

# UCSF Student Guide to Geneva

## *By Adam Levine*

*Note: The most important thing to understand about Geneva is that housing is incredibly difficult to find there, especially during the spring and summer. If you are even thinking about doing an internship with an organization in Geneva, you should start looking for housing right away, even before you apply for your internship or funding (see housing section below).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Located near the western tip of Switzerland just a few kilometers from the French border, Geneva is a modern city, bustling with international bankers and diplomats, yet at the same time maintains the quaint feeling of a medieval European town. Though located in one of the most isolationist countries in Europe, nearly 40% of Geneva's residents are foreign nationals, most of whom work for one of the many hundreds of international organizations or financial institutions in the city. During the spring and summer, Geneva virtually overflows with thousands of students and young professionals from all over the world coming to intern for a few months with one of the many UN organizations or international non-government organizations (NGOs), lending the otherwise staid and stoic city a fresh young face. This guide is meant to provide you with a rough idea of how to find and prepare for an internship in Geneva, how to negotiate the basics of housing, food, and transportation, and how to make the most out of your time there.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Geneva is located between the Alps and the Jura mountains, at the extreme south-western tip of Lake Geneva (known as Lac Lemman to the Swiss). The city sits at an elevation of 373 metres, and is crossed by the Rhône and the Arve rivers. Central among France, Germany, and Italy, Geneva is only a one hour plane ride from Paris or Milan (3-4 hours by train), and less than two hours by plane from London, Rome, or Barcelona, all of which make great weekend getaways if you have the extra cash.

Switzerland is divided into 26 cantons, each of which maintains a fierce sense of independence. Switzerland can also be divided into four general language/cultural areas, including German, French, Italian, and Romansh speaking Switzerland. The Canton of Geneva, located in French Switzerland, is virtually surrounded by France, except for the lake and a 4.5 km neck of land that borders the remainder of the Swiss Confederation. This small link to the rest of Switzerland connects Geneva to the Canton of Vaud on the right bank of Lake Geneva.

Until 1870, Geneva was the most heavily populated Swiss town. Nowadays, Zurich outnumbers Geneva, although Geneva is still slightly larger than Basel, and far ahead of Bern (the capitol of Switzerland). The City of Geneva today is comprised of around 180,000 residents, while the Canton of Geneva contains about 420,000 residents. In Geneva, foreign nationals make up 38% of the population, representing nearly 180 different nationalities. The official language is French, though nearly everyone within the UN organizations speaks English. However, it is still worthwhile to learn some conversational French, as many waiters, grocery clerks, barbers, and bus drivers will not speak English.

The currency is the Swiss Franc (CHF); one Franc is divided into 100 Centimes. Credit cards are accepted in the majority of hotels, restaurants and shops, and ATMs are prevalent throughout the city. The prices for hotels, restaurants and taxis include taxes and service, so tipping is neither necessary nor encouraged. If you plan to take any trips across the border into nearby France, be sure to change some money into Euros before you go.

## **INTERNSHIPS**

The bulk of this section focuses on internships at the WHO, since it is the organization in Geneva that most UCSF students will go for their internship. There are numerous other organizations in Geneva, however, which also do public health work and offer internships to students. A selection of these are discussed at the end of this section.

### World Health Organization (WHO)

Known in Geneva by its French acronym, OMS, the World Health Organization is the main health arm of the United Nations system. Created in 1948, WHO is an organization of sovereign states. Each May, all 192 member countries send representatives (usually Ministers of Health) to the World Health Assembly, which elects the Director General of WHO (currently Dr. Lee of South Korea) and creates policy for the organization. WHO employs a total of 10,000 staff members, 3,000 at its headquarters in Geneva and the remainder in its regional and country offices. There are six WHO regional offices, located in Washington (PAHO), Copenhagen (EURO), Cairo (EMRO), Brazzaville (AFRO), Delhi (SEARO), and Manila (WPRO), each of which has a great deal of autonomy over WHO activities in its region. The headquarters (HQ) office focuses on creating overarching policies for the organization and coordinating the work of the different country and regional offices to tackle global health issues. For more general information on WHO, go to [www.who.int](http://www.who.int).

