

International Geneva
Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

Handicap International | HI

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

Handicap International (HI) Federation is an international humanitarian organisation founded in France in 1982. The organisation proposes a comprehensive approach for improving the living conditions of people with disabilities as well as vulnerable persons. Teams implement a combination of complementary actions, including: health care for the injured, orthopaedic fitting and rehabilitation; actions against explosive remnants of war; education and economic inclusion; the prevention of disabling diseases; and advocacy to change national legislation and international standards. The Handicap International network is composed of a federation and eight member national associations based in France, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Great Britain, Canada and the United States. The national associations provide overall support for the field programs, which are implemented through HI Federation headquarters in Lyon, France and Brussels, Belgium. Set up in 2014 in Geneva, Handicap International Foundation plays a dual role: a monitoring and alert mechanism, as well as a catalyst for thought and debate.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Inclusive healthcare
- Prevention, early detection and treatment of impairments and morbidities
- Improving access to health services for persons with disabilities
- Improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities
- Adherence to the SDG3 to ensure health and wellbeing for all

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

HI mainly focuses on maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, and mental health as well as road safety, aiming to prevent impairment and morbidity caused by disease, accidents or complications, as well as to provide treatment and rehabilitation of existing conditions. In maternal and child health, the focus is on training doctors, nurses and midwives on mortality reduction and prevention, as well as on early detection and care management of impairments linked to pregnancy and childbirth for both mothers and children. In addition, HI provides prenatal and post-natal assistance for early detection and the care of impairments such as cerebral palsy and club foot. HI also provides women living with disabilities with access to antenatal and postnatal consultations, as well as sexual and reproductive health care services. In response to HIV/AIDS, HI implements awareness campaigns to change at-risk behaviours, improve prevention, and make families and communities more inclusive for people with disabilities.

Furthermore, HI aims to integrate diabetes prevention, early detection, and care management into existing health services by strengthening local health systems, thus reducing diabetes-related disabling conditions. In post-crisis, emergency response and development settings HI implements a comprehensive community-based approach to mental health, offering psychological and social consultations, home visits, discussion groups, artistic activities, as well as social and cultural activities to prevent mental health conditions. Finally, HI works in road safety and risk prevention, implementing national road safety action plans in countries in Africa, Asia, and South America, and providing first aid interventions at the scene of accidents.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

In 2015 Handicap International employed over 3,200 staff working in nearly 60 countries, majority of them locally recruited in the program countries. The Swiss offices in Geneva and Zurich employ approximately 11 people. Christophe Wilhelm is the current president of the board, and Petra Schroeter is the director of the Swiss National Association. The international Federation is located in Lyon, France, and headed by managing director Manuel Patrouillard. The international network changed its name in 2018 to Humanity & Inclusion, together with the national associations of Canada, US and UK.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

To maintain its independence and ensure the long-term future of its actions, Handicap International relies on two sources of funding: funds raised from institutional donors (40%) and donations from private bodies (48%). The available resources in 2016 were EUR 152 billion.

PUBLICATIONS

For all publications, including annual reports and videos, see:

<http://www.handicap-international.ch/fr/publications-thematiques>

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