

Swiss Red Cross Delegates

General Information:

The Swiss Red Cross (SRC) provides humanitarian assistance abroad after natural disasters and in conflict situations and commits itself to longer-term health-care programmes as part of development cooperation projects. Projects and programmes in Africa, Asia, eastern Europe and South America are run in close cooperation with local partners (Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and local NGOs). The need for delegates is limited as local resources are called upon in the first instance. Missions are carried out in a team and are in all cases accompanied by a mandate to train local partners and employees. They therefore require a solid basic level of training and extensive professional experience in the appropriate specialised field.

The work of the specialists employed by the SRC is carried out in the following institutional framework:

- Self-supporting SRC programmes with local partner organisations, in particular in the development cooperation field;
- For the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in disaster management programmes and in development cooperation work.

Types of mission:

- Humanitarian missions, of short and medium duration (one month to one year). These include the planning, running and implementation of relief programmes both in the medical field and in the fields of administration and logistics of relief measures (nutritional relief assistance, accommodation, drinking water).
- Missions in the field of development cooperation. These cover a broad spectrum of areas, including the following: medical programmes, setting up and extending infrastructures and health-care facilities, reinforcement of health-care services in rural areas, promotion of organisational

development and community development. The most important tasks carried out by SRC delegates are advice, training and coordination.

- Short-term missions by consultants to provide specialist advice and evaluate projects and programmes.

Professions employed:

In its programmes the SRC employs specialists in the following areas:

- doctors
- nursing staff
- coordinators with broad professional experience and management abilities
- financial specialists
- logistics specialists
- construction delegate
- Delegate water/sanitation

Requirements:

A broad range of stringent requirements are placed on SRC delegates in accordance with the varied and difficult tasks they are to carry out. Only candidates who satisfy the following minimal standards can be taken on for missions:

- professional training
 - ... officially recognised medical diploma, preferably specialised in public health
 - ... nursing qualification, preferably specialised in midwifery or public health nursing
 - ... an academic qualification (e.g. economics, hydrology, agronomy, ethnology, sociology, public health, etc.).
- several years of professional experience
- experience abroad (preferably in Third-World countries or disaster areas)

- good knowledge of English and French
- ability to instruct and train specialists in the country of the mission
- organisational and improvisational abilities
- tact, ability to empathise, readiness to accept foreign values and cultures, skills in diplomacy
- good physical and mental health
- ability to adapt to difficult conditions, and to work under stress

In addition to an appropriate level of remuneration (paid in Switzerland), the SRC pays the delegate his living expenses in the country of the mission, accident insurance, pension plan and insurance coverage for his personal belongings.

Duration and location of mission

Missions for delegates usually last between 1 and 12 months and may be prolonged beyond this at the delegate's request depending on the nature of the project.

Humanitarian relief: missions last from one month to one year

Development cooperation: longer-term missions

Missions are available mainly in countries in eastern Europe, Africa and Asia.

Swiss Red Cross

Field Personnel

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