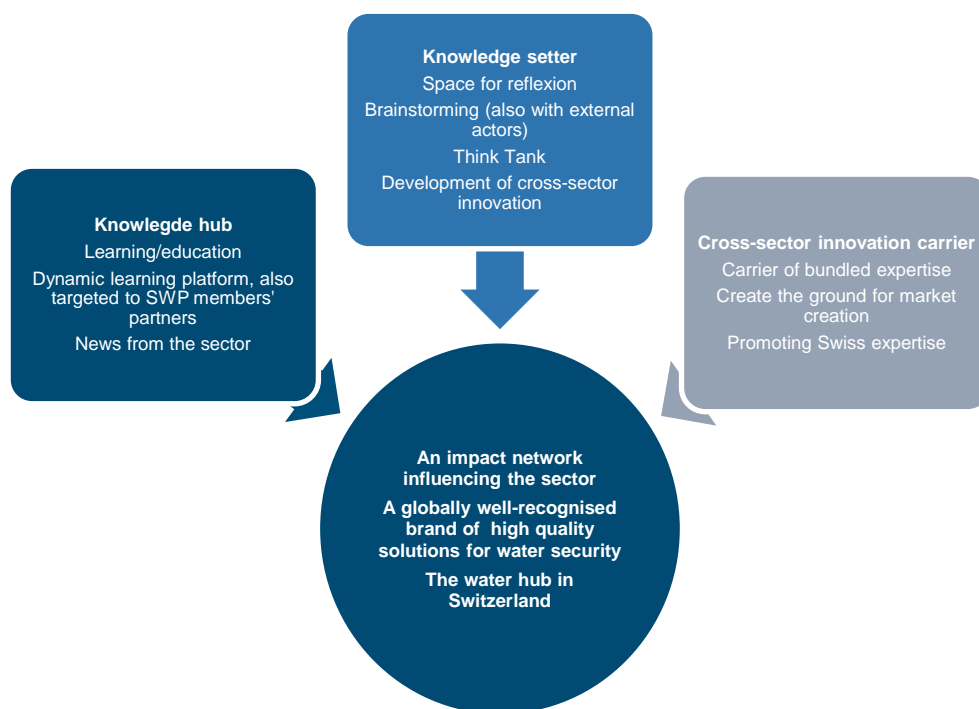


Fig. 1: Swiss Water Partnership Vision



The impact model of the Swiss Water Partnership can be summarized as follows. Engaging youth in water-related reflections (Youth for Water) generates new ideas for the sector and prepare the new generation of water professionals. Additionally, creating space for reflection and the development of innovations (Innovations for SDG Water) contributes to enhancing the effectiveness of approaches to achieve water-related SDG targets. Finally, SWP's convening power and its international presence (Strong Swiss Voice) contribute to the critical review, refinement, adoption and replication of effective approaches and hence to water security. Overall objective of the Partnership is, that stimulated and pooled Swiss knowhow and expertise contribute to improve living conditions in developing and transition countries through enhanced water security.

3. Achievements

3.1 Outcomes & Outputs

For the 3rd phase, the following three outcomes and outputs are foreseen.

Impact	Swiss knowhow and expertise contribute to improve living conditions through improved water security						
	SWP Vision: SWP is recognised globally as a brand of high quality solutions and as the water hub in Switzerland						
Outcomes	Outcome 1 Youth for Water		Outcome 2 Innovations for SDG Water		Outcome 3 Strong Swiss Voice		
	Swiss Youth is engaged and influences water-related reflections		Innovations enhancing the effectiveness of approaches to achieve water-related SDG targets are generated and/or tested and shared		Swiss water expertise is demanded by key actors to contribute to the achievement of water-related SDG targets		
Outputs	Output 1.1	Output 2.1	Output 2.1	Output 2.2	Output 3.1	Output 3.2	Output 3.3
	Attracting Youth	Connecting Youth	Think Tank	Flagship initiatives	Policy / SDG dialogue	Swiss and international events	Swiss and international networks
	DYNAMIC LEARNING				WATER DIALOGUE	STRONG SWISS VOICE	

Fig 2: Impact and Outcomes SWP Phase 3



3.2 Dynamic Learning

Status	Objective
😊 😊	1.1 Awareness on the relevance of water for sustainable development raised among Swiss youth (Attracting Youth)
😊	1.2 Opportunities for young professionals to get involved created (Connecting Youth)
😊	2.1 Opportunities created for Swiss water actors, incl. Youth, to share, learn from each other, and jointly contribute to innovations (SWP Think Tank)
-	2.2 Innovative ideas tested within the framework of flagship initiatives (SWP Flagship Initiatives)

Based on a survey about the members' youth activities, the SWP youth strategy was elaborated and approved 2019. A youth group of young professional water experts was launched with a Kick-off Event in September 2019. The group started to share ideas for organizing youth activities and exchange events. The Swiss Junior Water Prize was awarded and the winner had the possibility to present his project at the Stockholm World Water Week.

A dialogue session about Water and Peace was organized on the occasion of the Geneva Peace week. This learning event was an event where young professionals and senior professionals met and exchanged.