### *The Application Process*

Though you can technically apply for an internship at WHO via the central human resources office (see [www.who.int/employment/internship/en/](http://www.who.int/employment/internship/en/)), you are unlikely to be

successful this way. For the most part, each department reviews applications for its own interns, so you are better off applying directly to the department in which you are most interested (usually this means that you must first find and contact the human resources person for that department). Go to [www.who.int/dg/lee/hqstructureenglish.pdf](http://www.who.int/dg/lee/hqstructureenglish.pdf) for a schematic of the WHO HQ structure and a list of different departments, or cruise the health topics section on the WHO website to get a sense of the different areas in which WHO works. Though there are no official statistics, internships at WHO can be quite competitive, depending on the department to which you are applying. In general, **it helps a great deal to know someone in the organization, especially within your department of interest.** Before applying for an internship, ask your faculty mentors at UCSF who are involved in international health about contacts that they have at WHO. Find out who reviews applications in that specific department and make contact with them via email or phone. Let them know what you are interested in doing and see if they have any projects that match your interests. Find out what information you should include in your application and their deadlines for submitting applications.

The generic application for internships at WHO includes a cover letter and a copy of your CV. Make sure that your CV highlights your international experience/training, and focus your cover letter on the specific issues you would like to work on during your time at WHO. This will prevent you from being assigned to a project in which you have no interest.

Once you are accepted, you will receive both a supervisor who will oversee your work at WHO and Terms of Reference (TORs), which are essentially a description of your specific duties. Read over your TORs carefully and make sure they are acceptable to you. After all, the internship is meant to be a learning experience for you, and should therefore cover areas that are of interest to you.

### *Timing of Your Internship*

Internships at WHO are 6-12 weeks in length. Many interns find that 6 weeks may not be enough time to fulfill their goals for the internship, and most interns find that 12 weeks tends to be far too long. Two months is probably a good length of time. Though technically against the rules, many departments will allow interns to stay on for longer than 12 weeks, though this is generally not recommended as it rarely offers any added benefit (and will not increase your chances of eventually getting a paid job with WHO, if that is your goal).

In terms of when to do the internship, it can be done almost any time during medical school, though summer between first and second year is probably best. Most European medical students will do the internship during their final year of medical school, which means they will be around 22 or 23, since medical school in Europe is by and large an undergraduate degree. If you have some flexibility in time of year, summer is definitely the most beautiful time of year in Geneva, with the highest concentration of international interns. It's worthwhile to schedule your internship to overlap with the World Health Assembly, held annually in mid May, where you will get to see the Ministers of Health

from 192 countries debating and voting on policies for the organization. If you are going in the spring, you will be able to catch parts of the Commission on Human Rights, which takes place from the end of March to the beginning of April.

### *Getting Started at WHO*

Remember, the internship at WHO is meant to be a learning experience for you. You should not be assigned to do any “scut work” such as making photocopies. Meet with your supervisor as soon as possible after you arrive, and agree on specific, manageable projects for you to take on during your internship. Most importantly, don’t be afraid to ask questions! Just like in medicine, the UN world has its own unique vocabulary filled with a near endless list of acronyms (see Appendix 1). The UN system is a complex world of interconnected organizations, agencies, committees, special representatives, etc. By the end of your internship, you should have a much better understanding of how all this international machinery functions (or doesn’t function, as the case may be).

When you arrive at WHO, start by heading to the security office to get your badge. If you tell them you are a smoker (even if you aren’t), you may be able to get the electronic badge that allows you to enter and exit the building without going through the main doors, a definite plus. If the security office doesn’t have your name for some reason, don’t panic; just have them call up to the human resources contact in your department.

On your first day at WHO, you will receive your WHO email account and computer login information. To locate other interns at WHO, try subscribing to the WHO Interns List at [who\\_interns-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:who_interns-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or contact Stephane Lepsoe at [slepsoe@yahoo.ca](mailto:slepsoe@yahoo.ca), who is the intern contact in the human resources department. You can also usually find the interns by showing up in the cafeteria around noon on any given day and looking for the group of young people sitting together.

### *Things to do at WHO*

- Chill out in the Garden on the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor of the main Building and enjoy a beautiful view over Lac Léman and the Alpes.
- A Post-Office, Bank, Travel-Agent, and Cash-machine can be found in the main Building. There is also an UBS Branch Office in the L-building.
- Classes: WHO offers a variety of classes on everything from computing to languages to security training for missions abroad. All classes are free, and you can sign up for them via the WHO intranet (sign up early, as many fill up fast).
- WHO Library: Though not enormous, it has an excellent selection of international health books, which are worth looking through. As an intern, you can borrow books on your supervisor’s account.

- Sports: There are 2 Gyms, one in the main Building (8<sup>th</sup> floor) and one in the L-Building (Groundfloor) which can be used for a single fee of 10 CHF and a monthly fee of 2 CHF (neither are very well equipped). There is a fall registration fair, or email the Fitness Centre membership secretary: Susan Allemby, [allembys@who.int](mailto:allembys@who.int). In addition, there are a number of men's and women's sports teams at WHO.

