Solution-oriented
Research for Development
Programme

SOR4D Programme Phase 2

Information Webinar
28. & 29 January 2026

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

SNF

Agenda

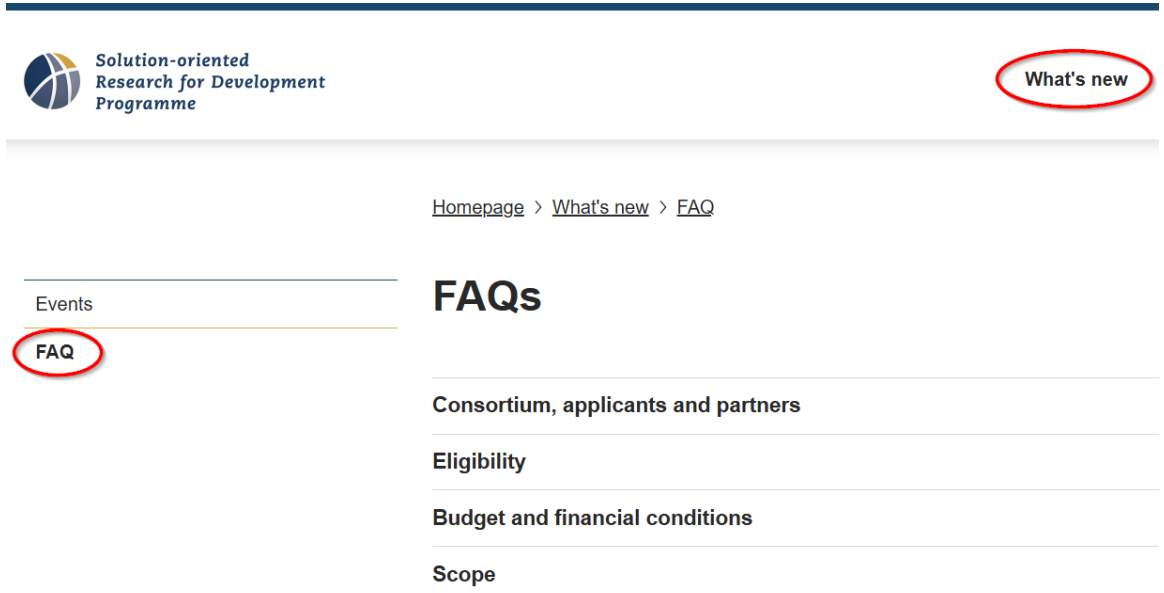
Time	Item	Who
09.00	Welcome and introduction	D. Svarin, SOR4D programme manager, (SNSF)
09.05	Presentation of SOR4D Programme • Objectives • Thematic focus • Eligibility of consortia • Financial aspects	J. Demenge, Programme Officer (SDC) D. Svarin
09.30	Q&A session	D. Svarin, J. Demenge