As one of possible Flagship Initiatives, the Swiss Water Partnership developed and discussed a Financing Facility, to demonstrate an innovative way to enhance access to market-based repayable finance for water security solutions. Based on this concept, a pilot project in Ethiopia was supposed to start in 2019 but could not yet due to political obstacles. The discussions with the collaborating SWP members are ongoing if the continuation of the project is possible. Based on an agreed set of criteria, other possible Flagship Initiatives will be identified in 2020, close to members' interest and influence sphere.



3.2.1 Swiss Junior Water Prize

The Swiss Junior Water Prize (Swiss-JWP) is awarded to young students between 15 and 20 years old, who have conducted school projects related to water and sanitation with proven environmental, scientific, social or technological significance. The winners of the Swiss-JWP are entitled to represent Switzerland in the international contest Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP), held every year during the World Water Week in Stockholm.

The Swiss Junior Water Prize 2019 was granted to Zamir Borojevic for the project “Tardigrada – Bärtierchen unter dem Einfluss von Säuren/Laugen und UV-C Licht”. An extract of the evaluation committee’s statement on the project reads:

“The objective of Zamir Borojevic's research project was to characterize and quantify tolerance mechanisms that enable the tardigrades to survive adverse environmental conditions. It is expected that better understanding of the survival mechanisms of the tardigrades will lead to the development of new methods that could enable the conservation of biological material in situ, as well as macromolecules and cells. The drying or freezing of cells usually leads to a massive damage to the cell membranes and proteins. This eventually leads to the death of the cell and ultimately to the death of the organism. Surprisingly, this is not the case with tardigrades. They have the remarkable ability to circumvent such problems and are able to survive complete dehydration, freezing and other extreme environmental conditions such as changes in pH, UV radiation, etc... ..future research on tardigrades could provide fundamental understanding about the interactions between life and water, leading to better ways to cope with environmental and climate changes”.



Photo: Swiss Toilet Organization

As winner of the Swiss-JWP, Zamir Borojevic represented Switzerland at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) during the last week of August 2019. This is the most prestigious event dedicated to water and Mr. Borojevic proved to be a worthy ambassador of Swiss youth, displaying deep knowledge on the subject of his research during the project presentation in front of the international jury.

3.2.2 “Youth Ideas for Water” at Xylem Europe

A group of passionate people ranging from high school students to retired and renowned experts came together in Schaffhausen to exchange on a common interest: water!



The event “Youth Ideas for Water” was organized by the Swiss Water Partnership (SWP) and Xylem Inc. within the frame of the “Swiss Junior Water Prize”, aiming to fostering exchange between promising young talents and professionals in the water sector.

The event carried out on 6th March 2019 was hosted by Xylem Europe GmbH, one of the main sponsors of the Swiss Junior Water Prize, at their offices in Schaffhausen. These are some highlights among the many interesting aspects that the afternoon had to offer:



Photo: SWP

- Luca Schaufelberger, Cynthia Baumann, and Laura Bauer presented the projects they developed to enter the national competition Swiss Youth in Science in 2017 and 2018. The students also focused on efforts and results that have been achieved after their participation in the contest, showing their continued interest in the topics of their research.
- Christian Zurbrügg (Eawag) presented the SWP Youth Strategy, underlining the importance of engaging youth in the water sector, a goal that was immediately acknowledged by Xylem.
- Multiple discussions took place between the young generation and the experienced one, paving the way for future support and cooperation possibilities.
- Professionals from various SWP member organizations gained an inside perspective about the technologies and solutions implemented by Xylem.

“Youth Ideas for Water” was a round success, resulting in a positive experience for all attendees, and encouraging the organization of similar exchange events in the future.

3.2.3 SWP Youth Group Kick-off Event



Photo: SWP

On September 25, 2019, eleven young minds from all over Switzerland gathered in Bern to discuss the challenges they face in the water sector. The event, organized by the Swiss Water Partnership, brought together young people and experts from the fields of water engineering, social sciences and water management to investigate the needs of young people in the professional water world.



Students and experts first learned more about each other's exciting work through two warmup exercises that allowed them to understand the important place water has in their lives. One young professional, Katarina, shared her experience of growing up on a farm with no water connection in Ukraine. Darcy, an experienced water engineer teaching at the ETH Zurich surprised everyone with a similar story about growing up in a village with no water supply in Africa. Elodie, from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, told everyone about her Master's thesis on the use of water as a weapon in the Syrian war and her fieldwork experience in Turkey. As it turned out, most people in the group had some kind of a personal connection to water issues, and this revelation broke the ice and provided an excellent base connect with each other.



Photo: SWP

After discussing the SWP Youth Strategy, the participants aligned with two sub-goals of the Strategy:

- Make the water sector more attractive to pupils and students;
- Support young professionals to enter the Water Sector in Development Cooperation.

The discussed events "Youth Water Festival" and "Networkshops" or "Netwatershops" as well as questions concerning the YWG governance will be further discussed by the group.

