

International Geneva
Directory of Swiss Global Health Actors

COMUNDO

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

COMUNDO is a Swiss organization in the field of personnel development cooperation (PDC). It is an organization involved in development cooperation; its three supporting associations (Bethlehem Mission Immensee, E-CHANGER, and Inter-Agire) pursue the same objectives. The vision of COMUNDO is a world with more social justice and well-being, and less inequality for all people. The mission of COMUNDO is to enable sharing and mutual worldwide learning, a world where all people can lead a self-determined life in dignity is possible. COMUNDO runs a branch in Lucerne, in Fribourg, and in Bellinzona, as well as an office in Germany (Rottweil). In the countries where assignments take place, COMUNDO concentrates on the exchange of experience and knowledge. Co-workers and local partner organizations meet on an equal footing and work together on site. This cooperation not only strengthens the local partner organizations, but also improves living conditions for the population groups involved in the process. In Switzerland, COMUNDO makes people conscious of global interrelationships and raises awareness among civil society and political decision-makers, in the interests of responsible action.

COMUNDO works with a holistic approach and encourages cross-linking between its work and various partners. The local partner organizations represent civil society, social movements, and faith-based organizations committed to people who are disadvantaged because of their ethical and cultural conditions (or sex, age, race, sexual orientation,...), people whose livelihoods are threatened by political or economic interests, but also through man-made climate changes and its effects and people who are threatened in their rights and dignity because of their physical or mental conditions. In its work, COMUNDO focuses on the following core themes: Livelihood Security, Democracy and Peace, Environment. The situation of disadvantaged and excluded groups of population is improved through access to and their protection of livelihoods (access to food, health, information, education, and work enables people to lead self-determined lives with dignity).

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Access to healthcare and medicines
- Water access, sanitation and hygiene
- Community-led initiatives and advocacy
- Stigma and discrimination

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Because of HIV/AIDS pandemic, family structure in Zambia has changed radically and many

elderlies don't have any relative who can provide care to them. In the "Old People's Village" old and disabled people of Mpanshya region are receiving shelter and help. COMUNDO is supporting this center in financial management and administration. In Zambia there are also volunteers deployed in Home Based Care-Teams to cure and support HIV-positive people and their families. Serenity Harm Reduction Programme Zambia is helping people with addiction offering individual, family and group therapy for rehabilitation. In Kenya COMUNDO is supporting Special Education Professional (SEP) to train local professionals in healing pedagogy, physiotherapy and ergotherapy, creating a network of therapeutic assistance and support for children. In the Philippines "Social Action and Development Center (SADC)" is deeply rooted in the community and has people's trust. Cooperation between SADC and country rehabilitation center of Ifugao aims to train local staff in drug abuse and addiction, as well as treatment and prevention.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

COMUNDO Committee is composed by Dr. Beat Dietschy (President), Maya Doetzki, Alessandra Genini, Hans-Peter Marbet, Louis Schelbert, Marie Garnier, and Dr. Elisa Fuchs. In addition to them, ad interim executive director Christian Varga is in charge of the management, together with 4 other directors and 11 members of staff. Around 85 co-workers (36 different fields and jobs) are currently on assignment in 7 Latin-American, African, and Asian countries: Bolivia, Kenya, Colombia, Nicaragua, Peru, the Philippines and Zambia. 40% of co-workers are living with their family or their partner.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

In 2017, 45% of funding (CHF 4,240,000) has been raised thanks to donations. Legacies account for 22% (CHF 2,070,000), while the remaining 26% came from the Swiss Confederation. Fundraising and administration account for 35% of budget, with 65% spent directly on projects (42% for the global south programmes and 23% for the global north one).

PUBLICATIONS

Relevant resources, project description and annual reports can be found at https://www.comundo.org/it/chi_siamo/fatti_e_cifre/

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