



EDITORIAL

Dear Health Network Members,

Another year rich of events and work is slowly coming to an end. The 6th edition of the Health Network Newsletter gives a flavour of the manifold activities that took place in the last three months. We wish you an interesting read!

The turn of the year also always gives space for new ideas and New Year resolutions. In this sense, we would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the Health Network will organise and conduct a Global F2F in Switzerland in November 2017 (see below), bringing together not only SDC personnel working on bilateral and global health programmes all over the world but also our partners. We are very much looking forward to this event!

We wish you and your loved ones a joyful festive season as well as a healthy and happy new year!



Erika Placella
Health Advisor for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Focal Point Global Programme Health



Karin Gross
Focal Point
Global Programme Health



Assessing and improving quality of health services for effective Universal Health Coverage



In global debates on UHC, much emphasis is placed on access for all and financial protection. Yet, quality of service is a crucial factor when translating service and population coverage into positive health outcomes. [A recent article](#) describes a quality assessment methodology using an electronic format that can be embedded in supervision activities and conducted by council health staff. [Read more>>](#)
Contact: Alexander.Schulze

HEALTH NETWORK NEWS

New Focal Point-Trio for 2017



Due to internal restructuring at SDC HQ and in order to improve the links between our bilateral and global engagement in health, the Focal Point Health has been newly positioned as a Focal Point Trio:

Karin Gross, health policy advisor and advisor for determinants of health within the Global Programme Health, will remain part-time focal point health (20%).



Since 1st of December, **Erika Placella**, health advisor for Eastern Europe and Central Asia has also been appointed as new part-time focal point health and advisor at the Global Programme Health (20%).



Viviane Hasselmann will join SDC HQ by 1st of April 2017 as health advisor for East and Southern Africa and part-time focal point health at the Global Programme Health (30%).



Global F2F Health

The SDC Health Network is going to organise a Global F2F Health in Switzerland in the week of the 5th-10th of November 2017. Please save the date in your agenda!

A formal invitation and details about the exact date, location and content will follow in the beginning of 2017.

Contact: Karin.Gross@eda.admin.ch

HQ ACTIVITIES SDC AND NGOS

SDC's Support to Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Extended



ENGAGE • INSPIRE • INVEST

After an initial support through the Global Programme Food Security, SDC has decided to continue its engagement with SUN and support the movement in strengthening the multi-stakeholder engagement and capacities on country level and facilitate the learning among SUN countries. The Global Programme Food Security and the Global Programme Health will work in close collaboration for this engagement, which arises to 4 Mio CHF during the next SUN Strategy Period 2016-2020. [Read more>>](#)
Contact: Karin.Gross@eda.admin.ch or Marlene.Heeb@eda.admin.ch

P4H Knowledge-Learning-Innovation Brief on how to advance Universal Health Coverage



Towards universal coverage in the majority world: the cases of Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kenya and Tanzania

P4H Knowledge-Learning-Innovation Brief No. 1, 2016



P4H is a global network of bi- and multilateral organisations which provide coordinated technical assistance and capacity building to countries developing health financing and social health protection strategies. In cooperation with P4H, GIZ recently published the first [Knowledge-Learning-Innovation Brief](#) on four countries and their challenges on the way towards universal health coverage. [Read more>>](#)
Contact: Alexander.Schulze



Towards a Strengthened UNAIDS Operating Model

6th-9th of December, the 39th UNAIDS Programme and Coordinating Board (PCB) took place under Swiss chairmanship in Geneva. The PCB took decisions for action related to community involvement and financing, HIV paediatric prevention, treatment and care and access to medicine. In order to address UNAIDS' financial deficit and enhance its efficacy, the PCB mandated UNAIDS to present a proposal to the 40th PCB in June 2017 on how to strengthen its operating model. Find background documents and information on decisions taken at the 39th PCB [here](#)>> Contact: Susanne.Amsler@eda.admin.ch



Swiss UNAIDS Field Visit on HIV/AIDS and Drug Policy - Back to back to the UNAIDS PCB

On 9th of December, Switzerland offered PCB members a field visit. At the example of Geneva, Switzerland shared its experiences of the four pillar drug policy, which had a major impact on reducing the AIDS epidemic in Switzerland. The visit to various institutions underlined the need for a multi-sectoral coordination and the importance of putting people's needs at the centre of the response. [Read more](#)>> Contact: Susanne.Amsler@eda.admin.ch



WHO declared 12 December to be World Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day to raise awareness on the millions of people who lack access to health services. The SDC Global Programme Health would like to use this occasion to discuss potentials and challenges on the way to UHC with academics, policy makers, practitioners and other interested parties. [Read more](#)>> Please register via Corinna.Gallimore



