

## 2nd International Quality Forum

Quality improvement  
mechanisms in health  
system strengthening:  
Where is the evidence?

2015 marks the start of the 'post-MDG' era and even though the Millennium Development Goals could not reach all their targets, health system strengthening (HSS) is key to all programme interventions in health. It is also increasingly being recognized that quality improvement (QI) mechanisms in health care are a determinant of health system strengthening. At a time when the next generation of priorities for global health is being defined, however, it appears that it is crucial to examine the evidence of this impact.

The 2nd International Quality Forum will discuss how QI mechanisms can contribute to health system strengthening and how this contribution can be best measured.

This will be illustrated by four aspects which affect health systems: disease outbreaks - with a focus on Ebola; post-conflict settings; patient safety and, finally, the linkages of QI mechanisms within a facility as well as between levels of health systems.

Date: 2nd and 3rd of July 2015,  
at the Print Media Academy in  
Heidelberg

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## Midwives from Central Asia on study tour



International studies (e.g. The Lancet, 2014) have confirmed that when it comes to improving maternal, child and newborn health, midwives play an essential role. The care they provide before, during and after birth impacts on survival rates as well as the health status of millions mothers and children every year.

As part of GIZ efforts to strengthen sexual and reproductive health and rights in Central Asia, evaplan conducted a study tour for representatives of midwifery

associations from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

The group shared common interests relating to the position of midwives in the German health system, in the education provided to midwives in Germany, especially in the shift to an academic midwifery degree, as well as the various levels of responsibility midwives can play in hospitals. Exciting cultural exchanges took place, for example, with the German Midwives Association and the University of Fulda but also within the group itself.

## Healthy life styles for young Tanzanians



Besides working with government partners to strengthen health systems, evaplan has a wealth of long-standing expertise in collaborating with civil society organisations (CSOs).

In Mtwara Region in Southern Tanzania evaplan, on behalf of the Tanzanian-German Programme to Support Health (TGPSH GIZ), is supporting local CSOs in becoming strong actors in the promotion of healthy life styles for young people, particularly in regards to sexual and reproductive health, and for more effective participation in and networking with district and regional governance bodies. Emphasis is also placed on integrating cross cutting issues such as gender, human rights, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities. We do this in close partnership with the German Foundation for World Population .

At a national level we work with CSOs, including GFATM principal and sub-recipients, to strengthen their capacities for effective advocacy, coordination and mutual accountability.



## Becoming a leader in Social Protection: a new training for young and mid-level professionals in South-East Asia

Since October 2014, evaplan has been coordinating the seventh round of the International Social Protection Studies Program (ISPS) as a new format of the GIZ Postgraduate International Leadership Training in Social Security. This training marks a new era in the history of the programme. The main aim is to achieve intensive capacity development in social protection for young and mid-level professionals from Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, who will contribute to the development of financially sustainable and effective social security systems in South-East Asia. A Master Program is in preparation between the University of Heidelberg and two University partners in South-East Asia, the National Economics University, Hanoi, Vietnam and the University of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia, which is without any doubt an ambitious goal.

The programme follows a multi-sectoral approach, supporting interdisciplinary learning and building South-South and North-South partnerships. Each of the modules is based on the participation of the academic partners, professional institutions and partners at policy level in Germany and partner countries. The curriculum includes a number of core modules, elective modules as well as e-learning courses and implementation research module for the master thesis. In addition, the module system offers the option to adjust to the background and professional interest of the students, providing parallel lectures and group work on different topics and at different levels.

We are confident that this international cooperation program will become a key pillar for academic postgraduate training of young professionals and future leaders in social protection.

### Latest Publications

[Szecsényi J., et al. Tearing down walls: opening the border between hospital and ambulatory care for quality improvement in Germany. International Journal for Quality in Health Care 2012; pp. 1](#)

[Herrler C, et al. Integrated Quality Management System \(IQMS\): ein Modell zur Förderung der Qualität der reproduktiven Gesundheitsversorgung im ländlichen Kenia. Z. Evid. Fortbild. Qual. Gesundheitswesen \(ZEFQ\) \(2015\)](#)

[Tabatabai P. et al. The internal migration between public and faith-based health providers: a cross-sectional, retrospective and multicentre study from southern Tanzania. Tropical Medicine and International. 0.1111/tmi.12107](#)

[Tabatabai P. et al. Public and private maternal health service capacity and patient flows in southern Tanzania: using a geographic information system to link hospital and national census data. Glob.Health Action 2014, 7.](#)

## Systematic Literature Review on HIV and AIDS Prevention and Treatment

The UNAIDS repository is a data source for partners' programmers worldwide, providing an insight into numerous state-of-the-art evaluations on HIV & AIDS prevention and treatment programmes.

On behalf of UNAIDS, evaplan and the Institute of Public Health in Heidelberg have recently conducted a Systematic Literature Review on HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment programme evaluations in order to expand the repository.



The review included a rating of the quality of these evaluations, thereby providing the repository's users with the opportunity to access strong evidence based information on programme results. A total of 771 publications have been reviewed, showing a considerable wealth of interesting observations and studies in very diverse areas. The distribution of research (fairly) reflects the high burden of disease in Sub Saharan Africa and is an encouraging signal that a lot of research and evaluation is being done in the most affected region.

The full report will be made available through: [PanakadanS@unaids.org](mailto:PanakadanS@unaids.org)