

Dear Health Network Members,

It is a pleasure to present to you the first edition of the Health Network Newsletter!  
We very much hope that this electronic news bulletin contributes to our understanding of what is happening in the field of global health within our network.  
Since these first issues of the newsletter need to be considered as a pilot, we are looking forward to your feedback and opinion on this first edition.  
We thank you very much for your contributions and wish you an interesting reading!

With best wishes,  
Jacques Mader & Karin Gross

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## LATEST NEWS

### Save the date for our next eDiscussion

The next eDiscussion on Health Systems Strengthening will take place from 23rd November to 4th December. It will use the CUG platform (within the Health Network Shareweb) so please do not forget to update your profile with your email address if you want to be able to follow the discussion

For enquires regarding the platform contact: [ruveni.wijesekera@izfg.unibe.ch](mailto:ruveni.wijesekera@izfg.unibe.ch)

## HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITIES

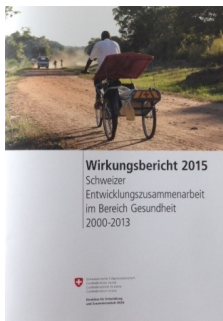
### SDC Annual Conference on Health: a success

On the 21st of August the Annual Conference of Swiss Development Cooperation took place in Basel, with the theme of access to health care. It was attended by some 1,100 people and highlights included keynote speeches by Edna Adan Ismail, founder of a hospital in Somaliland, and Hans Rosling, Professor of International Health in Stockholm.



Further information as well as videos and photos of the conference can be found under the following link:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/news/events/annual-conferences/Annualconference.htm>



### 9th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH)

The Congress "Driving the Best Science to Meet Global Health Challenges" took place from 6th - 10th September in Basel and attracted over 2,000 participants from more than 100 countries, who engaged in some 170 sessions. SDC's contributions included Director Manuel Sager's speech in the opening ceremony and the organisation and chairing of 3 sessions. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.ectmihbasel2015.ch/ectmih2015/home.html>

### Effectiveness Report on Health 2015

The SDC Effectiveness Report on Health 2015 presents the assessment conducted by the Danish consultancy firm NIRAS on the effectiveness of SDC's health interventions. This covered 57 projects that were carried out between 2000 and 2013 and the methodology incorporated site visits to 25 of the projects in Benin, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mozambique and Tanzania. Results showed that the majority of SDC health projects were highly effective. More information about the results and lessons learned can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Health/portfolio/Documents/Report%20Effectiveness.pdf> Or contact: [karin.gross@eda.admin.ch](mailto:karin.gross@eda.admin.ch)



### New: Strategic Framework 2015-19 for the Global Programme Health

This medium-term strategic framework provides direction for the Global Programme and builds on SDC's long-standing engagement in health at bilateral and global levels. The new strategy defines the Programme's goals and mission as well as its 5 core components and working modalities. It also informs resource allocation and monitoring as well as reporting and communication. To learn more, please use the following link:

[https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Health/portfolio/Documents/Strategie\\_GPH\\_150811\\_EN.pdf](https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Health/portfolio/Documents/Strategie_GPH_150811_EN.pdf)

Or contact: [gph@eda.admin.ch](mailto:gph@eda.admin.ch)

## New: Publication on the SDC's commitment to public-private partnerships



Diseases that disproportionately affect poor populations in low- and middle-income countries are under-researched and the development of medical products to address them is under-financed. This health brief provides an insight into global research and development needs and current responses, focusing on public-private collaboration to product development partnerships. More information can be accessed at:

<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Health/portfolio/Documents/SDC%20ENGAGEMENT%20IN%20PRODUCT%20DEVELOPMENT%20PARTNERSHIPS.pdf>

For further information please contact: [gph@eda.admin.ch](mailto:gph@eda.admin.ch)

## IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

### Health Systems Strengthening



**Enfants du Monde** hosted a workshop in Geneva, from the 14th to 18th of September, with the technical support of WHO. This included representatives of the Ministry of Health of Burkina Faso and of its local partner NGO, with the objective of supporting the government in identifying health promotion/maternal and neonatal health (MNH) indicators and reinforcing the national MNH monitoring system.

**In Chad, the National Universal Health Coverage Strategy**, a component of the national Social Protection Policy has been adopted by Government. After a two-year process of technical and financial support from the international network Providing For Health (P4H) and SDC, in September, the political validation process culminated in the adoption of the Strategy by the government's highest authority, with the Prime Minister signature. WHO and SDC continue to join efforts to further strengthen Chad's Health System. External expertise will be provided to assist the inter-ministerial coordination unit in charge of implementing the Universal Health Coverage Strategy.

### First Community Mental Health Centre using FACT officially launched in Moldova

The Community Mental Health Centre in Cimislia, the district capital in central Moldova, was officially launched on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. The institution operates using the Flexible Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) methodology and plays a central role within the new organisation of mental health services in the district. It is the first of the four community-based mental health centres that will be opened in the districts of Orhei, Cahul and Soroca in the frame of the project "Support to the Reform of Mental Health Services in Moldova" financed by SDC. More information can be accessed at:



More information can be accessed at:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/moldova/en/home/news/news.html/content/countries/moldova/en/meta/news/2015/september/new-mental-health-centre>

## Presentations at ECTMIH 2015

**SDC's Medical Education Project in Tajikistan**, implemented by the Swiss TPH, presented the results of two studies at the recent ECTMIH 2015: One concerned the time-allocation of family doctors and nurses working in project districts, revealing the substantial time they spent on administrative tasks. The other presented on the evaluation of the learning environment in family medicine specialty programmes in Tajikistan. For further information and full study reports contact: [erik.vantwillert@swisstph.org](mailto:erik.vantwillert@swisstph.org).

