



Quality Improvement @ evaplan - What's new?

Save the date!

October 2014:
Course announcement
2014/15

International Social Protection Studies, as part of GIZ's International Leadership Training (ILT) format for young and mid-level Professionals from Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, taking place in Germany, Vietnam and Indonesia. [Link](#)

Partnerships: Joining hands with the AQUA Institute

In 2013 evaplan formally set up a joint venture with the renowned Institute for Applied Quality Improvement and Research in Health Care (AQUA Institute www.aqua-institut.de).

The AQUA Institute is one of the most experienced and successful providers of concepts and problem solving in the field of healthcare quality improvement in Germany. Since 1995 AQUA has been developing systemic, comprehensive and evidence-based tools for improving the quality of health services. This integrated Quality Improvement approach has been formalised into the 'European Practice Assessment (EPA)' and implemented widely in Germany as well as in other European countries. Moreover, the AQUA-Institute is commissioned with the implementation of a nationwide cross-sectoral quality assurance scheme of the German healthcare system.

Since 2011 evaplan is working in a consortium with AQUA in Low and Middle Income Countries including Kenya, Algeria, India and Tanzania to implement integrated quality improvement approaches (see next page).

Latest publications

Loukanova, S., Flessa, S. & Marx, M. (2014). Universal Health Coverage for chronic diseases - a challenge in low- and middle- income countries. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Issue No. 22. [Link](#)

Sax, S. & Marx, M. (2013). Local perceptions on factors influencing the introduction of international healthcare accreditation in Pakistan. *Health Policy and Planning*, 1-10. [Link](#)

Hahn, D., Wanjala, P. & Marx, M. (2013). Where is information quality lost at clinical level? A mixed-method study on information systems and data quality in three urban Kenyan ANC clinics. *Global Health Action*, 6, 21424. [Link](#)

Kersten, R., Bosse, G., Dörner, F., Slavuckij, A., Fernandez, G. & Marx, M. (2013). Too complicated for the field? Measuring quality of care in humanitarian aid settings. *Global Health Action*, 6, 20311. [Link](#)

Diouf, K., Tabatabai, P., Rudolph, J. & Marx, M. (2014). Diarrhoea prevalence in children under five years of age in rural Burundi: an assessment of social and behavioural factors at the household level. *Global Health Action*, 7, 24895. [Link](#)

Improving Health Care in Kenya, Tanzania and Algeria

Developing adapted and integrated approaches for systemic and continuous QI in health care - based on evidence, is the main objective of our latest quality improvement initiatives in Kenya, Tanzania and Algeria. The participatory indicator based systems assess the quality of health care from various perspectives, including patient, staff, management and facilitators. Moreover, they are an opportunity for health facilities to benchmark themselves with other facilities and monitor their own results over time. The projects have successfully made use of Visotool @software, developed by AQUA, a specialised software that allows precise analysis visualisation, benchmarking and supports the health facilities to develop QI action plans. Additionally, our tools provide precise measurement of quality problems, allowing prioritizing action according to the Pareto principle. Results demonstrated that this integrated approach is an effective low cost, high impact and innovative solution to capitalize available resources and strengthen quality of service delivery. Going beyond: There is more potential to this approach. Linking with accreditation, results based financing approaches or even going beyond health care, are avenues to be explored.

New staff member

Alexia J. Zurkuhlen, joined evaplan in September 2014: She is an expert in global health



governance and global health diplomacy, health in conflict situations, global health and gender interlinkages, as well as health systems research.



Quality Forum, 2014

Harmonizing and Integrating Quality Improvement approaches in the local context

The proliferation of different quality improvement (QI) approaches, and the need to adapt them into local country and organizational contexts, has been highlighted by several researchers (Atun 2012; Massoud et. al. 2012; Sax & Marx 2013). The need for clarifying differences and similarities in QI approaches, in order to maximize their benefits, is also a topic of debate in the literature (Walsche 2009, Tawfik 2010) and in various countries (Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Tanzania). But what mechanisms exist to drive this harmonization, and what is the experience of attempts at harmonization and integration

of QI initiatives? Would improved harmonization of QI approaches have the potential to increase sustainability and strengthen health systems? In collaboration with the AQUA Institute and the Public Health Institute of the University of Heidelberg, evaplan hosted the Quality Forum from June 19th -20th in Heidelberg. The goal of the Quality Forum was to use country examples to explore harmonization and integration of quality improvement initiatives and the link to health systems strengthening (documentation will soon be available on our website).

Considering the very positive feedback, we are planning a second Quality Forum in Summer 2015.

BISA Workshop Global Health and Gender Challenges

On the 22nd of September 2014 a workshop addressing the interfaces of Global Health, International Political Economy and Gender was organised. Funded by the British International Studies Association's Working Groups dedicated to Global Health and Gendering International Relations, the event brought together academics, representatives of civil society organisations and students working in the context of global health policy formulation and gender issues.