3.2.4 Geneva Peace Week



Fig. 3: Poster Geneva Peace Week



Photo: Elodie Feijoo Seara



The Geneva Peace Week was an event of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. The Intergenerational Dialogue on Water and Peace was co-convened by the Swiss Water Partnership. This event on Water and Peace consisted of three interactive dialogue sessions that featured one young professional and one senior professional on the theme of water and peace:

- Topic 1: Local and inclusive water management practices for conflict prevention
- Topic 2: Water in contemporary warfare from a civilians' perspective
- Topic 3: Fostering Transboundary Water Cooperation

The variety of topics allowed to bring together speakers and participants with different interests topic-wise but sharing a common interest in the water sector. The nexus between water and peace was explored across disciplines and across categories of actors. In order to build a lasting peace, it is important to include younger generations in the process, and the aim of this event was not only to have a youth presence among participants but to have them as speakers to give young people a platform allowing their voices to be heard and recognition of their expertise.

Policy recommendations on peacebuilding:

- Designing laws/inclusive mechanisms/institutions etc. is not enough; implementation is key!
- Mobilize and empower a new generation of water leaders to contribute to a sustainable and peaceful development.
- Encourage inclusive water management practices, specifically those including young people and women.
- Improve communication and knowledge sharing between categories of actors, sectors and generations.
- Acknowledge the role of civilians as target in contemporary warfare in order to provide adequate protective mechanisms and answers.
- Put an emphasis on the sustainability of the humanitarian approach and complement shortterm answers with an enhancement of civilians' capacities e.g. providing them with information on how to protect, repair, and manage the infrastructures; establishment of water-users associations.
- Share best practices from river basin organizations, such as information exchange, to favour the creation of new ones and the effective contribution of current and new organisations to peace.

The event was a good opportunity to connect stakeholders and support the exchange between SWP members. Further information can be found on the Website of the [Geneva Peace Week](#) and [SWP](#).



3.3 Water Dialogue

Status	Objective
😊 😊	3.1 A dialogue on selected issues related to the monitoring and implementation of water-related SDG targets facilitated in Switzerland (Water Dialogue)

The Swiss Water Partnership has the target to facilitate knowledge sharing by contributing to the global policy dialogue. In 2019, the platform supported its member organizations to get involved in policy making through a position paper on water.

3.3.1 Position Paper on Water

A [position paper](#) on Water in the framework of the public consultation for the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2021 - 2024 was elaborated. The paper was endorsed by 56 organizations, of which 24 are SWP member organizations, and by 201 individuals from the water and sanitation sector, totaling 15'200 individuals from the Swiss water sector (see [press release from 17 September 2019](#)). The work of more than two-thirds of these organizations and individuals is related to the Swiss Development cooperation.

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 with 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 center 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.

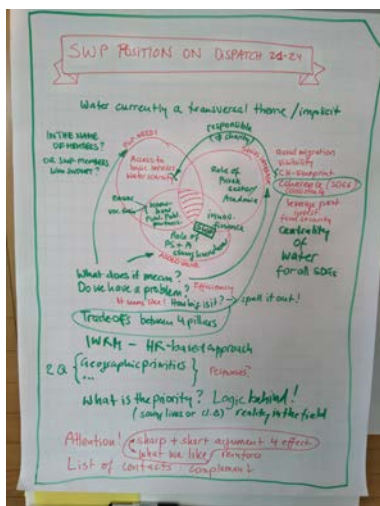


Photo: SWP

SWP members and partners have jointly developed a strong argumentation to demonstrate that water as a dedicated thematic priority is in line with the three criteria for the engagement in international development cooperation.

Given this strong argumentation from the Swiss water and sanitation sector and Switzerland's prominent advocacy for the adoption of water as a human right and dedicated SDG, SWP encourages that Switzerland remains coherent in its commitment and strongly supports the global implementation of the human right and SDG 6. Therefore, SWP urges that water becomes a dedicated thematic priority in the dispatch 2021 - 2024.

3.4 Strong Swiss Voice

Status	Objective
😊😊	3.2 Swiss water expertise highlighted at Swiss and international events (Events)
😊😊	3.3 Relationships built/ maintained with key sector actors (Networks)

The international exchange with other networks and international partners is an essential part of the goals of Swiss Water Partnership. The best occasions for networking in 2019 were the Stockholm World Water Week and the Study Tour with a group from Pakistan.

3.4.1 World Water Week | Stockholm

The Theme of World Water Week 2019 was “Water for Society: Including all”, seeking to draw attention to the fact that humanity’s major challenges are interlinked and can



only be solved through broad solutions. The escalating water crisis has increased focus on the importance of good water governance, to make sure that there is enough clean water for the many competing needs. It is of particular importance that marginalized groups are not left behind and that they can influence decision-making. How this can be achieved was explored from various angles throughout World Water Week 2019. Many sessions were dedicated to sharing the knowledge of different groups, such as people living with disabilities, ethnic minorities, slum-dwellers, the young and the elderly. Other activities focused on how gender roles and power relations impact who gets what water, reminding participants that efficient water governance may require the challenging of traditional stereotypes.



