

Dear Health Network Members,

We have the pleasure of sharing with you the third issue of our Newsletter. Thanks to everyone who has contributed!

We would like to draw your attention to the next health network activity which is an **E-Learning on Health Financing** that will take place from 11-15 April 2016. The E-Learning is particularly intended to prepare those participating in the F2F Health of the East and Southern Africa Division in Tanzania in May, but of course it also offers a great opportunity for everyone interested in the topic. You are most welcome to participate and learn!

With best wishes,
Jacques Mader & Karin Gross

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LATEST NEWS

Information on the Zika Virus

The Swiss TPH Medical Department provides comprehensive travel advice relating to the Zika virus on its dedicated webpage at: <http://www.swisstph.ch/zika.html>. The site also provides links to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the WHO / Pan American Health Organisation and the European Centre for Prevention and Disease Control as well as the SRF Tagesschau news item from 24.1.2015 featuring Professor Christoph Hatz.

WHO Zika App

The World Health Organization has created a Zika app that presents WHO's guidance for agencies and health care workers involved in the response to the virus and its suspected complications such as microcephaly. The English version of the app is now available both in Android and iOS versions and can be access via the following links:

iOS version: <https://itunes.apple.com/en/app/who-zika-app/id1090088404?mt=8>

Android version: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.universaldocctor.zika>

New Health Systems and Reform journal

The Health Systems and Reform journal was launched in 2015 to fill the gap between knowledge generation and translation for health systems and reform. Its mission is to create a global platform for sharing cutting-edge analysis, methods, and lessons in health systems and reform and to provide thought-provoking articles for leaders, researchers, and students looking for new ideas and lessons in how to improve health systems and reform processes. Issues to date have covered selected country health systems focus as well as themes such as enablers and barriers to implementing integrated care. The journal can be accessed at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/khsr20/1/4>. Further information can be obtained from kate.molesworth@unibas.ch

HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITIES

New blog



Perspektiven schaffen für
zukünftige Generationen in
Osteuropa
Donnerstag, 10. März 2016

EDA has launched a blog on the "Message on International Collaboration 2017-2010", which will be submitted to the parliament this year.

The blog can be accessed at:

<https://www.interactive.eda.admin.ch/blog/default.aspx>

For further enquiries, please contact: elisabeth.capelle@eda.admin.ch

R4D Public Health call

The SDC and SNSF funded Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development "R4D" last year approved three projects to start at the beginning of 2016, within the thematic module "Public Health". These are: 1. Addressing the double burden of disease: improving health systems for non-communicable and neglected tropical diseases (Mozambique, Nepal, Peru), 2. Inclusive social protection for chronic health problems (India, Malawi, Philippines, Sri Lanka), and 3. Health system governance for an inclusive and sustainable social health protection in Ghana and Tanzania. Currently, an additional call is coming to an end that addresses research gaps in the thematic modules Employment, Ecosystems and Public Health (Social determinants and equitable access to health) and includes a fourth cross-cutting topic on natural resource governance for sustainable development.

Further information can be found at: www.r4d.ch

IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

Newly launched initiative to strengthen the healthcare system in Kosovo

On 23 February 2016, in a ceremony gathering relevant health stakeholders, the Ambassador of Switzerland Mrs. Krystyna Marty Lang and the Kosovo Minister of Health Dr. Imet Rrahmani launched the implementation of the Accessible Quality Healthcare project. With a focus in primary health care, this four-year project aims to strengthen the health care system with a specific emphasis on quality of care and access to services, particularly of more vulnerable communities.

More information on the project can be accessed at:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/kosovo/en/home/international->



From left to right: the Minister of Health Dr. Imet Rahmani, the Director of the Center for Development of Family Medicine Dr. Genc Ymerhalili, the Ambassador of Switzerland in Kosovo Mrs. Krystyna Marty Lang, the AQH Project Director Dr. Manfred Zahorka, Swiss TPH @Kosovo Ministry of Health

For enquires please contact: merita.stavileci@eda.admin.ch

Promoting rights related to maternal and new-born health

With the objective of promoting rights related to maternal and new-born health (MNH) in Burkina Faso, Enfants du Monde recently trained 27 Ministry of Health representatives from the central, regional and district levels, using tools developed with international experts. Following this, in Tenkodogo district, the national training team trained health providers responsible for discussing rights related to MNH with communities.



