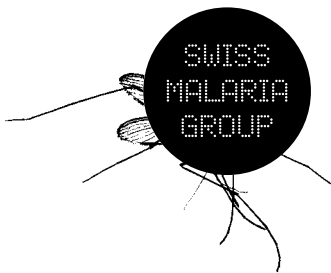


# SWITZERLAND'S ROLE IN GLOBAL HEALTH

Swiss National Election candidates from across the political spectrum are supportive of Switzerland's diverse contributions to global health, a survey by the SMG and SANTD revealed.



## INTRODUCTION:

The Swiss Malaria Group (SMG) and the Swiss Alliance against Neglected Tropical Diseases (SANTD) conducted a comprehensive survey among candidates in the Swiss national elections in October 2023. Both organizations aim to bolster political commitment towards Swiss initiatives combating diseases of poverty, with a specific focus on malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), and to foster global health generally.

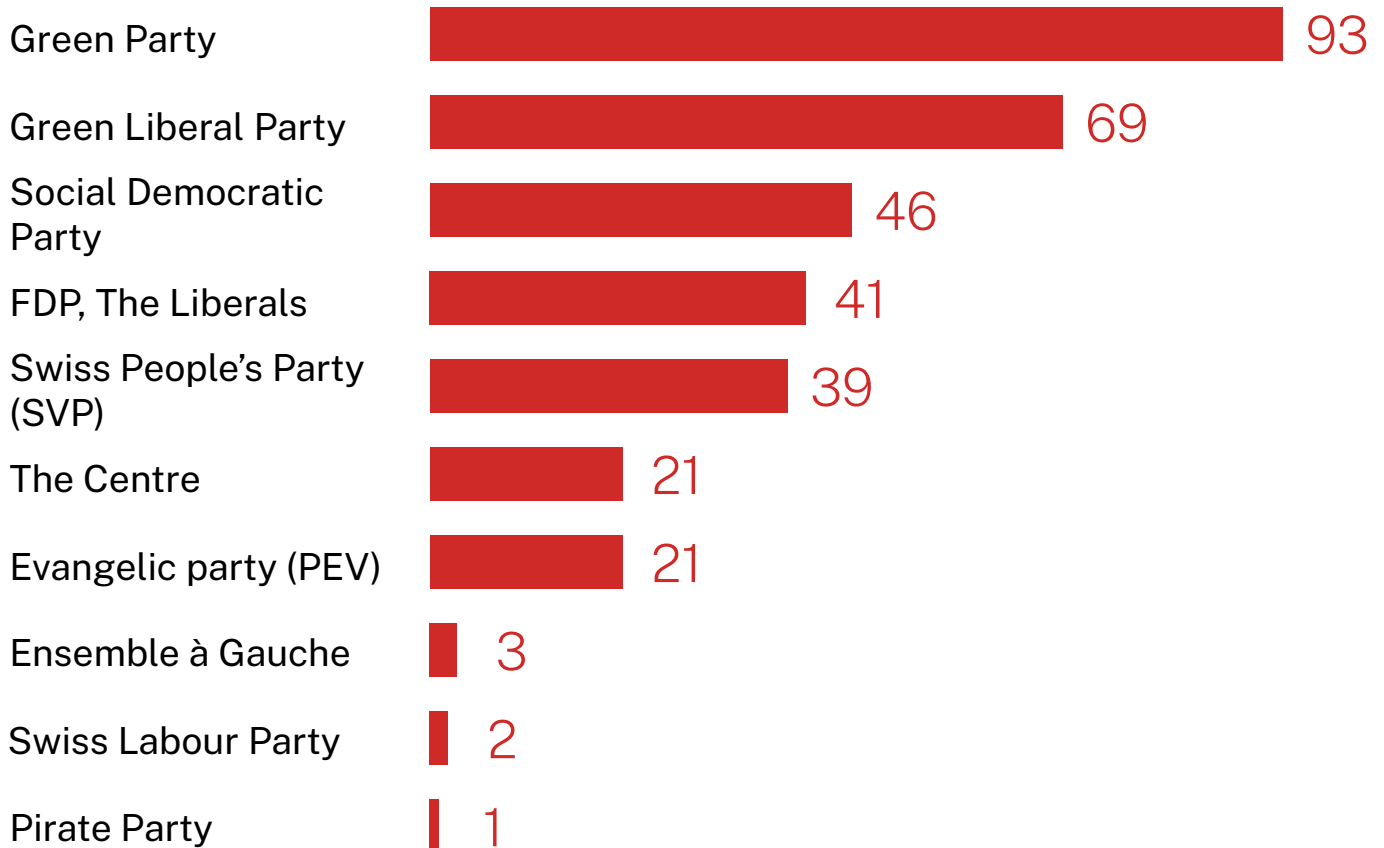
As part of an ongoing engagement with policymakers, SMG and SANTD distributed surveys to over **4000 candidates** across Switzerland through cantonal party secretariats during the pre-election period in August-September 2023. This synthesis of survey results sheds light on the importance election candidates attributed to the role of Switzerland in global health, to Swiss research endeavours, and to our country's historic role in disease prevention and control. These findings can enrich the ongoing dialogue on Switzerland's role in the global health landscape and shape future policy considerations.



