

The Swiss Labour Assistance SLA

Swiss Labour Assistance has been committed **to achieving a socially, politically and economically just society since 1936**. It empowers people to live their lives with dignity and security. It assists people and organisations to exercise their rights. To achieve this, the SLA seeks to influence the social and political processes that are relevant to its work.

The SLA is active both in Switzerland and abroad. It works with local partner organisations and is currently involved in 65 projects in **ten developing countries**. These projects aim to improve living conditions and a fair distribution of resources.

Working closely with trade unions, the SLA fights **for better working conditions**, supports unemployment projects and promotes social dialogue with employers' organisations. In the unregulated labour market, where workers are even more prone to exploitation, the SLA is committed to protect and stand up for the rights of workers.

The SLA strives for worldwide **democratisation and participation** through education and information programmes giving people the opportunity to shape their own future. Rural development is also a key component of the SLA's work.

The SLA is equally focused on **humanitarian aid** and has the knowledge and experience to provide assistance rapidly and effectively in the event of humanitarian disaster. «Solidar» offers a highly effective global network of operational partners who share the same humanitarian principles.



The SLA currently works in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Kosovo, Moçambique, Nicaragua, Serbia, South Africa; humanitarian aid in India and Sri Lanka.

The SLA was founded and is sponsored by the **Social Democratic Party** of Switzerland and the **Swiss Federation of Trade Unions**. The SLA implements many of its programmes under the mandate of the **SDC** (the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation). The SLA is a partner organisation of the **Swiss Solidarity** and member of the European Network **Solidar**, which is composed of 35 aid agencies with links to the social democratic and trade union movement.

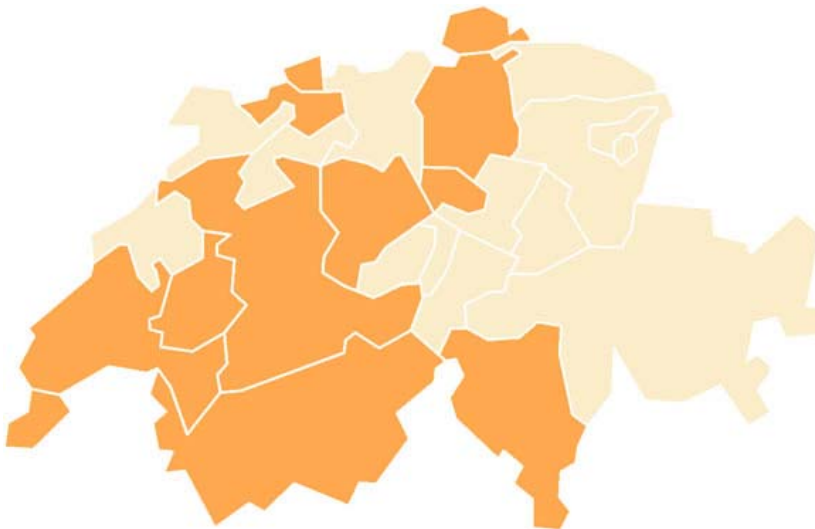
The SLA is certified by **ZEWO**, the Swiss fundraising monitoring agency. The SLA has a turnover of almost **15 million Swiss Francs**. The SLA's funding comes from private donations and membership fees that account for approximately one third of its income. The remainder comes from federal, national and community grants and the Swiss Solidarity. There is a staff of 30 people at the SLA head office employed equivalent to 20 full-time jobs. The SLA is managed by an executive board, the majority of whose members are women.

The SLA is registered as an **association under** Swiss law and is chaired by Hans-Jürg Fehr. The executive board has been managed by Ruth Daellenbach.

The SLA in Switzerland

In Switzerland, there are **ten independent regional SLA Associations with up to 300 staff members** working for disadvantaged people. They offer education, training, activity and job integration programmes for **unemployed people**. In addition, they advise and accompany **asylum seekers, refugees and migrants**.

The SLA is a member of the Swiss Refugee Council (SRC) and is involved in numerous groups that seek to influence social and political issues in Switzerland.



Ten regional SLA Associations (Basel, Bern, Central Switzerland, Fribourg, Geneva, Schaffhausen, Ticino, Vaud, Valais, Zurich) implement around 100 domestic projects.

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Donations Swiss Post Bank a/c number: 80-188-1