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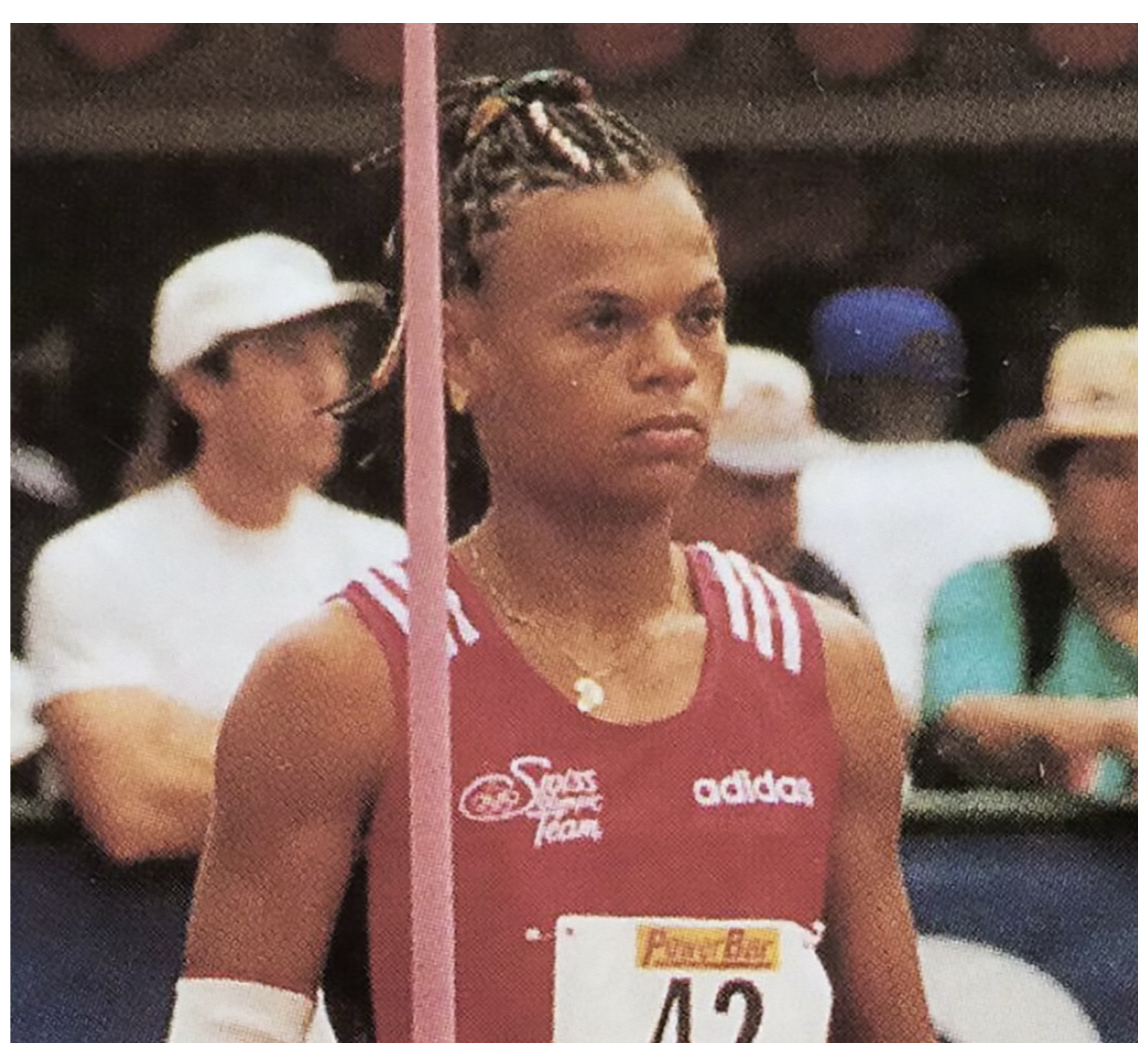
Patricia Danzi | Class of 2001

Patricia Danzi, a Swiss-Nigerian humanitarian and former Olympic athlete, is fluent in seven languages and has dedicated her career to international development, aid, and climate action. As the first woman Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in 2020, she focuses on development, aid, equality, and migration's effects in Switzerland and beyond. With 25 years at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), she led operations in challenging regions across Africa and the Americas. Her multicultural background helps her connect deeply with those she serves.



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Patricia Danzi worked on missions with the ICRC, across conflict zones in Africa, Latin America and Europe, to protect civilians and promote humanitarian law. Here alongside ICRC President Peter Maurer, she is pictured on a pirogue heading to remote communities in a FARC-controlled area.



© Patricia Danzi.

Patricia Danzi competed in the heptathlon at the 1996 Olympics. Her athletic background has allowed her to develop a strong ability to concentrate, enhance her capabilities on demand, and build endurance, which proves to be very useful in her career.



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Appointed in 2020, Patricia Danzi is the first female Director-General of the SDC, leading Switzerland's global development and humanitarian efforts. The SDC plays a key role in global stability, addressing poverty, climate change, and migration.