Photo: SWP

This year, 20 SWP Members were involved in the SWWW (SWP stand and/or session). The Swiss Water Partnership's central elements were the booth with the Swiss reception and the daily presentations, Switzerland's participation in the international competition Stockholm Junior Water Prize, one co-convened [session](#) together with 5 SWP members, and 1

exclusive high-level side event outside the official conference hosted by the Embassy of Switzerland in Sweden.

The Swiss presence can be summarized as follows:

- ✚ Booth Size and Setting: The booth was in a new location, very accessible and large enough to include a presentation area, a lounge and a meeting corner with tables (the size was 30 m²). The design was kept as in the past years – clean and bright. As a networking hub, the place served for interaction, discussion, meetings. Compared to the former years, the booth had less sessions but gave more room to young people to present their initiatives (such as intergenerational talks between senior and junior water professionals and sharing lessons learned from the scientific expedition from glaciers to Aral).
- ✚ High visibility of the SWP booth events: There was a min. of 25 people at SWP booth events (1 x event over 70 people). Compared to the past years, the audience almost tripled (10-15 people at the SWP booth in 2018). This indicates that the location of the SWP Booth is key. The fact of indicating early enough the wish of a strategically well-located booth proved beneficial to the Swiss water community since the SWP booth served as a networking HUB and a place for meetings. It is recommended to continue to focus on quality and innovative ways to present (market place, games, networking aperitifs)



and the key messages that we, as Swiss water community want to transmit to the audience, rather than having a dense program at the booth, which poorly visited (quality before quantity).

- ✚ The Swiss Events (Swiss Reception at the booth and the high-level political Dinner-Discussion at the Residence of the Ambassador) were both appreciated by the audience, very popular and well attended, same as in the past.

- ✚ Special event: The exclusive SWP high-level event in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy in Stockholm as well as the Geneva Water Hub and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation was well attended with over 70 people. Thanks to the unique collaboration with the Swiss Embassy in Stockholm, the private dinner-discussion with high level speakers (water ministers and experts from different regions of the world) was a success. It created increased political awareness on the challenges faced in securing access to basic water related services due to violence in conflict zones or when hosting population fleeing violence in neighboring countries, and it underlined the importance of water as an instrument for dialogue and peace.

- ✚ The Swiss water expertise was shared prominently at the daily sessions with an average of 11 events per day where SWP members were involved. Out of the 70 SWP members, over 20 participated in this year's WWW. In total, over 50% of all sessions during the WWW involved a SWP member. It was also mentioned that in the SWP co-convened one session (*"Addressing discrimination and neglect in WASH: An uncomfortable conversation"*) and received very positive feedback related to the content: it was perceived very specific, "unconformable", honest, authentic and high quality. It was live streamed and can be accessed here [part 1](#); [part 2](#).

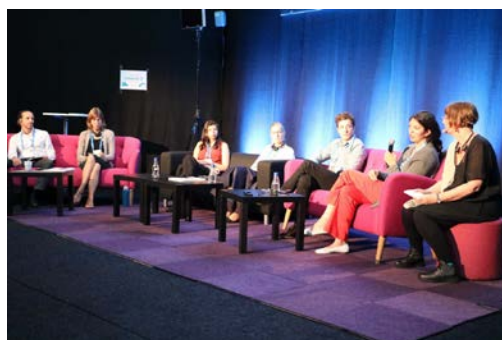


Photo: SWP

- ✚ Innovation: Some aspects that were used to increase the innovative approach were 1) to go as paperless as possible (business cards with QR codes) through the reduction of print material, 2) the achievement of the Gold Standard for the SWP session (min. 40% of women; min. 1 young professional for each seminar), and 3) daily interactive sessions at the booth (intergenerational dialogues, youth platform, film screening).

- ✚ The topic of youth was very present – during the conference itself but also in this years' Swiss program. While in 2018, the SWP focused mainly on the Swiss Junior Water Prize, in 2019 the activities were more diverse: The Youth scientific expedition from glaciers to Aral (SDC funded program) allowed the Central Asia Youth for Water Network to present its documentary on IWRM and Climate Change. The Geneva Water Hub organized intergenerational water talks (between senior and junior experts) at the booth and cewas gave



the stage to young entrepreneurs from all over the world. The SWP held a session at the SIWI young professional's booth aiming at presenting the youth strategy and strengthen its network with other youth groups/ young professionals. The youth led organizations such as World Youth Parliament for Water and the Young Water Solutions, which are linked to SWP partner International Secretariat for Water, were key actors at the SWP Booth but also created noise during the conference.

