



**Medicus Mundi Suisse**

Réseau Santé pour tous  
Netzwerk Gesundheit für alle  
Network Health for All

## **MMS Bulletin #156**

*Leur travail est indispensable et pourtant il manque de reconnaissance*

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### **Preamble**

# **Nurses and Midwives are the Backbone of the Swiss Red Cross's Health System Strengthening Efforts**

De Monika Christofori-Khadka

*Nurses and midwives are precious resources and an important backbone of Swiss Red Cross' Health System strengthening efforts nationally and internationally. Since the 1940ies until 2011, the Swiss Government mandated the Swiss Red Cross to regulate the national nurse education. Until date, the Swiss Red Cross is in charge of the accreditation of nurses, midwives and other health cadres who have been trained abroad. Over the decades, more than 200'000 Swiss nurses and around 82'000 foreign-trained health personal were accredited and able to be contribute of the health workforce in Switzerland.*



eye health nurses in Ghana, is another important pillar of SRC's support to the nursing workforce. These interventions are not stand-alone. They are embedded in a health system strengthening approach, which includes the local communities and individuals, all relevant local stakeholders and partners.

On-the-job coachings and clinical supportive supervision have gained importance in countries, where workforce is trained, but lacks practical experience and confidence (see case story Bangladesh and Pakistan), combined with advocacy that Governments allocate necessary resources to put supervision policies into practise (see case story Laos).

The State of the World's Nursing Report (WHO, ICN, Nursing Now 2020) highlights the achievements and global challenges in regards to universal education standards, working conditions, clinical exposure and education, nurse-led care, leadership and leadership positions as well as higher education of nurses. Reading through the report, the SRC contribution seems negligible in the vast ocean of unmet needs. Still, the case stories show that the support makes a big difference to the professional life of the individual nurses and midwives, with a direct impact on their clients' health.

*The Swiss Red Cross joins the other contributors of this bulletin and Medicus Mundi Switzerland in a heartfelt appreciation of the millions of nurses and midwives who care for the world every day. **You care-we care for you.***



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