

# Asia - Americas Partner Day 2025

A world map with a light orange background. The continents of North and South America are highlighted in a darker orange color. The word "Welcome" is written in large, bold, black letters across the center of the map.

**Welcome**

Thursday, 30.01.2025

# Objectives of the day

**With a focus on Asia and the Americas ...**

- a. Develop a shared understanding with our internal and external partners on the direction and priorities of international cooperation
- b. Discuss and deepen new approaches to international cooperation (IC)
- c. Strengthen the network with important IC partners



# Programme

Time	What		
10:00	<b>Welcome</b> (Programme and objectives of the day)		
	<b>Introduction</b> – Patricia Danzi, Director General, SDC		
10:15	<b>Key note input: “Climate risks – where are we heading?”</b> Dr. Michael Walz, Senior Product Manager, Public Sector Solutions, SwissRe		
	<i>Conversation</i>		
10:45	<b>Key note input: “Polycrisis and polarised societies – development perspectives for Asia - Americas”</b> Dr. Sabin Bieri, Co-Director, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)		
	<i>Conversation</i>		
11:45	<b>Priorities for SDC in Asia and Americas</b> – Arno Wicki, Vice-Director, Head of Asia - Americas Division, SDC		
12:00	Q&A and wrap-up		
12:30	<b>Joint lunch and networking (Restaurant Alpina)</b>		
14:00	<b>Parallel Workshops: New approaches to cooperation</b>		
	<b>Afghanistan</b> A new chapter of Swiss cooperation	<b>Bangladesh</b> Consortium, an innovative form of cooperation	<b>Latin America and Caribbean</b> Regional Thematic Hub in Lima
15:30	<b>Coffee (Foyer)</b>		



# THE BIG PICTURE

**A conversation with Patrizia Danzi, Director General of SDC**

# Climate risks – where are we headed?

SDC: Asia – Americas Partner Day 2025, Bern, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Michael Walz, Ph.D., Senior Product Manager, Public Sector Solution, Swiss Re, Zurich

# Polycrisis and polarised societies: Development Perspectives in Asia/the Americas



Sabin Bieri

Centre for Development and  
Environment (CDE)

# Discussion

## Lead question:

- *What are the implications for SDC and the international cooperation (IC) partners in Asia and Americas?*

## Further questions:

- *What opportunities do you see for SDC and the IC partners?*
- *What does this mean for you? What potential do you see in collaboration with SDC?*
- *What role do you see for the SDC as a governmental actor?*
- *...*



# **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OUR REGIONS?**

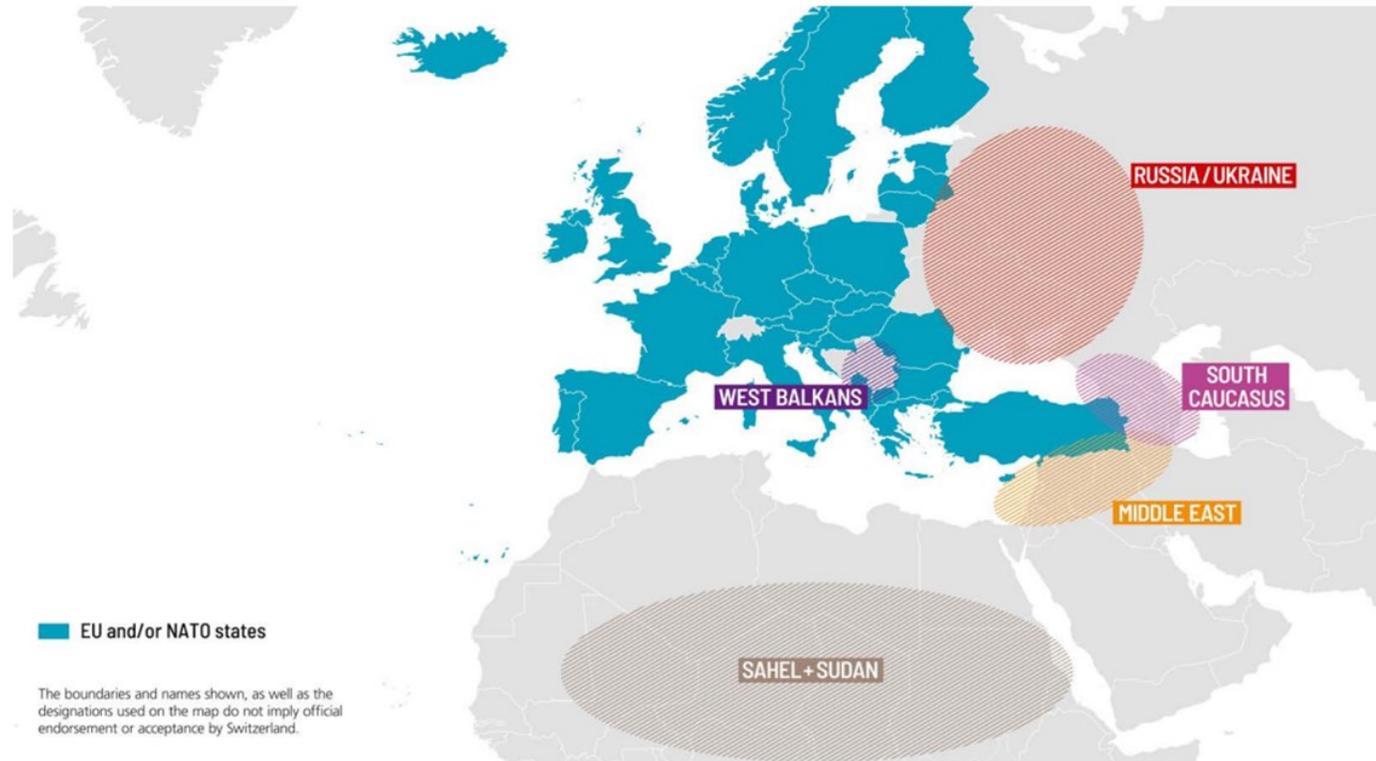
## **Priorities for the Asia - Americas division**