## Other Organizations in Geneva

### *Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)*

UNAIDS' mission is to lead, strengthen and support an expanded response to HIV and AIDS that includes preventing transmission of HIV, providing care and support to those already living with the virus, reducing the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV and alleviating the impact of the epidemic. Sponsored by 10 separate UN organizations, UNAIDS was launched to demonstrate the United Nations' commitment to tackling the enormous burden of HIV/AIDS worldwide. Many of its responsibilities overlap with those of the HIV/AIDS department at WHO, and in the near future both organizations will share the same physical building. However, UNAIDS continues to be separate from WHO, and as a smaller organization it may offer some advantages if you choose to intern there.

For more information: [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

### *Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, created in 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly, is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Though it is not a public health organization, UNHCR is one of the lead UN agencies that participates in humanitarian action and often fulfills a public health role in terms of maintaining adequate food, water, and sanitation within refugee camps worldwide.

For more information: <http://www.unhcr.ch/>

### *International Labor Organization (ILO)*

The International Labor Organization is the UN specialized agency which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labor rights. The ILO has a rather large department addressing occupational health issues, which may be of interest.

For more information: <http://www.ilo.org/>

### *International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)*

The IFRC is the world's largest humanitarian organization, comprised of 181 member Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and its Secretariat in Geneva. The Federation carries out relief operations to assist victims of disasters, and combines this with development work to strengthen the capacities of its member National Societies. The Federation's work focuses on four core areas: promoting humanitarian values, disaster response, disaster preparedness, and health and community care. Though not part of the UN system, the IFRC has a limited number of internship opportunities, some of which also pay a small stipend.

For more information: <http://www.ifrc.org/>

### *International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC)*

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavors to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Unlike the IFRC, which is a conglomeration of different national societies, the ICRC exists as an independent international entity, engaged in its own projects at the global level. It is often one of the lead players in many humanitarian crises.

For more information: <http://www.icrc.org/>

## **HOUSING**

Though housing in Geneva is incredibly expensive by most of the world's standards, coming from San Francisco the sticker shock won't be so bad. You can expect to pay around \$500-800 a month to rent a single room in an apartment or foyer and \$1000-\$1300 a month to rent your own studio. As mentioned in the note above, the greater difficulty lies in *finding* a suitable place. That being said, there are no homeless interns in Geneva, so everyone does find housing eventually. My best advice is to learn a little bit of French (people are less likely to hang up on you), start early (i.e. now), and be persistent. There are three basic types of housing for interns in Geneva: foyers, sublets, and hotels. The following sections summarize each of these options.

### Foyers

Foyers are essentially communal living arrangements for young people. These can be some of the most convenient and cheapest options for living in Geneva. Foyers rent single rooms with shared bathrooms, single rooms with individual bathrooms, and even small studios with bathroom and kitchen. Foyers will also have some sort of communal area and a dining hall that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner for fairly reasonable prices. Many will even have computers with internet access, cable television, small libraries, etc.

Like any shared living arrangement, foyers can be a great way to meet people and make friends in Geneva outside of the organization at which you are interning. Most of them are also fairly cheap, with prices starting as low as \$400-\$500 a month for a single room with shared bathroom. However, **foyers fill up very quickly**. It never hurts to try calling foyers at any time before your scheduled start date in Geneva, since they will occasionally have last minute cancellations, but to guarantee yourself a spot, especially for the spring or summer, you should **call 6-9 months in advance**. There are about 25 or so foyers in Geneva, including a couple female only foyers, most of which are located near the center of Geneva (with the exception of the John Knox Center). See below for a list of the major ones (note: some of the contact information may be out of date), or go online to [www.unige.ch/cite-uni/logements/accueil.html](http://www.unige.ch/cite-uni/logements/accueil.html) for a more complete list, or try googling Geneva Foyers for a more updated list.

The John Knox Center is one foyer which deserves special mention. It is located in the northern part of the city, near the international organizations (about a 5 minute walk from WHO) and tends to fill up less quickly than the other foyers. Though the dining hall food can often be poor indeed, it can definitely be one of the cheapest options available in Geneva, and it is a great place to turn to after all the other foyers fill up. It is only a 15 minute bus ride to the city center, but beware of the 45 minute walk home after the buses stop at midnight.

One final option for those interning during the summer months is renting a room in the University of Geneva dorms. Check out their website at [www.unige.ch/en](http://www.unige.ch/en) for more information or contact them directly (they are listed first in the table below).