Within the frame of SDC's **Project Sino V project in Tajikistan**, the results of the baseline assessment of knowledge and behaviour relating to cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors in pilot districts were presented at ECTMIH 2015 by the Head of the Republican Healthy Life Style Centre. Findings showed that respondents with higher levels of education and working status had better knowledge of CVD risk factors than their less educated counterparts.



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

## KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

### Interested in participating in an online course in the field of public health?

Within the Closed User Group (CUG) of the Shareweb you can now find a new site with information on available online courses and training. There is a list of recommended MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) in the field of public health. Given the overwhelming number of online courses offered today on different web-based platforms, this document put together by the Swiss TPH within the Backstopping Mandate, is intended to provide guidance in identifying relevant courses in your field of work. Take a look at the recommended MOOCs in the field of public health via this link:

<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Health/CUG%20Home/trainings-courses/moocs>

For further information, please contact: [karin.gross@eda.admin.ch](mailto:karin.gross@eda.admin.ch)

### Ex-post impact study of five health projects of the Swiss Red Cross

Equitable access to quality health for the most vulnerable: vision or reality?  
An ex-post impact study of five health projects of the Swiss Red Cross



Swiss Red Cross

This analytical review is a meta-analysis of five individual country studies conducted in Ghana, Laos, Cambodia, Bolivia and Nepal assessing the long-term effects of interventions on equitable access to health services, years after the Swiss Red Cross phased out its support. The publication describes key sustaining factors as well as remaining challenges to ensure sustained access to health services for the poorest and most vulnerable population groups. The publication can be accessed at:

<https://www.redcross.ch/de/shop/studien-und-factsheets/equitable-access-to-quality-health-for-the-most-vulnerable-vision-or>

### Inclusion of disability in HIV policy and programming

In Burundi, Handicap International began involvement in the HIV and AIDS response in 1992, supporting local initiatives to more effectively tackle the emerging epidemic. This year, Handicap International published "Including disability in HIV policy and programming: Good practices drawn from country-based evidence" to share best practices and effective processes in the field, based on specific experiences from Cambodia, Ethiopia; Kenya, Rwanda and Senegal. The report can be accessed at:

[http://www.hiproweb.org/uploads/tx\\_hidrtdocs/DisabilityAndHIV\\_LL07.pdf](http://www.hiproweb.org/uploads/tx_hidrtdocs/DisabilityAndHIV_LL07.pdf)



## Tanzanian health insurance management information innovation replicated in Cameroon and Nepal

The SDC funded Health Promotion and Systems Strengthening Project (HPSS) in Tanzania, developed the Insurance Management Information System (IMIS) which has since been adopted by health insurance schemes in Cameroon (Mutuelle de Santé supported by the German NGO MISEREOR) and in Nepal (supported by GIZ). IMIS uses android based mobile phones to support health insurance operations and its implementation demonstrates a successful example of multiple donors cooperating towards the common goal of universal health coverage.



More information can be accessed at: <http://www.swisstph.ch/imis.html#c9555> or by contacting [siddharth.srivastava@unibas.ch](mailto:siddharth.srivastava@unibas.ch)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Face 2 Face regional East Cooperation in Bishkek from 2 - 5 November 2015.**
- **Face 2 Face regional East and Southern Africa in the OSA region in May 2016.**
- **Medicus Mundi Switzerland Symposium: 28 October 2015, Basel. "A challenge for Switzerland: Achieving health for all in a changing world", will explore the following questions:**



- How can Switzerland's international cooperation and foreign policy in the frame of the SDGs improve health globally for all phases of life?
- How can organisations active in international health cooperation strengthen their work in a changing global health environment?

Registration under: [http://www.medicusmundi.ch/en/conference/a-challenge-for-switzerland-achieving-health-for-all-in-a-changing-world?set\\_language=en](http://www.medicusmundi.ch/en/conference/a-challenge-for-switzerland-achieving-health-for-all-in-a-changing-world?set_language=en)

### WHO-IS-WHO

#### Viviane Hasselmann (SDC Headquarters)

I am a new Junior Programme Officer in Health and started at SDC headquarters in Bern last April. As part of the programme for junior officers, I am currently based in Bern until next February and will then commence a one-year "field training" probably somewhere in Asia. I am a physiotherapist by training and completed my Master in International Health at the University of Basel. After working for a few years as a physical therapist in Swiss hospitals, I spent some time in the field with humanitarian NGOs such as Handicap International, MSF and the ICRC.



#### Mujinga Ngonga (SDC COOF Mozambique)



I am a qualified Veterinary Doctor from the University of Zimbabwe, with a Master's in Public Health from the University of New South Wales in Australia. I also hold certificates from the World Bank Group in Results Based Financing for Health, Basic Health Economics and Management for Health.

I am currently working as a Programme Officer for Health in the SDC Maputo office which I joined in July 2014. I have previously worked for UNAIDS, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC),

the Catholic University here in Mozambique as well as with NGOs at the country level and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and MSH (Management Sciences for Health) at regional levels. My core business is to provide direct support to the Ministry of Health in Health Systems Strengthening and Service Delivery.

**Monika Christofori-Khadka (Swiss Red Cross)**

Hello, my name is Monika Christofori-Khadka and I am working as a Health Adviser for the Swiss Red Cross (SRC) International Cooperation in Bern. Together with my colleague Nicole Rähle, we develop concepts and strategies related to seven thematic health priorities of the SRC and assist in their implementation in presently 34 partner countries.

My special interests are community empowerment and the right to health, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH), NCDs, as well as health economics and health financing.