**Arno Wicki** – Vice-Director, Head of Asia - Americas division, SDC

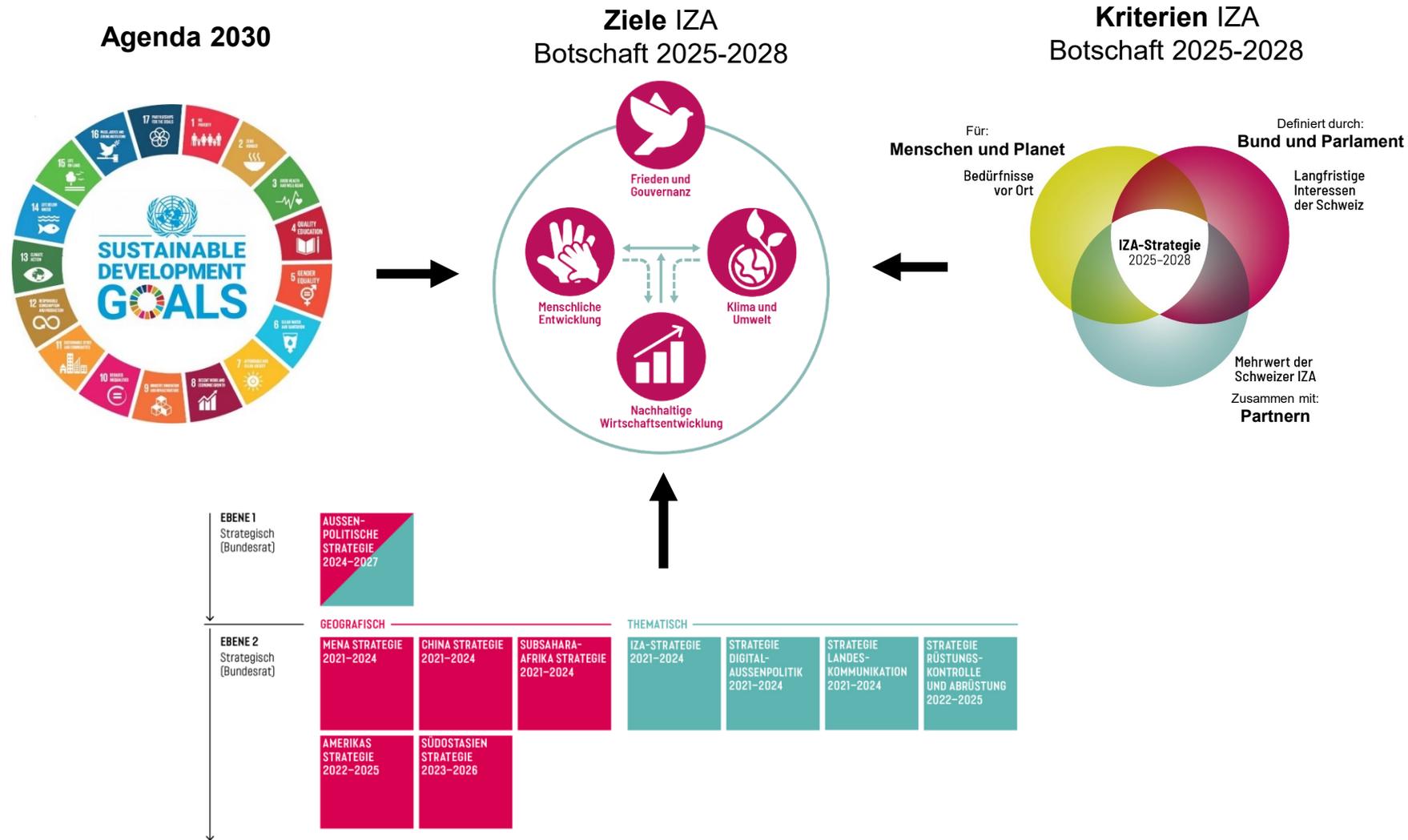
# Swiss Foreign Policy Strategy 2024-27

## Political priorities: «Arc of crises»

Figure 2: Trouble spots and unresolved conflicts in the regions surrounding Europe (source: FDFA).



# IC Strategy 25-28: A new strategic framework



# IC Strategy 25-28: Focus on Ukraine

Federal Council Decisions of 10.04.2024, 26.06.2024 and 28.08.2024 : **CHF 1.5 billion** for 2025-28

