

SWITZERLAND

DONOR PROFILE 2023

**UNITED
FOR
GLOBAL
MENTAL
HEALTH**

SWITZERLAND

%GNI/ODA 2022	2021 ODA	2021 DAMH
0.56%	US\$4.5 billion	US\$1.8 million

Switzerland spent US\$4.5 billion in official development assistance (ODA) in 2022, making ODA spend 0.56% of its gross national income (GNI). Switzerland has [four priorities](#) for international cooperation from 2021-2024:

1. Creating decent local jobs
2. Addressing climate change
3. Reducing the causes of forced and irregular migration
4. Working to promote the rule of law

The country has the following health priorities: 1) the strengthening of health systems; 2) the fight against communicable and noncommunicable diseases; and 3) the improvement of sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is active in low- and middle-income countries. Switzerland is a top mental health donor and has a high level of interest in mental health issues. The Swiss Federal Council is prioritising a human rights policy approach to addiction, as outlined in the [Swiss Health Foreign Policy 2019-2024](#).

GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Recent SDC global mental health projects include:

- [Reducing risk factors for NCDs \(including mental health\) in Ukraine](#) through support to the ministry of health, primary healthcare and public health centres, and schools to prevent, treat and care for individuals with NCDs. This project is running until 2024.
- [Schools for Health in Albania](#); supporting schools in Albania to improve curricula on NCDs prevention, including mental health promotion, and using digital tools for health promotion for children, parents and teachers. This project is running until 2025.

Switzerland has provided support for the following NGOs working in mental health:

- [Tahaddi](#), a Lebanon-based NGO focusing on education
- the [Gaza Community Mental Health Programme](#)



- the Competence Centre since 1997, covering three-quarters of its budget along with Sweden and Norway
- the [Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative](#) (REPSSI) in South Africa with Sweden.

The SDC is committed to treating mental illness as a non-communicable disease and integrating mental health into bilateral programmes. It focuses on reforms to improve community-based services and offering psychosocial support to people who have been confronted with violence – such as women who have experienced gender-based violence in the Great Lakes region of Africa and young people affected by HIV/AIDS in southern Africa.

The [Swiss Health Foreign Policy](#) document highlights tackling addiction as a priority area.

DOMESTIC MENTAL HEALTH

Switzerland does not have a stand-alone domestic mental health law. Mental health is included in the [Federal Council's Health Policy Strategy 2020–2030](#). The Federal Council also has a separate national [addiction](#) strategy and [dementia](#) strategy.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Implementing agencies: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation ([SDC](#)) and the Economic Cooperation and Development Division of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs ([SECO](#)).

KEY DECISION MAKERS

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs is headed by [Ignazio Cassis](#), who has a history in public health

Director General of the SDC, Ambassador: [Patricia Danzi](#)

Deputy Director General, Head of Humanitarian Aid Department and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA), Ambassador [Dominik Stillhartr](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Switzerland provides most of its ODA bilaterally; in 2020 77% of ODA was channeled bilaterally.



Funds supported by Switzerland:	
UNFPA	UNFPA calls for the realization of reproductive rights for all.
Global Fund	The Global Fund invests US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria. The Global Fund strategy includes a significant commitment to mental health as a comorbidity and key point of intersectionality with the 3 diseases. You can apply for funding on their website.
GAVI	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is focused on increasing the sustainable and equitable use of vaccines worldwide. The current strategy (2021-2025) is narrowly defined with no reference to mental health.
Global Environment Facility	The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral fund dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. They fund government projects.
Green Climate Fund	The GCF is the world's largest climate fund, mandated to support developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways. Like the GEF, the GCF is also driven by government-identified national priorities.
UNHCR	The UN refugee agency.
WHO	The United Nations agency for health.
UN Women	UN Women delivers programmes, policies and standards that uphold women's human rights and ensure that every woman and girl lives up to her full potential.
World Food Programme	The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.
UNRWA	The UN organisation providing assistance and protection to Palestinian refugees.
OCHA	OCHA coordinates the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises.
UNDP	UN lead agency on international development.
UNICEF	UN agency for children.



KEY RESOURCES

- [SDC on Noncommunicable disease](#)
- [SDC Strategic Framework 2015-2019 SDC Global Programme Health](#)
- [Swiss Health Foreign Policy 2019-2024](#)
- [Health2030 – the Federal Council’s health policy strategy for the period 2020–2030](#)
- [National Strategy on Addiction](#)
- [National Dementia Strategy](#)
- WHO Mental Health Atlas 2020 [Country Profile](#)
- WHO [MiNDbank](#)