## RESPONSES SPANNED THE ENTIRE POLITICAL SPECTRUM

344

Conducted ahead of the Swiss National Elections, this survey delved into candidates' perspectives on Switzerland's role in global health. A total of 344 participants completed the survey, and 282 expressed interest in continued engagement. The political spectrum was well-represented, showcasing a diverse range of responses across parties.



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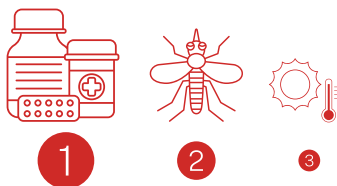
In total, 29 of the survey participants were then successful in the elections, representing roughly 15% of the elected Federal Assembly, with 23 among them expressing interest in continued engagement. The SMG/SANTD campaign attracted 17,000 unique website visits and 26'000 direct social media impressions, in addition to participants' reach when spreading their results.

## GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY MATTERS

95%

There was a strong consensus on the necessity for Switzerland to develop a comprehensive global health policy. A resounding 95% of respondents deemed it «important» (35%) or «very important» (60%), demonstrating a shared commitment among participating candidates to shape Switzerland's role in addressing global health challenges.

## QUALITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF HEALTHCARE, INFECTIOUS DISEASES, AND THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS TOP GLOBAL HEALTH PRIORITIES



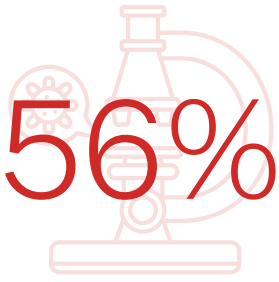
The survey delved into the nuanced priorities of candidates regarding global health. The top three issues identified were access to quality, affordable healthcare; infectious diseases (including malaria and HIV/AIDS), and the health impacts of climate change. These findings emphasize the importance of taking a holistic approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of healthcare accessibility, disease prevention, and environmental health.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION STRATEGY 2025-2028: RELEVANCE OF HEALTH AND MIGRATION

60%

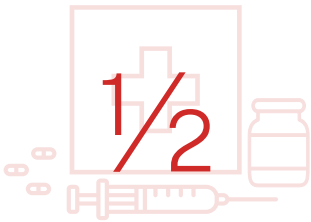
Examining the strategy's focus on health and migration, health emerged as a pivotal concern for close to 60% of the respondents, who considered it «very important». While migration was also considered relevant, respondents expressed diverse opinions, with a minority considering it as not important. This nuanced perspective underscores the multifaceted considerations along the political spectrum.

## SWISS ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



Switzerland's pivotal role in the research and development (R&D) landscape for combatting communicable diseases resonated strongly. A majority of 56% of respondents emphasized the «very important» role of both the public and private sectors in spearheading R&D efforts, signalling a collective recognition of Switzerland's potential to contribute significantly to global health innovation.

## MAINTAINING SWISS LEADERSHIP IN COMBATING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES



The survey explored the sentiment around Switzerland's historical leadership in combatting communicable diseases. Half of the respondents (50%) deemed Swiss leadership «very important», reinforcing the conviction that Switzerland's legacy in this arena holds substantial value and should be preserved.

## REPUTATION AND AWARENESS OF SMG/SANTD



Approximately one-third of participants were already familiar with SMG and SANTD. This insight suggests that while the organizations have garnered recognition, there is room for broader visibility and engagement.

# CONCLUSION:

The nuanced responses reflect a dynamic political landscape, with a shared commitment to addressing health as a key global health challenge and positioning Switzerland as a leader in combating diseases through research, development, and international cooperation.

As candidates navigate the intricate landscape of global health, the consensus view on the pivotal role of a coherent and comprehensive Swiss global health policy signals a shared commitment to prioritizing international health challenges. The emphasis on key issues such as access to healthcare, infectious diseases, and the health impacts of climate change underscores a well-developed awareness of the interconnected global health landscape.

This survey not only captures the sentiments of the candidates but also signals a collective vision for Switzerland's continued leadership in global health. The challenge now lies in translating these insights into meaningful policies and actions, ensuring that Switzerland, guided by its future leaders, remains a steadfast ally in the global pursuit of better health for all.

In conclusion, the multifaceted landscape of candidate opinions converge in a collective commitment to shaping Switzerland's role in global health and reinforcing the nation's historic leadership in the fight against communicable diseases. These insights can guide future policy considerations, aligning Switzerland's global health initiatives with the aspirations of its electorate.

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