

Sharing in the spirit
of partnership



Your partner
for development
cooperation



Swiss Resource Centre and
Consultancies for Development



Our clients and partners include:

ADB - Asian Development Bank
Aga Khan Planning and Building Services
Caritas Switzerland
DA - Development Alternatives
EMPA - Materials Science & Technology
GOPA Consultants
GTZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
Helvetas - Swiss Association for International Cooperation
Holcim
ILO - International Labour Organization
SDC - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SKM - Sinclair Knight Merz
SRC - Swiss Red Cross
Swiss Centre for International Health® / Swiss Tropical Institute
Swisscontact - Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation
UNDP
UNEP
UN-Habitat
World Bank

Networking & Knowledge management

Skat is involved in many professional networks and communities of practice. Skat shares its long-established knowledge with the development community, and continuously strives to learn from its own experiences and those of others. Skat is a partner in the Building Advisory Service and Information Network (BASIN).

Skat Foundation

Skat works closely with the Skat Foundation. The aim is to produce a wide range of publications. The Skat Foundation participates in and hosts international knowledge sharing networks. It is active in applied research concerning sustainable building.

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skat

Sustainable Building and
Settlement Development

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clients and partners

Sustainable development that benefits the poor



International experience and local knowledge



Professional services based on experience



mission

Skat is an independent Swiss resource centre and consultancy working in the fields of development and humanitarian aid. Since 1978, Skat has provided expertise and management support, as well as training and research facilities.

One of Skat's core areas of expertise is in **Sustainable Building and Settlement Development**.

Skat aims to reduce the gap between rich and poor through the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and the improvement of the living conditions of disadvantaged and marginalised people.

Skat applies its expertise in an integrated manner in order to achieve sustainable solutions. An integrated and holistic approach incorporates the following aspects:

- technical
- environmental
- economic
- social/cultural
- institutional

In addition, planning, design and implementation of projects are undertaken through a participatory approach that includes the perceptions of all stakeholders.

Skat provides advisory services on the construction of cost-effective housing and social infrastructure (education and health facilities etc.). Skat emphasises the use of sustainable building materials and techniques. An integral part is the socio-economic aspect of building activities, whereby the needs of the poor and most vulnerable are addressed with regard to employment opportunities and affordable housing.

Skat works in rural, peri-urban, and urban areas. It works in development and emergency contexts.

expertise

Team

Skat's Sustainable Building and Settlement Development area of expertise consists of a number of professionals with expertise in Architecture, Urban Development, Civil Engineering, Project Management, Settlement Planning, Social Mobilisation, and Institutional Development.

The team is specialised in:

- Sustainable building, reconstruction and rehabilitation (of housing, health and education facilities, etc.)
- Settlement development and management (rural & urban)
- Institutional and community development
- Urban governance and decentralisation
- Slum upgrading

Additional expertise can be drawn from the other areas of expertise within the Skat team or from Skat's large network of well-qualified advisors:

- Water supply and environmental sanitation
- Solid waste management
- Mobility and transport
- Knowledge management

Geographical experience

Skat has experience in numerous countries throughout the world.

Africa: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, South Africa, Tanzania

Asia: Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam

Latin America and the Caribbean: Brazil, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua

Eastern Europe and CIS: Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Czech Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine

Middle East: Egypt, Palestine

services

Policy and strategy development

Skat assists its partners to formulate and document policy and strategy, conceptualising housing programmes and projects, municipal management, and private sector participation.

Assessment, monitoring and evaluation

Skat undertakes assessments of building and settlement projects/programmes and feasibility studies for housing schemes, education facilities, building material production.

Capacity building and training

Skat has undertaken numerous capacity building and training assignments in sustainable building practices. These range from international conferences, workshops and courses for decision makers to hands-on support to practitioners and small-scale enterprises.

Backstopping (coaching & technical assistance)

Skat provides long-term technical, management, conceptual and strategic support in reconstruction projects, including the planning and design process, construction management, and site supervision, and institutional development.

Project management and implementation

Within Skat there is wide experience of project management in development and emergency contexts. Skat always works through local partners in the design and implementation of projects. Skat pursues sustainable organisational set-ups with clear divisions of responsibilities amongst client, partner, target group, implementers and service providers.

Applied research

Skat has developed sustainable building materials and technologies that have been successfully applied in the construction sector. Skat has developed sustainable building assessment methodologies, and compiled guidelines for sustainable reconstruction.