

HEALTH NETWORK NEWSLETTER

December 2015

Issue N°2

Dear Health Network Members,

We have the pleasure to share with you the second issue of our Newsletter. Thanks to everyone who has contributed, and please feel free to tell us your opinion on the content and format of the newsletter in order to allow us to adapt it to your needs. We would also like to thank those of you who have taken part in the recent E-discussion moderated by David Evans on “Health Systems Strengthening”. We strongly encourage all network members (even those who haven’t taken part) to answer the questions of the short survey about this E-discussion (coming soon). We need your feedback to further adjust our different learning tools and systems (e.g. new sharepoint platform). Thank you in advance. We wish you and your loved ones a joyful festive season as well as a healthy and happy new year.

Jacques Mader & Karin Gross

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LATEST NEWS

New agreement signed by SDC and MMS

Medicus Mundi Switzerland is a network of 53 Swiss NGOs working in international Health Cooperation. The MMS network contributes to improve the quality of the work of its members through exchanges and operational research. It also conducts advocacy towards the general public, specialized audiences and politicians for the right to health. SDC has been supporting MMS for many years, and has just signed a new four year agreement with a contribution of CHF 1.2 million.



Details are available at:

http://www.medicusmundi.ch/en?set_language=en

The contact person for further information is:

jacques.mader@eda.admin.ch

From left to right: Martin Leschhorn, Director MMS; Thomas Vogel; Chair of MMS Board; Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Deputy Director General SDC.

Geneva Health Forum Call for Young Researchers

The organisers of the Geneva Health Forum have launched a call to young researchers to submit abstracts on *sustainable and affordable innovations in healthcare*. This call is of interest to researchers involved in operational research related to SDC-funded projects. The deadline of submission is 15 December. Conditions and procedures can be consulted at:



<http://ghf2016.g2hp.net/young-researchers-call/>

HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITIES

Newly launched initiative to strengthen medicines regulatory systems

In collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products (Swissmedic), WHO, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the East African Community (EAC), SDC's Global Programme Health has launched a new initiative to strengthen medicines regulatory systems at the country and global levels, with the aim of accelerating access to quality medical products. This new initiative is closely linked to the ongoing African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization initiative and includes two main components: 1) establishing a market authorization procedure for global health products at Swissmedic. 2) strengthening capacities of authorities within the EAC. In 2015, WHO and Swissmedic worked with the EAC on information management systems and joint dossier assessments. More information can be accessed at: <http://mrh.eac.int/the-east-african-community-medicines-assessors-conduct-the-first-joint-dossiers-assessment-under-the-eac-medicines-regulatory-harmonization-eac-mrh-programme-in-entebbe-uganda-from-19th-to-23rd-oc.html>. For further enquiries, please contact: Alexander.Schulze@eda.admin.ch

IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

Swiss President Launches One Health Partnership

On the 25 October 2015 the Swiss President, Mrs. Simonetta Sommaruga, visited the Jigjiga University (JJU) in the Somali region of Ethiopia to launch the SDC-supported partnership between JJU and the Swiss TPH for the promotion of the One Health concept and practice. The aim of this collaboration is to improve the health of pastoralist communities in arid and

semi-arid areas in the south-east of the country. The initiative covers three aspects: 1) creation of a One Health graduate program at JJU, 2) research on endemic zoonosis and creation of disease pattern baseline data, 3) exploring best practices of service delivery to marginalized communities with elements of system building and advocacy.



The President of Ethiopia Mulatu Teshome greeting the Swiss President Simonetta Sommaruga in Addis Abeba. (24.10.2015)

Four Ethiopian students are currently undertaking the first course at the Swiss TPH. More information can be accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CN5OdvXZwoM> and <http://www.derbund.ch/ausland/naher-osten-und-afrika/bundespraesidentin-besucht-fluechtlingslager-in-aethiopien/story/11556583>, or by contacting barbara.profeta@eda.admin.ch or odile.robert@eda.admin.ch

Community Nursing Model Introduced in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Within the SDC's support to reform nursing services in Bosnia and Herzegovina, community nursing has been successfully introduced in the region of Bijeljina, serving approximately 80,000 people. In the first three months of the initiative more than 900 home visits have been made by 40 community nurses. More than 2.000 chronically-ill and housebound patients received palliative care and a nurses provided annual check-ups and NCD- prevention activities were organized in the community. The experiences gained will be used for rolling out a community nursing model to other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Further information can be accessed via the following link: http://www.fondacijafami.org/index_english_.html or by contacting Aldina Bukva-Mahmutovic: aldina@fondacijafami.org

