



CENTER FOR REHABILITATION IN GLOBAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

The Center for Rehabilitation in Global Health Systems (CRGHS) at the University of Lucerne conducts and supports high-quality, innovative, and international research as well as implementation activities that help translate evidence and tools from projects into real-world rehabilitation practice and policy. The CRGHS is committed to strengthening rehabilitation as a key health strategy for everyone across the lifespan.

KEY FACTS

- The World Health Organization (WHO) defines rehabilitation as interventions that optimize functioning and reduce disability in people with health conditions.
- The CRGHS advances the integration of rehabilitation into health systems, policy, and universal health coverage worldwide.
- The CRGHS has been a WHO Collaborating Center since 2018, underscoring its international role and partnerships.

GLOBAL REHABILITATION NEED



Globally, about **2.6 billion people (1 in 3)** could benefit from rehabilitation over the course of their life



In 2021, people worldwide lost **340M** years of healthy life due to disability



79.4% increase in years lived with disability between 1990 and 2021

BACKGROUND

Health systems across the world are facing challenges as populations age and chronic conditions become more common. People are living longer, but also with more potentially disabling health conditions.

To address this challenge, countries need evidence-informed policies and public health interventions. Rehabilitation plays a central role in this effort. It helps people with health conditions such as chronic pulmonary or cardiovascular diseases optimize their functioning and be as independent as possible in life. By improving functioning and reducing the disabling potential of health conditions, rehabilitation is a key health strategy for the 21st century.

MISSION AND GOALS

The CRGHS envisions a world in which high-quality rehabilitation is fully integrated into health systems worldwide. Rehabilitation must be part of the full continuum of care, accessible to everyone who can benefit from it, included in Universal Health Coverage, and valued as equally important as curative medicine, health promotion, prevention, and palliative care.

The mission of the CRGHS is to strengthen rehabilitation in global health systems. To achieve this, the CRGHS conducts high-quality educational, research, and implementation activities that contribute to building expertise and know-how.

RESEARCH FOCUS AND ACTIVITIES

Through collaborative projects and knowledge exchange across research, practice, and policy, the

CRGHS contributes to advancing rehabilitation in line with both global priorities and national needs. At the national level, the CRGHS plays an active role in connecting key stakeholders in Switzerland, conducting research on national health systems and promoting education in rehabilitation.

As a WHO Collaborating Center, the CRGHS contributes to global initiatives such as WHO's Rehabilitation 2030, which calls for coordinated action to strengthen rehabilitation within health systems worldwide.



EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

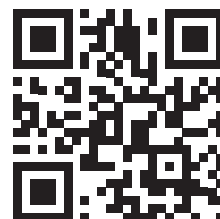
The CRGHS operates as an interdisciplinary platform, bringing together expertise from health sciences, medicine, social sciences, policy, and law. Integrated into the academic programs of the University of Lucerne, the CRGHS also contributes to education and capacity building, supporting students and early-career researchers in developing strong foundations in rehabilitation, global health, and international health policy.

CONTACT



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