

Dear Health Network Members,

We are happy to send you the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Health Network Newsletter. The rich content of this fourth issue reflects the manifold activities that took place in the last three busy months. Many thanks for your inputs! Wishing you an interesting reading!

Jacques Mader & Karin Gross

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## LATEST NEWS

### New Health Shareweb Facilitator

From June 2016 Madeleine Colbert is the new Health Shareweb facilitator (read more about her in the Who-is-Who Section). She works for HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation which in consortium with HAFL won the call for bids for the Shareweb facilitation mandate 2016-20. Please feel free to contact her ([madeleine.colbert@helvetas.org](mailto:madeleine.colbert@helvetas.org)) whenever you have any problem or question related to the Shareweb.

### Global Programme Health

Starting from 1 July the Global Programme Health is no longer part of SDC's Regional Cooperation, becomes a division within SDC's Global Cooperation. The division is led by Jacques Mader and Alexander Schulze.

## HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITIES



### World Health Assembly 2016

The 69th World Health Assembly took place in Geneva 23-28 May 2016. The Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO, which determines its policies, appoints the Director-General, supervises, reviews and approves the proposed programme and budget. All documents can be downloaded here:

[http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e\\_wha69.html](http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha69.html) or you may look directly at resolutions most relevant to SDC work [here](#).

## Global Fund Board Meeting

The 35th Global Fund Board meeting took place in Abidjan 26-27 April 2016 and approved the 2017-2022 Strategy, with the goal to “Invest in ending the epidemics” and new strategic objectives of: “Building resilient and sustainable systems for health and “Promoting and protecting human rights and gender equality”. Approved changes to the Allocation Methodology 2017-2019 will ensure that more resources go to high diseases burden and low income countries.

More information can be accessed at: [http://www.aidspace.org/gfo\\_article/main-decisions-made-board-meeting-9](http://www.aidspace.org/gfo_article/main-decisions-made-board-meeting-9)

## SDC at the Geneva Health Forum



Panelists on multi-sectoral approaches (@Caro van Leeuwen)

The Geneva Health Forum, held 19-21 April 2016, was dedicated to “Global Health: Sustainable and Affordable Innovations in Healthcare”. SDC was one of the main sponsors and also contributed actively to the forum via its information booth, partner presentations and sessions. A summary is available on the CUG and can be accessed [here](#)

## High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS

The Swiss delegation to the 2016 High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS took the message that by 2030 HIV and AIDS should no longer be a threat to public health and supported the adopted political declaration on HIV and AIDS, which requires intensification of measures against the epidemic in the coming five years. Negotiations held at the UN headquarters in New York were led by Switzerland together with Zambia, a country especially hard hit by the epidemic.

More information can be accessed at:

<https://www.news.admin.ch/message/index.html?lang=en&msg-id=62087>



2016 HIGH-LEVEL MEETING  
ON ENDING AIDS

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NEW YORK | 8-10 JUNE 2016

## Support to the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

SDC supports IPPF, a global service provider and leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights, with a core contribution of CHF 2 Mio a year (2016-19) and is currently supporting it to open an office in Geneva to strengthen the collaboration there with organisations concerned with health, human rights and humanitarian response. Further information can be accessed at:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/projects/SDC/en/1995/7F03778/phase10.html>

## IPPF Donor Conference

At the recent annual donor conference in London, IPPF presented its achievements in 2015, which included: contributions to 82 policy and/or legislative changes in over 48 countries; provision of 144.8 Mio of services, whereby poor and vulnerable people accounted for over 82% of services users.

IPPF's new Strategic Framework 2016-22 *Globally Connected, Locally Owned* can be accessed at: [http://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/ippf\\_strategicframework.pdf](http://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/ippf_strategicframework.pdf).

## World Malaria Day 2016: Switzerland reaffirms its leadership role to end malaria by 2030

Switzerland is a pioneer in the fight against malaria and the Swiss Malaria Group (SMG) [www.swissmalariagroup.ch](http://www.swissmalariagroup.ch), chaired by SDC unites all major Swiss-based stakeholders active against malaria. On the occasion of World Malaria Day on 25 April 2016, the SMG organised an event at the Federal Square in Bern reaffirming Switzerland's leadership role in ending malaria. The presidents of the Swiss National Parliament, together with 10 parliamentarians signed the "Bern Declaration on Malaria" and WHO Director General Margaret Chan thanked SMG members for their engagement.



