



SDC Health Network News

Issue 7 - March 2017

EDITORIAL

Dear Health Network Members,

We are happy to send you the 7th edition of the Health Network Newsletter!

Besides the information on projects, events and persons, we would like to start enriching the newsletter with informative articles focusing on specific topics. For this issue, please find an article on health and environment which also appears in the March edition of the Climate Change and Environment Network Newsletter.

Several reports have been published on the impact of environmental risk factors on health recently which draw a disturbing picture. While the impact of environmental factors has long been underestimated, new evidence shows that a large fraction of the global burden of disease – in particular in the global South – is due to environmental pollution leading to a high burden of non-communicable diseases. Air pollution is today one of the leading killers which merits to get more attention and action.

We wish you a good read!



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



Karin Gross
Health Policy Advisor
Global Programme Health



A contribution to accelerating access to quality medical products in low and middle-income countries

03.04.2017 | CIGG, Rue de Varembe 17, Geneva



Large parts of African populations still lack access to safe and efficacious quality product. Swissmedic has set up a Marketing Authorisation for Global Health Products Procedure and a Procedure for Providing Scientific Advice which is accessible to manufacturers interested in developing and making products specifically available for low- and middle-income countries and which could be used to help inform decisions by regulatory authorities from resource-constrained countries and the WHO. [Read more>>](#)

Swiss TPH Spring Symposium 2017: Evidence meets decisions makers - Better use of evidence for better health

06.04.2017 | Parterre Rialto, Basel



The Swiss TPH Spring Symposium 2017 invites public health policy makers, statisticians, and global health specialists and students to review and discuss the current evidence on how the use of data and information by decision makers can be improved in the health sector. For more information please visit the [event website>>](#)

THEMATIC ARTICLES

Changing patterns of pollution and disease – evidence and needed action



Source: Global Alliance on Health and Pollution

In health, we are witnessing a major epidemiological shift. Infectious, parasitic and nutritional diseases are decreasing worldwide. Through improved access to safe drinking water and household sanitation, but also preventive interventions, such as vaccines, mosquito nets etc. great achievement have been made. However, an increasing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is gradually offsetting those gains. A phenomenon called “environmental risk transition” is driving this shift.

Contact: karin.gross@eda.admin.ch

[Read the whole article on health and pollution on the Shareweb>>](#)

HQ ACTIVITIES SDC AND NGOS

Global Fund Executive Director selection process



The Board of the Global Fund convened in Geneva, 27-28 February 2017, to elect the new Executive Director. However, the Board has [decided to continue its search](#) and will launch a new process with the aim of selecting the next Executive Director later this year. In the meantime, it has appointed [Marijke Wijnroks](#) as Interim Executive Director, to serve from 1 June 2017 until a new Executive Director selected by the Board will be able to start. Contact: carla.koch@eda.admin.ch



140th session of the Executive Board

WHO's Executive Board convened in Geneva from 23-31 January 2017. During the meeting, it selected by vote the following 3 candidates to be presented to the World Health Assembly as nominees for the post of Director General of the WHO: Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus from Ethiopia, Dr. David Nabarro from the UK and Dr. Sania Nishtar from Pakistan. The new Director-General will be chosen by all Member States by vote at the World Health Assembly in May 2017 and will take office on 1 July 2017.
Contact: carla.koch@eda.admin.ch

Human Rights Council – panel discussion on how to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity



At the 34th session of the Human Rights Council, a panel discussion on how to further reduce maternal mortality and morbidity took place. The Council was also informed on the implementation of the 2012 established [technical guidance](#) on the application of a human rights-based approach to this issue. In its statement, Switzerland underlined the importance of offering a complete range of sexual and reproductive health services and of addressing structural causes of maternal mortality. Find a summary of the panel discussion and statements [here>>](#)
Contact: susanne.amsler@eda.admin.ch

“She Decides” Initiative



Source: www.shedecides.com

participated in the [“She Decides” Conference](#) in Brussels. Aim of the conference was to launch the [“She Decides” Initiative](#) mobilising political and financial support for gender equality, women's rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The origin of the initiative goes back to the reinstatement of the US Mexico City Policy on 23 January 2017. Switzerland welcomed the “She Decides” Initiative in the sense that it is an effort to further strengthen the implementation of the [Cairo Programme of action](#).
Contact: susanne.amsler@eda.admin.ch

Open source Health Insurance Management Information System (OpenHIMIS)