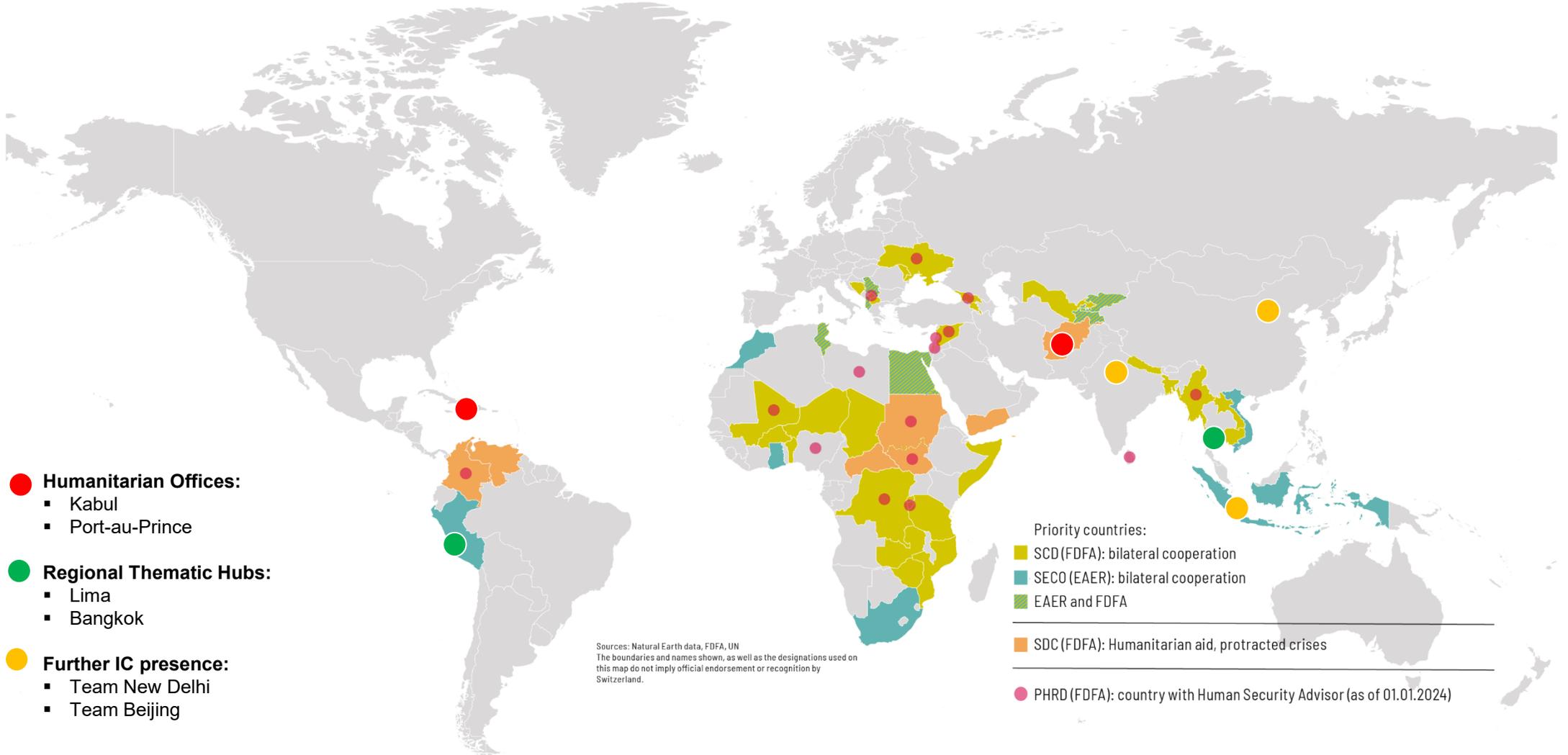
- **860 millions** for Humanitarian Aid, Peace promotion, Development Cooperation (**SDC/PHRD**)
- **640 millions** for Economique Developement Cooperation (**SECO**), including 500 millions for collaboration with swiss private sector

Source of funding:

- **ca. CHF 500 million** from growth rate
- **ca. 1 billion** (+/- 10% of the total amount) from offsetting/charging of the current budget

Major uncertainties about the conflict dynamics, its economic and social consequences (in UA/MD) require **flexible approaches**.

# IC Strategy 25-28: Geographic footprint

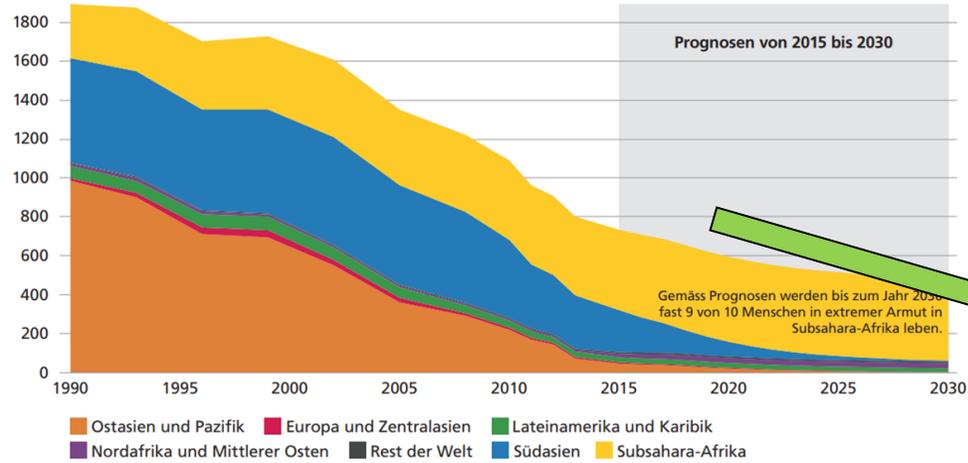


Sources: Natural Earth data, FDFA, UN  
The boundaries and names shown, as well as the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or recognition by Switzerland.