Global Fund 36th Board Meeting

The 36th Global Fund Board meeting took place in Montreux 16th-17th November 2016 following a successful 5th Replenishment Conference in September 2016 in Montreal, Canada where 12.9 billion USD were pledged for the 2017-2019 period. The Board approved the sources and uses of funds available for the 2017-2019 allocation period and approved a \$800 million package of catalytic investments designed to address potential gaps in reaching the Strategy for 2017-2022. [Read more](#)>> Contact: Carla.Koch@eda.admin.ch

Public Annual Presentation of Global Cooperation Department

17 January 2017, 9-14h, Head Quarters SDC, Freiburgstrasse 130, 3003 Bern



Worldwide #EndMalaria Photo and Video Contest

The Swiss Malaria Group and its partners are launching the worldwide #EndMalaria Photo and Video Contest. We are looking for powerful images within three thematic categories that tell stories about how malaria engagement contributes to the objectives of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development: #innovatetogether, #caretogether for a #betterworld. Participate now and win prize money from a total sum of CHF 10'000: <http://www.swissmaliargroup.ch/contest> Contact: Elisabeth Wingerter (ewingerter@swissmaliargroup.ch)



On 17 January, the Global Cooperation Department of SDC has its annual presentation for the public. Among other Global Programmes and divisions, the Global Programme Health will have a short presentation, too. Find more details on the programme [here](#).>> Register until 23 December via jahresprogramme@eda.admin.ch



Access to Health – What is left after the Swiss Red Cross phases out?

The Swiss Red Cross commissioned a look-back study in five health projects in Bolivia, Ghana, Cambodia, Laos and Nepal to see whether access to health for the most vulnerable was sustainably achieved and maintained years after SRC phased out the technical and financial support. A short video sums up the success factors and challenges encountered. Please find more on [the dossier "Access to Health"](#) on the SRC website and [watch the video here](#)>> Contact: Monika.Christofori-Khadka@redcross.ch

The final version of the Annual Report of the GPH will be published on Shareweb soon.

IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES



HPSS Presented at 3rd Tanzania Health Summit

The SDC funded Health Promotion and System Strengthening Project (HPSS) was well-represented at the Tanzania Health Summit in Dar es Salaam 14th-15th of November. Four presentations were given by the HPSS team: Ally-Kebby Abdallah, Gideon Christopher, Elizeus Rwezaura and Kate Molesworth. [Visit the Summit website](#). Contact: Kate.Molesworth@unibas.ch *Picture: Ally-Kebby Abdallah, presenting on the integration of biomedical engineering within the district health system.*

Status and Prospects of Family Medicine Development in the Republic of Tajikistan



On 27th September 2016 the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) convened a regional conference entitled "Status and Prospects of Family Medicine Development in the Republic of Tajikistan". The event was supported by the key partners of MoHSP, namely SDC, WHO, the World Bank, the EU and the Aga Khan Foundation. The Enhancing Primary Health Care Services Project further disseminated results on the concept of family medicine at the European Public Health Conference in Vienna in November, sharing its experience with over 1,800 delegates from more than 75 countries. [Read more>>](#)
Project contact: Gulzira.karimova@swisstph.org
SDC contact: Mouazamma.Djamalova@eda.admin.ch

Events related to the WHO Executive Board 140th session



Watching the WHO Executive Board in January 2017 (PHM WHO Watch):

The People's Health Movement (PHM) is preparing for watching the 140th Session of the WHO Executive Board (EB140) taking place from 23rd January to 1st February 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. Through Medicus Mundi International who is co-hosting the WHO Watch project, watchers are able to attend the EB session, distribute PHM's commentary, advocate our position to country delegates, and deliver statements from the floor to the meeting body. [Read more>>](#)

G2H2 will organize two full day civil society meetings before the 140th session of the WHO Executive Board in January 2017:

1. A brainstorming and open dialogue meeting (working title: "Let's talk: Economic determination of health policies and governance")
2. A briefing and strategy meeting on key agenda items of WHO EB140 with a focus on WHO governance and financing, but including other issues proposed and introduced by participants.