The training in Ouagadougou, 13th February 2016

For further information please contact: cecilia.capello@edm.ch

Health system strengthening and community empowerment

The SDC-funded Health for All Project (HAP) has provided equipped medical bags to ninety-six out of a planned 230 family doctors working in Dibër and Fier regions of Albania. As well as strengthening the supply-side of the health service, the demand-side is supported through the capacity-building of 345 community health volunteers from 34 villages on participatory health promotion activities on hypertension, thalassemia, hygiene and sanitation.



Distribution of doctor's bags and training on their use



Training on personal hygiene in the Roma community

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

E-Learning on health financing

Between 11th and 15th April, an E-Learning on health financing will be organized for the Health Network. This is intended to offer preparation for those participating in the F2F Health of the East and Southern Africa Division in May in Tanzania (see information below), but all members of the health network are most welcome to participate. An input paper with basic information will be prepared beforehand and you will have the opportunity to ask questions of clarification.

Contact person: alexander.schulze@eda.admin.ch

Evaluation of the last E-Discussion

The participation in our last E-Discussion on Health System Strengthening that took place from 23 November to 4 December 2015 was very low, with only 14 members actively participating in the discussion. An evaluation by the Swiss TPH is available on the Shareweb at:

https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Health/CUG/Shared%20Documents/E-Discussion%20Nov-2015/Evaluation_E%20Discussion%202015/Evaluation%20of%20E-%20discussion%20draft%201%2025%20Feb%202016.pdf

Because only 11 network members participated in the evaluation survey and took up the opportunity to give us their opinion on the E-Discussion in the evaluation, the reasons for the low participation remain unclear. Responses suggest that a mix of reasons such as bad timing/lack of time, no clear focus of the E-Discussion/topic too broadly defined, and the difficult handling of the Shareweb platform led to the low participation rate.

Anyone who would like to give us a feedback on why he/she did not participate in the last E-Discussion is most welcome to do so. This will help us to adjust future E-Discussions to your needs! Please feel free to send your opinions and suggestions to either Jacques (jacques.mader@eda.admin.ch) or Karin (karin.gross@eda.admin.ch).

SDC course at the Lugano Summer School 2016

The next Lugano Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics and Management will take place from 29 August to 3 September, 2016. The course programme will be available at the new homepage www.ssphplus-summer-school.ch. SDC will offer a course on “Multisectoral approaches in the era of the SDGs: Challenges and Implications for Research, Implementation and Policy” September 1-3, 2016. The course will be taught by renowned experts from Geneva and South Australia. For further enquiries, please check the course programme or contact: karin.gross@eda.admin.ch

Updated MOOCs list

MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses) are a great opportunity for continuous education and exchange among professionals worldwide. The [List of selected MOOCs in Public Health](#) available on the Shareweb (CUG) has been updated to assist in selecting courses and subscribing. For more information on MOOCs please consult the [Introduction to MOOCs](#) on the CUG.

Contact person: christina.biaggi@unibas.ch

UPCOMING EVENTS



6TH EDITION
APRIL 19-21 2016

Geneva Health Forum

The sixth Geneva Health Forum will take place from April 19-21, 2016 at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), and will focus on sustainable and affordable innovations in healthcare. <http://ghf2016.g2hp.net/files/2015/10/GHF-Leaflet-EN2.pdf>

Projects from Swiss NGOs, the Swiss TPH and SDC will be presented in multiple oral presentations, posters and innovation demonstrations. Moreover, SDC has facilitated several activities such as a lunch session on “From One Health, to Eco Health, to Planetary Health” (together with La Revue Durable, Tuesday 19th of April, 1:30-2 pm), a parallel session on “Beyond health – Multisectoral approaches in the era of the SDGs” (Tuesday 19th of April, 11am-12:30pm), and a Workshop on “Leaving no one behind”.