- ✚ Strategic meetings: The strategic meetings are key and were fruitful this year. The SWP has strengthened its relationship with ADB, the WB and national water partnerships, connected through the NowNet platform. All partners expressed their interest to deepen the collaboration for 2020 - especially the Dutch, French, Global and German Water Partnership. The World Bank is generally interested in the SWP study tour offer but a specific entry point needs to be found. Further, the ADB confirmed a study visit for summer 2020. The planning process will start in January 2020. These development show that there is high interest in the Swiss expertise by international key sector actors.
- ✚ The word “*Blue Peace*” (*standing for hydrodiplomacy/ hydropolitics*) was the buzzword and even mentioned at the closing plenary. Most Swiss events were centered around this topic, which created a nice red thread through the week that could be picked up easily by the audience. Besides hydropolitics, the word “transboundary” and “Water Stewardship” were key words.
- ✚ Media/Social Media: The SWP members' dynamic activities attracted a lot of attention and a SWP partner [landed on the front page of the official daily newspaper “the Water Front Daily”](#) (Antonella Vagliente, Young Water Solutions). The Swiss Junior Water Prize Winner 2019 Zamir Borojevic was featured in the Swiss local newspaper “Aargauer Zeitung” ([access article here](#)). Further, the SWP session on Addressing “Discrimination and Neglect in WASH, an uncomfortable conversation” was live streamed. Further, during the whole week the SWP events were mostly announced with a teaser through [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

3.4.2 Study Tour

Helvetas Pakistan, through its SDC-financed Water for Livelihoods project (W4L), supported the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (GoKP) in Pakistan in developing an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) strategy for the province. The National Water Policy 2018 supports Integrated Water Resource Management concept and suggests the provinces to prepare their own water related strategies including IWRM. “An IWRM strategy which can promote the coordinated development



and management of water and land resources in a sustainable and equitable manner, as yet not been achieved” (National Water Policy 2018, page 2). The IWRM approach takes water as one shared, finite and economic resource.



Photo: SWP

The Study Tour for the GoKP partners of the SDC funded Water for Livelihoods Project on IWRM and Institutions was facilitated by the Swiss Water Partnership.

The overall objective was to enable senior policymaking stakeholders from Pakistan for implementation of the strategy’s priorities, seeking exposure and ideas from good global practices around four main pillars, namely:

- Sustainable Water Resource Management
- Improved Water Governance
- Effective Public Private Partnership
- Improved knowledge and awareness on water

The specific objectives of the Study Visit were the following:

1. Same level of understating on the main principles of IWRM adapting the concept for administrative boundary of the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, inhabiting several micro and meso basins.
2. Acquire further knowledge on the basic theory and the international lessons learnt on the river basin management and the institutions.
3. Acquire ideas and guidance for the implementation of the water sector reform in KP Pakistan.



Photo: SWP

The 9 representatives of several Ministries of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa visited the Aare Port for the water regulation for the 3 Jura lakes, got introduced in the transboundary collaboration and river renaturation concepts in Geneva and visited eawag in Dübendorf to get introduced in their Groundwater Assessment Platform (GAP). Furthermore, presentation of SWP members introduced the participants to Swiss innovations and projects. The participating SWP members were Geneva Water Hub, Helvetas, eawag, Etat de Genève, SDC, skat consulting, Photrack, the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) as well as the Switzerland Global Enterprise.



4. Financial Overview

The SWP balance for 2019 is **CHF -35'050.64** through a total income of **CHF 354'305.10** while the total expenditures consisted of **CHF 389'355.74**. Though SWP managed to reduce the expenditures to CHF 389'355.74 instead of the budgeted CHF 444'909.00, the income didn't reach the expected CHF 445'000.00 but only CHF 354'305.10.

EXPENSES	Budget 2019	Financial Report 2019
Remuneration	283'100.00	253'171.98
Coordination	148'500.00	124'671.35
Secretary General	55'800.00	32'705.00
Focal Point Suisse Romande	55'800.00	65'061.28
Administration	9'000.00	22'498.85
Graphic design	5'000.00	1'317.50
Bookkeeping/ Audit	8'000.00	6'918.00
Translation	1'000.00	0.00
Material expenses	58'500.00	26'522.84
International events (exhibition space + materials, seminar fees)	50'000.00	18'743.95
Swiss events	5'000.00	5'095.11
Print (flyers, brochures, etc.)	1'000.00	930.00
Website hosting + continuous improvements	2'500.00	1'295.58
Finance expenses ZKB		96.00
Other material cost		362.20
Travel expenses	11'500.00	9'141.28
Airfare international events	6'000.00	2'462.07
Expenses accomodation and food	4'000.00	5'337.99
Train tickets within Switzerland	1'500.00	1'341.22
Other costs	60'000.00	71'602.69
Study Tour 4WL	0.00	29'383.06
Flagship initiatives	50'000.00	12'450.00
Youth initiatives	10'000.00	10'406.02
Expenses Phase 2	0.00	19'363.61
VAT (7.7%)	31'809.00	28'916.95
TOTAL COSTS	444'909.00	389'355.74

INCOME	Budget 2019	Financial Report 2019
SDC contribution	290'000.00	232'000.00
Membership fees	55'000.00	53'750.00



Other income	100'000.00	68'555.10
Member contribution for events, trainings, etc.	20'000.00	8'080.55
Event sponsorship	15'000.00	18'000.00
Youth initiative sponsorship	10'000.00	6'500.00
Flagship initiative sponsorship	50'000.00	0.00
Other resources/ income (Study Tour)	5'000.00	35'974.55
TOTAL INCOME	445'000.00	354'305.10
Balance	91.00	-35'050.64
SDC contribution as % of Total income		65%
SDC contribution as % of Total expenditure		60%

Fig. 4: Financial Report 2019

The lower than expected **income** is explained by the absence of sponsorship of Flagship Initiatives, which was budgeted with CHF 50'000. Also, member contributions for events and trainings was lower than expected (8'080.55 instead of 20'000) because several learning events with member contribution were in preparation but not yet carried out (planned for 2020). On the other hand, additional income was generated through the Study Tour from 2019 (35'974.55 instead of 5'000 budgeted). The income from membership fees was close to expected, with some membership fees still outstanding.