→ *You can type your questions in the chat during the presentation*

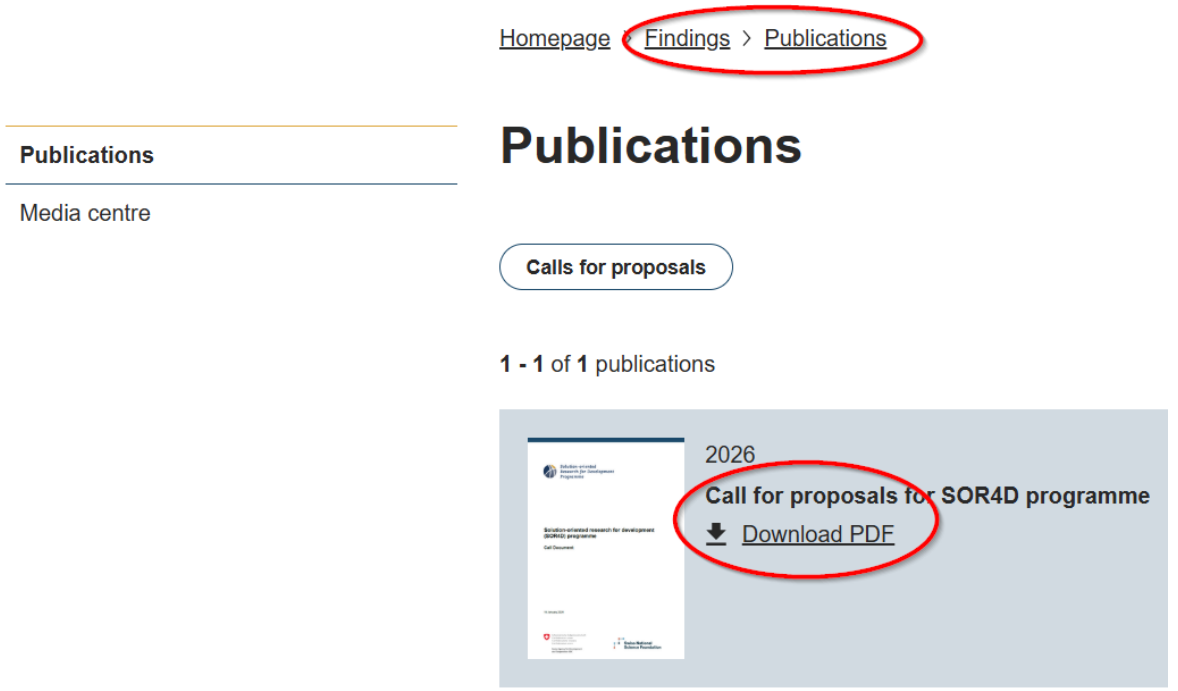
Where to find information?

→ *Please check out the SOR4D website: www.sor4d.ch*

FAQ section



Call document



SDC-SNSF partnership

- Long-term partnership (NCCR North-South 2001-2013, r4d programme 2012-2023)
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SDC and SNSF signed in January 2021.
- SDC and SNSF coordinate their funding efforts for cross-border research partnerships with developing countries, including activities for the dissemination and utilisation of research results in all sectors of society.

SOR4D programme goal

The overarching goal is to **produce better knowledge, solutions and innovation by needs-driven, transdisciplinary research** that opens up new ways for advancing sustainable development and reducing poverty in the least developed, low and lower middle-income countries.

The SOR4D programme strives to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by fostering partnerships, co-creation of knowledge and innovation.

SOR4D specific objectives

1. Researchers and development actors jointly generate **needs-based**, **solution-oriented knowledge and innovative solutions** that contributes to sustainable development and poverty reduction in the Global South and East.

2. Project partnerships and networks test and validate research results with **impact potential** and explore **scaling pathways**. This includes disseminating findings and engaging with stakeholders to reach impact at scale.

3. Researchers and non-academic actors **enhance their competences** in conducting solution-oriented **transdisciplinary research** in transformative complex development settings.

SOR4D: characteristics of projects

- **open to all disciplines** from the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, health and life sciences.

