

DOCTORS
OF THE
WORLD
SWITZERLAND

2017-2020
PROGRAMME
OVERVIEW



DOCTORS OF THE WORLD SWITZERLAND

Doctors of the World Switzerland – Médecins du Monde Switzerland (MdM Switzerland) is a medical humanitarian organisation founded in 1993. Our mission is to secure sustainable access to health for vulnerable people in Switzerland and around the world. A politically and religiously independent and impartial health NGO, we are one of the 16 member associations of the international Doctors of the World network.

PROVIDE CARE

We strive to provide real access to healthcare.

Every person must have equitable access to healthcare, without financial, cultural, or geographic barriers.

In partnership with communities, civil society, and local authorities, we implement projects in the field to sustainably improve access to healthcare for women and children, people in vulnerable situations, and victims of crises and conflicts. Our actions are guided by the needs expressed by those populations.

BEAR WITNESS

We advocate for lasting change.

We expose the intolerable the better to condemn it. We call on regional, national, and international decision-makers as well as civil society actors to facilitate access to healthcare and promote respect for human rights. We work with them to revise and adopt policies and strategies. In Switzerland, we raise awareness and encourage solidarity.

ACTION PRINCIPLES

1

Do no Harm

We analyse the conceptual and operational aspects of our projects with awareness of the underlying tensions and conflicts that emerge from their contexts.

2

Sustainable Actions

We strive for the empowerment and sustainability of medical structures and community activities.

3

Comprehensive Approach

We make sure our actions work in a complementary manner on all factors critical to health.

4

Bottom-up Approach

We engage communities in defining, implementing, and evaluating our activities.

5

Non-Substitution

We consider that it is the responsibility of the government to guarantee the proper functioning of the health system.

6

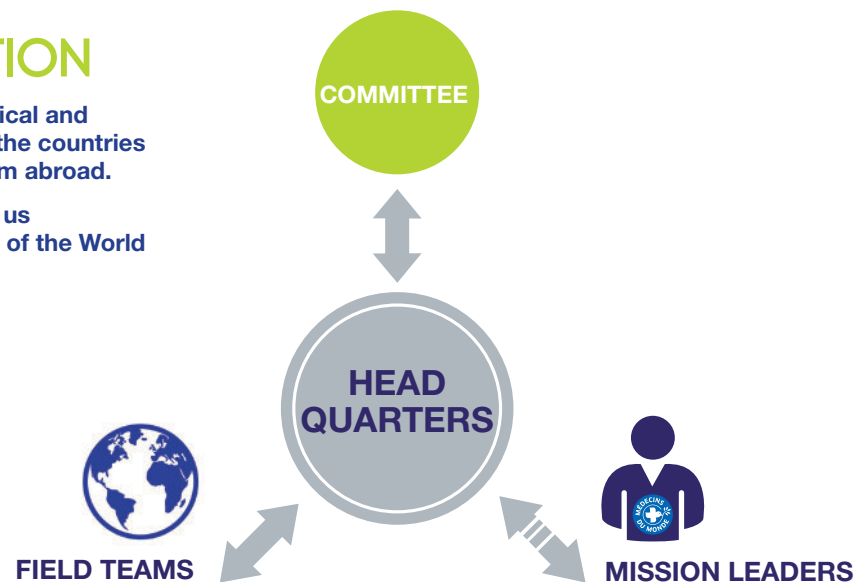
Gender

We fight gender-based inequalities and promote access to health services for women and girls.

ORGANISATION

Our teams consist of medical and technical personnel from the countries where we operate and from abroad.

Everyone who works with us subscribes to the Doctors of the World Code of Conduct.



MAIN STRATEGIC FOCUS



MdM Switzerland specializes in **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Children's Health**. We develop specific expertise in:

- Gender-based violence
- Paediatric palliative care
- Mental health

We provide comprehensive health services during every stage in the life of the mother and the child. Our work throughout the health-care process extends to the family, the community, and to other health structures.

IMPROVING HEALTH



ODD 3



MdM Switzerland's strategy contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

- **Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.**
- **End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age**, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1000 live births.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

With its partners in the field, MdM Switzerland develops prevention activities, raises community awareness about the rights and responsibilities of each person, cares for victims, and advocates for appropriate national health policies.

Gender-based violence occurs all over the world. 1 woman in 3 is a victim of physical or sexual violence at some point in her life. That violence leads to serious physical and mental health problems for the victims and their children. We fight that complex violence, which is too-often trivialized and, in times of crisis, exacerbated.

450

Every month, we care for 450 victims of gender-based violence in Benin at 3 shelters.



PAEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE

When healing is no longer possible, MdM Switzerland offers a humane response by managing pain and suffering. We strengthen the medical skills and capacities of health-care providers in the field, and we advocate for removing barriers to

care. Every year, nearly one million people, including 200,000 children, need palliative care in French-speaking Africa.

200

Every year, our programme provides palliative care for 200 children.



MENTAL HEALTH

MdM Switzerland is committed to promoting well-being and to preventing and managing mental disorders. We accompany the most vulnerable among us - specifically displaced persons, victims of violence, women, and children - and we adapt our psy-

cho-social support according to their needs. Globally, 1 person in 4 will suffer from a mental disorder at some point in their life. Too often stigmatized and ignored, mental health is an essential component of overall health.

2700

Our medical teams have provided health care to 2,700 refugees in Greece.

INTERVENTIONS STRATEGIES

1 STRENGTHENING SKILLS

MdM Switzerland is engaged in curing and preventing illness and in promoting health. We engage communities through participatory diagnoses, through their inclusion in programmes and evaluations, and through the mobilisation of their own resources. They become full-fledged actors in health-related changes.

3 IMPROVING QUALITY

Increasing the quality, efficiency, and equity of care is a priority for MdM Switzerland. We strengthen the leadership and coordination of health authorities by developing treatment manuals and protocols. We organise continuing education and provide supervision by qualified personnel. We work to improve the quality of the patient-caregiver relationship.

2 IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY

MdM Switzerland identifies and removes barriers to care. We build and renovate health facilities, provide medical supplies and equipment, organise technical training, and support healthcare providers.

4 ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

MdM Switzerland gives special priority to the sustainability of its actions. We gradually improve the capacities of all of our partners so that health structures are able to meet the needs of the communities.

GOOD PRACTICES

→ ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Anthropological studies, by taking into account the diversity of all actors, provide in-depth understanding of the attitudes and paths to care of target populations, of their specific needs, and of the responses they expect.

→ WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

MdM Switzerland works in partnership with civil society organisations and local authorities. We improve the quality and overall impact of our actions by encouraging a dynamic of exchange and collaboration. We work with communities, the private and public sectors, as well as the academic world.

→ EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Tools for analysis, monitoring, and evaluation are developed to ensure the relevance of our approaches and their appropriateness in different contexts. We adapt our programs based on those conclusions. We share our experiences and results with our partners.

→ ADVOCACY

MdM Switzerland advocates on the basis of its observations in the context of its operations in the field. We advocate as a network to increase impact.

DOCTORS OF THE WORLD
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HEADQUARTERS

Rue du Château 19
2000 NEUCHÂTEL

GENEVA OFFICE

Rue de Cornavin 11
1201 GENÈVE

+41 (0)32 725 36 16

info@medecinsdumonde.ch

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www.medecinsdumonde.ch

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