Many countries have turned to open source software as a flexible, reliable and low-cost approach to managing their health information systems. Germany and Switzerland have now joined forces to facilitate the creation of an open source solution for social health protection and to foster the global community needed to support it (OpenHIMIS). The “Insurance Management Information System” (IMIS) software originally designed by the Swiss TPH in a SDC funded bilateral programme in Tanzania and further used in Cameroon and Nepal represents the starting point of this initiative.
[Read more>>](#)
Contact: aude.favre@eda.admin.ch

Swiss Neglected Tropical Diseases Alliance: United for a stronger Swiss response to global health needs



On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the WHO's roadmap on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), a rich variety of Swiss institutions constitute the Swiss Neglected Tropical Diseases Alliance. The foundation meeting will take place during the NTD Summit 2017 in Geneva in April. One in seven people worldwide suffer from NTDs that continue to place a heavy burden on the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. The Swiss NTD Alliance strives to facilitate a stronger, more visible and better-resourced response to this global challenge.
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Meeting Point on “Universal Pensions”: Ageing with more security, dignity and self-determination

19.04.2017 | Community centre 'Breitschträff', Bern



Kwa Wazee/MMS/aidsfocus.ch invite to a professional exchange Meeting point with the two project managers of the new Kwa Wazee pilot 'Universal Pensions' and their first results from a new baseline survey. Edmund Revelian und Jovinary Francis from Tanzania and the English consultant Mandy Heslop will share their experiences and are looking forward to a lively discussion. [Read more>>](#) Please register at: info@medicusmundi.ch

Photographic exhibition on World Malaria Day: “Be the generation to end malaria”

25.04.2017 | Bains des Paquis, Quai du Mont-Blanc 30, Geneva



To mark this year's World Malaria Day, the Swiss Malaria Group will announce the winners of its worldwide #EndMalaria Photo and Video Contest. Join the inauguration of a photographic exhibition that will display the winning images and the most impressive pictures and stories submitted to the contest. The exhibition is open to the public on Rotonde du Mont-Blanc and the lakeside. For more information and registration, please visit the [event website>>](#)

HIV Test and Treat: Are the 90 - 90 - 90 targets set for 2020 within reach? MMS/aidsfocus.ch conference 2017

10.05.2017 | Hotel Kreuz, Bern



Get Tested! Know your HIV Status! Slogans we hear a lot from the ambitious treatment target “90-90-90” introduced by UNAIDS in 2014. Three years remain until 2020 – are we on track? At the upcoming MMS/ aidsfocus.ch Conference we will discuss best practices, challenges and lessons



Play to win for health in Africa

In order to better sensitise the population in Switzerland and Liechtenstein about health in Africa, SolidarMed has launched an online game, a unique take on the well-known quiz show "Who wants to be a millionaire". Without finger wagging, this game imparts knowledge and like in the TV show, your knowledge is worth real money! <https://werden-sie-spendionaeer.ch/>
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learned to reach the treatment target "90-90-90" by 2020. [Read more>>](#)
Contact for information and registration: mstaenke@medicusmundi.ch



Alexandra Nicola,
Programme Manager,
IAMANEH Schweiz

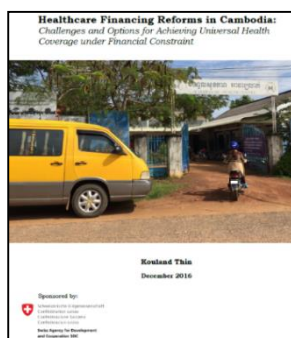
I am Programme Manager at IAMANEH Schweiz. IAMANEH is intervening in the fields of Sexual and Reproductive Health and gender-based Violence. Within its Western Africa programme, I am among others in charge of projects related to the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula, the provision of support to women affected by gender-based violence and the improvement of sexuality education for youth. The projects I am involved in have a strong focus on health promotion but equally cover aspects of health systems strengthening. Particular questions I am concerned with within IAMANEH's West Africa programme include the engagement of men in sexual and reproductive health as well as the strengthening of psycho-social support activities in resource-poor settings. I hold a MA in International Relations and a (MAS) in Development and Cooperation (NADEL) and am about to complete a degree in Public Health. Previous jobs - abroad (mainly in West and Southern Africa) as well as in Switzerland - relate in particular to HIV/AIDS prevention, but also Malaria and TB control, among others as Local Fund Agent for the Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria.