As a result, that the main income of the Swiss Water Partnership is still through the contribution of SDC (65 percent). The income from Study Tours (10%) and learning events with participation fee has potential to be increased the coming years.

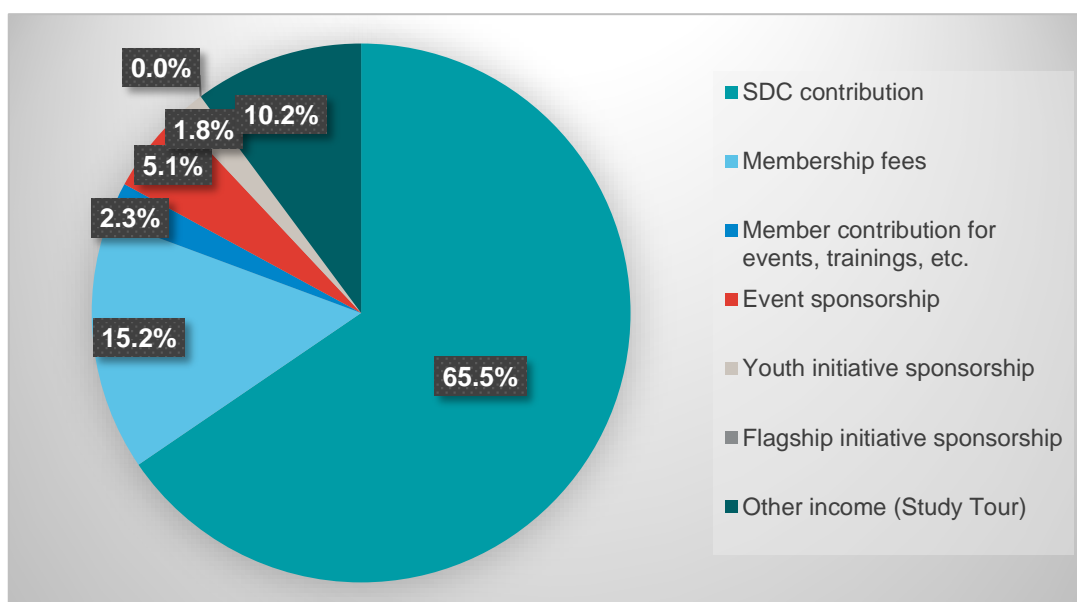


Fig. 5: Income Repartition 2019



The total **expenditures** were lower than in the budget 2019. 65 percent of the expenditures was on remuneration, material expenses were 7 percent, travel expenses 2 percent and the Study Tour 7 percent. Other costs (18%) incurred for the Flagship Initiative, the Study Tour, Youth Initiatives and a depreciation of CHF 19'363.06 from the 2nd phase of SWP. This is explained as follows: in 2019, the financial report for the 2nd phase was finalized and approved. According to the SDC contract, the expected final contribution of SDC for phase 2 was a maximum amount of CHF 50'000. The final calculations of SDC for the phase resulted in the effectively paid amount of CHF 30'636.39¹. This requires a depreciation of CHF 19'363.06 in 2019.

