

Medair, Switzerland

Ms. Anne Reitsema

Organisation Profile

Medair, founded in 1989, is an international humanitarian organisation focusing on emergency response, with extensive experience and expertise in health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), emergency shelter and infrastructure. Currently, Medair runs humanitarian operations in 14 countries around the world, including Afghanistan, Ukraine, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Chad, Madagascar, Yemen, Turkey, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The Global Emergency Response Team of Medair focuses on rapid onset emergencies and is ready to be deployed for disasters or humanitarian crisis swiftly.

In 2020, alongside the ongoing country programmes' emergency response and recovery work, Medair re-started operations in Sudan (left in 2011) during the COVID-19 pandemic, including initiating a response to the Tigrayan refugee crisis in east, as well as responding to the Beirut blast in Lebanon and Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras. In 2021, Medair responded to the conflict in Tigray in northern Ethiopia, and responded in Amhara as the conflict spread in 2022. At the start of that year, Medair also launched a large scale response in Poland and Ukraine due to the conflict and continuously expanded and moved the response eastward towards the frontline. In 2023, Medair responded to the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, scaled up responses to the Sudan crisis in Sudan/South Sudan and initiated as response in Chad, as well as scaling up in DR Congo.

Aside from the emergency response capacity and frequent emergency responses in Medair's longer term country programmes, for example South Sudan, DR Congo, Somalia, Afghanistan and Madagascar, Medair's other notable emergency responses in previous years include the earthquake in Haiti (2010), Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines (2013), Yazidi displacement in Iraq (2014), Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone (2014), earthquake in Nepal (2015), Rohingya displacement in Bangladesh (2017), Ebola outbreak in DR Congo (2018), Typhoon Mangkut in Philippines (2018), earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia (2018) and Cyclone Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique (2019). Note: Medair has been continuously responding to the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria since 2014.

Medair participates in ICVA and provides feedback through various platforms. Medair engages in different coordination mechanisms at both global and country levels.

At global level, Medair is involved in the global health cluster and is currently the co-chair of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and is in the reproductive health and quality working groups; participates in the Global MAMI Network and the Global Cholera Task Force; and is part of IASC WHO MHPSS RG. Globally Medair advocated for equitable vaccine access for populations in humanitarian crisis with the Global Health Cluster and NetHope. Medair is also involved in the global WASH cluster and is a workstream co-lead of the global hygiene promotion in emergencies working group and co-lead of the WASH Road Map initiative 6. We have representatives in the ICVA Access Working Group and the Principled Humanitarian Action Steering Committee. Medair's Security Advisor currently chairs the Global Interagency Security Forum (GISF) steering group.

At country level, Medair has been engaging in various coordination bodies such as HCTs and SAGs of different clusters. In Yemen, Medair is on the INGO Forum steering committee and INGO rep to the HCT. In Sudan, Medair is on the INGOF Steering Committee. In Syria, the Medair country director is on the DINGO Steerco and the HCT and is a member of the SIRF Board. In Jordan, Medair is an active member in the Jordan INGO Forum (JIF) and Health, C4H, Protection, and MHPSS Working Groups along with being co-chairs of the Referral Coordination and Interagency Coordination Working Groups. In Lebanon, Medair's Country Director is a steering committee member of the Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum (LHIF) and is actively participating and contributing to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) coordination mechanism, including, but not limited to, Basic Assistance, Shelter, Health, Nutrition, MHPSS, WASH, Logistics, and other sectors and working groups. In South Sudan, Medair takes part in the Health SAG, SRH and MHPSS TWGs, Nutrition SAG and Scaling Up Nutrition in SS TWG; WASH SAG, Sanitation and Accountability and

Quality Assurance (QA) TWGs. Medair is also on the South Sudan RRM group and Needs Analysis Working Group. In Afghanistan, Medair is on the Nutrition SAG and is a member of the IMAM, Assessment Information Management, MIYCN and capacity development technical working groups of the nutrition cluster.

Nominee Information

Ms. Anne Reitsema



Video presentation



Gender: *Female*

Job title: **CEO**

Anne is an experienced humanitarian with 20 years' experience in emergency response and operations management, including 16 years at senior management and leadership level. She was Medair's International Programmes Director from January 2019 to December 2022 overseeing Medair's worldwide operations including the Global Emergency Response Team (G-ERT). Anne is now CEO of Medair since January 2023. When working as Country Director in Sudan and South Sudan, she was a member of the INGO Steering Committees and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) and Security Management Teams for more than 8 years. She was the NGO representative on the CHF Advisory Board and UNHAS Steering Committee in South Sudan for 3 years and has presented on humanitarian issues to special envoys, donors, ambassadors, governments, the Under-Secretary-General/Emergency Relief Coordinator for the UN, the Emergency Directors Group (EDG) and UN Security Council. She represented Medair at the regional consultation and global World Humanitarian Summit. Anne was an ICVA representative on the EDG from April 2021- June 2023.

Over the years, Anne has participated in various humanitarian conferences and represented NGOs on different occasions. She is passionate about principled and effective humanitarian response. She was selected to facilitate a session with Humanitarian Coordinators (HC) and representative heads of agencies in the Southern African Regional Humanitarian Summit (2014) on the challenges with the humanitarian principle of neutrality. She presented case studies on climate change and disaster risk reduction on the Swiss NGO platform (2013), and participated in a 3 day round table think tank on Access Negotiations in Dubai with Frontline Negotiations (2017). In Sudan she presented on behalf of the entire humanitarian community, at the request of the HC, to the UN Security Council (2010). She was part of a Panel of experts on Conflict Sensitive Programming in the Humanitarian Network Partnership Week in Geneva 2020. Furthermore, she was one of two NGO representatives selected to represent at the HDPN for Health Expert Meeting with WHO, Cairo, in Feb 2020. She also participated in the Peer Review Mission to Afghanistan in May 2022. In July 2023 she participated in the Syria Day of Dialogue in Brussels.

Anne is fluent in English and competent in engaging in fast-paced online and in-person discussions, as evidenced by her longtime involvement in HCTs, the EDG and other engagements over the years. Anne would bring extensive humanitarian programming, high-level coordination and principled engagement experience to the board.

Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for

- ***Chair –No***