Swiss TPH shapes immunisation policies in Switzerland and in the African Region

Swiss TPH supports the development of vaccination policies and strategies. The recently released [Swiss National Vaccination Strategy \(BAG / OFSP\)](#) has been largely based on the evidence synthesis carried out by the Swiss TPH. On another front, the Swiss TPH is supporting WHO-Afro in the production of guidance on communication interventions to improve vaccination outcomes, based on the work of [COMMVAC project](#) (led by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health).
Contact: Xavier Bosch-Capblanch, x.bosch@unibas.ch

IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES



SDC-mandated study on healthcare financing reforms in Cambodia

This SDC mandated study explores options for moving towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the financially constraint context of Cambodia. The report assesses how coverage of and access to quality health services in Cambodia can be expanded in top-down and bottom-up interventions to achieve the intermediate objectives and ultimate goals of UHC.

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[Read more and download the full report on the Shareweb>>](#)



Moving towards community mental health services for all Moldovans

At the end of December 2016, strategic development priorities of community mental health services in Moldova were presented and discussed in the country's first national policy dialogue on the topic. The event took place in the frame of the SDC project "MENSANA – Support for the Reform of Mental Health Services in Moldova".
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[Read more on the Shareweb>>](#)



Aude Favre,
Global Programme Health Intern

I began my internship at the SDC Headquarter at the beginning of March. As part of the Global Programme Health, I will be involved in different projects, notably on the determinants of health and the universal health coverage. I am helping in the events management part for conferences. I am also collaborating on the different communication tasks mainly internal ones such as the Newsletter from the network and the Shareweb. I previously worked for the International Osteoporosis Foundation where I was assisting the communication team in creating communication campaigns and in social media. I have a background in International Relations completed with a master in Communication, Management and Health. I am looking forward to this new challenge and hope to have a chance to interact with you soon.

Health for All Project (HAP) continues its work for the improvement of Albania's healthcare system

HAP has initiated a schools programme with three high schools in Dibër and three middle schools in Fier to promote healthy life-styles among students. It has further created a key exchange platform, where health centres' managers can share positive experiences and common concerns in the planning, implementation and monitoring of healthcare services. To further strengthen capacities for the improvement of Albania's healthcare system, HAP organised workshops on inter-professional teams in primary healthcare and on strengthening M&E and statistics units.

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[Read more on HAP's recent activities on the Shareweb>>](#)



News from the Health Promotion and System Strengthening Project in Tanzania



In March this year, the SDC-funded Health Promotion and System Strengthening (HPSS) project participated in the Tanzania National Sanitation Campaign (NSC) Behaviour Change and Communications (BCC) and was also highlighted in two documentaries on national television.

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[Read more on HPSS' recent activities on the Shareweb>>](#)



Elvira Muratalieva,
Swiss Embassy in
Kyrgyzstan, Swiss
Cooperation Office

I was very happy to join the Swiss Cooperation in Kyrgyzstan in 2006,

which gave me a possibility to contribute to the development process of my country. I am a medical doctor by background, but only worked in the hospital for two years. This experience was sufficient for me to understand that earning money through informal payments that existed in the medical system did not correspond with my principles. Since 1999, I have been working with many different donor organisations acting in various areas of the health sector. I am confident that I bring more benefits to the population of my country by working with development projects. The Swiss health portfolio in Kyrgyzstan comprises a high degree of complementarity between projects at the central level, such as SWAp, and other projects implemented in parallel with a strong focus on primary care and quality improvement of health services.

Looming crisis



Mozambique - SolidarMed expects this year to be exceptionally difficult for the district health authorities to manage. In February/March 2017, the country suffered a national stock out of gloves and no certainty when the system will be able to re-establish sufficient supply in the districts. This combined with the threatening stock outs of essential drugs, such as antibiotics, projects a potentially grim future. While SolidarMed will prepare for the worst, the solution can only come from higher levels.

Contact: Michael Hobbins, m.hobbins@solidarmed.ch

SolidarMed at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI)



In February, [SolidarMed](#) presented findings from a 2-year cohort study on HIV/HBV co-infected patients [in Zambia](#) and Mozambique by the [leDEA collaboration](#), suggesting that these patients die prematurely, especially in rural contexts of SSA. National data on HBV and HIV co-infection are very scarce. These findings are of considerable value to national authorities in the quest to define national guidelines for HBV.

Contact: Michael Hobbins, m.hobbins@solidarmed.ch

[Read abstract and view poster>>](#)

Assessing antenatal care services in Burkina Faso



In March, Enfants du Monde supported Burkina Faso's Ministry of Health (MoH) to conduct an assessment of the quality of antenatal care (ANC) services in the district of Koupela. The assessment team observed ANC visits and met with health staff in five health centres. Preliminary analysis suggests that there are important shortages in terms of human and material resources and that ANC visits often do not conform to MoH protocol. These gaps at within health services impact utilisation as they discourage women and families from seeking care.

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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

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