



ICRC

**International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
Lunch Session,
at the Geneva Health Forum**

**Wednesday 16 April 2014,
from 12:15 to 13:45**

Health in conflicts, challenges, dilemmas and prospects

Health issues and the delivery of health services in contemporary armed conflicts are becoming more complex. Whilst the nature of and the response to specific health problems and challenges in armed conflicts may be found in relevant specialized literature, this problematic, and its recent developments, is rarely discussed in global health arenas.

This session will include perspectives from the field on the delivery of health care in insecure environments. It will be an opportunity to have conversations and share practices between health professionals, and to discuss perspectives and cooperation amongst partners concerned to address health care needs in armed conflict.

The session will be chaired by Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Bertrand Levrat, Director General of the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG).

The speakers:



Peter Maurer was born in Thun, Switzerland, in 1956. He studied history and international law in Bern, where he was awarded a doctorate. In 1987 he entered the Swiss diplomatic service, where he held various positions in Bern and Pretoria before being transferred to New York in 1996 as deputy permanent observer at the Swiss mission to the United Nations. In 2000 he was appointed ambassador and head of the human security division in the political directorate of the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern.

In 2004 Mr Maurer was appointed ambassador and permanent representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York. In this position, he worked to integrate Switzerland, which had only recently joined the United Nations, into multilateral networks. In June 2009, the UN General Assembly elected Mr Maurer chairman of the Fifth Committee, in charge of administrative and budgetary affairs. In addition, he was elected chairman of the Burundi configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

In January 2010 Mr Maurer was appointed secretary of State for foreign affairs in Bern and took over the reins of the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, with its five directorates and some 150 Swiss diplomatic missions around the world. He succeeded Jakob Kellenberger as ICRC president on 1 July 2012.

Mr Maurer is married and has two children.



Bertrand Levrat is the Director General of the Geneva University Hospital (HUG) where he has served since 2013. He is –an “engaged humanitarian” with a distinguished career assisting vulnerable people.

After earning his law degree at the University of Geneva and working as a barrister, Mr. Levrat joined the International Committee of the Red Cross. Over seven years, he worked in several countries affected by armed conflict. He also worked at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva as a legal adviser for Asia and Latin America and in New York as an ICRC representative to the United Nations.

Upon his return to Geneva, Mr. Levrat continued his engagement with social issues as deputy director of Social Action where he was responsible for policies to help people disabled and those with drug dependencies. He also contributed to the creation of the “Office cantonal des assurance sociales” and the restoration of the office of insurance for invalids.

Mr. Levrat was appointed director general of the Hospice general, which provides social assistance and aids asylum seekers. During his 9 year tenure, he introduced structural reforms which enabled the staff to better serve vulnerable communities.

Mr. Levrat is married and has two children.

The moderator:



Claire Doole: An experienced video producer, media and presentation trainer, Claire is the Founder of ClearViewMedia. Since 2006 she has made films for a number of international organizations including the United Nations, European Commission and the International Committee of the Red Cross. She has also trained a wide range of organizations and companies on how to handle the media and present with impact. Claire is a former BBC correspondent, UN spokeswoman and Head of Media at WWF International.