

DEMOCRACY WITHOUT BORDERS INITIATIVE



Musician and project ambassador Bastian Baker during his visit to Upper Egypt in February 2016. © SDC

Launched in 2014 by the head of the FDFA, Didier Burkhalter, the Democracy Without Borders initiative links Swiss public figures of national and international renown to certain development projects aimed at furthering democracy, peace and human rights. This helps raise public awareness of the challenges ahead both in the partner countries and in Switzerland.

Under the banner of the Democracy Without Borders initiative, public figures of national or international renown undertake to be ambassadors for one of Switzerland's international cooperation projects. The ambassadors use their area of expertise to raise awareness among the stakeholders and sectors concerned both in the country where the project is being carried out and in Switzerland. So far, about 20 former politicians, artists, journalists and business people have agreed to take part in this initiative.

PROJECTS

The projects sponsored by the Democracy Without Borders initiative are being carried out by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Human Security Division (HSD) of the FDFA.

- › Conservation of the Nile Basin and social and economic development in **Egypt**: the SDC contributes to an educational and musical project on the banks of the Nile, promotes efficient and ecological water management in the Aswan region and helps young people look for work.
- › Support for the democratic transition in **Tunisia**: since 2001 the SDC and the FDFA's Human Security Division have funded various projects aimed at promoting democracy and human rights in this country.
- › Promoting dual vocational education and training in **Honduras**: the SDC is helping develop training programmes mainly focused on the construction and tourism sectors in order to offer young people – and young men in particular – in disadvantaged regions an alternative to poverty and violence.
- › New opportunities for young people from disadvantaged population groups in **Myanmar**: the SDC promotes vocational education and training courses in various branches, including the hotel industry, and provides support for people from rural areas with few vocational training opportunities.
- › Support for women who suffer from violence in the **Great Lakes Region**: Switzerland offers women who are victims of violence medical, psychosocial and legal assistance and also helps them reintegrate into society.

MAIN EVENTS TO DATE

- › **June 2016, second visit by a delegation to Honduras**: On the margins of the 2nd International Congress on Vocational and Professional Education and Training in Winterthur, the head of the vocational education and training project Projoven, which is funded by the SDC, a representative of the national vocational education and training institute INFOP, a representative of the construction sector and a representative of the tourism sector visited several vocational education and training projects in Switzerland. The delegation also met with the Democracy Without Borders Ambassador Therese Frösch, a former member of the National Council.
- › **May 2016, photography exhibition in Tunisia**: Democracy Without Borders Ambassador Andreas Gross, also a former member of the National Council, attended the opening of the 'Making Peace' exhibition in Tunis. Through this exhibition, Switzerland wanted to pay tribute to the democratic transition that has been under way in Tunisia since 2011.
- › **February 2016, singer Bastian Baker travels to Egypt**: The famous Swiss singer Bastian Baker, also a Democracy Without Borders Ambassador, took part in the Nile Project, which is co-financed by the SDC, and gave a live performance in Cairo and Aswan with local artists. Bastian Baker visited various projects supported by the SDC in Upper Egypt and met with local people from several communities.
- › **September 2014, a delegation visits Honduras**: A project manager and a representative of a vocational training institute in Honduras attended an international congress on vocational and professional education and training in Winterthur. They also took the opportunity to meet with project ambassadors Peter Arbenz and Christoph Lindenmeyer and discuss the challenges of vocational education and training.
- › **August 2014, launch of the Democracy Without Borders initiative**: The initiative was officially launched by Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, who was President of the Swiss Confederation at the time, during the Locarno Film Festival. A film screening was followed by a round-table discussion on the impunity that protects the perpetrators of sexual violence against women and girls.

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Tunisia, Great Lakes Region, Honduras: The Democracy Without Borders initiative promotes projects on several continents. © FDFA