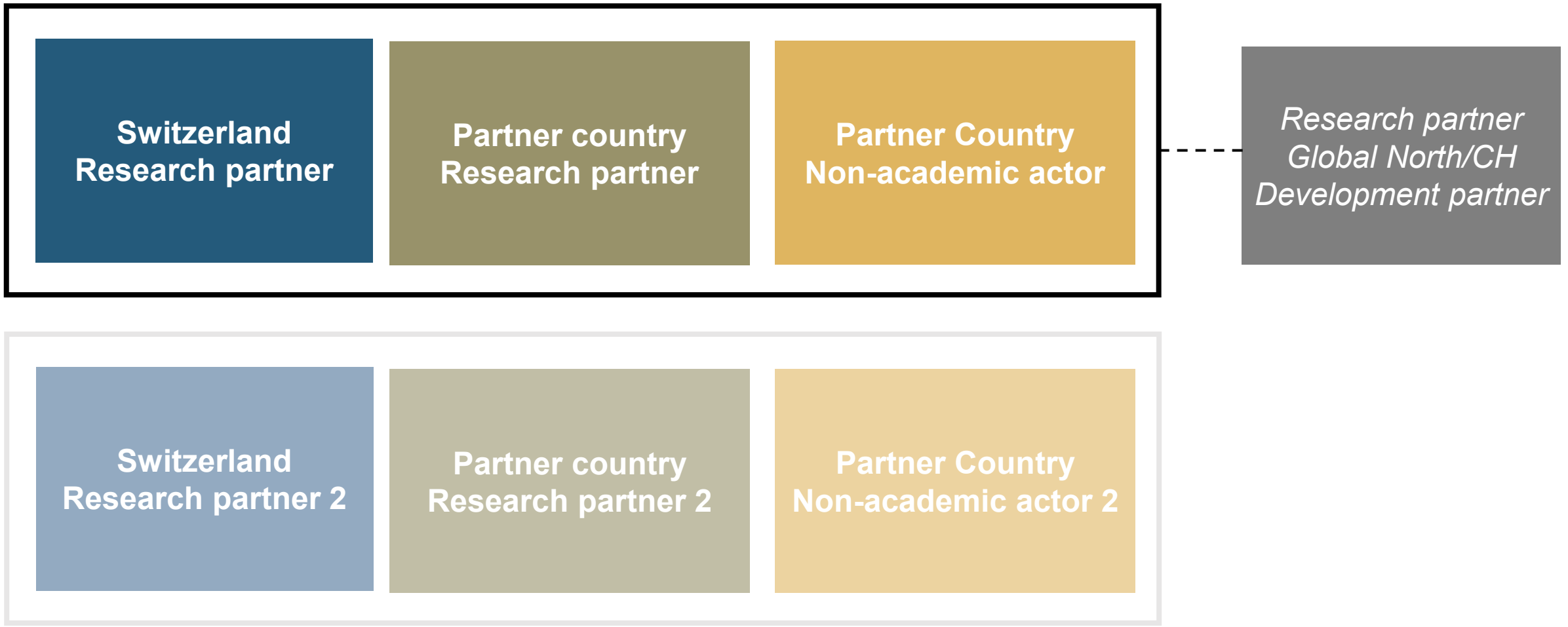
- encourages **interdisciplinary collaboration between research domains** where such collaboration is appropriate

- explicit aim for **systemic and transformative solutions** that simultaneously address several of the 17 SDGs

SOR4D: thematical focus

- **Human development**: Improve lives by ensuring access to basic services, safe migration, and resilient health systems for vulnerable populations.
- **Sustainable economic development**: Foster decent jobs and inclusive growth through strong SMEs, efficient institutions, and integration into the global economy.
- **Climate and environment**: Promote climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable resource use through innovation and green finance.
- **Peace and governance**: Advance peace, democracy, and human rights through inclusive governance, civic engagement, and rule of law.

International and transdisciplinary consortia



Eligible countries

➔ **OECD DAC List:** focus on categories Least Developed Countries, Low Income Countries and Lower Middle-Income Countries.