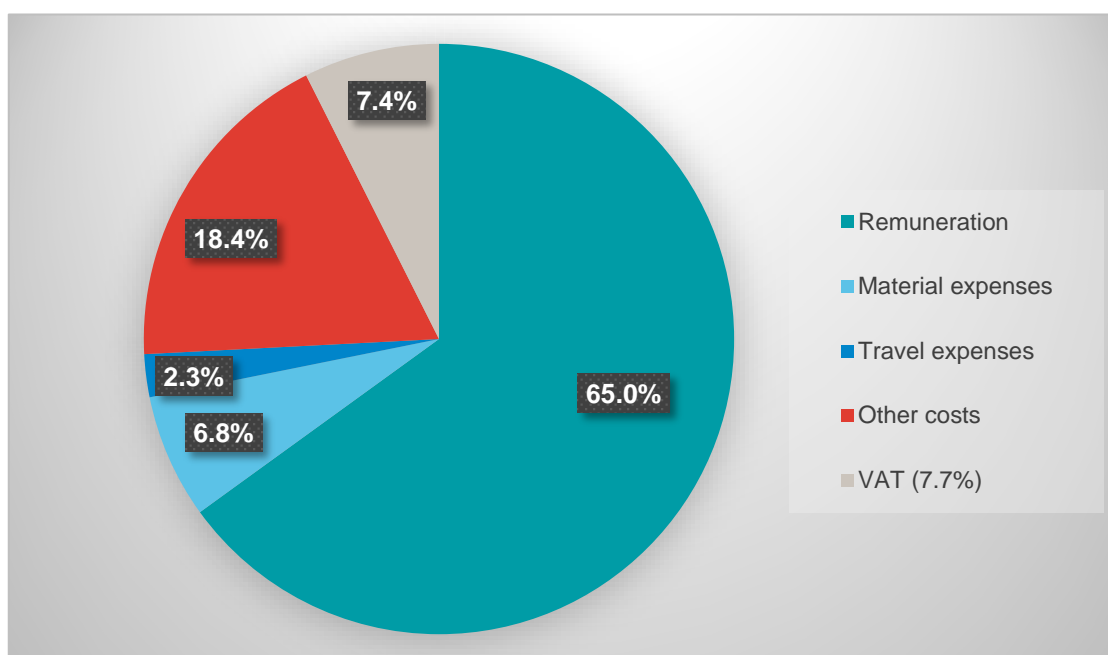


Fig. 6: Expense Repartition 2019

According to the contract between SWP and SDC for the Phase 3, the SDC "contribution shall finance a maximum of 61% of the total expenditures of the organization". For the year 2019, the SDC contribution received was 60 percent of total expenditures.

¹ In 2019, the maximum amount was not paid, because the budget submitted for the year 2015 was not for the period August – December 2015 as per contract (the contract starts on 01.08.2015) but for the period May – December 2015. May 2015 was the first envisioned start of contract before it was set to August 2015, yet the budget was not adapted accordingly. This adjustment took place when closing Phase 2 in 2019.



5. Outlook 2020

In the second year of the Phase 3, the Swiss Water Partnership has the following priorities:

Platform development:

- further creating value for the members by diversifying the activities thematically;
- enhancing thematic diversity of members and financial sustainability of the platform by motivating new potential members from the finance and insurance sector to join the platform;

Dynamic Learning (Connecting and Attracting Youth):

- implementing activities of the youth strategy, for example starting a mentoring program for Matura students, supporting the SWP youth group in their activities and organize exchange events for young water professionals;

Strong Swiss Voice:

- preparing international events like the Stockholm World Water Week 2020, the World Water Forum in Dakar 2021 and the EXPO Dubai 2021;

Water Dialogue:

- elaborate a position paper with the members of SWP about the water sector in Switzerland;
- create further thematic working groups to prepare the World Water Week 2021 and the World Water Forum 2021.



6. Members of the SWP

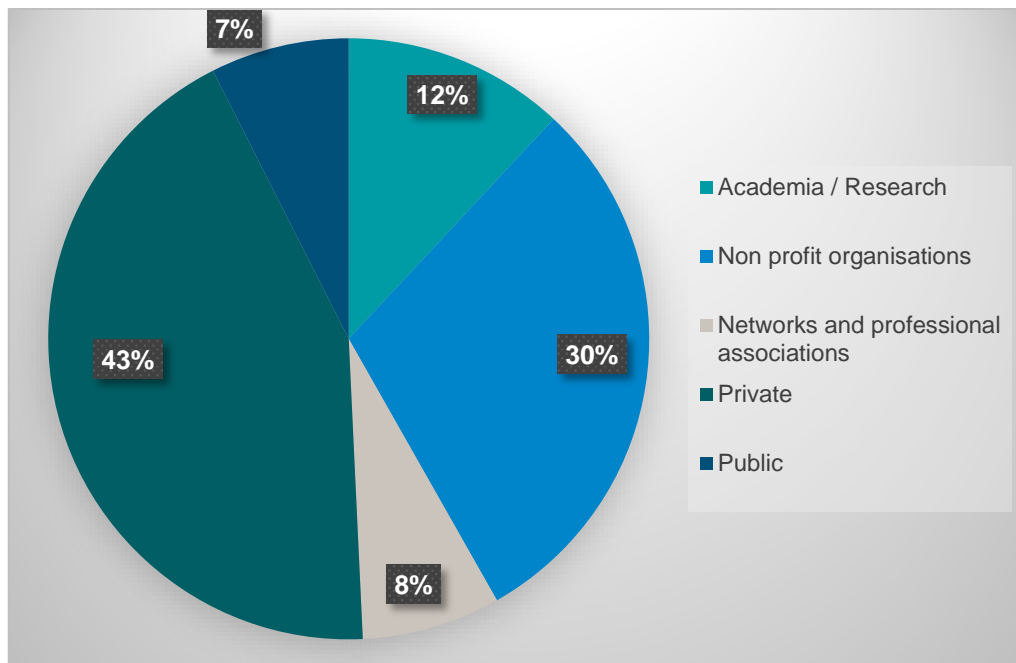


Fig. 7: SWP Member Repartition by Sector (2019)

The SWP is a partnership comprising currently 68 members. Five former members resigned from their membership because they have a different line of business, do not find where the added value for each other is or their strategy and activities are no longer in line with the SWP strategy. The partnership is well-balanced with 43% private sector, 30% non-profit organizations, 12% academia and research, 8% networks and professional associations, and 7% public sector. Member acquisition in the coming years will therefore mainly focus on gaining members who well complement the current members thematically and sector-wise, such as representatives from the finance or insurance sector in line with the platform's member acquisition strategy. The focus is rather on quality of the members than on quantity.