Health System Strengthening in Pakistan

Since 2012 the Swiss Red Cross, in collaboration with the Aga Khan University in Karachi has delivered an integrated intervention package comprising support to health infrastructure and basic equipment, service hours extended to 24/7, capacity-building of public sector health care providers, health education and promotion at the community level, as well as measures to tackle the "three delays" in referral. The intervention package has developed an effective and successful model for improvements to health support in MNCH in the public sector in Dadu district of Sindh province. Gradual handing over to local authorities is ongoing to ensure sustainability. By mid-2016 the project will be fully handed over to the local government and a new project in another sub-district is already planned. Further details of the project are available in the global report *Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Today*, that can be accessed at:



<http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/RMNCH%20Today-EN-LR.pdf>.
Contacts for further information are: Monika.Christofori-Khadka@redcross.ch and Angela.Bommer@redcross.ch

Policy Dialog for better Health Governance in Ukraine

On 1st of December, in partnership with WHO, SDC launched a new project aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of the Ukrainian population, through strengthening government capacities to lead and steer the health care reform agenda, endorse evidence-informed policies, improve inter-sectoral and donor coordination and communication. The project also aims at strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Health to govern and deliver quality public health and people-centred, results-oriented, and inclusive health services. For further information, contact Enrichetta.Placella@eda.admin.ch

HPSS assists with early response to cholera outbreak in Dodoma, Tanzania

Since the first case of cholera was reported in Dodoma Region, SDC's Health Promotion and Systems (HPSS) project has been liaising with the Regional Health Management Team and DMOs to determine gaps in the response to support. A rapid analysis indicated that District authorities were concentrating on a curative approach, with less engagement in prevention, control and home management of diarrhoea and dehydration. To fill the gaps in prevention and control, HPSS promptly adapted its health promotion component activity schedule to support public awareness-raising for prevention at the school and village levels and also assisted with rapid the chlorination of water sources, disinfection of affected households and with the distribution of prophylaxis to those who been in contact with contamination. SDC has provided further funding to enable HPSS's role in the cholera response.



For further information, please contact: kate.molesworth@unibas.ch.

Information on HPSS can be accessed at:

[http://www.swisstph.ch/resources/projects/project-details.html?tx_x4euniprojectsgeneral_pi1\[showUid\]=514](http://www.swisstph.ch/resources/projects/project-details.html?tx_x4euniprojectsgeneral_pi1[showUid]=514)

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

Regional Learning Event on Health

SDC Eastern Europe and Central Asia held a learning event on NCDs in Bishkek from 2nd-5th November, 2015. The report as well as all the material produced or used for this meeting can be accessed at:

<https://learningeventhealth.wordpress.com/>

and further information can be obtained from:

Enrichetta.Placella@eda.admin.ch



UPCOMING EVENTS

Announcement of 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 8th-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 the HIV and AIDS Community of Practice (CoP) workshop will follow-up on HIV and AIDS mainstreaming. For enquiries, please contact: jean-francois.golay@eda.admin.ch

WHO-IS-WHO



Cecilia Capello (Enfants du Monde)

My name is Cecilia Capello and I've worked as Health Advisor at *Enfants du Monde* (EdM) since 2010, providing technical support to EdM's health promotion and maternal and neonatal health programmes. I am based in Geneva, but I regularly interact with and visit our partners in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Central America and Haiti. I am a medical doctor with a master's degree in international health management, economics and policy. After my studies, I worked with several international NGOs as a health project coordinator, mainly in Africa. I am Italian and mom of two young boys.

Valeriu Sava (SCO Moldova)

I'm Valeriu Sava, National Programme Officer in Health and have been working at SCO Moldova since April 2011. I am a physician by training and after graduating from Medical University, I lectured for 15 years at the Department of Pathology at the Moldova Medical University. I received my PhD in Pathology from the Moldova State Medical University and Master's in Public Health from the School of Public Health of the same University. I also hold certificates from the World Bank Institute and Harvard School of Public Health in Health Systems Strengthening and Sustainable Financing, the Japanese National Institute of Public Health in Health Policy Development, and the Swedish Health Care AB / Lund University in Health Strategy Management. In the period of 1994 to 2011 I was working in governmental and international organisations in different positions: Deputy Director at the Centre for Public Health and Management, Head of Ministry of Health Department on Health Financing Policy, Training and Health Policy Coordinator within World Bank Project and Project Coordinator within the Health Programme of the Open Society Institute in Chisinau. During all this period I was involved in developing concepts, policies, strategies and action plans relating to public health financing, health systems management, health service quality, as well as patient rights and medical ethics.



Alexander Schulze (SDC HQ)

I joined SDC's Global Programme Health in April 2014. Located in the headquarters in Berne, I focus on global policies and initiatives related to health systems strengthening and financing. Previously I worked for the Novartis Foundation in Basle, where I mainly took care of programmes in sub-Saharan Africa aiming at improving access to healthcare. My main interests are social health protection mechanisms, access to and quality of health services and medical products, but also the link between people's health and livelihoods. Looking forward, in the future I will be dealing more with sustainable financing for health.