Our mission is to improve health systems and population access to effective health services worldwide. We combine scientific knowledge and practical expertise, and offer comprehensive, interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral services based on the experience of the Swiss TPH and its wider network of associates. We work with partners to respond to local needs, thus tailoring our services to the contexts and countries we work in.

Our Main Thematic Focus Areas
- Health Technology and Telemedicine
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Health Systems Support
- Systems Performance and Monitoring

On behalf of our wide range of clients, we support and facilitate projects in all fields related to international health.

Project Management, Consultancy and Advisory Services
- Project design, planning, management, and quality assurance
- Health systems analysis, evidence, policy making support
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Biomedical technology assessment, and procurement of equipment and drugs
- Data quality auditing, information systems and knowledge management
- Health financing and economic analysis
- Teaching and training, capacity building
- Human resources evaluation, institutional backstopping
- Operational research

The Swiss Centre for International Health is a service department of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
A Diverse and International Team

Over 140 colleagues representing more than 35 nations work for the Swiss Centre for International Health (SCIH). The majority of our staff is based in the field, ensuring hands-on local involvement. Our public health specialists span a variety of professions.
Health Technology and Telemedicine

The implications of technology on health – increasing recurrent costs, additional support services, changes in medical practice and training needs – are often underestimated. As a result, the widespread arbitrary use of technology leads to wasting of scarce resources and weakens health systems performance. In particular, fast evolving informatics and communication technology provides unprecedented challenges and opportunities. The most current knowledge is required to ensure that health service provision makes the best use of available technologies.

Appropriate infrastructure, medical facilities and equipment, health devices, logistics and proper management are crucial for preventive and curative health services. The rapid propagation of health technology is fuelled by changing demographics, scientific progress, societal expectations and a changing burden of diseases.

We leverage our expertise in Health Technology management and the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in health systems (eHealth). We transfer our know-how via systematic assessment, appropriate solutions, and process and system optimisation, including human resources and institutional capacity building.

Examples from our Portfolio

- Global: Development and validation of a web-based information system for medical devices
- Europe: Organisational development and capacity building working group (European Network for Health Technology Assessment)
- Egypt: Modernisation of radiology diagnostic services (SECO)
- Jordan: Improvement of hospital waste management and hygiene (SECO)
- Kyrgyzstan: Health services infrastructure improvement (KfW)
- Moldova: Medical records information system implementation (SDC)
- Moldova: Perinatology Project, health technology and telemedicine component (SDC)
- Switzerland: Information system for methadone/heroine dispensation (Lucerne Hospital)
- Tanzania: health equipment maintenance improvement within Systems Strengthening Project (DSC)
- Ukraine: Maternal and Child Health Programme, health technology and ICT component (SDC)
Sexual and Reproductive Health

The promotion of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) has gained new momentum. The recognition of the field’s importance for global population dynamics, equitable and sustainable development, and poverty reduction opens the door to an era of unprecedented opportunity. The HIV and AIDS response remains high on the global agenda and is now increasingly linked with SRH issues.

We address all thematic fields of SRH within the broader context of health sector reform, health systems strengthening, and improving the quality of health care. We respond to the increasing demand for managerial and services quality and assist in the development of prevention and health promotion campaigns involving gender equity and social development.

Improving the quality of perinatal care is a major focus in our Eastern European projects, as well as is the prevention of HIV and AIDS in Tanzania and Central Africa, and the strengthening of primary health care systems – including primary prevention and disease control in the Great Lakes region. We are present in the Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Tanzania, the Great Lakes and Central Africa regions, and also serve as an active consultancy agent for The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Examples from our Portfolio

– Global: Advisory and backstopping in international cooperation in health for the Swiss Government (SDC)
– Central Africa: Prevention of HIV/AIDS “PPSAC” (KfW)
– Burundi: Water and Sanitation Project (SDC)
– Moldova: Perinatology Project (SDC)
– Romania: Quality management in romanian health facilities (EU)
– Romania: Swiss intermediate body for the technical fund Health Romania (SDC)
– Tanzania: Prevention and Awareness in Schools of HIV/AIDS “PASHA” (GIZ)
– Ukraine: Mother and Child Health Programme (SDC)
Effective health services can only be assured through sustainable and strong health systems. Evidence informed health workforce and financing policies are the cornerstone of robust health systems. From a systems perspective, we identify, analyse, review and compare health strategies and policies to enlarge the evidence base and facilitate decision making in these critical areas.

