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Page: 1/4

Committee on Agriculture

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NOTIFICATION

The following submission, dated 4 August 2022, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of **Switzerland**. The notification concerns actions taken within the framework of the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (**Table NF:1**) for the **calendar year 2021**.

In accordance with the notification requirements within the framework of the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (**Table NF:1**), the following provides details of Switzerland's programmes in favour of such countries.

Table NF:1

**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 16.2 OF THE AGREEMENT: MONITORING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP TO THE DECISION ON MEASURES CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE
NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE REFORM PROGRAMME ON LEAST-DEVELOPED
AND NET FOOD-IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: SWITZERLAND**

REPORTING PERIOD: CALENDAR YEAR 2021

**1 QUANTITY OF FOOD AID PROVIDED TO LEAST-DEVELOPED AND NET FOOD-IMPORTING
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:**

Switzerland has been a contracting party to the Food Assistance Convention (FAC) since 2012. Swiss food assistance consists of cash transfers for food aid distribution programmes and, in a few isolated cases, of cash transfers related to the purchase of dairy products of Swiss origin. As of 2022, Swiss financial contributions are no longer linked to the purchase of products in Switzerland.

The provision of food assistance in emergency and chronic situations is one of the decisive ways in which Switzerland's humanitarian mandate to save human lives and alleviate suffering is being implemented. By addressing world food security challenges, Switzerland demonstrates a global perspective that is in keeping with the Zero Hunger Challenge of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) and the dual food security strategy. Food assistance is complemented by Switzerland's global advocacy efforts and its commitment to tackling the root causes of hunger, for example through support to agricultural research, promotion of small-scale farmers and reduction of post-harvest losses.

In the area of food assistance, Switzerland works in close partnership with international organizations, in particular the World Food Programme (WFP). Of all the UN programmes and funds, the WFP receives the largest amount of Swiss humanitarian aid. In 2021, Switzerland's food aid under FAC criteria amounted to CHF 110.6 million, CHF 75.2 million of which was distributed by the WFP. The remaining contributions were allocated to non-governmental organizations (CHF 9.7 million) and to a number of other UN partner organizations (CHF 14.6 million).

Since 2018, Switzerland's support to the WFP has consisted of financial contributions. The end use of financial food aid is subject to an annual contractual agreement between Switzerland and the WFP. In 2021, the WFP purchased skimmed milk powder of Swiss origin for food aid to Algeria; 50 metric tons were purchased for CHF 220,600. This product is distributed in order to supplement diet and address chronic malnutrition, notably through school food projects and in healthcare facilities. The aim is to improve nutrition in emergency situations and cases of acute malnutrition. Deliveries of dairy products of Swiss origin therefore help to prevent the physical and mental harm caused by malnutrition.

Food aid is not determined on the basis of the criteria of "least-developed countries" (LDCs) or "net food-importing developing countries" (NFIDCs). Swiss funds for food assistance operations are allocated in accordance with the following criteria: needs (populations affected, urgency and lack of funds), potential synergies with other Swiss programmes, or the presence of a Swiss cooperation office.

**2 INDICATION OF THE PROPORTION IN FULLY GRANT FORM OR APPROPRIATE
CONCESSIONAL TERMS:**

Swiss food aid is provided on fully grant terms.

3 TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER PARAGRAPH 3 (III) OF THE DECISION

3.1 Switzerland's official development assistance (ODA)

The overall aim of Swiss international cooperation is to foster global sustainable development with a view to reducing poverty and global risks. Through its development aid, Switzerland supports the work of developing countries with a view to improving the standard of living of their people, strengthening their capacity to assume greater responsibility and ensuring their development by their own means.

Switzerland's official development assistance (ODA) amounted to CHF 3.59 billion in 2021. Switzerland's ODA comes mainly from the budgets of the SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) and the SECO (Economic Cooperation and Development Division of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs), the two entities responsible for implementing the Federal Act on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid and the Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe. Other federal offices, as well as the cantons and communes, are also involved in Switzerland's international cooperation.

3.2 Technical cooperation and financial aid for developing countries

The SDC is responsible for the general coordination of technical cooperation and financial aid for developing countries. The SDC's development cooperation is twofold: (i) bilateral cooperation with priority countries and regions, that is, state bodies, civil society, private-sector stakeholders and research institutions; and (ii) multilateral cooperation with UN agencies, international financial institutions and global networks and funds.

The SECO implements the economic and trade policy measures related to development cooperation with middle-income countries in particular. Its main priority is to support sustainable economic, ecological and social growth, which helps to reduce poverty and inequality. Economic development is based on cooperation with specialized international organizations.

3.3 Cooperation with Eastern Europe

The cooperation with Eastern Europe spearheaded by the SDC and the SECO seeks to support the Western Balkans and the former Soviet Union countries on the path towards democracy and the social market economy. It contributes to the political and economic reform processes in the fields of public administration and services, healthcare, water and energy supply, vocational training geared towards the labour market, and promotion of the private sector.

3.4 SDC humanitarian aid

The SDC's humanitarian aid operations constitute an expression of solidarity by Switzerland towards groups of people in distress and are not subject to any geographical restrictions. The SDC works to protect the interests of vulnerable population groups before, during and after periods of conflict, crisis or natural disaster. Preventive and awareness-raising measures also play a key role in this respect.

Swiss emergency assistance takes a number of forms: the mobilization of specialists from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) and other crisis units; the distribution of food aid through Swiss relief agencies and the WFP; and the granting of financial support to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) activities and UN humanitarian organizations. The SDC also supports non-governmental humanitarian organizations working in the field.

Table 1: Funds allocated under the Food Assistance Convention (FAC)

Country	In cash (CHF)	In kind (CHF)	Total (CHF)
Afghanistan	18,000,000	0	18,000,000
Algeria ¹	1,800,000	0	1,800,000
Bangladesh	1,834,088	0	1,834,088
Benin	0	0	0
Burkina Faso	3,374,061	0	3,374,061
Cameroon	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Central African Republic	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
Central America	0	0	0
Chad	1,422,186	0	1,422,186
Colombia	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Cuba	500,000	0	500,000
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	4,000,000	0	4,000,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2,472,000	0	2,472,000
El Salvador	0	0	0
Ethiopia	2,250,000	0	2,250,000
Global (several countries)	24,519,159	0	24,519,159
Guatemala	719,810	0	719,810
Haiti	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
Honduras	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Indonesia	0	0	0
Iraq	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Kyrgyzstan	522,500	0	522,500
Lebanon	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
Libya	500,000	0	500,000
Madagascar	1,980,000	0	1,980,000
Mali	3,192,500	0	3,192,500
Mozambique	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
Myanmar	3,850,000	0	3,850,000
Nicaragua	1,100,000	0	1,100,000
Niger	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Nigeria	2,755,000	0	2,755,000
Occupied Palestinian Territory	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
Rwanda	300,000	0	300,000
Somalia	3,450,000	0	3,450,000
South Sudan	3,729,292	0	3,729,292
Sudan	4,000,000	0	4,000,000
Syrian Arab Republic	1,900,000	0	1,900,000
Tajikistan	0	0	0
Venezuela	1,782,906	0	1,782,906
Yemen	4,230,000	0	4,230,000
Zimbabwe	1,425,000	0	1,425,000
Total	110,608,502	0	110,608,502

Source: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

1 For Algeria, where WFP programmes rely partly on the distribution of skimmed milk powder to combat chronic malnutrition, the WFP purchased this powder in Switzerland.