



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

**United Nations Environment Programme | UNEP**

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**BACKGROUND AND MISSION**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was founded in 1972 following the UN Conference on the Human Environment, and acts as the UN authority on environmental issues. UNEP coordinates the development of environmental policy consensus within the UN family and international community. UNEP works on a broad range of environmental topics from ecosystem protection to sustainable development. The organisation evaluates and provides information of global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends, develops international and national environmental instruments and supports and strengthens institutions to conduct wise management of the environment. Additionally, the organisation works in collaboration with other UN organisations with mandates overlapping with environmental topics.

**AREAS OF INTEREST**

- Environmental conservation and protection of ecosystems
- Climate change
- Environmental governance
- Chemical and waste management and sustainable use of natural resources
- Post disaster and conflict environmental recovery and assessment
- Environmental risk reduction and prevention

**HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

The health related aspects of UNEP's work are based on the understanding of environment as a determinant for health. The main health-related activities of the Geneva office include climate change, hazardous chemicals and pollutants, as well as disaster and conflict situations. UNEP conducts research and training and disseminates information and knowledge on the health aspects of these environmental risks and events, builds country preparedness and capacity for disaster prevention and recovery, and provides technical assistance. UNEP supports countries in addressing climate change through four main avenues: adaptation and building resilience to climate change; mitigation and moving towards low carbon societies; reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and finance for new models for the green economy. It also pays attention to the spread and emergence of infectious and vector-borne disease as a result of rising global temperatures.

**GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

UNEP is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya and has regional offices in Bangkok, Geneva,

Manama, Panama City and Washington D.C. Additionally, UNEP has multiple liaison offices and country presence, including representation to international and regional intergovernmental organisations. UNEP is led by a senior management team that is led by executive Director Erik Solheim. The director of the Geneva office is Mr Jan Dusik.

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

95% of funding for UNEP's activities relies on voluntary contributions by member states. Funding sources are the regular budget, including the UN Development Account for the core functions of the Secretariat and Governing Bodies, the Environment Fund and Earmarked Contributions for the implementation of the UNEP programme. Total income in 2016 was USD 463 million.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Find all of UNEP's publications at: <http://www.unep.org/publications/>

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