



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

**Federal Department of Foreign Affairs | Sectoral Foreign Policies Division | FDFA - SFPD**

<http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/foreign-policy/cross-departmental-themes.html> and  
<http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/topics/envtra/health.html>

Bundesgasse 28 | CH-3003 Berne

Tel +41 58 461 19 73 | Fax +41 58 464 90 72

mail: pd-sektorielleausssenpolitik@eda.admin.ch

#### **BACKGROUND AND MISSION**

The FDFA supports other Federal Departments in key areas of foreign policy and proactively shares its expertise in this domain. The Sectoral Foreign Policies Division (SFPD) in the Directorate of Foreign Policy plays a key role in this effort. The role of the FDFA is to safeguard Switzerland's foreign policy interests. The FDFA, based on the strong support of its Sectoral Foreign Policies Division, works alongside other Federal Departments to ensure that Switzerland is actively involved in international relations and has the right of co-decision in the main multilateral forums. The FDFA also contributes to the development of international rules and standards and ensures that the positions adopted by Switzerland are coherent and well-coordinated. With its broad overview of foreign policy, the FDFA, and in particular its Sectoral Foreign Policies Division, can balance interests, develop solutions and identify the scope for compromise between sectors.

#### **AREAS OF INTEREST**

- International cooperation and coordination in health-related areas
- Pandemics, non-communicable diseases, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases
- Improving access of medicines in developing countries
- Health in the SDGs
- Alignment of health-related policies with general foreign policy
- Coordination of foreign and domestic health policy

#### **HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

Switzerland is committed to promoting synergies and improved coordination between the various actors in relevant policy areas to promote health. In this regard, the Sectoral Foreign Policies Division (SFPD) works closely with relevant actors, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Fund to Fight Tuberculosis, AIDS and Malaria and the Global Commission on Drug Policy. At the domestic level, a strong collaboration across the Federal agencies is established, in particular with the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) and the State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO). The division is one of the main actors in the Swiss Health Foreign Policy, which was adopted by the Swiss Government in March 2012 and revised in May 2019. Switzerland's health

foreign policy is a political instrument that enables Switzerland to adopt a coordinated approach to, and a coherent position on, global health at an international level with the aim of achieving the highest attainable standard of health for all.

#### **GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis is Head of the FDFA. Head of the SFPD is Ambassador Stefan Estermann, with Selena Lopreno being responsible for any aspects related to health, including the Swiss Health Foreign Policy.

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

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

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Swiss Health Foreign Policy, May 2012 (accessible at: [https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/eda/en/documents/aussenpolitik/entwicklung-zusammenarbeit/Schweizerische-Gesundheitsaussenpolitik\\_en.pdf](https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/eda/en/documents/aussenpolitik/entwicklung-zusammenarbeit/Schweizerische-Gesundheitsaussenpolitik_en.pdf))

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