F2F Health of the East and Southern Africa Division

The East and Southern Africa Division is organizing its second regional F2F Health meeting in the week of the 8-13th May, 2016 in Tanzania and will focus on Health Financing for Universal Coverage. For further information please contact: Sandra.Bernasconi@eda.admin.ch

The F2F will be combined with a one-day workshop of the HIV and AIDS Community of Practice (CoP) which will follow-up on HIV and AIDS mainstreaming and also focus on sexual and gender-based violence. For enquiries, please contact: jean-francois.golay@eda.admin.ch

Swiss Red Cross Conference

The 14th Swiss Red Cross Conference entitled “Good Health – (not) just for the privileged. Experiences in Switzerland and abroad” will take place at the Stade de Suisse in Bern on Thursday, 15 September 2016, 9:00–16:30.



The Conference includes presentations and discussions on public health, humanitarian aid and development cooperation, in German, French and English with simultaneous translation. Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter will also make a presentation.

Further information will be available from May at: www.redcross.ch/conf16, or contact martine.scholer@redcross.ch

2016 MMS/aidsfocus.ch conference

This year's conference "Applying Human Rights to Sexual and Reproductive Health: A reality for all?" is held on 4th May at the Hotel Kreuz, in Bern. The conference will address issues of human rights relating to sexual and reproductive health and examine how a human rights based approaches can be applied to programming. It will also explore gender inequalities that infringe human rights and discuss the importance of advocacy.

More information is available at www.aidsfocus.ch or by contacting cweiss@medicusmundi.ch

WHO-IS-WHO

Christian Engler (SDC Harare, Zimbabwe)



I joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 2003. After postings in the Division of International Organisations (Bern) and at the United Nations Secretariat (New York) I transferred to SDC in 2011, where I managed the Advisory Committee on International Cooperation. In 2015 I joined the team in Harare as Assistant Regional Director and Head of domain HIV and AIDS. What interests me in particular in our Regional Programme Southern Africa, is that we tackle the AIDS epidemic via policy and influence through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and through specific interventions in eight countries. In this way, we strongly focus on young people between the ages of 10 und 24 years. As someone who has taught this age group throughout his studies and as a father of three young children, it is of particular interest to me, that prevention and the specific needs of this group are not forgotten in the international HIV and AIDS response. My background is in Sports Sciences (Medical Faculty of the University of Basle) and Social Sciences (University of Lausanne).

Jochen Ehmer (SolidarMed)



After training as medical doctor in Germany and France, I worked in different clinical departments at Strasbourg University Hospital and as a general practitioner. I then completed courses in Tropical Medicine and Epidemiology at the London School (lshtm.ac.uk) and a Masters of Humanitarian Affairs (nohanet.org). After short stints at Caritas Germany and the European Commission Humanitarian Office, I went to work as country coordinator for SolidarMed in rural Mozambique (solidarmed.ch). I then held various positions within SolidarMed, now I am its executive director. Convinced that policy, research and implementation need to go together, for many years I have been involved in research projects, mainly with regard to health systems, HIV and maternal/new-born health. As member of the John Snow Society (johnsnowsociety.org) I enjoy public health free thinking (youtube.com/watch?v=OvHJ_XY4nYQ). Finally, I am a strong supporter of Basel football club!

Maja Zaric (Swiss Embassy in Bosnia-Herzegovina)

I am Senior National Programme Officer for Health Domain in the Swiss Embassy in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Health Domain is supporting health sector strengthening in Bosnia - Herzegovina with a special focus on development of community-based mental health services, strengthening nursing, and reducing health risk factors relating to non-communicable diseases through a cross-sectoral government approach. My duties include domains development, supervision and monitoring, and close cooperation and policy dialogue with government and stakeholders in the country. I am also acting as the donor coordination focal point of the Embassy and as the assistant to the management team of the Swiss Cooperation Programme. After my studies in Psychology and before I joined the Swiss Cooperation Programme, I worked for different NGOs providing psychosocial support in post-war period and with multilateral organisations on programmes supporting democratization, peace building and conflict transformation in Bosnia - Herzegovina. I am a mother of two boys.