Ceremony on the Federal Square reaffirming Switzerland's leadership role to end malaria



WHO General Director Margaret Chan thanking SMG members in a video message

Press coverage of the event can be accessed:



*Le Temps*, 26.4.16: La Suisse innove contre la malaria  
[letemps.ch](http://letemps.ch) [De nouveaux médicaments, et un vaccin en début d'essais cliniques, sont à l'étude dans des entreprises helvétiques](#)  
(in French)

Swiss Radio and Television (SRF): *Glanz und Gloria*, 26.4.16

<http://www.srf.ch/play/tv/glanz--gloria/video/dodo-aktiv-im-kampf-gegen-malaria?id=4aefb2d9-67dd-480e-8938-5776c4b67934> (in German)



## IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

### Regional Face-to-Face Meeting

This year, the East and Southern Africa Division (ESAD) in close cooperation with the SDC Health Network, organised a Regional Face-to-Face (F2F) meeting for knowledge sharing and learning for health staff in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The meeting took place 8-12 May 2016, with the aim to learn, discuss and exchange experiences on Sustainable Financing for Health, a priority area for ESAD. A comprehensive reporting on the Regional F2F will be published soon at: <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Health/CUG%20Home/f2f/face2face-2016-regional>

### HIV and AIDS Community of Practice Meeting

Following the F2F meeting, the HIV and AIDS Community of Practice (CoP) exchanged experiences of mainstreaming. A mixed-media reportage including video statements, presentations, background papers, working documents, pictures of participants and field visits will be available by mid-July 2016.

Contact person: [jean-francois.golay@eda.admin.ch](mailto:jean-francois.golay@eda.admin.ch)



Face2Face in Tanzania © Kuno Schläfli

### International Public Health Conference, Albania

On May 4th, 2016 an International Public Health Conference took place in Tirana, organised by the Institute of Public Health of Albania. More than 200 participants examined approaches to strengthening health information systems in Europe. The event was substantially supported by the SDC-funded Health for All Project in Albania. Further information on the programme can be accessed at:

<http://ishp.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Preliminary-agenda-IPH-conference.pdf>

### Decentralization of Clinical Training in Tajikistan

SDC's Medical Education Reform Project has cooperated with the Tajik State Medical University since 2009 to revise the undergraduate curriculum. In April 2016, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection gave permission to introduce a clinical training year so that during their final year, medical students will gain hands-on experience in working with patients, which was previously very limited under the previous curriculum.

Contact for further information: [shakhlo.yarbaeva@swisstph.org](mailto:shakhlo.yarbaeva@swisstph.org)

### Building Health Workers' Capacities in Bangladesh

Enfants du Monde (EdM) in collaboration with the Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a new initiative to build the capacities of health care providers to counsel women and families on maternal and new-born health (MNH) and perinatal care. To this end, EdM recently conducted the training of a national team of 10 trainers and

introduced 22 health managers from selected implementation districts to these topics. It is foreseen that approximately 800 health care providers in seven districts will be trained.

Contact: [janet.perkins@edm.ch](mailto:janet.perkins@edm.ch)



EdM Bangladesh; Dhaka, Bangladesh; March 5, 2016

### **SADC Joint Committee of Ministers of Health**

On 26th May 2016 a Joint Committee of Ministers of Health from the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), including the Minister of Health and Child Care from Zimbabwe and those responsible for HIV and AIDS approved an Integrated Strategy to address HIV, SRH, TB and malaria. On 27 June 2016 the SADC International Cooperating Partners group, which includes SDC, met in Gaborone, Botswana to reflect on the recently approved strategy and how it will implemented. Contact for further information:

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### **Session on “Menstrual Hygiene Management, SDGs and the Private Sector” at the Women Deliver Conference, Copenhagen**