Geneva Foyer Options		
Male and Female	Geneva code +41 22	No of places
Lodging Service (BLRU) University of Geneva 4 rue de Candolle 1211 Geneva 4	Tel 705 77 20 Fax 705 77 85 e-mail: <a href="mailto:logements@unige.ch">logements@unige.ch</a>	330
Cité Universitaire de Genève 46 avenue de Miremont 1206 Geneva	Tel 839 22 22 Fax 320 22 23 e-mail: <a href="mailto:suzana@uni2a.unige.ch">suzana@uni2a.unige.ch</a>	530
Centre universitaire catholique 30 rue de Candolle 1205 Geneva	Tel 329 70 56 Fax 320 12 38	30
Centre universitaire protestant 1 2 avenue de Mail 1205 Geneva	Tel 322 90 00 Fax 322 90 99 e-mail: <a href="mailto:cup1@swissonline.ch">cup1@swissonline.ch</a>	61
Centre universitaire protestant 2 1 boulevard de la Tour 1205 Geneva	Tel 708 10 10 Fax 708 10 11	61
Centre Universitaire Zofingien (CUZ)	Tel 329 11 40 or 329 51 13 Fax 320 14 40	41

6 rue des Voisins 1205 Geneva		
Foyer "Forget me not" 8 rue Vignier 1205 Geneva	Tel 320 93 55 Fax 781 46 45	85
Foyer George Williams 9 avenue de Sainte Clotilde 1205 Geneva	Tel 328 11 36 Fax 328 11 36	92
Résidence Universitaire Internationale 22 rue Rothschild 1202 Geneva	Tel 716 02 02 Fax 716 02 01	100
Centre Saint-Boniface 14 Avenue du Mail 1205 Geneva	Tel 322 26 00 Fax 322 26 01	130
Home Saint-Pierre 4 Cour Saint Pierre 1204 Geneva	Tel 310 37 07 Fax 310 17 27	67
Foyer international Saint-Justin 15-17 rue du Prieuré 1202 Geneva	Tel 731 11 35 Fax 738 88 84	130
Résidence le Voltaire 9 rue Voltaire 1201 Geneva	Tel & Fax 344 24 60	59
Centre international réformà John Knox 27 chemin Crêts-de-pregny 1218 Grand Saconnex	Tel 798 91 61 Fax 791 06 38 e-mail: 101470.2476 compuserve.com	350
Auberge de Jeunesse (Youth hostel) 28-30 rue Rothschild 1202 Geneva	Tel 732 62 60 Fax 738 39 87	350

<b>Male only</b>		
Résidence PTT 3 rue de Penates 1201 Geneva	Tel 344 36 99	

<b>Female only</b>		
Résidence l' Accueil 8 rue Alcide-Jentzer 1205 Geneva	Tel 320 92 77 Fax 320 92 47	70
Foyer international pour jeunes filles 29 rue Plantamour 1201 Geneva	Tel 731 55 60	31

Résidence PTT 17 rue des Alpes 1201 Geneva	Tel 732 89 10	
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### Sublets

Sublets, including furnished studios or single rooms within a shared apartment, can be relatively easy to find for people living in Geneva, but are nearly impossible to find from abroad. The reason is that most landlords will want you to show up in person if you are interested in a room with your deposit in hand (and occasionally a copy of your credit report along with a letter from your employer). However, if you are very persistent, speak a bit of French, and/or know someone currently living in Geneva who can show up to places on your behalf, it may be possible to secure a sublet from abroad. If you don't have any luck securing a sublet from abroad, you may want to simply rent a hotel room for your first couple weeks in Geneva and look for sublets once you get there. If you get on the WHO interns list or Geneva Interns Network (GIN) list early and get to know some of the other interns before you arrive, they may be willing to let you crash at their place for a few days while you look for other housing. Below are a list of websites you can check out to look for sublets (none of them very good, alas). Once you start your internship with a UN organization, you will have access to the UN online classified pages, where you may be able to find really nice, cheap sublets from UN staff members leaving on mission for a few months.

Craigslist: <http://geneva.craigslist.org/>

Geneva Interns Network: <http://genevaintern.proboards37.com/>

Expatriates: <http://www.expatriates.com/>

Another option is subletting an apartment in Ferney-Voltaire, a town just across the border from Geneva in France. Housing in Ferney-Voltaire tends to be both cheaper and easier to find than in Geneva. Though it takes only about 15 minutes on the F bus to get from Ferney-Voltaire to the UN organizations and about 25 minutes to get to the center of Geneva, beware again that the buses stop running at midnight. Also, don't forget to carry your passport with you at all times lest you get stuck on one side of the border!

