## International Geneva Directory of Swiss Global Health Actors

**Fondazione Arbor | Arbor** 

## http://www.arborfoundation.net/

Via G. Giacometti 1, c/o Consulnet SA - 6901 Lugano Tel +41 91 913 41 70 | Fax +41 91 913 41 799 | mail: info@arborfoundation.net

### **BACKGROUND AND MISSION**

The Arbor Foundation is a secular, non-profit organisation registered in Switzerland. The foundation is governed by the statutes that define its objectives and activities. The Arbor Foundation was founded in 2005, after the collaboration of Raimon Panikkar with a group of businessmen, economists and philanthropists with the aim of promoting practices of dialogue between cultures, peoples and communities.

The Arbor Foundation coordinates, finances and manages programmes aimed at the implementation of the principles of the association in collaboration with institutions, organizations and societies that share its objectives in the following areas:

1) Humanitarian activities:

a) Hospitals, health facilities, shelters and support and care for the poor, victims of abuse, the sick or otherwise in need;

- b) Schools and training centres;
- c) Development projects for the basic needs, projects of small credit, etc.
- 2) Cultural and interfaith activities:

a) Promotes, assists and supports interreligious and intercultural dialogue through conferences, seminars, courses and conferences;

b) Grants aid to students or researchers that deepen issues related to religions different from their own and those related to inter-religious dialogue.

### **AREAS OF INTEREST**

- Prevention of endemic diseases (leprosy, TB, malaria and scabies)
- Water access, sanitation and hygiene
- Micro-credit

# **HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

Arbor collaborates in India with the medical organization Sarwa Prema Welfare Society, involved in providing medical assistance to the rural populations of the Warangal district, in the south of India. The doctors and paramedics involved in the project manage mobile clinics in the Arbor villages and supply medicines and medical treatment to the rural communities. They are engaged in permanent campaigns to inform and foster awareness and prevention of endemic diseases (such as leprosy, tuberculosis, malaria and scabies) and of the most severe seasonal epidemics. The medical program in rural communities in India takes place

GRADUATE INSTITUTE GENEVA GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE through mobile clinics and medical centers that reach all Arbor villages in rotation, to manage the care, treatment and therapies. Food and supplementary vitamin therapies are distributed to weaker patients and to those with serious food deficiencies. The medical program is also involved in the preservation and dissemination of traditional Indian medicine.

Arbor supports "Elpis hospital ship" association, which aim is to manage health missions to bring medical aid in locations that are otherwise inaccessible. Arbor promotes a system of community water management in the villages covered by the program. Starting with the village chief (Sarpannch), all the villagers, irrespective of caste, social class or religion, are involved in the construction of village wells and the installation of water purifiers that can then be used by the entire community. SEMI (NGO) was founded as a branch of Arbor for the management of programs aimed at children and youth. SEMI works in India in the construction and operation of orphanages, schools and specialized centers for the children of rural villages and those suffering from serious and debilitating illnesses. In Italy, SEMI manages programs for the development of morals, of collaboration and conscience, and for the reduction of conflict and violence in society. Arbor supports the Association for Italo-Peruvian Cooperation with the aim to contribute towards the social development and health of Peruvian population most affected by poor sanitary conditions, and for the prevention of child deafness.

## **GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

The headquarter are located in Lugano and led by the foundation board. It comprises of a 6member board containing the President and five directors. These are joined by the manager of Cultural activities (Patrizia Gioia) and the manager of Humanitarian activities (Luca Streri). The current president is Domenico Piovesana, and the current board of directors is composed by Giovanna Censi, Alberto Lotti, Ernesto Salerni, Patrizia Gioia, and Luca Streri.

### FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

The asset of the foundation starts with 50.000 Francs, conferred by members. It is subsequently increased by donations, legacies and heritage. They have to be unanimously accepted by the board. The foundation is committed to managing the donations received in compliance with the ethical standards set out in the Articles and the operating philosophy chosen by the directors. An annual balance is published.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

All the publications can be consulted at http://www.arborfoundation.net/en/archive.htm

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