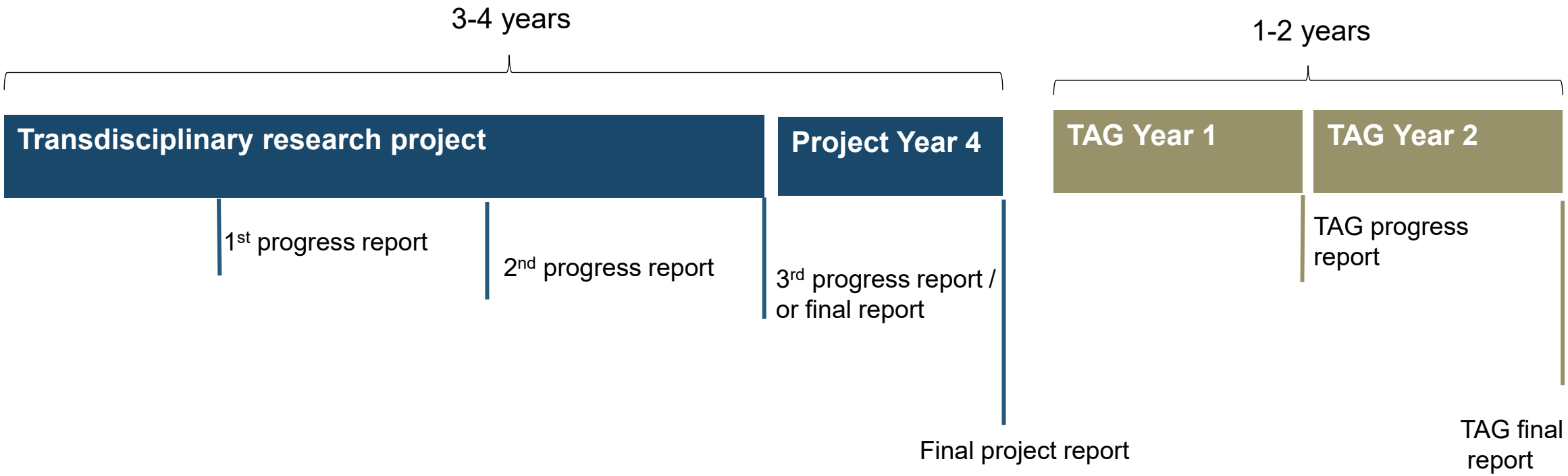
➔ Projects in **Swiss International Cooperation priority regions and countries**, especially Sub-Saharan Africa, are encouraged.

DAC List of ODA Recipients | Effective for reporting on 2025 flows

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	LOW INCOME COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOT LDCs (per capita GNI <= $1 135 in 2022)	LOWER MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHICH ARE NOT LDCs (per capita GNI $1 136 - $4 465 in 2022)	UPPER MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHICH ARE NOT LDCs (per capita GNI $4 466 - $13 845 in 2022)
Afghanistan (L)	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Algeria	Albania
Angola (LM)	Syrian Arab Republic	Bhutan	Argentina
Bangladesh (LM)		Bolivia	Armenia
Benin (LM)		Cabo Verde	Azerbaijan
Burkina Faso (L)		Cameroon	Belarus
Burundi (L)		Congo	Belize
Cambodia (LM)		Côte d'Ivoire	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Central African Republic (L)		Egypt	Botswana
Chad (L)		Eswatini	Brazil
Comoros (LM)		Ghana	China (People's Republic of)
Democratic Republic of the Congo (L)		Honduras	Colombia
Djibouti (LM)		India	Costa Rica
Eritrea (L)		Iran	Cuba
Ethiopia (L)		Jordan	Dominica
Gambia (L)		Kenya	Dominican Republic
Guinea (LM)		Kyrgyzstan	Ecuador
Guinea-Bissau (L)		Lebanon	El Salvador
Haiti (LM)		Micronesia	Equatorial Guinea
Kiribati (LM)		Mongolia	Fiji
Lao People's Democratic Republic (LM)		Morocco	Gabon
Lesotho (LM)		Nicaragua	Georgia
Liberia (L)		Nigeria	Grenada
Madagascar (L)		Pakistan	Guatemala
Malawi (L)		Papua New Guinea	Guyana[2] (H)
Mali (L)		Philippines	Indonesia
Mauritania (LM)		Samoa	Iraq
Mozambique (L)		São Tomé and Príncipe	Jamaica
Myanmar (LM)		Sri Lanka	Kazakhstan
Nepal (LM)		Tajikistan	Kosovo
Niger (L)		Tokelau*	Libya
Rwanda (L)		Tunisia	Malaysia
Senegal (LM)		Ukraine	Maldives
Sierra Leone (L)		Uzbekistan	Marshall Islands
Solomon Islands[1] (LM)		Vanuatu	Mauritius
Somalia (L)		Viet Nam	Mexico
South Sudan (L)		Zimbabwe	Moldova
Sudan (L)			Montenegro
Tanzania (LM)			Montserrat[3] (H)
Timor-Leste (LM)			Namibia
Togo (L)			Nauru[4] (H)
Tuvalu (UM)			Niue*
Uganda (L)			North Macedonia
Yemen (L)			Palau
Zambia (LM)			Panama[2] (H)
			Paraguay
			Peru
			Saint Helena*

