Swiss Centre for International Health
Improving Health Systems Worldwide
The Swiss Centre for International Health is a service department of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

Our mission is to combine scientific knowledge and practical expertise to reduce health inequalities and strengthen health systems worldwide. Our approach is to offer comprehensive, interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral services based on the experience of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) and its wider network of associates. 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. We are a WHO collaborating centre taking part in health systems development worldwide.

Our Main Thematic Focus Areas

– Sexual and Reproductive Health
– Health Systems and Economics
– Systems Performance and Monitoring
– Health Technology and Telemedicine

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

– Operational research
– Teaching and training, and capacity building
– Feasibility studies, project design and planning assistance
– Monitoring and evaluation
– Biomedical technology assessment and health technology input, including the procurement of biomedical equipment and drugs
– Data quality monitoring and auditing
– Analysis of cost implications and resource allocation
– Policy, guidelines and health systems development support
A Diverse and International Team

Over 120 colleagues representing more than 35 nations work for the Swiss Centre for International Health (SCIH). The majority of our staff are based in the field, ensuring hands-on local involvement. Our public health specialists span a variety of professions.
Examples from our Portfolio

- Global: Advisory and Backstopping Mandate for the Swiss Government in the field of international cooperation in health (SDC)
- Moldova: Perinatology Project (SDC)
- Ukraine: Mother and Child Health Programme (SDC)
- Tanzania: Prevention and Awareness in Schools of HIV/AIDS “PASHA” (GTZ)
- Burundi: Health Systems Support Programme (SDC)
- Rwanda: Public Health Project (SDC)
- Switzerland: Technical support for the development of the National HIV/STI Programme 2011 – 2017 (BAG)
- Romania: Regionalised perinatal care and quality assurance (WB)

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, 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, strengthening health systems, and improving the quality of service delivery. We respond to the increasing demand for quality services 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/AIDS in Tanzania, and Central Africa. We are present in the Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Tanzania, the Great Lakes and Central Africa regions. The SCIH also serves as an active consultancy agent for The Global Fund.
**Health Systems and Economics**

Stable health systems are fundamental for providing effective health care. Economic analysis provides an important basis for designing and implementing health interventions, health systems and health policies, and assessing the interaction and impact on the health of populations and societies in general.

We endeavour to become widely recognised as a centre for excellence in these thematic areas: maintainable health systems strengthening, health care financing, and economic analysis and evaluation.

Health systems require viable funding to develop and provide quality health services, and at the same time should strive to achieve appropriate access of the population to needed health services. The analysis of equity implications and policy options for improving access and arriving at fair financing solutions is one of our important working areas.

Economic evaluation in health care compares competing health interventions in terms of their costs and benefits, and aims at informing and assisting policy makers as well as service providers in making equitable, sustainable resource allocation decisions.

**Examples from our Portfolio**

- Global: Resource planning for health services with the Integrated Healthcare Technology Package “iHTP” tool in Asia, Africa and Latin America (WHO)
- Malaria endemic countries: Economic Evaluation of Intermittent Preventive Treatment for Infants “IPTi” for Malaria and Anaemia Control (IPTi Consortium)
- Tajikistan: Health Sector Reform and Family Medicine Support “Project Sino” (SDC)
- Nepal: Assessment of quality and availability of major essential drugs in the governmental health system (WB)
- Global: Pre-market analysis on pneumococcal vaccines (GAVI)
Systems Performance and Monitoring

Through improving the performance quality and functioning of health services and programmes we aim to contribute to the development of accessible, equitable and efficient health systems and effective health policies.

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. The SCIH is a Local Fund Agent for The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in 18 countries, taking part in and leading major evaluations and consultancies.

Systems Performance and Monitoring also includes research, policy guidance, and project implementation. Our key objective is to contribute to the development of sustainable health systems as well as to poverty alleviation and the reduction of health deficiencies. This involves rethinking solutions for human resources, pharmaceutical management, performance assessment, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Examples from our Portfolio

- Central Africa: Prevention of HIV/AIDS “PPSAC” (KfW)
- Benin/Liberia: Improving Malaria Diagnostics Activity (USAID)
- Africa: Vaccination Data Quality Audit (GAVI)
- Global: Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East: Local Fund Agent in eighteen countries and one regional programme (Global Fund)
- Global: Data Quality Audits (Global Fund)
- Global: Desk Review of Country Progress in the Field of TB Control (GDF)
- Global: Evaluation of methods to estimate vaccination coverage (GAVI)
- Eastern Europe: Appraisal and Monitoring Agent for Cohesion Funds (FMO and SDC)
Health systems are increasingly dependant on technology. 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 are experts in the field of Health Technology and Telemedicine management and the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in health systems.

We focus on international development in low income and transition countries. Our core competencies are technology and know-how transfer through systematic assessment, appropriate solutions, process and system optimisation, including human resources and institutional capacity building.

The implications of technology in terms of opportunities, increasing recurrent costs, additional support services, change 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. The most current knowledge is required to ensure that health service provision makes the best use of available technology.

**Examples from our Portfolio**

- Malawi: Physical assets management for the Ministry of Health (GTZ)
- Egypt: Rehabilitation of radiology services (SECO)
- Europe: EUnetHTA working group on organisational development and capacity building (European Network for Health Technology Assessment)
- Global: Development and validation of a web-based information system for medical devices in low and middle income countries
- Moldova: Perinatology Project, health technology and telemedicine component (SDC)
- Jordan: Strengthening hygiene, diagnostic capabilities and eye care in Ministry of Health facilities (SECO)
- Jordan: Healthcare Waste Management Project (SECO)
- Ukraine: Maternal and Child Health Programme, health technology and ICT component (SDC)
- Vietnam: Management and maintenance of cold chain and blood bank equipment (Lux-Development)
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
- **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
- **GTZ** German Development Cooperation
- **KFW** German Development Bank
- **SDC** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- **Lux-Development** Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation
- **SECO** State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
- **UN** Various United Nations Organisations
- **WB** World Bank
- **WHO** World Health Organization

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