### Hotels

For those trying to find a place at the last minute, hotels might be the best (and only) option. However, during the Commission on Human Rights (March-April), even the hotels in Geneva will fill up months in advance. Good places to look for cheap hotels in Geneva include the Geneva tourism website: <http://www.geneva-tourism.ch/> (click on accommodations), or a standard travel guide such as Lonely Planet, Rough Guide, or Let's Go. The cheapest and biggest of the budget hotels in Geneva is City Hostel, which you can check out at <http://www.cityhostel.ch/English/>. In addition, you may be able to find cheaper hotels in Ferney-Voltaire (try googling them online as they are unlikely to show up in any guidebooks).

## **TRANSPORTATION**

What they say about Switzerland is actually true: the buses and trains always run on time. Unfortunately, they run infrequently on Sundays and not at all after midnight. Still, getting around Geneva via public transportation is easy and relatively inexpensive. It's almost certainly worth it to stop by the TPG office at the Gare Cornavain and pick up a monthly bus pass, which gives you access to all of Geneva's buses, trains, telepheriques, and boats (35 francs for those 24 and under, 70 francs for everyone else). All bus schedules, lines, maps, and pass information can be found on the web at <http://www.tpg.ch>.

Gare Cornavain is the main train station for Geneva as well as the major hub for most of the bus and light rail lines. Located just north of Le Paquis, it makes for a great meeting place and has many shops, a pharmacy, supermarket, and internet café that are all open late and on weekends. Regular trains run to and from the airport, as well as all across the country and to many destinations throughout Europe (aside from Paris or Milan though, it's a far better deal to grab an Easy Jet flight than take the train to any cities outside of Switzerland). For times and prices of trains, check out <http://www.sbb.ch/en/index.htm>, the website for CFF, the Swiss Federal Railway. If you have a group of 4 or 5 people, however, traveling around Switzerland may be cheaper by rental car.

If you like bicycle riding, there is a white shack on the Quai du Wilson that has free all day bike rentals, even on Sundays!

## **FOOD**

While it is true that Geneva boasts a vast array of international cuisines, it is equally true that you will be unlikely to afford the vast majority of restaurants in the city. For the cheapest restaurants in the city, head to Le Paquis, Geneva's Haight-Ashbury/Castro/Red Light district all rolled into one. For cheap groceries, take the F bus across the border to Ferney-Voltaire for the Hyper-Champion supermarket (stop at Ch. Du Colvrex). On Saturdays, it's worth the trip to Ferney-Voltaire for the enormous farmer's market. Below are some cheap food options in Geneva that you may not find in your guidebook.

Falafel/kebab: There are literally dozens of cheap falafel/kebab places scattered throughout Le Paquis. The best (in my humble opinion), is Le Parfume de Lebanon on Rue de Berne at Rue de Alpes.

Manora: Located in the Manor Department store a couple blocks west of the Gare Cornavain train station, this is a self service cafeteria with lots of delicious and reasonably priced foods. It is also one of the few places open on Sundays and past 5pm on weekdays.

Chez Ma Cousine: Great if you love chicken! Half a chicken, a salad, and a plate of fries for 14 francs.

6 Pl. du Bourg-de-Four

5 Rue Lissignol (closed on weekends)

Bain de Paquis: A favorite among interns, the Bain de Paquis is a little neck of land sticking out into the lake near where Quai du Wilson meets Quai du Mont Blanc. It includes a restaurant that sells some of the best and cheapest cheese fondue in the city, especially if you go as a group.

Cafe du Soleil: Near the IFRC, this popular hang out for UN folk is a bit pricy, so get your supervisor to take you there. 6, Place du Petit-Saconnex

Demi Lune: Fun, funky, with a limited but good tapas menu, and packed every night of the week. 3, Rue Etienne Dumont

UN Cafeterias: If you are working at WHO, then the WHO cafeteria is probably where you will eat most of your lunches. It has a range of food options, and is moderately priced (for Geneva). For a break from WHO food, check out the UN cafeteria, located in the Place de Nations about a 15 minute walk from WHO. Also check out the Red Cross cafeteria located in the ICRC building across from the Palais. Finally, don't miss the UN restaurant/bar located at the UN Beach (yes, there really is a UN Beach). It has the cheapest beer and pizza in town, though it's only open during the day. It's located on Lake Geneva, near the Jardin Botanique.

## **CAFES, BARS, AND CLUBS**

Despite being the other major headquarters for the United Nations, Geneva is not New York City. Most everything shuts down early, even on weekends, and it's tough to find anything open on a Sunday. That being said, there are a number of fun cafes/bars and dance clubs in the city, as well as a number of cultural venues. (Note: Aside from the Starbucks that just opened on Rue Rousseau, there are no actual "coffee shops" in Geneva open in the evening. All the cafes essentially become bars after 4pm every day). Here are a few WHO hangouts popular among Geneva interns—for more options, check out the Geneva tourism website (<http://www.geneva-tourism.ch/>) or your favorite guidebook.

