

Case study: SDG 4 Quality education

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

4b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries [...] for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

4c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

Numbers are used for "outcome targets", letters are used for "means of implementation targets". For a list of all targets of SDG 4, see globalgoals.org/4-quality-education

SDG 4 aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all". Credit Suisse contributes to at least seven of the ten targets underpinning this goal (see list on the left).



Why this matters

At an individual level, education is the key to personal development, self-empowerment, social mobility and to earning a decent livelihood. Financial education, in particular, teaches young people how to save and manage money and to think about basic business and entrepreneurship concepts. These skills are of crucial importance for young people around the world – especially girls and young women in low-income communities within developing countries who are at higher risk of being marginalized. At a collective level, education is also an enabler of economic growth, social equality and public participation.

How we contribute

Based on the belief that education is a great equalizer and a powerful force for social and economic change, Credit Suisse has, for more than a decade, focused on providing education to those most in need.

Credit Suisse's Corporate Citizenship vision is to build a more inclusive future where all people can access the resources and develop the financial, entrepreneurial and other skills needed to thrive in the economy and society. In the area of education, our strategic focus is on promoting financial education and future skills through our Financial Education and Future Skills programs.

The *Credit Suisse Financial Education for Girls Program*, which was launched in 2014, focuses on improving the financial education and skills of disadvantaged young people, particularly girls. Our partners in this global signature program are Aflatoun International, Plan International and Room to Read. The program has three aims: To provide over 100,000 girls with financial education through life skills programs; to increase the self-confidence of girls and give them control over their future choices; and to gain stronger support for educating girls from families, communities and authorities at the local and national level.

The *Future Skills* theme was launched in 2019 as part of Credit Suisse's commitment to global education and as a direct response to the challenges and concerns facing young people in a fast-changing world. Our Future Skills theme focuses on programs that are designed to close the education and employment gap and give young people

from all socio-economic backgrounds the opportunity to realize their full potential as adults – especially by securing employment. Our goal is to prioritize education and skills that will enable young people to be life-long learners. This means, for example, developing critical and creative thinking skills and instilling an entrepreneurial attitude and an ability to grasp new opportunities. To further develop the theme, we hope to establish new partnerships with NGOs and social organizations while also working with existing partners where there is alignment in this area. For example, in July 2019, Credit Suisse announced a USD 1 million, three-year commitment through the Credit Suisse Americas Foundation to HERE to HERE, a career pathways non-profit based in The Bronx, New York City. The partnership supports CareerWise New York, an employer-led, student-focused youth apprenticeship system based on a model widely used in Switzerland with the aim of improving pathways from education to employment.



Furthermore, the *Financial Inclusion Initiative* (see also case study on SDG 8) focuses on developing financial products and services, including in the area of education, working together with partner organizations such as Opportunity International. We have been helping to strengthen and expand their efforts to scale the availability and use of school improvement loans and school fee loans in Africa, Latin America and Asia. As a result, over five million children across the globe were able to access affordable, quality education in 2019.

We also give our clients the opportunity to make a contribution to SDG 4. Leveraging our expertise in education and finance, Credit Suisse's higher education solutions are designed to provide funding to talented students from frontier markets to get loans for advanced education. The majority of these students have no alternative source of funding. Hundreds of high-

potential students from underprivileged backgrounds can thus gain access to best-in-class higher education (top masters programs in business, medicine, public administration, engineering or law). More than 80% of the students who receive funds are from the developing world, and nearly two-thirds of them return to their home country after completing their master's qualification, thus transferring knowhow and narrowing skills gaps in emerging markets. This also has a positive impact on SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth).

A team from Credit Suisse Asset Management focuses specifically on financial products in the area of Education Technology (EdTech), which makes the learning process more cost-efficient, scalable, personal and interactive. EdTech can thus also make education more accessible and affordable for people everywhere, reaching students in remote regions of the world at a fraction of the cost of traditional schools. In addition to SDG 4, EdTech can also contribute to the elimination of poverty (SDG 1) and inequality (SDG 10).

With regard to Credit Suisse's own employees, we invest in young talent by providing a wide range of attractive opportunities for young professionals and graduates. Junior hires receive specific training, mentoring and career advice. For example, in 2019, in our Swiss home market, where Credit Suisse is one of the country's biggest employers, we employed more than 300 students in a Career Start Program, more than 250 interns, and more than 450 commercial and IT apprentices. In total, 1,165 young people in education benefited from a structured training program at Credit Suisse in Switzerland.

Our impact

Credit Suisse makes a contribution to SDG 4 through Corporate Citizenship activities focusing on financial education and future skills; by offering related impact investing products and funds to clients; and as an employer that provides attractive opportunities for young talents. We thus help to provide access to vocational and tertiary education, to foster entrepreneurship, and to eliminate gender disparities in education.

Further information

credit-suisse.com/financialeducation
credit-suisse.com/futureskills
credit-suisse.com/financialinclusion
credit-suisse.com/responsibility/employer
credit-suisse.com/am/esg

Our contribution to SDG 4

Topic	Financial Education Initiative	Higher education solutions	Investing in young talent
Objective	Increase the financial capability of girls and their awareness of their social and economic rights	Finance quality higher education for high-potential students with no alternative funding option	Provide attractive job opportunities for young professionals and graduates, e.g. in Switzerland
Impact	<p>Between 2014 and 2019,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,547 schools have received support 3,760 teachers have been trained and 127,900 adolescent girls worldwide have benefited from financial education and life skills classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 84% of students benefitting from support come from developing countries, and around 60% return to their home country after graduation. Transfer of knowhow and narrowing of existing skills gaps in emerging markets 	<p>In 2019, in Switzerland,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 319 students were employed in a Career Start Program 276 internships were offered 570 Young Talents worked at Credit Suisse (apprentices, HMS¹ and Junior Bankers) In total, 1,165 young people in education benefited from a structured training program

¹ Handelsmittelschule (commercial college)