Swiss Red Cross

Jobs abroad

The Swiss Red Cross (SRC) provides humanitarian aid abroad. Emergency aid is coordinated by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The SRC has a pool of specialists available for deployments in emergency teams.

Emergency aid deployments can last for up to four months, with team members usually being replaced after one month. The majority of pool members are professionals working in the private sector or, in the case of healthcare specialists, also in hospitals or medical practices. They are released from duties by their employer for the duration of deployments.

Conditions for acceptance into the expert pool

There is a limited need for pool members as local resources in the country of deployment are used as a first resort. Deployments are in teams with a mix of nationalities. They are always linked to a training mandate: deployments not only involve providing emergency aid but also training local partners and employees. Pool members therefore need sound basic training and extensive professional experience in their relevant area of expertise.

The members of the staff pool must be available for deployment within 48 hours. Their employer must also be willing to guarantee a temporary release from duties of at least one month per year. Attendance of one-off basic training and annual training courses of approximately seven days per year each is also mandatory.

Vocational areas

The SRC deploys specialists from the following areas in its emergency aid teams:

- Logisticians (various specializations)
- Doctors
- Nursing staff
- Midwives/obstetricians
- Healthcare professionals (public health)

Requirements

The members of an emergency aid pool have to meet a diverse and demanding range of requirements, given the varied and challenging tasks facing them. Only candidates who meet the following minimum requirements can be accepted.

- Completed vocational training:
- *For medical staff:*
  federally recognized medical degree, preferably specializing in public health; or registered nurse with an Advanced Federal Diploma of Higher Education, with special training in public health or as a midwife.
- If possible, also international experience in developing countries and/or disaster zones
- Excellent English and French (other languages an advantage)
- Tact, empathy, willingness to accept foreign values and cultures, diplomatic skills
- Good physical and mental health
- Ability to adapt to difficult situations, resilience