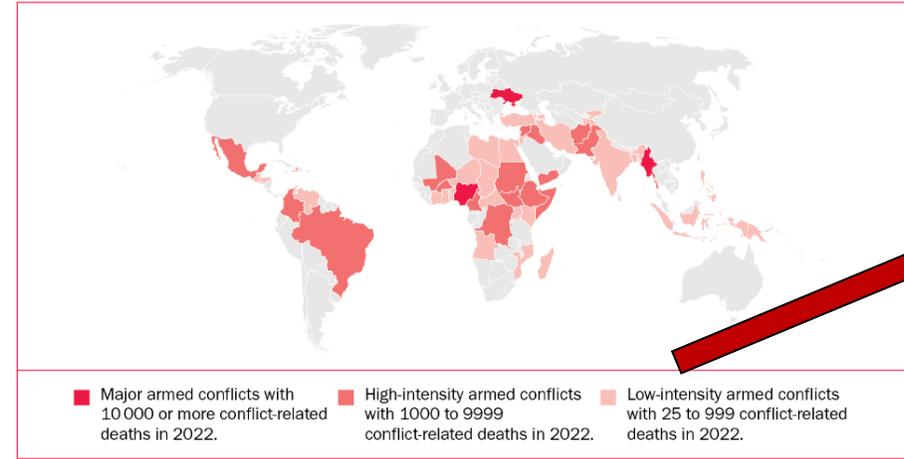


# Development trends

### Menschen in extremer Armut (in Millionen)



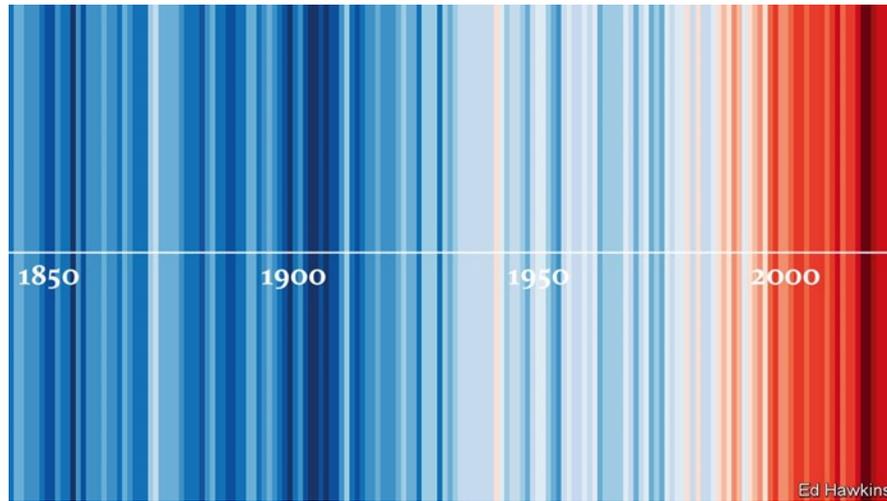
### Armed conflicts by number of estimated conflict-related deaths, 2022



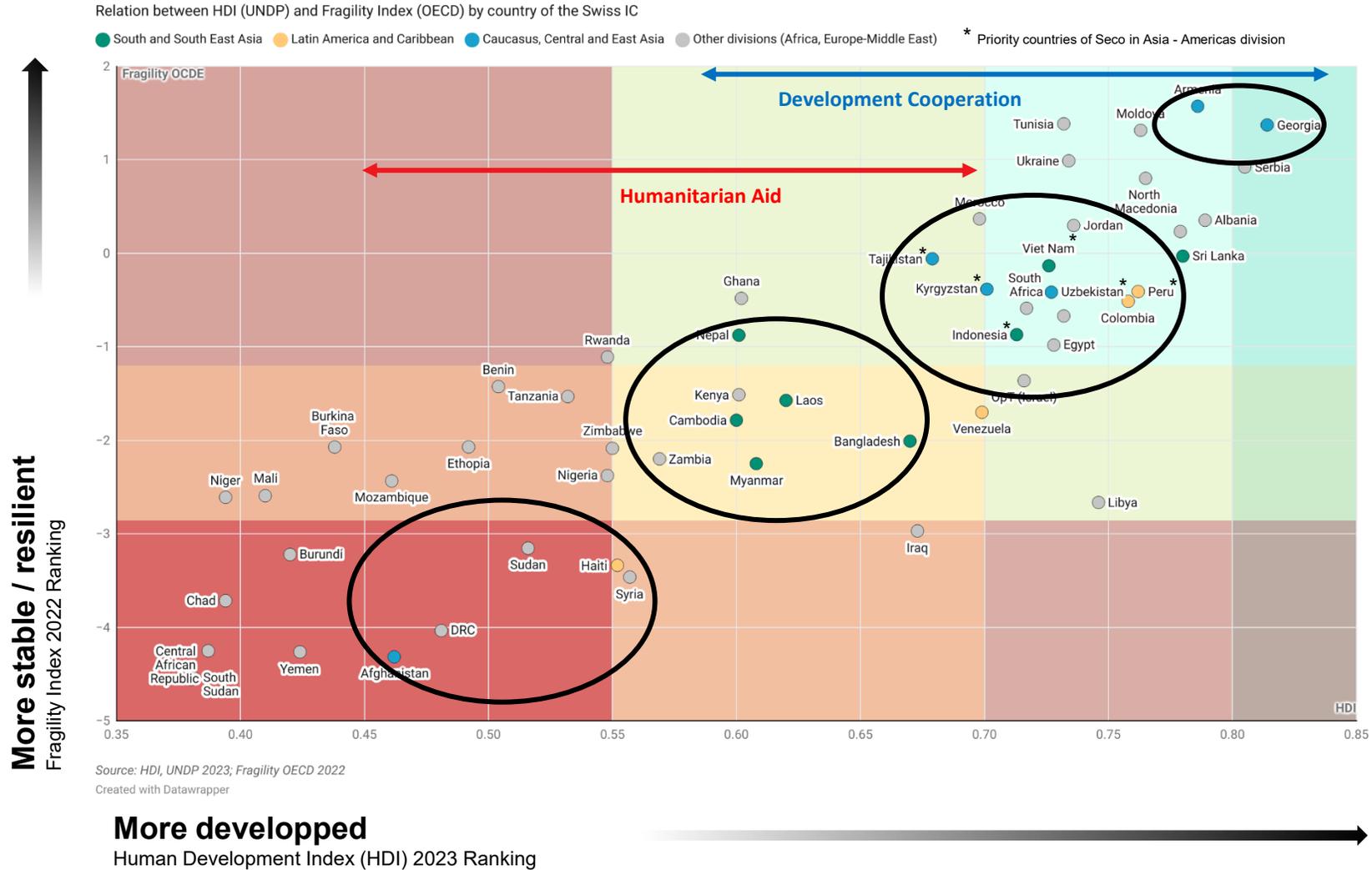
Note: The boundaries used in this map do not imply any endorsement or acceptance by SI