[Read more>>](#)

Gender Awareness and Social Inclusion - Training of Trainers - Accessible Quality Healthcare (AQH) Project



A Gender Awareness and Social Inclusion toolkit for trainers was developed on behalf of the Accessible Quality Healthcare (AQH) Project, financed by SDC and implemented by Swiss TPH and Save the Children in Kosovo. Furthermore a training of trainers was held in Pristina between 8-9 November 2016 with 30 family doctors and nurses.
Project contact: Debra.Stevenson@aqhproject.org
SDC contact: Bernhard.Soland@eda.admin.ch

Peer Educators in the Fight against Diabetes



Faced with a rapid and continuous increase in type 2 Diabetes cases, the Health for All Project joined forces with Albania's Society of Children and Youth with Diabetes to raise awareness about the risks and causes of this disease and how to prevent it. The cooperation between HAP and SCYD resulted in the successful training of 70 volunteers, who in turn used their knowledge to reach out to the 700 members of the communities. [Read more>>](#)
Project contact: Joao.Costa@swisstph.org
SDC contact: Sokol.Haxhiu@eda.admin.ch

Community Involvement, a Tool for Transparency and Accountability



The Health for All Project (HAP) has promoted meetings between communities and the managers of the health centres. Enabling citizens to express their views on service delivery, these meetings have become pivotal for enhancing transparency and accountability by changing the nature of interactions between service providers and citizens. [Read more>>](#)
Project contact: Joao.Costa@swisstph.org
SDC contact: Sokol.Haxhiu@eda.admin.ch

Health for All Project's Initiative to Increase Computer Literacy among Healthcare Providers



In the framework of improving healthcare services by increasing computer literacy among primary healthcare providers, HAP initiated training courses for family doctors in Diber and Fier qarks. The first training focused on honing the skills of 67 family doctors for the use of Microsoft Office Package (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, E-mail and Internet). [Read more>>](#)
Project contact: Joao.Costa@swisstph.org
SDC contact: Sokol.Haxhiu@eda.admin.ch

Promoting awareness of rights related to maternal and newborn health in Bangladesh



In November, Enfants du Monde trained a team of government health managers and providers in Netokona district, Bangladesh to support the implementation of community-level discussions to promote the awareness of rights related to maternal and newborn health. This was followed by the training of a team of facilitators, who are now conducting the discussions with community groups which are attached to government community clinics.
Contact: Cecilia.Capello@edm.ch
Find further information on Enfants du Monde activities [here](#).
Photo: PARI Development Trust, October 3, 2016

Marianna Paschal Balampama, Policy Advisor Health, Swiss Embassy in Tanzania



With a decade of practical experience in health systems strengthening, in July 2016 I took up a Health Policy Advisor position at the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania. This year, Switzerland is the Chair of Development Partners in Health in Tanzania. My thrilling role consists of spearheading proactive engagement between the Tanzanian government and development partners in improving health care. For instance, a ground-breaking joint initiative we are actively advancing is a mechanism of disbursing funds from central government directly to health facilities to ensure optimal quality of health services. Previously, I had a privilege to work in health systems research at Ifakara Health Institute, contributing significant evidence to improving health service delivery, quality of human resources and governance.

I have a great interest in understanding social and economic determinants of health. Many times it is known what to do for good health – but the opposite happens! As such, I studied clinical medicine, sociology and international health.

I am passionate about nature and animals; my favourite pastime is foraging in plant nurseries for unique species to adopt!

Federico Peter, Junior Programme Manager, SDC Global Programme Health



I am a physician trained in internal medicine with a diploma in tropical medicine. After having worked in several hospitals in various countries (Switzerland, Spain, Nicaragua and Tanzania), I joined the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in May 2016 as Junior Programme Manager in the Global Programme Health, based in Berne. At the Headquarter, I am supporting the realisation of different projects, ranging from the topic of global health governance through to universal health coverage and communicable diseases. In January 2017, I will move to Geneva, in order to work at the Swiss Mission to the United Nations Office and to other international organisations. At the Mission I will be mainly responsible as Swiss contact person for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Carole Küng, Executive Secretary, Swiss Malaria Group



In 2014, I've been appointed to build up the Swiss Malaria Group Secretariat. The network brings together Swiss research institutions, private sector stakeholders, public institutions as well as civil society organisations committed to effectively fight malaria. It inspires me to work with our various member organisations and partners, who jointly drive innovation, raise awareness, advocate and foster technical exchange in order to bring malaria interventions to affected countries.

I am a biologist by training with a social-science oriented master degree in Sustainable Development. My previous work in consultancy and communication for sustainable development within Switzerland and internationally and the experience gained in managing diverse stakeholder networks prepared me for this very multifaceted position.

The SDC Health Network serves as a gateway to the latest SDC Health Policy and Practice, the Swiss contribution to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals related to Health, as well as to general information about the work we are doing. This newsletter has been sent to you as network member. See [previous newsletters](#), visit the [Health Shareweb](#). To unsubscribe from this newsletter please contact madeleine.colbert@helvetas.org