

## Twining with Tajikistan- Partnership for the health of mothers and children

It goes without saying that cross-cultural collaborations built on mutual exchange of knowledge and skills, empower healthcare professionals and encourage them to improve the institutions they are a part of.

Based on this understanding and with the aim of improving health care for mothers and children, evaplan has been supporting the establishment of a twinning partnership between selected hospitals in Khatlon Region in Tajikistan and the German Regionale Kliniken Holding with its related University teaching hospitals - Woman's Clinic at the Fürst-Stirum-Klinik in Bruchsal (Director Prof. Dr. Jürgen Wacker) and the Children's Hospital in Ludwigsburg, as well as with the Clinic for Children and Youth Medicine – St. Georg Clinic in Eisenach (Director Dr. Benno Kretzschmar).

Created within the framework of the German Financial Cooperation (KfW) and managed by EPOS Health Management, the twinning programme is implemented through evaplan. As part of this partnership regular expert exchanges and trainings on topics such as obstetrics and

neonatal emergency care, biomedical equipment use, management and statistics have been taking place.

Quality of care and patient's safety being a central pillar for improving mother and child health, the programme has furthermore been laying the foundation for a sustainable quality management system in the target hospitals. This included the development of a customized software tool for operationalization of quality standards, as well as intensive capacity development .

We are looking forward to further strengthen this partnership towards sustainable results for mothers- and children.



Quality training participants- Dushanbe 2015

### Web Conference 2017 – Patient Safety and Quality of Care

In extension to our Heidelberg Quality Forum, (2014 & 2015) evaplan in close collaboration with the Institute of Public Health of the University Hospital Heidelberg and in partnership with the AQUA Institute for Applied Quality Improvement and Research in Health Care is planning to conduct an international Web Conference in 2017 on Patient Safety and Quality Improvement.

### Quality Management – Online Course

Jointly with the Institute of Public Health and the AQUA Institute we are also in the process of designing a certified digital learning course on quality improvement in international health, to be launched following the Web Conference.

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## Benin is the next one up in QI and scientific monitoring

Within Benin's national plan for health development 2009 - 2018 improving the quality of care and services has been recognized as a core strategic objective. Commissioned by the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC), evaplan together with the AQUA Institute has been supporting the Ministry of Health's quality improvement efforts since 2015 through applying our indicator based approach to measure and improve quality of care and to help standardize norms and guidelines

The first results have shown that the indicator based approach - developed by the evaplan /AQUA consortium- to measure and improve quality of care in health facilities proved to be highly successful. Most importantly we have been able to combine our approach with other initiatives and tools like, for example, performance based financing (PBF), supportive supervision, and the National Health Information system.

Furthermore, evaplan represented by Prof Michael Marx is now in charge of the "suivi scientifique", the scientific monitoring of the QI component of the BTC health programme.

## When technology meets health - Innovation Factory



As we are looking back to an exciting year of idea incubation under the GIZ Innovation Factory (newsletter Nov 2015) we want to share some of the great achievements from the four Country Units - of Tanzania, Cameroon, Kenya and Germany -that evaplan has been supporting.

The country units, representing networks of health professionals, IT experts, and national and private sector partners, have spent the last year developing highly innovative solutions around the commonly defined vision of improving the health of mothers and newborns. The creation process was diverse and context driven: a hackathon took place (Kenya), multidisciplinary collaborations were established and design thinking methodology was used.

In November results were presented at the international country unit meeting:

- An Integrated Community mHealth Platform (NICmHP) in Tanzania that will integrate successful digital community mHealth solutions to enhance the delivery of reproductive health services.
- The development of a mobile application that targeting Community Health Workers in Cameroon aims at improving the health care of pregnant women, mothers and children.
- Improving interaction between pregnant women and points of health care through traditional birth attendants in Kenya who will be empowered through ICT.
- Aggregating 'conventional' health information system (HIS) data with mHealth derived data through the creation of flexible data management systems.

The next phase will now focus on supporting the teams to reach out to funding for realizing cross-country solutions.

The evaplan team would like to express sincere gratitude for **Siegrid Tautz** for her long standing engagement as a Managing Director. After 12 years Siegrid Tautz stepped back from her position to devote her energy to support the Diakonisches Werk as a technical advisor for flight and migration. While she will continue to support us with her technical expertise, we wish her all the best for her new endeavours.

### evaplan News

We congratulate **Svetla Loukanova** for successfully completing her habilitation in Health Sciences in May 2016 on "Efficiency of technologies for improving the quality of health care in the developing countries".

We are happy to announce that **Prof. Michael Marx** was appointed member of the advisory board of the 34th International Conference of the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) in London (01.-04.Oct.2017).

## Latest publications

Helen Prytherch, Maureen Nafula, Charles Kandie, Marc Brodowski, Irmgard Marx, Sandy Kubaj, Irene Omogi, Alexia Zurkuhlen, Claudia Herrler, Katja Goetz, Joachim Szecsenyi, Michael Marx. [Quality management - where is the evidence? Development of an integrative indicator-based approach in the Kenyan health system](#)". International International Journal for Quality in Health Care, 2016, 1-7 doi: 10.1093/intqhc/mzw147

M.Marx, S. Kubaj, K.Hahn. On ne peut pas changer ce qu'on ne peut pas mesurer: Evaluation de la sécurité des patients dans les hôpitaux en Algérie. La Presse Médicale d'Alger. ISSN 2392-5035. N° 3-2016.

Flessa S, Marx M. [Ebola fever epidemic 2014: a call for sustainable health and development policies](#). Eur J Health Econ. 2016 Jan;17(1):1-4. doi: 10.1007/s10198-015-0710-0.

Is Duysburgh, Maurice Ye, Afua Williams, Siriel Massawe, Ali Sié, John Williams, Rose Mpembeni, Svetla Loukanova, Marleen Temmerman, Antje Blank. [Quality of antenatal and childbirth care in selected rural health facilities in Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Tanzania: an intervention study](#). Tropical Medicine & International Health Trop Med Int Health. 2016 Jan;21(1):70-83. doi: 10.1111/tmi.12627