### TABLE 1 Climate hazards will increasingly disrupt our way of living

	A glimpse of 2050	Global scientific projections	Socio-economic impact
<b>Extreme heat</b>	300m+ people could be affected by heatwaves in India <sup>1</sup>	1-in-1,000-day hot extremes 5x as likely with 0.85°C warming <sup>7</sup>	~60k deaths in European heatwave (2022) <sup>8</sup>
<b>Flood</b>	5x increase in annual flood losses expected in EU <sup>2</sup>	70% of population could face 5x surge in flood impacts at +4.0°C <sup>9</sup>	2021 flooding losses were \$18.4bn in China & \$3.2bn in India <sup>10</sup>
<b>Drought</b>	80% chance of decade-long droughts in the US starting 2050 <sup>3</sup>	Current 1-in-100-year droughts could occur every 2-5 years <sup>11</sup>	Food lost to drought can feed 81m people daily <sup>12</sup> (= population of Germany)
<b>Sea-level rise</b>	~1.3m Bangladeshis could be forced to migrate due to sea-level rise <sup>4</sup>	Global mean sea level expected to rise 1m by 100 per RCP8.5 <sup>13</sup>	Jakarta is sinking ~28 cm yearly <sup>14</sup> & facing \$186m p.a. in flood damage <sup>15</sup>
<b>Storm</b>	3x increase in annual probability of typhoons in Tokyo <sup>5</sup>	Hurricane frequency could double by 2050 <sup>16</sup>	~8,500 FTE jobs & \$1.1bn value lost in Cyprus (2017) <sup>17</sup>
<b>Wildfire</b>	~35% increase in area burnt yearly by bushfires in Sydney <sup>6</sup>	Wildfires likely to increase by a third <sup>18</sup>	Canadian wildfires displaced 230k people & claimed 8 lives (2023) <sup>19</sup>



# SDC country portfolio

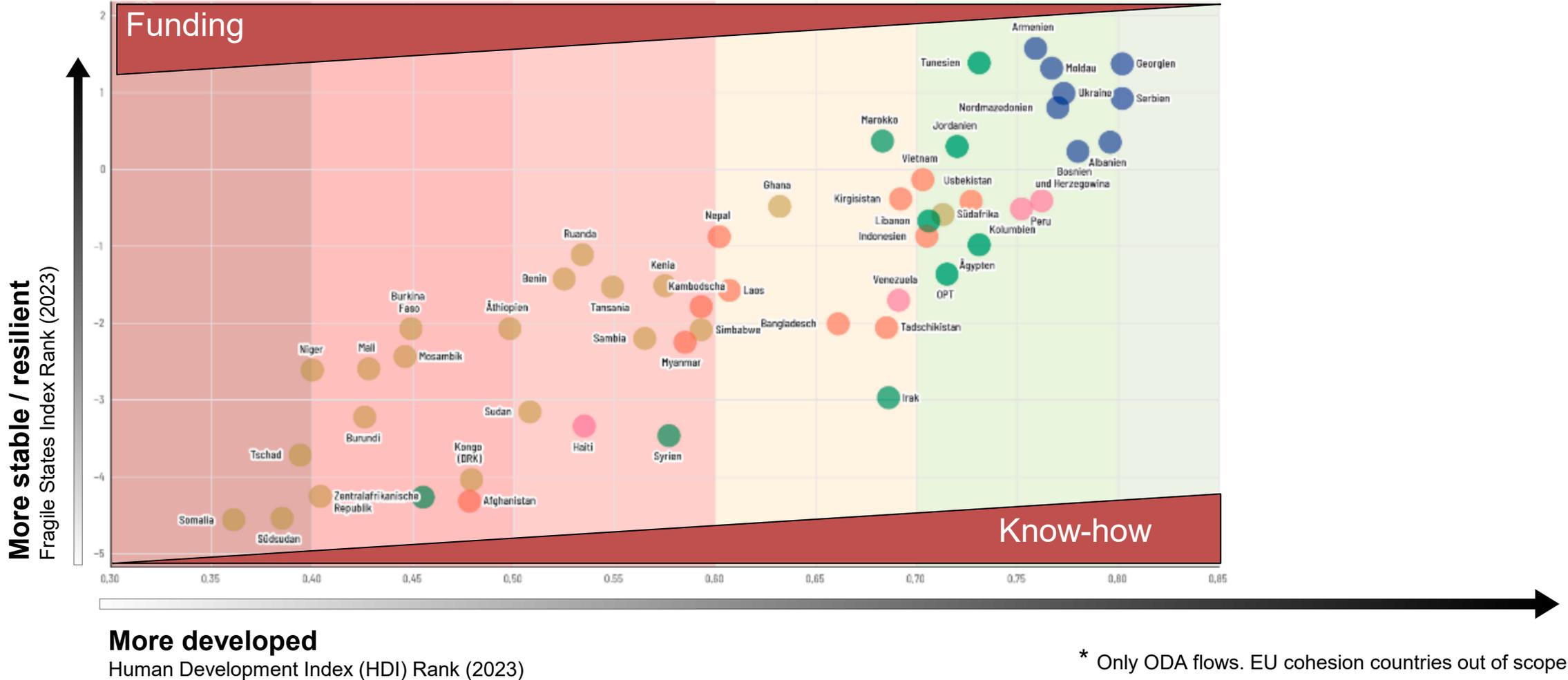




# Portfolio-Management: Where and how do we invest?

Beziehung zwischen dem Human Development Index (HDI) und dem Fragilitätsindex der Schwerpunktländer der DEZA und des SECO