Café de Arts: A great place to sit and read during the day on Saturday or Sunday or go for drinks in the evening. There is frequently a fog of cigarette smoke inside, so head to one of the outside tables if it begins to bother you. Located on Rue des Paquis near Rue de Monthoux.

Scandals: A fun bar which also serves some of the best and cheapest pizza in town. They have a karaoke night once a week with a selection of French/English pop songs. Located on Rue de Lausanne near Rue de Monthoux.

Le Phair: Café by day, bar by night. This is a fun bar with a very mixed crowd of gay men, lesbians, and chill straight people. Located on Rue Lissignol right next to the Chez Ma Cousine mentioned above.

Zanzibar: Large, happening bar in the old town, with regular live music. Located at Quai des Forces-Motrices 4.

Shakers: Basement club in the old town and one of the only places in the city open all night on the weekends. Plenty of young, hip Swiss folk and foreigners attempting to dance while holding the enormous drink that comes with the 20 franc cover.

## APPENDIX ONE: COMMON ACRONYMS

Acronym	Meaning
3 x 5	WHO initiative to provide access of ART to 3 million people living with HIV/AIDS in developing countries by the end of 2005
4R	Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction
AAH	Action Against Hunger
ACT	Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy
ADB or AfDB	Africa Development Bank
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AGFUND	Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development
AIDS	Anti Immune Disease Syndrome
AFP	Agence France Presse
AFRO	Africa Regional Office of WHO
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation
ALN	AlertNet
ALNAP	Active Learning Network
AMRO	Americas Regional Office of WHO
APELL	Awareness and Prevention for Emergencies at the Local Level
APW	Agreement for the Performance of Work (WHO contractual category)
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
ARV	Antiretrovirals
AU	African Union
AUSAID	Australian Aid
BCPR	Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP)
BWI	Bretton Woods Institution
CA	Consolidated Appeal
CAD	Children's Aid Direct
CAH	Child and Adolescent Health and Development (Dept. of WHO)
CAP	Consolidated Appeals Process
CAR	Central Africa Republic
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CAO	Civil Affairs Officer
CBDM	Community-Based Disaster Management
CBI	Community-Based Interventions
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CCM	Country Coordination Mechanism
CCO	Cooperation and Communication (Dept. of Country Focus of

	WHO)
CCS	Country Cooperation Strategy
CD	Communicable Disease
CDC	Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S.)
CDC	Communicable Disease Control
CDF	Comprehensive Development Framework
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CEHA	Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities
CERF	Central Emergency Revolving Fund (administered by OCHA)
CEP	Community Empowerment Project
CF	Country Framework
CG	Consultative Group
CHAP	Common Humanitarian Action Plan
CHF	Swiss Franc
CHT	Country Health Team
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
CHW	Community Health Worker
CIAA	Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIIHL	Commission on the Implementation of IHL
CIMCORD	Civil-Military Cooperation Center
CIREFCA	International Conference on Central American Refugees
CIS	Commonwealth of Independence States
CMCHN	Comprehensive Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition
CMH	Macroeconomics and Health
CMR	Crude Mortality Rate
CNN	Cable News Network
CNSP	Children in Need of Special Protection
CO	Country Office of WHO
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSA	Civil Service Agency
CSI	Community Situation Indicator
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commercial Sex Worker
CVA	Capacity and Vulnerability Analysis
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DDC	District Development Committee
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration
DDRR	Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, Reintegration
DDRRR	Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Resettlement, Reintegration

DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DFID	Department for International Development - United Kingdom
DGO	Development Group Office
DGO	Director General's Office of WHO
DHA	UN Department for Humanitarian Affairs
DHO	District Health Office
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DMT	Disaster Management Team
DMTP	UN Disaster Management Training Programme
DO	UN Designated Official
DOH	Department of Health
DOTS	Direct Observed Therapy Short-course
DPA	UN Department for Political Affairs <i>eliminate?</i>
DPKO	UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations <i>eliminate?</i>
DPM	Director of Programme Management
DPR	Disability and Injury Prevention
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRD	Direct Rule Districts
DRRP	Disaster Reduction and Recovery Programme (UNDP)
DRRU	Disaster Reduction and Recovery Unit (UNDP)
DSRSG	Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (UN)
EC	European Commission
ECHA	UN Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Office
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECPS	UN Executive Committee on Peace and Security
EFCT	Emergency Field Coordination Training (OCHA)
EHA	Emergency and Humanitarian Action (Synonymous with HAC, DPR, PED/ WHO)
EHT	Essential Health Technology (Dept. of WHO)
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIP	Evidence and Information for Policy (WHO Cluster)
EMOPS	Office of Emergency Programmes (UNICEF)
EMRO	Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of WHO
ENHL	Environmental Health and Sanitation
EOC	Emergency Obstetric Care
EOSG	Executive Office of the Secretary General (UN)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (US)
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
EPIET	European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training
EPRS	Emergency Preparedness and Response Section

