

International Geneva

Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

THE NGO FORUM FOR HEALTH

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

The NGO Forum for Health is a consortium of health organisations founded in 1978, and registered as a Swiss non-profit association. The Forum is committed to the rights-based design and implementation of global health policy. The Forum's vision is that the right to health is an ethical, social and economic imperative and that health is central to sustainable development.

The Forum's mission is to advocate for the right to health and to promote equity and justice in access to health. It views universality as the best means to ensure that access to health is not impeded by either economic or social exclusion. The Forum offers its members an information exchange and serves as a platform for advocacy and concerted action. The consortium works with the UN system and in partnership with other organisations of civil society. For example, the Forum is a Core Group Member of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors established in 2012.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Alliance building for health
- Health advocacy
- Promotion of rights-based approach to health policy and delivery of care
- Gender equity
- Health research
- The global health workforce

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Forum creates working groups on areas of health of common interest to members, which enables them to focus on the more specific advocacy, equity, research, and resource issues in the health field (e.g. mental health; primary health care; social determinants of health). The Forum undertakes various advocacy and alliance-building activities with other NGOs and UN system organisations in Geneva, seeking to achieve a higher priority and greater resource allocation to health at global level that will be reflected at the national and local levels.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

The Forum is governed by a Steering Committee elected by the Annual General Assembly. It meets at least four times a year. The current president is Odile Frank.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

The Forum's activities are financed by membership subscriptions and some donor support.

PUBLICATIONS

The NGO Forum for Health produces a monthly digest of health news (The Newsletter, editor: Alan Leather). The Forum also publishes articles in its areas of interest. See, for example:

- [“Social protection, universal health coverage and human dignity: The role of the workforce in social development”](#) June 2016.
- “A Metastructure of Violence: Roles of the Health Sector”, in Fifth International Conference on Violence in the Health Sector (Proceedings), October 26-28, 2016.

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