Subsahara-Afrika Asien Osteuropa MENA Lateinamerika



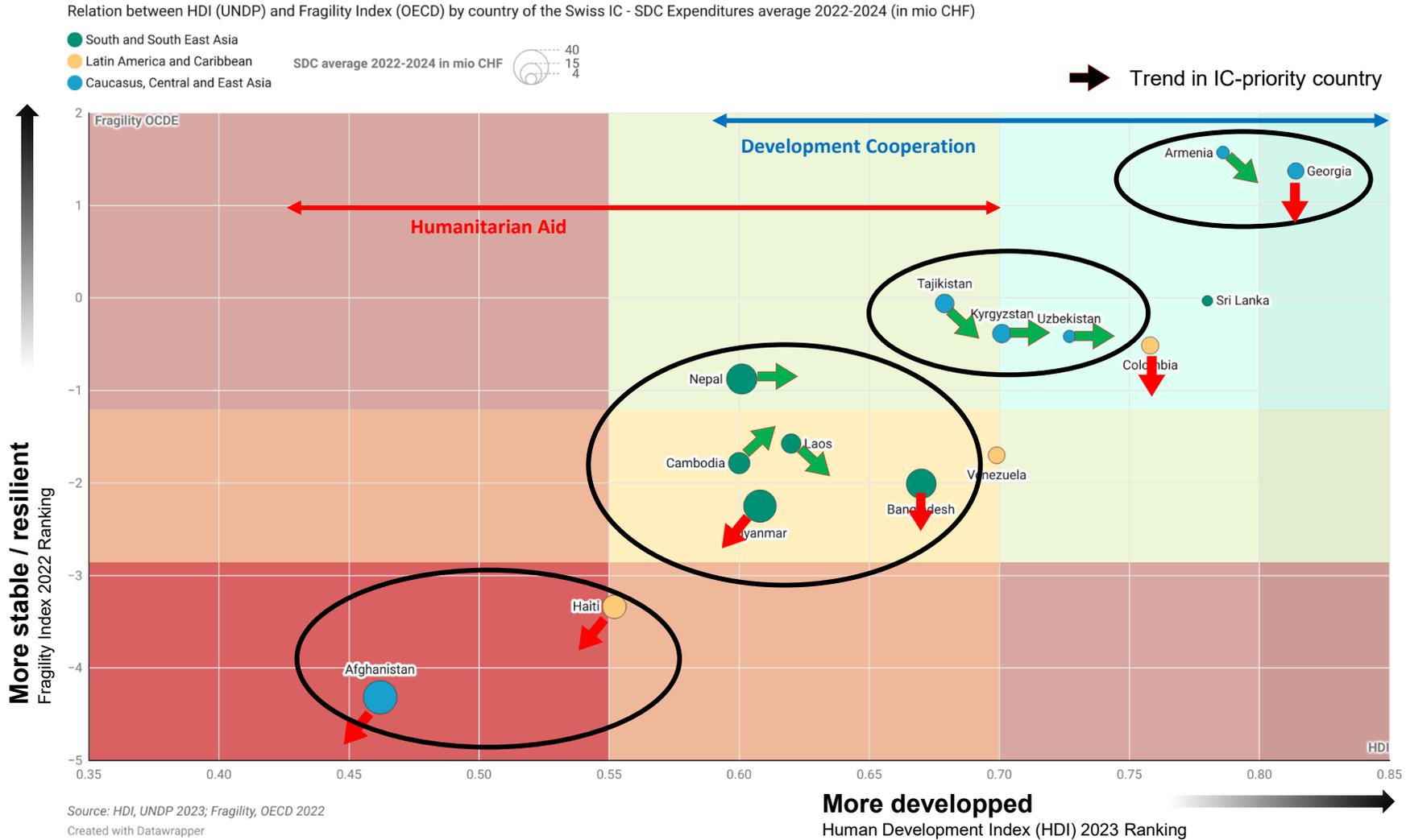
More stable / resilient  
Fragile States Index Rank (2023)

More developed  
Human Development Index (HDI) Rank (2023)

\* Only ODA flows. EU cohesion countries out of scope



# Development trends in division's priority countries



# 2025 Objectives of Asia - Americas division

## IZA Strategie 2025–2028: Transformation in turbulenten Zeiten

### IZA-Strategie 2025-28 für Asien – Amerikas umsetzen und Portfolios umgestalten

Das Ziel ist erreicht, wenn:

- die regionalen Kooperationsprogramme für den Südkaukasus und Zentralasien und das Transitionsprogramm für Bangladesch ausgearbeitet sind.
- die Transformation der Portfolios effizient und fokussiert aufgeleitet ist.
- Gouvernanz-Ansätze, inkl. den flexiblen Mitteln, in der Abteilung verbessert wurden (EDA Ziel Demokratie/Gouvernanz).

## Klimawandel und Disaster Risk Reduktion

### Arbeit im Bereich Klima und Katastrophenrisiken stärken

Das Ziel ist erreicht, wenn:

- die strategische Stossrichtung in den regionalen thematischen Hubs (Lima und Bangkok), in China und Indien geklärt ist.
- das Engagement im Bereich Klima mit der Sektion Klima, DRR und Umwelt abgestimmt wurde.
- Klima-relevante Projekte in der Abteilung analysiert und 2 neue lanciert wurden.

## Management und Organisationsentwicklung

### Digitalisierung und Kommunikation fördern

Das Ziel ist erreicht, wenn:

- die Abteilung effizient mit den neuen Tools (MS Teams und LivingDocs) arbeitet und die Geschäfte mittels eines Cockpits gesteuert werden.
- die Kommunikation zur Arbeit der Abteilung konsolidiert wurde, und alle PBs ihre Programme mit klaren und visuellen Kommunikationsprodukten vorgestellt haben.
- die Teams das DEZA Leitbild kennen und leben.



# Section priorities for 2025

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Eidgenössisches Departement für auswärtige Angelegenheiten EDA  
Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit  
Abteilung Asien – Amerikas



**Annual programme 2025**  
**Section Latin America and the Caribbean**

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC  
Division Asia - Americas



**Annual Programme 2025**  
**Section Caucasus, Central and East Asia (CCEA)**

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC  
Division Asia - Americas



**Annual Programme 2025**  
**Section South and South East Asia**

## Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Implement programmes in line with new IC Strategy
2. **Humanitarian office in Port-au-Prince** fully operational and moved to new premises
3. Strengthen **Lima's role as regional thematic hub** for climate, DRR and water in cooperation with the network of Swiss Embassies in the region
4. Implement new concept for **decentralised rapid response** in the region

## Caucasus, Central and East Asia

1. New cooperation programmes for **Central Asia and South Caucasus**
2. **Afghanistan**: Fully operational office in Kabul and revision of programme
3. Decision on strategic orientation of **China** and DPRK offices
4. Strengthen approach to **climate and disaster risk reduction**

## South and South East Asia

1. Align programmes with the **IC strategy and budget cuts**. Continue transforming portfolios, considering context development.
2. Define transition programme for **Bangladesh** and review programmes in **Nepal, Myanmar (MTR)**.
3. Further strengthen roles of **Hub in Bangkok and IC Team in Delhi** in the area of climate and disaster risk.
4. Leverage projects and outcomes for communication.