We evaluate human resources, placing emphasis on how, and under what conditions a management strengthening intervention can improve workforce performance and retention, and further aid the development of training capacities in low and middle income countries.

We undertake economic evaluations encompassing resource planning, costing, cost-effectiveness analysis, and health system financing – including health insurance support and public financial management.

We address the continuum between data, information and knowledge, promoting the production and use of high quality evidence to inform decision making through activities such as data quality audits, generation of evidence from monitoring and evaluation assignments, analyses of surveys, systematic reviews, and design of approaches to develop health systems guidance.

**Examples from our Portfolio**

- Asia, Africa and Latin America: Health services resource planning with the Integrated Healthcare Technology Package “iHTP” tool (WHO)
- Global: Pre-market analysis on pneumococcal vaccines (GAVI)
- Global: Data quality audits (Global Fund)
- Global: Health systems guidance methods and tools (WHO)
- Global: Evaluation of methods to estimate vaccination coverage (GAVI)
- Benin and Liberia: Improvement of malaria diagnostics activity (USAID)
- Nepal: Assessment of quality and availability of major essential drugs in the governmental health system (WB)
- Tanzania: Health Promotion and System Strengthening Project in the Dodoma region (SDC)
- Tajikistan: Health Sector Reform and Family Medicine Support “Project Sino” (SDC)
Systems Performance and Monitoring

Well functioning health systems and programmes are fundamental for providing effective, proper and sustainable health care to populations in low and middle income countries. Performance assessment and monitoring provides an important basis for analysing the outcome and impact of different programmes and projects on health systems, and more generally, on public health.

Through improving the performance quality and functioning of health services and programmes we contribute to the development of accessible, equitable and efficient health systems to alleviate poverty and reduce health deficiencies. We facilitate research and project implementation, which also involves rethinking solutions for pharmaceutical, as well as financial management, performance assessment, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

As a Local Fund Agent (LFA) for The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) we take part in, and lead major evaluations and consultancies in 19 countries: Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Djibouti, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Gambia, Laos, Mali, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Niger, Senegal, Sao Tome, Syria, West Bank and Gaza, and the REDCA region. Before the Global Fund signs a grant agreement, we assess the principal recipients capacity to implement the project, review proposed budgets and work plans, and support the Global Fund in grant negotiations. During programme implementation, as well as for grant closure, we oversee programme performance and accountability of use of funds, including the carrying out of ad hoc assignments such as investigations relating to the suspected misuse of funds.

Examples from our Portfolio

- Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East: Local Fund Agent in 19 countries and one regional programme (Global Fund)
- Global: Desk review of country progress in TB control (GDF)
- Eastern Europe: Appraisal and monitoring agent for Cohesion Funds (FMO and SDC)
- Tajikistan: Medical Education Project “MEP” including Clinical Skills Laboratory Project (SDC)
Mission Statement

The Swiss Centre for International Health (SCIH) contributes to improving health systems and population access to effective health services worldwide. It combines scientific knowledge and practical expertise to reduce inequalities in health.

In strengthening health systems, our approach is to offer comprehensive, interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral services, covering project or programme identification, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Our services are based on evidence developed by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) and its wider network of collaborators. The experiences of our collaborators feed into the teaching provided by the Swiss TPH.

Our guiding principle is to work with partners to respond to local needs, thus tailoring our services to the contexts and countries we work in. The SCIH combines the state-of-the-art knowledge of a multidisciplinary academic institution with the industry standards of a consulting agency.

The Swiss Centre for International Health is a department of the Swiss TPH in Basel, Switzerland, and works on a non-profit basis. Any benefits generated are reinvested in creating knowledge and providing training in the field of international health.

Main Clients

- **BAG** Swiss Federal Office of Public Health
- **EU** European Union
- **FMO** Financial Mechanism Office
- **GAVI** Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
- **GDF** Global Drug Facility
- **Global Fund** Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- **GIZ** German International Cooperation
- **KFW** German Development Bank
- **SDC** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- **Lux-Development** Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation
- **SECO** Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
- **UN** Various United Nations Organisations
- **USAID** United States Agency for International Development
- **WB** World Bank
- **WHO** World Health Organization

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