SOR4D projects duration

Project length: 3 or 4 years + 1-2 years TAG



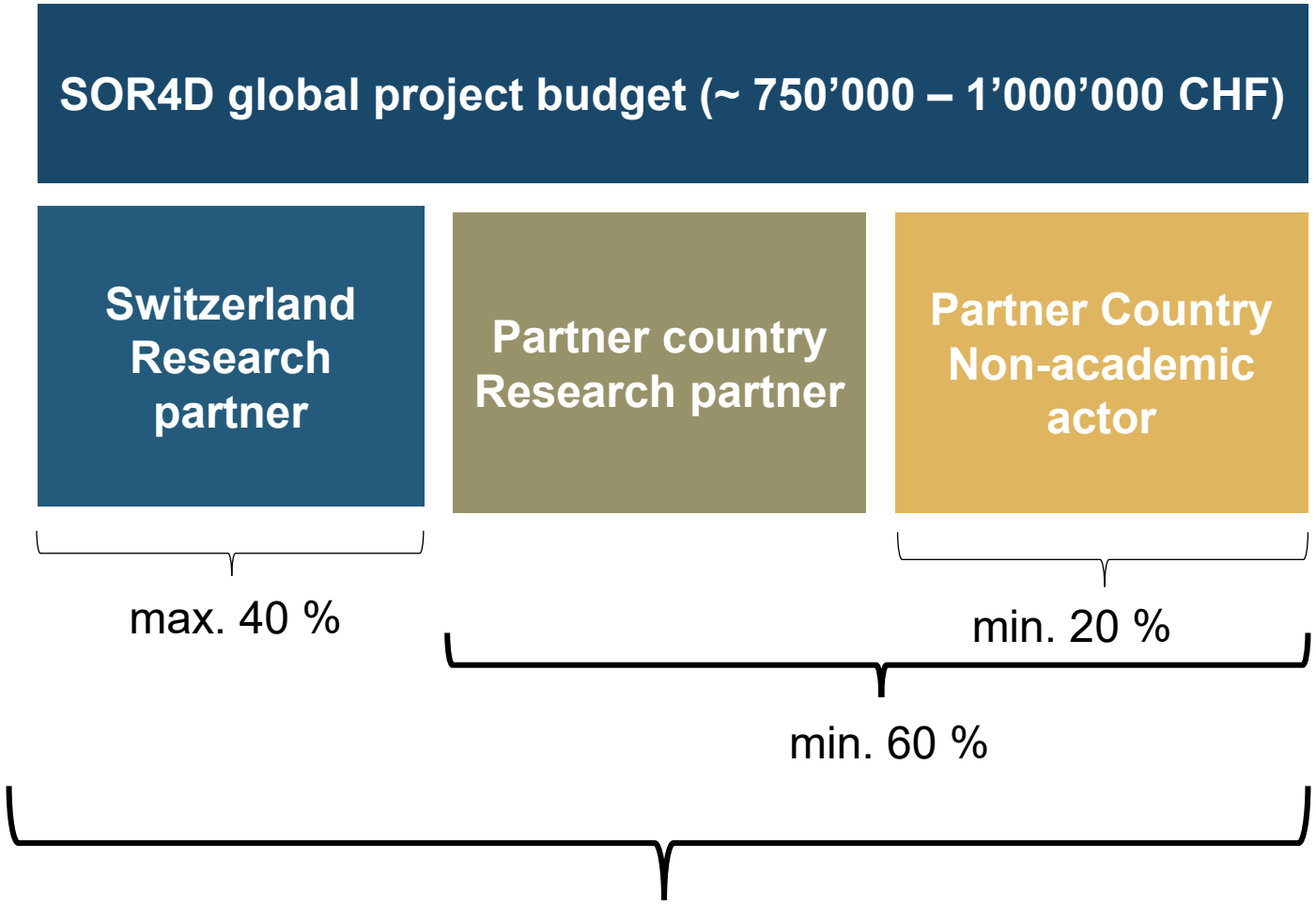
SOR4D: programme budget

Total programme budget:	**CHF 22.4 million**
Research funds: Project budgets, Transformation Accelerating Grants	CHF 20.06 million
Programme activities & monitoring: Communication (Events, publications); Community (workshops, knowledge transfer)	CHF 1.13 million
Management costs:	CHF 1.21 million
Expected number of projects to be funded:	**~ 20 projects**

SOR4D project funding: eligible costs

- Salaries:
  - PhD students, post-docs, project coordinators and other employees working on the project