# Team: Organigramme of the division (HQ)

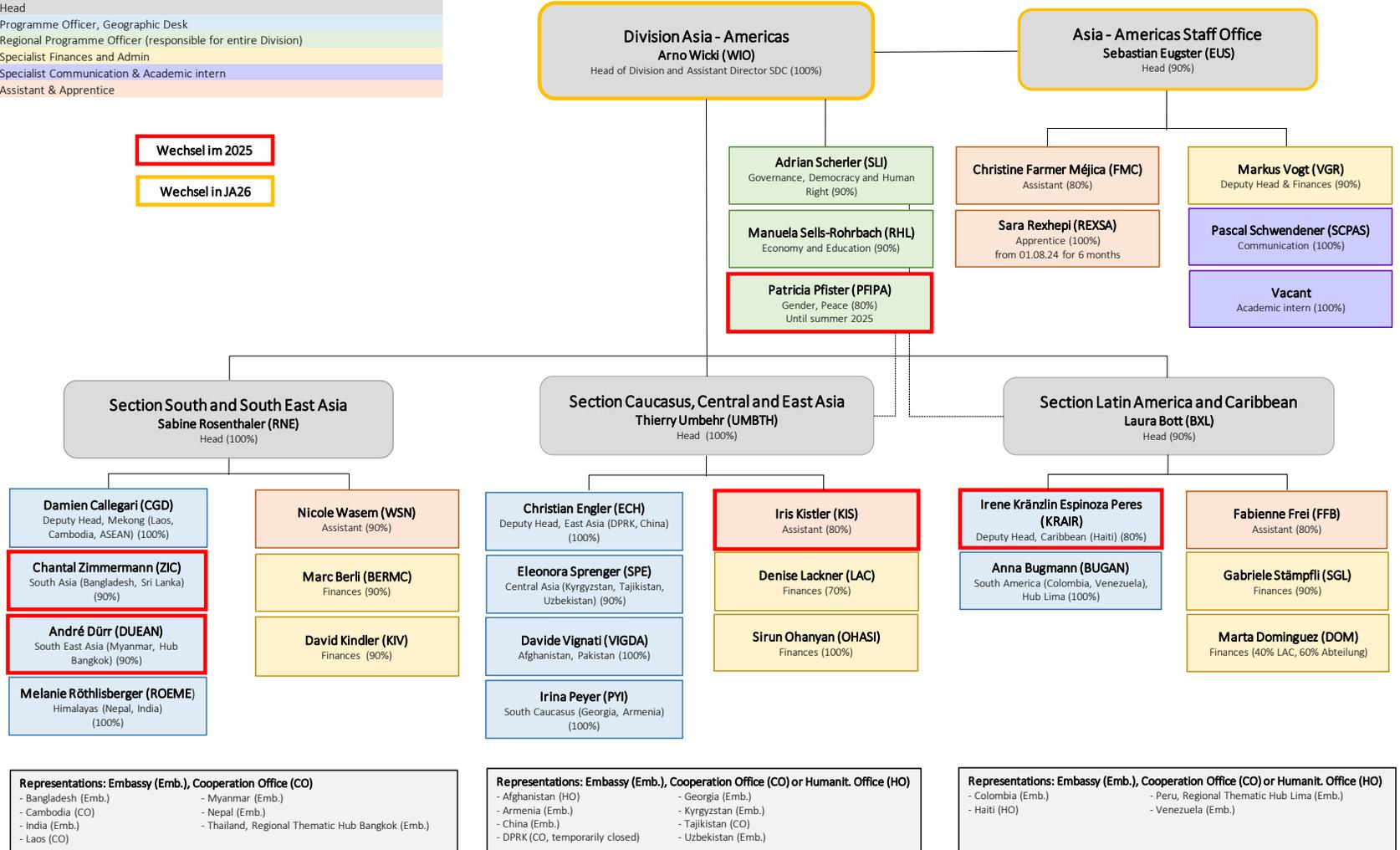
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**Legend**

