



**International Geneva**  
**Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors**  
**La Centrale Sanitaire Suisse Romande | CSSR**

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#### **BACKGROUND AND MISSION**

La Centrale Sanitaire Suisse Romande is a Swiss association based in Geneva, which supports the efforts towards a fairer society and better access to health care in developing countries. It was created during the Spanish civil war, in 1937, when a group of doctors and nurses provided medical aid to the republican victims. From then on, the organisation has taken care of civilian victims in various conflicts and humanitarian crises, including in ex-Yugoslavia and Vietnam. La Centrale Sanitaire Suisse Romande (CSSR) bases its work on its two fundamental values; solidarity and health equity. The organisation is committed to assisting disadvantaged and oppressed population groups in developing countries, and enabling them to access necessary care. In Switzerland, the CSSR provides information to its members about public health and the current situation in countries where it works through its reports, publications, events and a quarterly newsletter.

#### **AREAS OF INTEREST**

- Maternal and child health
- Community based rehabilitation
- Humanisation of health care
- Training of health workers
- Mental health care and support for trauma survivors

#### **HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

CSSR currently works in Bolivia, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Palestine. It collaborates with local partners on projects that support the local health infrastructure, and works with entirely local teams of workers. CSSR strengthens the local institutions and seeks to influence the local and regional bodies to take action against health inequity. For over 10 years CSSR has worked closely in projects aiming to reduce maternal mortality, including providing contraceptives to space pregnancies and prevent early pregnancies, improved midwifery training to address pre-natal complications, and reproductive health education programs. CSSR also initiates societal change in finding ways to challenge the persisting gender norms in order to enable women to take full control of their reproductive health.

#### **GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

CSSR is an association according to articles 60 ff. of the Swiss civil code. The secretariat in Geneva is run by two part-time employees and supervised by a committee consisting of 8 members. The general assembly elects the members of the committee in a yearly meeting. Aude Martenot is the current secretary-general, and Viviane Luisier is the president of CSSR.

## FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

Public funds are the main source of CSSR's funding, covering 84% of the budget in 2018. The remaining 16% comes from private donations of individuals and foundations. The total budget of CSSR in 2018 was CHF 662,064. Funding comes mainly from Geneva Federation for Cooperation (FGC), and Vaud Federation for Cooperation (FEDEVACO).

## PUBLICATIONS

Publication available at <https://css-romande.ch/categorie/publications/>

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