



UN Women Begins Now

The SCIH would like to highlight a historic milestone: The United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously on 2 July 2010, to create a new entity, to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide. The establishment of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women - to be known as "UN Women" is a result of years of negotiations between UN Member States and advocacy by the global women's movement. It is part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact. ^{cke} <http://www.unwomen.org/>



SECO Egypt Feasibility Study Health Hazardous Waste Management

A strategic and technical assessment in Egypt has been completed through the joint work of the Health Systems Economic (HSEU) and Health Technology and Telemedicine Units (HTTU) of the SCIH with challenging results. This assessment will be used by SECO (the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs) to consider funding a pilot project in cooperation with the Egyptian Environment Agency and the Ministry of Health for centralised incinerators to dispose of hazardous waste generated in hospitals in target regions. The SCIH may conduct a second more detailed technical assessment in September. ^{pha}

Health Systems and Technology Assessment Programmes in the Czech Republic

The Czech Ministry of Health is actively pursuing a reform programme to modernise its health system for improved compliance with EU standards and respond better to the needs of the population. A conference was held on 6 May 2010, to discuss core reform issues such as quality of care, setting of health delivery standards and the introduction of a formal Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme as a means to rationalise investments and define the list of benefits covered by the health insurance. Martin Raab, Head of the HTTU, was invited to speak about the experience of setting up an HTA programme in Switzerland. ^{mra}



Quality Management Training in Romania

The Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit (SRHU) of the SCIH, together with the CRED foundation (Romanian-Swiss Centre for Health Sector Development), conducted a three day training course this June on Quality Management with a focus on the quality improvement processes in perinatal Health for Moldovan experts in Targu Mures, Romania. The Targu Mures perinatology centre is one of the two facilities, which were ISO certified following the RoNeonat project. ^{mza}

Newly Awarded

Evidence and Guidance for Policy Making on Health Systems

Evidence to support policy making decisions is growing but still limited, and often not synthesised systematically or properly disseminated. The World Health Organization (WHO) has commissioned the Systems Performance and Monitoring Unit (SPMU) of the SCIH to produce a handbook to develop guidance for policy makers on health systems interventions. The project is undertaken in collaboration with the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for Health Services, and monitored by a task force of international experts. The main users of the



handbook will be WHO staff in their headquarters and regional offices to assist countries in developing strategies to strengthen their health systems. The handbook will be compliant with the WHO guidelines development procedures. The work is structured around two main areas: the methodological challenges to retrieve, appraise, and disseminate evidence on health system level interventions, and policy needs and decision making processes. ^{xbc}

Health Promotion and Systems Strengthening (HPSS) in Tanzania

The SCIH has been mandated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to support the HPSS programme in the Dodoma Region of Tanzania. The project will be implemented in a cooperation of all four units of the SCIH, with HSEU as the lead. The HPSS project will provide opportunities for the Swiss TPH/SCIH to continue its involvement in Tanzania in the fields of health promotion, health insurance development, financial management mechanisms strengthening, physical resource and drug management strengthening, gender and HIV/AIDS mainstreaming, and operational research. The overall project volume will be 4.6 Mio CHF for a period of 4.5 years, with perspectives of further project extension. ^{sto}



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Review of the Kyrgyz-Swiss-Swedish Health Project

The SCIH has been contracted by the SDC to conduct a Review of the 5th phase of the Kyrgyz-Swiss-Swedish Health Project. This community action for health project, implemented by the Swiss Red Cross, has the goal of enabling rural communities to act to improve health, and health system to work in partnership with them to this end. Kate Molesworth of the SRHU will lead a team of three external reviewers to conduct field work in Naryn and Batken Oblasts (provinces) between 17 and 29 July. ^{kmo}

Oxytocin Study for the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

New formats for administering oxytocin to prevent postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) will be explored for use in sub-Saharan Africa to improve coverage and reduce PPH-related deaths and illness. This study will be undertaken and completed by the end of this year by HSEU, SPMU, SRHU and external experts. ^{pha}

SCIH Contributes to Advising the WHO on Immunization Practices

Xavier Bosch-Capblanch has been nominated as a member of the WHO Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (IPAC). The IPAC supports and advises the WHO Director of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals with the review and/or formulation of immunization practices, operational standards, tools and technologies to strengthen and improve the delivery of immunization programmes at country level to realise the Global Immunization Vision and Strategies goals. The following issues were addressed at the first biannual meeting: (1) introduction of new vaccine visual cue to indicate the time span a vaccine vial has to be discarded once opened, in the context of the multi-dose vaccine policy; (2) standardisation of the WHO vaccines pre-qualification process; (3) operational aspects of introducing Hepatitis B vaccine at birth; (4) terminology and data implications of routine and supplemental vaccinations; (5) controlled temperature chain. ^{xbc} More: http://www.who.int/immunization_delivery/systems_policy/ipac/en/

Joining the SCIH

Florence Sécula began working as a Project Associate with the SRHU this June. Florence has a Masters in Political Science as well as in Development Studies and has accumulated quite some experience working abroad (Moldova, Georgia, Nicaragua). Previously she worked with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, performed social work in Chişinău, Moldova in the field of rehabilitation of victims of domestic violence and trafficking, and was a project manager at the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency in Luxembourg.



Gonçalo Castro began working as a Health Informatics Specialist this July with the HTTU to provide technical, managerial and administrative assistance to their activities. He possesses a Master in Informatics Engineering and Computing, and has previous work experience in software engineering and IT quality management.



Please join us in welcoming Florence and Gonçalo.

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