  - Co-applicants from ODA recipient countries
- Communication and dissemination activities (e.g. workshops, conferences, video, trainings)
- Research/project funds: consumables, travel costs (compulsory emissions offsetting), room and board costs, field expenses
- Material costs: Equipment of enduring value (only eligible for partner countries)

Financial conditions



1. At least 60% must be spent in the least developed, low income or lower middle income partner country/countries

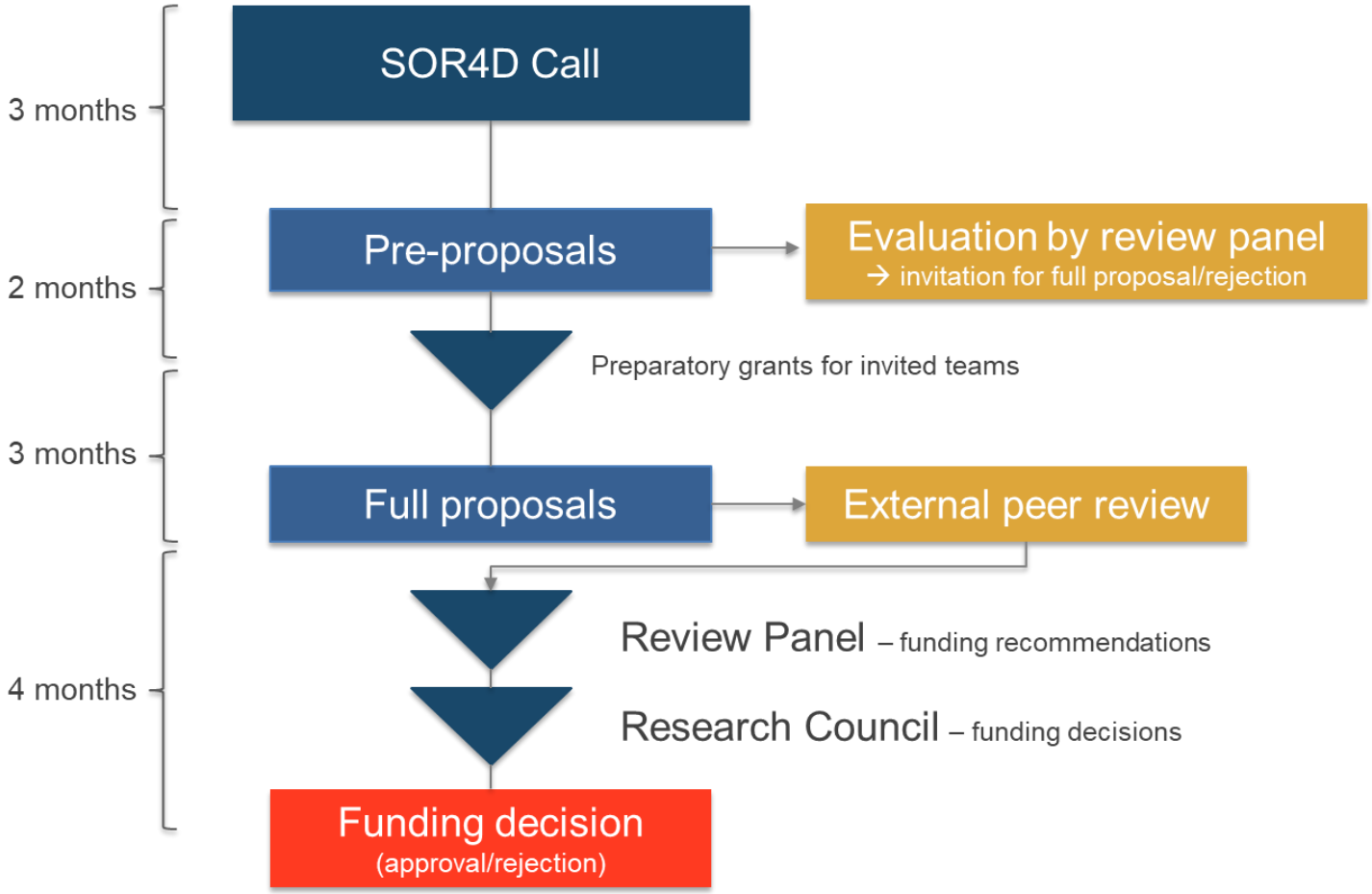
2. At least 20% of the total project budget must be allocated to the non-academic actor(s)