ERC	UN Emergency Relief Coordinator
ERD	Emergency Response Division (UNDP)
ERT	Emergency Response Team
ETS	Emergency Telecommunications Service, ITU
EU	European Union
EURO	WHO European Regional Office of WHO
EWAR	Early Warning System (Synonymous with EWS)
EWS	Early Warning System (Synonymous with EWAR)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAP	First Aid Post
FAQ	Frequently asked questions
FCH	Family and Community Health (WHO Cluster)
FEWS	Famine Early Warning System
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning System Network
FIC	Full Immunization Coverage
FOS	Food Safety (Dept. of WHO)
FPR	Final Project Report
FSD	Swiss Foundation for Mine Action
FSO	Field Security Office
FT	Framework Team
GAR	Global Alert and Response
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDIN	Global Disaster Information Network
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFATM	Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GHDIG	Good Humanitarian Donorship Implementation Group
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian De-mining
GIEWS	Global Information and Early Warning System (FAO)
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIST	Geographical Information Support Team
GNP	Gross National Product
GOARN	Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network
GP	Global Partners
GPHIN	Global Public Health Intelligence Network
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (Germany)
GYTS	Global Youth Tobacco Survey
H&B	Mental Health and Behaviour
HAART	Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment
HAC	Health Action in Crisis (Dept. of WHO)
HBP	Health as a Bridge for Peace (Initiative of WHO)

HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HELP	Health Emergencies in Large Populations (training course)
HEWS	Humanitarian Early Warning System
HFA	Health for All
HI	Health Intelligence
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
HIC	Humanitarian Information Centre
HINAP	Health Information Network for Advanced Planning
HIS	Health Information Systems
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HLCP	UN High Level Committee on Programming
HLWG	Humanitarian Liaison Working Group
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HPE	Health Promotion
HR	Human Rights
HRD	Human Resources Development
HSR	Health Sector Reform
HQ	Headquarters
HW	Health Worker
I/A	Inter Agency
IA	International Agency
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IAWG	Inter-Agency Working Group
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICEM	Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration
ICG	International Cooperation Group (on global vaccine distribution)
ICG	International Crisis Group
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICS	Incident Command System
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
IDA	International Development Association
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDU	Injection Drug User
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication materials
IEFR	International Emergency Food Reserve (WFP)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFI	International Financial Institution
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organization
IHE	International Health Exchange
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IHRL	International Human Rights Law
IHS	International Humanitarian Service (DANIDA)
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMC	International Medical Corps
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IMTF	Integrated Mission Task Force
INHRC	Independent National Human Rights Commission
IO	International Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IMO	International Maritime organization
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
I-PRSP	Interim- Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan
IPSCAN	International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IRIN	OCHA Integrated Regional Information Network
IS	Interim Support teams
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITN	Insecticide-Treated bednets
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IVB	Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (Dept. of WHO)
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JIU	Joint Implementation Unit
JTT	Joint Technical Team
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude, Practice survey
LICUS	Low-Income Countries Under Stress
LO	Liaison Officer (Head of WHO office in countries in the European region)
LOU	Letter of Understanding
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAC	Military Advisory Commission

MBN	Minimum Basic Needs
MCDA	Military and Civil Defence Assets
MCDU	Military and Civil Defence Unit
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MERLIN	Medical Emergency Relief International
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MHIS	Migrant Health Information System
MHS	Migration Health Services Division of IOM
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MIS	Management Information System
MNF	Multinational Force
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOF	Minister of Finance
MOGD	Ministry of Gender and Development
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
MOSS	Minimum Operating Security Standards (UNSECORD)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOY	Ministry of Youth
MRRT	Medical Rapid Response Team
MSF	Médecins sans Frontières
MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Process
MT	Metric Tonne
NA	Needs Assessment
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCCP	National Commission for Child Protection
NCS	Non Communicable Diseases
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NHD	Nutrition and Health Development (Dept. of WHO)
NNS	National Nutritional Study
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OAS	Organization of American States
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OCSE	Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODI	Overseas Development Institute (UK)
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFDA	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (under USAID)
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territory
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OSRSG	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (UN)
OXFAM	Oxford for Famine Relief - Great Britain
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization (American regional office of WHO. Synonymous with AMRO)
PC	Personal Computer
PC	Primary Care
PCB	Principled Common Programming
PCMO	Provincial Chief Medical Officer
PCS	Programme on Chemical Safety (WHO)
PEP	Post-Exposure Pregnancy
PEPC	Promoting Effective Peri-natal Care
PES	Public Enterprises
PHAST	Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
PHC	Primary Health Care
PHE	Protection of the Human Environment (WHO)
PHO	Provincial Health Office
PKO	Peace-Keeping Operation
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
PMDS	Performance Management and Development System (WHO)
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PNG	Persona Non Grata
POC	Protection of Civilians
PPB	Policy-level Planning Board
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSC	Programme support costs
PSF CI	Pharmaciens sans Frontières- Comite International
PTA	Parents and Teachers Association
QIPs	Quick Impact Projects
RBM	Roll Back Malaria programme
RC	Resident Coordinator
REACT	Rapid Emergency Assessment Coordination Team
RFTF	Results-Focused Transition Framework
RH	Reproductive Health
RHA	Rapid Health Assessment

