Building a Global Health Coalition: From Two Disease Alliances to One Platform

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Background

Global health is becoming increasingly complex and contested, harder for any single actor to achieve tangible and policy-relevant impact. Malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) show what Swiss-based research, industry, and civil society can accomplish together, from innovation to impact in disease-endemic countries. The Swiss Malaria Group (SMG) and the Swiss Alliance against Neglected Tropical Diseases (SANTD) have progressively joined forces since 2023 to make this case together.

Approach

- Since 2023, SMG and SANTD have used the **Swiss Global Health Hub**, a parliamentary engagement platform run jointly with Medicus Mundi Switzerland, to bring policymakers into direct dialogue with the Swiss global health community.
- **Parliamentary events** held in autumn 2023 and spring 2024 helped shape a coordinated response to Switzerland's Dispatch on International Cooperation.
- In May 2024, the Federal Council adopted the **International Cooperation Strategy 2025–2028.** For the first time, health was named a priority, a change this coordinated advocacy helped inform.

Timeline

2023

Joint workshop aligns SMG and SANTD's 2024–2027 strategies around four shared pillars.

Joint **national elections campaign** gathers 344 candidate responses, 282 opt into continued engagement.

Swiss Global Health Hub holds **parliamentary event** on Switzerland's international cooperation strategy.

2024

Secretariats **merge** under FAIRMED, with one Executive Director for both organisations.

Swiss Global Health Hub event addresses the **WHO pandemic treaty**.

SMG and SANTD jointly oppose cuts to **the international cooperation budget** in an open letter to MPs.

2025

Concurrent General Assemblies include a **joint workshop**.

Joint **SMG/SANTD advocacy working group** established.

Joint parliamentary study tour held in the Basel area, timed to World Malaria Day.

SANTD **Reframing Neglect exhibition** (with the END Fund) shown in Geneva and Bern.

2026

Shared **2026–2027 roadmap** endorsed: advocacy & policy, communications & visibility, member engagement & technical exchange.

A **joint positioning process** across 20+ member organisations.

Ecosystem

SMG and SANTD unite 20+ Swiss-based organisations across research, industry, civil society, academia, and public institutions. They share one secretariat, one governance structure, and one roadmap.

"Switzerland's combination of research institutions, industry, and international organisations allows it to contribute to global health efforts 'far beyond its size'."

Dr Eva Herzog, member of the Council of States and President, Board of Governors, Swiss TPH

Key Lessons

- Aligning strategy before merging operations gave joint action a stable foundation.
- Coordination is as much about attention and legitimacy in a crowded field as it is about resources.
- Disease-specific credibility can strengthen, not dilute, a broader case for national engagement.

Ask us how two platforms became one strategy, and how two disease areas end up making the same case for Switzerland's role in global health: more investment, research, and cooperation for those who need it most.

Contact SMG

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