3. At least 10% for communication and dissemination

Evaluation and funding recommendations

- Pre-proposals are evaluated by the Review Panel.
- Full proposals are reviewed by international peer experts. Based on these reviews and their own evaluation, the Review Panel will award marks.

The range of awardable marks according to the Unified Evaluation Procedure of the SNSF ranges from 1 (low quality) to 9 (high quality).



Evaluation process and criteria

1. Relevance, originality and topicality of the project in addressing the programme objectives; in particular, research should be need-based;
2. Scientific quality, suitable methods;
3. The research project generates innovative solutions and new knowledge for impact, systemic change and scaling;
4. Qualifications and complementary expertise of consortium members, adequate distribution of tasks and shared responsibility, partnership approach and involvement of relevant stake-holders in all project stages;
5. Proposal demonstrates gender sensitivity (including gender balance in the project team), intersectionality and social inclusion and how these will be ensured throughout the project.
6. *Only for Full Proposals:* Proposal has an explicit and realistic theory of change, a clear Logical Framework contributing to the programme objectives, and a scale up strategy

Review panel

International experts

Dr. Marjolein Dieleman, Royal Tropical Institute, Netherlands

Dr. Frank Eyhorn, Independent Consultant, Switzerland

Selina Haeny, UBS Optimus Foundation, Switzerland

Dr. Karuna Onta, Independent Consultant, Nepal

Prof. Priti Parikh, University College London, UK

Dr. Smita Premchander, Sampark, India

Dr. Bernadette Resurrección, Queens University, CA

Prof. Leon Tikly, University of Bristol, UK

SDC Delegate

Dr. Manfred Kaufmann, SDC, Switzerland

Dr. Jonathan Demenge, SDC Switzerland

SNSF Delegate, Member of Research Council

Prof. Martin Lengwiler, University of Basel, Switzerland (Review Panel Chair)

Call for proposals: timeline

Launch of call	19 January 2026
Submission of pre-proposals	**18 May 2026, 17.00 CET**
Evaluation of pre-proposals	May-Aug 2026
Invitation for full proposals	September 2026
Submission of full proposals	**18 January 2027, 17.00 CET**
Evaluation of full proposals	Jan-March 2027
Funding decisions	April 2027
Start of projects	**May-Oct 2027**

Thank you for your interest in the SOR4D programme!

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https://www.sor4d.ch
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