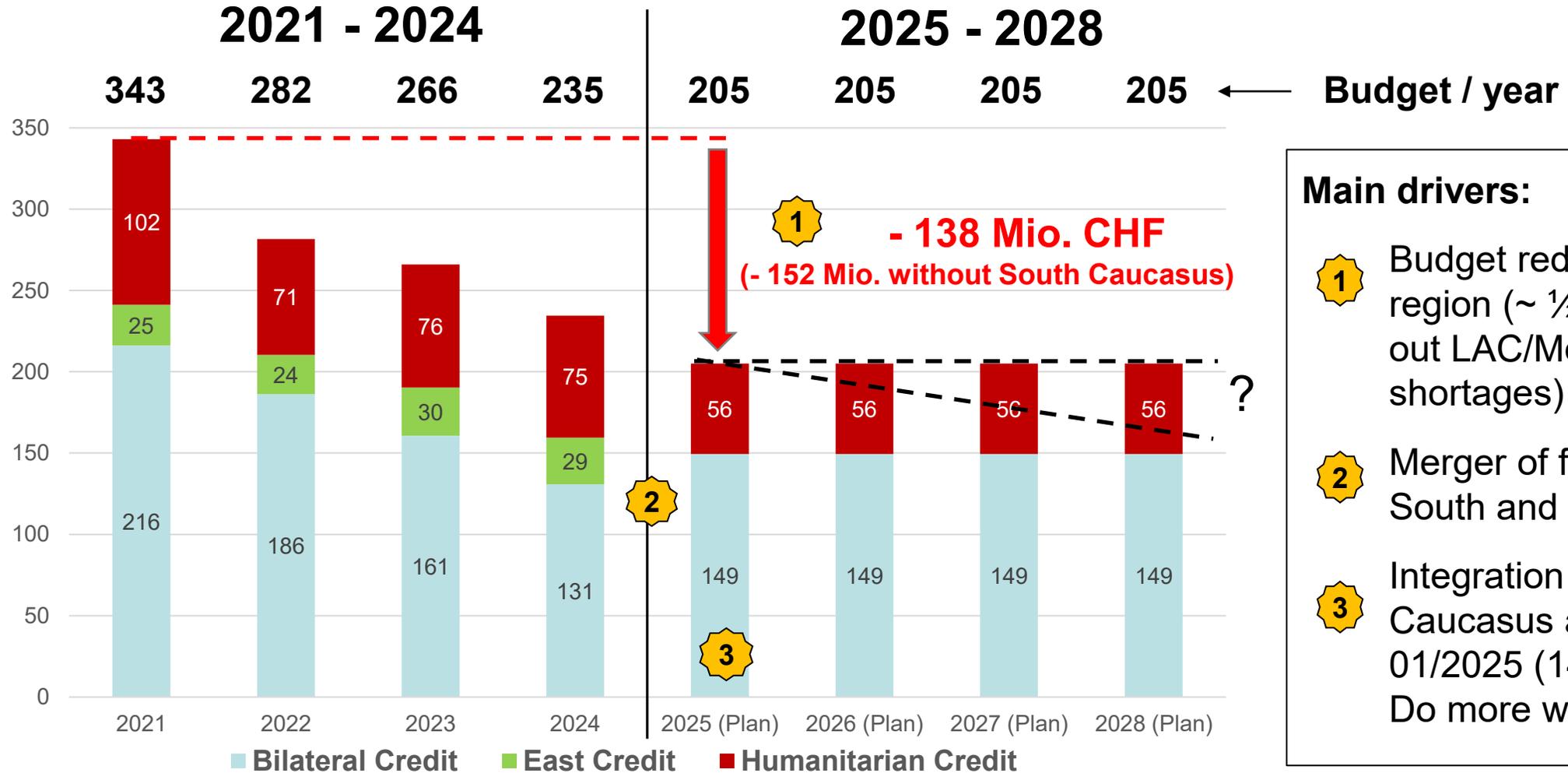
Head
Programme Officer, Geographic Desk
Regional Programme Officer (responsible for entire Division)
Specialist Finances and Admin
Specialist Communication & Academic intern
Assistant & Apprentice

**Wechsel im 2025**

**Wechsel in JA26**



# Budgets: Asia - Americas division



# Conclusions: Challenging times

## Challenging environment

- Multiple crises, conflicts
- Increasing risks, especially weather-related
- Growth and innovation, but more inequality
- Geopolitical changes – new actors

## Diverging expectations, less resources

- Traditional ODA questioned, demands from all sides
- Pressure to prove evidence, work
- Presence in fragile contexts costly
- Budget reductions at several fronts



# **Conclusions: Not everything changes**

## **Very likely that in 2050, there will be**

- Calls for solidarity and human dignity
- Necessity to respond to large scale-humanitarian crisis
- Centrality to build effective institutions
- Importance to transform conflicts
- Demands for international cooperation

## **Very likely that in 2050, Switzerland still will have**

- a Government and Parliament approving strategies and budgets
- a FDFA and a network of representations
- a foreign policy based on Swiss specificities
- vibrant civil society, academic institutions and individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of people and for the planet

# SDC Purpose Statement

## Together for human dignity and a sustainable world.

<b>Together</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We, the SDC mandated by the Swiss federal council and parliament</li><li>• In partnership with countries and their people</li><li>• As «One Switzerland», in coordination with federal authorities and stakeholders of Swiss society</li></ul>
<b>for</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• With the aim of achieving impact</li></ul>
<b>human dignity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Save lives, ensure basic needs of the most vulnerable and alleviate poverty</li><li>• Create perspectives and foster self-reliance</li><li>• Promote human rights, peace and strengthen democracy, good governance</li></ul>
<b>and a sustainable world</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take responsibility for our planet and future generations</li><li>• Contribute to sustainable development and prosperity</li><li>• Be conscious that our well-being depends on cooperation and common solutions</li></ul>

# SDC values

**respectful**

**forward-  
thinking**

**courageous**

<b>People and planet</b>	Leaving no one behind and protecting our planet	Aiming at long-term sustainable impact	Learning from successes and failures and promoting innovation
<b>Partner</b>	Seeking (local) partnerships at eye-level	Choosing partners with shared values and a long-term perspective	Supporting partners in fragile and challenging contexts
<b>Federal government and parliament</b>	Investing public funds responsibly	Anticipating political developments and focusing in our work on visions	Contributing to coherent policy decisions.
<b>With each other</b>	Valuing each other and our work	Promoting a collaborative culture geared towards solutions	Taking responsibility and demonstrating commitment



**Thank you!**



# What's next?

	<b>Joint lunch and networking (Restaurant Alpina)</b>		
	<b>Coffee (Foyer)</b>		
14:00	<b>Parallel Workshops: New approaches to cooperation</b>		
	<b>Afghanistan</b> <b>A new chapter of Swiss cooperation</b>  <b>Room: Amazonas</b>	<b>Bangladesh</b> <b>Consortium, an innovative form of cooperation</b>  <b>Room: Nil 2</b>	<b>Latin America and Caribbean</b> <b>Regional Thematic Hub in Lima</b>  <b>Room: Nil 1</b>
15:30	<b>Coffee (Foyer)</b>		