Jacqueline Matoro presenting at the Women Deliver Conference

From 16-19 May 2016 the Women Deliver Conference was held in Copenhagen. The focus of the conference was on how to implement the SDGs as they relate to girls and women, with a specific focus on health – in particular maternal, sexual, and reproductive health and rights – and the inter-connections with gender equality, education, environment, and economic empowerment. Jackie Matoro from SDC was a speaker in the cross-cutting session, which highlighted the issue of menstrual hygiene management and the importance of breaking taboos and fighting stigma. It brought together experts from WASH, human rights, education, health and the private sector to share lessons and successes in policy and practice, with a specific focus

on how multi-sectoral partnerships can collaborate to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. A summary of the session you can access at:

[https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Health/CUG/Shared%20Documents/Admin%20Documents/Newsletter%20Docs/MHM%20SDGs%20and%20the%20Private%20Sector%20Session%20Highlights%20Report%20WD%202016%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Health/CUG/Shared%20Documents/Admin%20Documents/Newsletter%20Docs/MHM%20SDGs%20and%20the%20Private%20Sector%20Session%20Highlights%20Report%20WD%202016%20(2).pdf)

Contact: [jacqueline.matoro@eda.admin.ch](mailto:jacqueline.matoro@eda.admin.ch)

## KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

### Enhancing Primary Health Care Services, Tajikistan

The SDC-funded project Enhancing Primary Health Care Services, Tajikistan (Sino V) presented two posters at the Geneva Health Forum this year: *Assessment of knowledge and behaviour of cardiovascular risk factors among adults in communities of South Tajikistan* and *Innovative approaches to strengthen decentralized management capacities in Central Asia*. The



Poster presentation at the GHF

Director of Republican Healthy Lifestyle Centre Parvina Mukhtarova and project Sino Business Plan Manager Zarofat Khamidova attended.

For further information contact: Dzgoev Khasan: [khasan.dzgoev@swisstph.org](mailto:khasan.dzgoev@swisstph.org)

### Study on improving health information systems in Africa

The Swiss TPH has been awarded a three year research grant by the Bill and Melinda Gates Fund to design and test interventions to improve paper-based health information systems in three African countries. Acknowledging that paper will continue to be an important part of information systems in low and middle-income countries, the Swiss TPH is carrying out a systematic review of the determinants of data use and will design and test country tailored interventions.

Contact: [Xavier Bosch-Capblanch, x.bosch@unibas.ch](mailto:x.bosch@unibas.ch)

### New Health Promotion Course in Tanzania

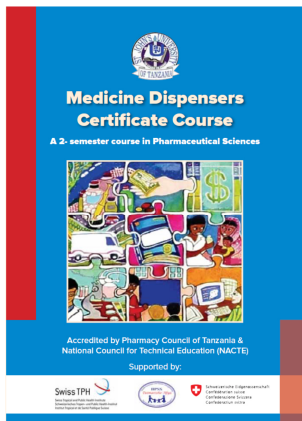
In April this year the University of Dodoma (UDOM) launched its first short-course on Health Promotion. This course is run jointly by the Colleges of Health Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences. SDC's Health Promotion and System Strengthening (HPSS) project provided support by training trainers and developing the curriculum and training materials.



The Health Promotion course participants at UDOM

Contact for further information: [kate.molesworth@unibas.ch](mailto:kate.molesworth@unibas.ch)

### New Dispensers Course Established in Dodoma, Tanzania



With the support of HPSS, on 20th June 2016, St. John's University of Tanzania launched a modular one year course for medicine dispensers to address the shortage of pharmaceutically qualified staff in Tanzania. The aim of this training programme is to produce adequately trained medicine dispensers who will work in rural primary health care facilities such as dispensaries, health centres and Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDOS).

The Dispenser Certificate course is endorsed by the Pharmacy Council and accredited by the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE). The launch was covered by national press and radio that can be viewed at:

<http://www.eabizinfo.com/2016/06/21/university-introduces-course-to-fight-pharmacists-shortage/>

<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/News/-/1840340/3259926/-/lc2k5n/-/index.html>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Save the Date: Conference on Health in Fragile Contexts

The fragility of a state is considered to be one of the main causes of malfunctioning health systems and services, which are worsened by emergencies. The Swiss Red Cross (SRC), SDC and Medicus Mundi Switzerland (MMS) will host a conference presenting experiences of health programmes in fragile contexts as a basis for discussion of whether health programmes can have a positive influence on key drivers of fragility; the roles of different actors; and challenges and priorities in fragile settings.

