

Principles for the application of the Programme approach in the Swiss Contribution

A. Legal basis

Annex 1, Section 3.1, Item b. of the Framework Agreements signed with the partner countries states the following:

Programme approach. *A programme consists of component projects linked by a common theme or shared objectives. A programme approach shall be applied in focus areas which display several of the following characteristics: large financial Commitments; linking of different levels (national, regional, local); variety of actors; contribution to policy development; significant contributions to capacity building; and application of a common set of rules and procedures. A programme approach implies a delegated authority for decision-making on individual projects. A programme approach includes: an initial assessment of the focus area; the definition of objectives, guidelines and budgets; a programme implementation plan; and a sector monitoring and evaluation concept. To assure efficiency and effectiveness, the contribution to a specific programme shall represent a minimum amount of CHF 4 million.*

B. Standard rules for the Programme approach

1. A Final Project Proposal (FPP) must contain the following elements in order to be in compliance with the Programme approach: analysis of the focus area and its context; justification of the relevance of the proposed programme; a conceptual framework for the proposed programme and its approach and orientation; definition of objectives; modalities of the selection process for individual projects; management guidelines and budget; a programme implementation plan; and a sector monitoring and evaluation concept.
2. A FPP must foresee the establishment of a representative Steering Committee which also is authorised to take the final decisions concerning the selection of individual projects within the Programme. Switzerland can participate in such a Committee as an observer.
3. In case the Executing Agency of the Programme will organise a call for proposals for the identification of individual projects, the provisions foreseen in the publication of the call must be part of the documentation presented with the FPP.

C. Optional rules for special cases

4. If the Swiss side considers the description of the Programme approach in the FPP not sufficiently precise or detailed, or if the expected financial volume of the individual projects is very high, the financing of the individual projects may be conditioned by their approval by Switzerland (decision level SECO: WEKO, decision level SDC: Department NMS).

2008-12-10-sui