# International Geneva Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

### Reach

## https://stoprhd.org

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#### **BACKGROUND AND MISSION**

Reach works to promote the health of vulnerable populations by providing technical support to local, regional and global efforts to prevent and control acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease (ARF/RHD). Initially founded as a partnership between the University of Cape Town in South Africa and Telethon Kids Institute in Australia it brings together the considerable expertise of leaders in the fields of Streptococcus A, rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease. Based in Switzerland with teams in South Africa, Australia and the United States, it brings together expertise in establishing health programmes in resource-limited settings, epidemiology and burden of disease research, approaches to integration of activities into existing health systems and structures, paediatric and adult cardiology and health policy making. With this knowledge it can provide expert knowledge to ministries of health and other partners to guide the implementation of their programmes to prevent and control ARF and RHD.

#### AREAS OF INTEREST

- Rheumatic hearth diseases
- Communicable diseases
- Rheumatic fever

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

Our approach draws on the proven success of comprehensive register-based programmes to effectively reduce the burden of ARF/RHD at a reasonable cost in disparate geographic settings. Allied with interventions integrated into primary health care that make use of existing platforms of care, we aim to rapidly impact the communities most at risk.

Comprehensive approach to tackle ARF/RHD is split across three strategic areas:

- People Supporting those living with and affected by RHD, Reach has developed tools and training materials to support programme planning, policy, practice and monitoring (it is the lead organization in the data collation and development of the RHD Atlas). Reach provides a forum to discuss through the Community Advisory Network and through engagement of peer support groups.
- Policy Ensuring ARF/RHD are national health priorities in endemic countries, estimating country prevalence and global burden of disease.

- Programmes - Providing technical assistance, working with ministries of health and advising the WHO to develop and implement ARF and RHD prevention and control programmes

#### **GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

Professor Liesl Zhülke is the current president of the board, 4 people in total. The board is supported by the team, where Jeremiah Mwangi is the current Executive director, supported by 7 more people and 3 representatives from the Community Advisor Network

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Tools and policy briefs, as well as an introduction to Reach are available at <a href="https://stoprhd.org/resources">https://stoprhd.org/resources</a>

Last update: 20.08.2019