RI	Relief International
RIACSO	UN Regional Interagency Coordination Support Office
RO	Regional Office of WHO
RR	Rapid Response Teams
RRDP	Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Programme
RRHA	Regional Representative and Humanitarian Advisor (UN)
RSG	Representative of the Secretary-General (UN)
RSGIDP	Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons (UN)
RW	ReliefWeb
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SAHIMS	Southern Africa Humanitarian Information Network
SARRED	International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa (UN 1988)
SAP	Structural Adjustment Program
SC	Surge Capacity
SCF	Save the Children Fund (UK)
SCHR	Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response
SEARO	South East Asia Regional Office of WHO
SFL	Shelter for Life
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SIP	Strategic Implementation Plan
SMI	Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control
SOE	State-Owned Enterprises
SOP	Standard Operational Procedures
SPHERE	Project of a Group of Humanitarian Agencies for a Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response
SRSA	Swedish Rescue Services Agency
SRSG	UN Special Representative of the Secretary General
SS	Sustainable Support team
SSA	Special Service Agreement
STB	Stop Tuberculosis (Dept. of WHO)
STG	Standard Treatment Guideline
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
STB	Stop TB programme
SVA	Ambulatory Health Post
SWAP	Sector-Wide Approach
TACIS	Technical Assistance for Commonwealth of Independent States
TB	Tuberculosis
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
TCN	Third-Country National
TF	Task Force
TFC	Therapeutic Feeding Centre

TOR	Terms of Reference
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
TRT	Transition Recovery Team
UFMR	Under-Five Mortality Rate
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	UN Conference on Environment and Development
UNCHS	UN Centre for Human Settlements
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAC	UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	UN Development Group
UNDHA	UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs
UNDMT	UN Disaster Management Team
UNDMTP	UN Disaster Management Training Programme
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNDRO	UN Disaster Relief Organization
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNGA	UN General Assembly
UNHabitat	UN Human Settlements Programme
UNHAS	UN Humanitarian Air Service
UNHC	UN Humanitarian Coordinator
UNHCHR	UN High Commission for Human Rights
UNHCR	UN High Commission for Refugees
UNHCU	UN Humanitarian Coordination Unit
UNHIC	UN Humanitarian Information Centre
UNIC	UN Information Centre
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	UN Development Fund for Women
UNITAR	UN Institute for Training and Research
UNJLC	UN Joint Logistics Centre
UNMAS	UN Mine Action Service
UNOCA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crimes
UNOOSA	UN Office for Outer Space Affairs
UNOPS	UN Office for Project Services
UNRC	UN Resident Coordinator (and system)
UNRWA	UN Relief and Works Agency (Palestine)

UNSC	UN Security Council
UNSG	UN Secretary General
UNSECOORD	UN Security Coordinator
UNV	UN Volunteer
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
USG	Under-Secretary General
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VAC	Violence Against Children
VAC	Vulnerability Assessment Committee
VAM	Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping, WFP
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
VHF	Viral Haemorrhagic Fever
WATSAN	Water and Sanitation
WB	World Bank
WES	Water and Sanitation
WFC	World Food Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WG	Working Group
WGET	Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications
WHO	World Health Organization
WLO	WHO Liaison Officer
WMA	World Medical Association
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WPF	<i>World Peace Foundation-- or is it something else? Included?</i> <i>World Population Foundation?</i>
WPRO	Western Pacific Regional Office of WHO
WR	World Health Organization Country Representative
WSH	Water, Sanitation and Health (Dept. of WHO)
WTO	World Trade Organization
WVR	World Vulnerability Report, UNDP
XC	Ex-Combatant
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association