The [member organizations of the SWP](#) contribute to shape the platform's strategy and activities through their active involvement in the General Assembly, working and discussion groups, and events. Under the SWP umbrella, members further enhance their expertise, visibility and potential impact by learning from each other, jointly developing and discussing new ideas, promoting them within national and international events and by bringing them to key international actors in the water sector.



7. Organizational Set-Up

7.1 Steering Board

The total 12 Steering Board members are key decision-makers, representing the SWP member organizations across sectors and reflect the multi-stakeholder character of the Swiss Water Partnership. The SWP Steering Board meets twice a year to review the Secretariat's work and give them strategic advice. In 2019, Co-Chairperson Thomas Zeller resigned from his position and the Steering Board. The SWP thanks him wholeheartedly for his commitment since the foundation of the platform.

SB Member	Member organisation	Electe d	End of Mandate	Sector
Olga Darazs, Chair	CSD Engineers	2019	2021	Private
Andreas Zysset	EBP	2019	2021	Private
Chris Zurbrügg	Eawag	2019	2021	Research
Darcy Molnar	ETHZ, Institute of Environmental Engineering	2016	2019	Research
Derko Kopitopoulos	Ecopsis	2019	2021	Private
Edi Medilanski	State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO)	2019	2021	Public sector
Eric Plan	Cleantech Alps	2019	2021	Network / professional associations
Johan Gély	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	2017	2020	Public sector
Johannes Heeb	Cewas	2019	2021	Private
Nidal Salim	Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health (GIWEH)	2019	2021	Non-Profit
Rose Osinde Alabaster	Water, Environment and Human Development Initiative (WEHDI)	2017	2020	Non-Profit

Fig. 8: Steering Board Composition 2019



7.2 Secretariat

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation hosts the SWP Secretariat. The Secretariat team consists of three water experts who are sharing a full-time position. In 2019, all positions were replaced by new person. SWP warmly thanks Agnes Montangero (SG), Anne Sophie Aublet (Focal point Swiss-Romandie) and Soraya Kohler (Coordinator) for their commitment for the platform and the successful implementation of many activities over the years. You can contact the secretariat by writing to info@swisswaterpartnership.ch.

Secretary General: Bernita Doornbos

Bernita Doornbos took over the position as Secretary General from Agnes Montangero in June 2019. Bernita Doornbos is an agricultural engineer specialized in irrigation with experience in irrigation and rural development projects in the Andean region (Ecuador, Peru). Her PhD research was on the introduction of sprinkler irrigation in smallholders' production systems in Cusco, Peru. She has training experience on integrated water resources management for water professionals and has done consultancies in water resources management, irrigation, climate change adaptation and rural development in the Andean region. She has been working with HELVETAS in the Andes since 2007 and took over the function of Head Water and Infrastructure in the Advisory Services department in May 2019.

Focal point Swiss-Romandie: Sandra Fürst

Sandra Fürst is a development professional who combines her technical and methodological expertise in climate-resilient water and food systems with her passion to design and implement sustainable innovations for rural livelihoods at scale. In 2019, she took over the role as Focal point Swiss-Romandie for the SWP Secretariat from Anne Sophie Aublet as representative of Skat, which is subcontracted by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation. Sandra mostly took over the implementation of the youth strategy of SWP and supports the Coordinator for the organization of national and international events.

Coordinator: Soraya Kohler

Soraya joined the SWP as Coordinator in 2017 and ended her position by December 2019. As coordinator she was the main contact point for external requests as much as for the SWP members. The Swiss Water Partnership thanks her for the effort she put in the time as Coordinator and congratulates her for organizing many successful events. From February 2020, the new Coordinator Marisa Ruoss will take over the position, after a handover period with Soraya in December 2019.



7.3 Working and Discussion Groups

The SWP aims at providing its members opportunities to take the lead and/or actively engage in discussion or working groups on specific topics or in preparation of a specific event.

The SWP Steering Board clarified that any member can launch a **discussion group** to exchange, discuss or innovate. Discussion groups are a dynamic tool open to any member interested in shaping the SWP.

The creation of a **working group** is more formalized as the Steering Board has to validate it along its planned objectives and outputs. It needs a host member and 2-3 other members from at least two different sectors.

The working groups are free to invite additional stakeholders from outside SWP (on national or international level) to collaborate for an event or to work at a specific topic.

The following table presents the working and discussion groups that exist today, but since these are dynamic groups hosted by SWP members and can easily be linked to the SWP activity streams and value propositions, new groups may emerge and some existing may phase out.

7.3.1 Working Groups

Name	Objective	Lead
Water Integrity	Sensitize Swiss organizations on water integrity issues	Cewas
Assessment of Surface & Groundwater	Prepare and organize a knowledge learning event for SWP members	SWP / ETHZ
SWP Youth	Discussing and elaborating the SWP Youth Strategy	SWP

7.3.2 Discussion Groups

Name	Objective	Lead
SDG 6 Monitoring & Implementation	Discuss the processes underway towards implementation and monitoring water-related targets in the SDG framework and identify synergies among SWP members.	SWP