



**International Geneva**  
**Directory of Swiss Global Health Actors**

**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation | SDC**

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home.html>

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**BACKGROUND AND MISSION**

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is Switzerland's international cooperation agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). In operating with other federal offices concerned, SDC is responsible for the overall coordination of development activities and cooperation with Eastern Europe, as well as for the humanitarian aid delivered by the Swiss Confederation. The goals of Swiss development cooperation are to reduce poverty and to promote peace for sustainable development. This should enable to foster economic self-reliance and state autonomy, to contribute to the improvement of production conditions, to help in finding solutions to environmental problems, and to provide better access to education and basic healthcare services.

**AREAS OF INTEREST**

SDC: Health - A prerequisite for development

[\(<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/themes-sdc/health-development.html>\)](https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/themes-sdc/health-development.html)

- Health as a human right
- Strengthening health systems
- Communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Malaria
- HIV/AIDS

**HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

SDC recognizes health as a basic human right and a key to development. The overall goal of SDC's cooperation in health is to improve population health with a special focus on poor and vulnerable groups. The South Cooperation Department is involved in 20 countries and regions across Africa, Asia and Latin America. Its health-related activities focus on strengthening health systems, working on the determinants of health by promoting healthy lifestyles via a community-based approach for NCDs and producing financial support in the fight against communicable diseases (such as HIV/Aids, malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhea and acute respiratory infections, or neglected tropical diseases...). It also aims at improving the health of mothers, their newborns and children, as well as promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights. In the area of health, the humanitarian aid unit focuses on water and sanitation, as well as gender-based violence. It also works to maintain and strengthen its partnerships with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other UN

humanitarian organisations. The SDC also supports projects and non-governmental organisations that work in the area of development and health through grants and donations.

#### **GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

Federal councillor Ignazio Cassis is Head of the FDFA since November 2017. Ambassador Manuel Sager is the General Director of the SDC and Ambassador Thomas Gass is the Assistant Director and Head of the South Cooperation Department. The Head of the Humanitarian Aid Department and of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit is Manuel Bessler. As of 31 December 2018, the Swiss International Cooperation was employing over 423 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff members in the Swiss headquarters. 11.5% of the 4037 FTE abroad employees of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA are dedicated to cooperation and development.

#### **FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET**

The SDC is entirely funded by the overall budget of the Swiss Government.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

For publications, see:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/publications-services/publications.html>

For videos and images, see:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/publications-services/videos-images.html>

For the newsletter, see:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/publications-services/newsletter-rss.html>

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