Date: 24 August, 2016; 09:00 – 16:30

Venue: SDC, Berne

Contact for further information: [Monika.Christofori-Khadka@redcross.ch](mailto:Monika.Christofori-Khadka@redcross.ch)

### Swiss Red Cross Jubilee Conference

On the occasion of its 150th anniversary, SRC is promoting the idea that good health is not just for the privileged. The 14th National SRC Conference entitled *Good Health – not just for the privileged! Experiences in Switzerland and abroad* offers an exchange of practical experiences and methodological approaches to providing healthcare for vulnerable people in Switzerland and abroad, with discussions with specialists in policy, administration and practice.

Date: 15 September, 2016; Registration deadline 31 August, 2016

Venue: Stade de Suisse, Wankdorf, Bern

Contact for further information: [Monika.Christofori-Khadka@redcross.ch](mailto:Monika.Christofori-Khadka@redcross.ch)

### Swiss TPH Winter Symposium



© S. Hoibak, Swiss Malaria Group

The Swiss TPH Winter Symposium entitled *Building on Success - Malaria Control and Elimination* will take place 8-9 December 2016 at the Congress Centre, Basel to review and discuss the history, successes and future of malaria control and elimination.

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## WHO-IS-WHO

### Matthias Leicht (SDC, Chisinau/Moldova)



I joined SDC in 2014 after working for seven years with a disability and development NGO as Head of International Programmes. I hold a Licentiate in Social Anthropology (Université de Fribourg) and a Master in Disability Studies (Leeds University). In Moldova I am Programme Manager responsible for both the Health and the Water and Sanitation domains. Before working in Moldova, I had little experience in post-socialist countries, and more in South Asian, Sub-Saharan African and Latin-American countries. I found some commonalities (e.g. the brain-drain due to migration), but also divergences, such as an oversized health system inherited from Soviet times. In this context, the challenge is to improve the quality of the different services and especially to reduce infrastructure and

re-organize health staff for better cost-efficiency. After having some success in this regard in hospital care, SDC is now shifting more strongly to primary health care with a focus on NCDs and vulnerable groups. I enjoy very much working in this intellectually challenging area together with an engaged office and competent partners.

**Grace Patrick Qorro (SDC, Dar es Salaam/Tanzania)**

I am a National Programme Officer for the Health Domain in the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania. The Health Domain is supporting the health sector in Tanzania with the main objective of promoting equitable access to, and use of quality health services. My duties include programme management, policy dialogue with government and stakeholders; HIV and AIDS mainstreaming and I am also the monitoring and evaluation focal point.



Before I joined the Swiss Embassy, I worked for Jhpiego, an NGO affiliated with Johns' Hopkins University, focusing on promoting maternal and child health and ending preventable maternal and neonatal deaths. My main duties were to provide technical leadership in improving the quality of human resources for health including and updating national pre-service education guidelines, curricula and training modules with the most recent malaria information.

Before joining Jhpiego, I worked with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare as a Principal in Charge of a school for Assistant Medical Officers and a Coordinator for the South-West Highlands Zonal Health Resource Centre. In this capacity I also served as a tutor in the Internal Medicine Department, covering a number of subjects including malaria and HIV and AIDS.

**Madeleine Colbert (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation)**



I started working with HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation two years ago and joined the Advisory Services department as Network Knowledge and Learning Advisor in 2015. My main duties include the coordination of knowledge sharing initiatives and the management of the organisation's learning and exchange platform. In addition to this, I have recently assumed a new role as SDC Health Shareweb facilitator to support the network's knowledge and experience exchange. I will also be involved in the continuous updating of the platform and the publication of its Newsletter. Prior to my current assignment, I was working as a

conference organiser, teacher, web publisher and project coordinator for various (I)NGOs. In my position as Scientific Associate with the Global Risk Forum (GRF) Davos, I first became acquainted with the thematic area of health, mainly through my involvement in the organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> One Health Summit in 2012. Having maintained a great interest in health topics ever since, I am very keen to take on my new and exciting assignment of facilitating the Health Shareweb.