Women's Hope International (WHI) is a Swiss NGO aiming at improving maternal health in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Chad. WHI supports girls and women irrespective of age, origin, language, religion, cultural and political conviction and coordinates its innovative projects with government health systems. WHI creates long-term partnerships with local actors to help them achieve greater professional competence.

**AREAS OF INTEREST**

- Maternal and reproductive health
- Prevention and treatment of obstetric fistulas
- Prevention of child marriages and teenage pregnancies

**HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

WHI supports projects and hospitals for the treatment of obstetric fistula with a focus on offering women surgeries as a treatment, as well as pre- and post-surgical care. To prevent obstetric fistula and improve maternal health in general, WHI is active in two more domains: "Strong Girls and Women" fights against forced marriage of children and the prevention of teenage pregnancies that often comes with it. Child marriage and teenage pregnancies can lead prolonged labour and obstetric fistula as the pelvis is not fully developed in many teenagers. WHI promotes the social independence and self-determination of girls and women by offering counselling on reproductive health and family planning. To improve safety during childbirth, WHI supports the training of midwives and the construction of birth clinics in rural areas in Africa and Asia.

**GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

WHI employs 4 employees at its office in Bern, in addition to a number of volunteers. CEO and Head of International Programs is Gerhard Bärtschi. The supervisory board oversees the management and is responsible for the strategic management. President and co-founder of WHI is Dr Martin Leimgruber.

**FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET**

Funding sources for WHI are donations by individuals, companies and foundations, as well as contributions by the church and governments. Total income in 2017 was CHF 1.3 million, of which 70% were earmarked funds.
PUBLICATIONS
For reports in general, including annual reports (in German), see: https://www.womenshope.ch/de/infothek/jahresberichte
For annual reports in English, see: https://www.womenshope.ch/en/information-centre/annual-report

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