



## Areas of Interest

### Social Health Insurance: Lomé Platform

The [Health Economic and Financing Group of SCIH](#) participated at the General Assembly of the International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM) in June 2019, which represents 59 members from 30 countries around Europe, Latin America and Africa and the Middle East. [Siddharth Srivastava](#) held a presentation on Implementing Technology with mutuals with the case of [openMIS](#), an open source Insurance Management Information Systems. It was followed the second day by a panel discussion with [Damien Revault](#) speaking about the case of Chad and the relevance of the [Lomé Platform](#). With support of [Xuân-Mai Kempf](#), multiple contacts were established to facilitate Swiss TPH's work to support the development of inclusive [health insurance](#) systems to improve access to quality health care and to contribute to Universal Health Coverage. The Swiss TPH board signed the Lomé Platform driven by the African mutual movement, addressing governments to act and scale up mutual health insurance schemes. The platform is supported by the international community of mutuals. Further information: [https://www.aim-mutual.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/LOME\\_ENG\\_cahier.pdf](https://www.aim-mutual.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/LOME_ENG_cahier.pdf)



*Swiss TPH joins the Lomé platform and social health insurance development in Africa Photo: Swiss TPH*

### Healthy Life Project in Moldova: Pilot Project for Chronic Patients

Over the past six months, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's (SDC) "[Healthy Life](#)" project in Moldova piloted a Chronic Disease Self-Management Programme (CDSMP) with patients from five rural communities and technical support from the Danish Committee for Health Education. For six weeks, the CDSMP provided groups of 12 participants with weekly structured discussions and peer support on the daily life consequences of living with a chronic condition. Two trained facilitators – chronic patients themselves – guided group discussions centred on individual goal-settings for small lifestyle changes over the weeks (e.g. morning exercise, healthier diet, etc.). An evaluation of this pilot project revealed a significant increase of participants' self-efficacy after the CDSMP intervention. Self-efficacy is an individual's belief in his/her own abilities to perform challenging tasks, and it is an important predictor of behaviour change. This suggests that CDSMP participants in Moldova have improved their abilities to make positive changes in their lifestyles in relation to their chronic conditions.



*A CDSMP session in one of the five pilot communities Photo: Swiss TPH*

## Events

### Women Deliver Conference in June 2019 in Canada

Globally there are 1.8 billion people aged between 10-24 years, the majority living in low and middle-income countries. The improvement of young people's health and well-being needs to be at the core of our mandates if we are committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030 calls to leave no one behind.

A panel at Women Deliver Conference in 2019, convened by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and co-organized in collaboration between Swiss TPH, Network Medicus Mundi Switzerland, and the University of Glasgow, facilitated a discussion on how we can best reach the most vulnerable and marginalized young people through programming. The panel, moderated by a youth leader included panellists from the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), HRP, the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (at WHO), the Batonga Foundation, Love Matters India and The PACT. The entire panel discussion can be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p\\_sW9CxO9RU&t=3767s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_sW9CxO9RU&t=3767s). A webinar with reflections about the overall conference is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RO-d-j9NkNU&t=478s>



*Panellists at the joint discussion on including vulnerable and marginalised youth in programming. Photo: Oona Gemsch*

### Swiss TPH Spring Symposium: Medical Education

Swiss TPH's [Spring Symposium](#) brought together 140 professionals in medical education and vocational training from various countries and institutions. The participants shared their experiences and discussed the future of the training of doctors and nurses around the world. Vocational training courses from the health sector in Switzerland and sub-Saharan Africa were showcased, and ideas were exchanged on how to foster and strengthen self-directed continuing professional development programmes.

The opportunity was taken to organise a side event on 9 May at Swiss TPH where representatives from SDC projects on medical education convened to inform each other on achievements at each project site and to discuss policies and good practices. Project staff from Albania, Tajikistan and Moldova attended.



### Newly Awarded Projects

#### Tools for Integrated management of Childhood Illness (TIMCI)

Unitaid has awarded the project "Tools for Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (TIMCI)" to PATH, with Swiss TPH acting as sub-contractor. The project will start on 1 July 2019 with a total grant amount of USD 25 million of which around USD 5 million are administered by Swiss TPH. TIMCI will cover five countries: India, Tanzania, Senegal, Kenya and Myanmar. The project aims to improve the management of acute infections at the primary care level through an evidence-based introduction and scale-up of clinical-decision support algorithms, paired with data from Point of Care tools. The project tests, analyses and validates the potential of pulse oximeters within routine PHC delivery, an instrument measuring the heart rate and oxygen saturation in the blood. Clinical decision support systems and pulse oximeters have the potential for improving quality of care and treatment outcomes, resulting in lower child mortality rates. Expected impacts are the increasing detection of, and referral rates for, severe diseases. The research and innovation initiative will contribute to

sustainable performance improvements in health systems by generating efficiency gains in service delivery. TIMCI will benefit society by addressing health needs of the poor in rural areas, as well as reducing household out-of-pocket expenditures from febrile illnesses. A dedicated team of clinical and data experts has been established led by a project manager to implement the Swiss TPH contracted component.

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### **External Verification Assurance (EVA) Services for Unitaid**

Swiss TPH conducted an EVA for the Unitaid-funded Coalition PLUS HIV/HCV Affordability project. The objective of the review was to pay specific attention to the grantees headquarters and their oversight of contracted partners in the areas of financial project management, including expenditure verification as well as risk management and wrongdoing. The EVA therefore assessed Coalition PLUS capacity in terms of the availability, use and relevance of project management tools as well as their mechanisms for internal audit and reinforcement of controls.

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### **Monitoring Reviews in Chad and Mali for Gavi**

Swiss TPH has been performing two monitoring reviews in Chad and Mali. The monitoring reviews are following a Programme Capacity Assessment (PCA) performed in 2016 in both countries, covering the three key areas of Programme Management, Financial Management as well as Vaccine and Cold Chain Management (VCCM). The primary objective of the monitoring review was the assessment of any progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the PCA done in 2016, and the identification of the bottlenecks in this implementation. Recommendations will be summarized by Swiss TPH and put into Grant Management Requirements (GMR) and later shared with the respective Ministries of Health.

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### **WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases: Incorporation of Operational Research into Global Fund Programmes**

Swiss TPH has been performing an analysis of needs and opportunities to incorporate components of Operational Research to the programmes funded by the Global Fund. This project funded by the World Health Organization Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO TDR) is a follow up on a previous analysis from Swiss TPH undertaken in 2016. The selected countries are those with a high burden of TB, malaria or TB/HIV co-infection. Guided by this analysis, the main objective of the award is to create a detailed plan for technical assistance for the countries to integrate successfully Operational Research programmes into their implementation activities. This will increase efficiency in use of resources as well as efficacy in tackling the diseases.

### *Looking Forward*

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### **Join Swiss TPH at ECTMIH 2019 in Liverpool!**

The European Conference for Tropical Medicine and International Health provides a platform for sharing research and innovation in the field of tropical medicine and global health. Contacts are made, networks are strengthened, and new partnerships are formed. It also acts as a forum for reflection on the role of tropical medicine and global health, taking into account the biggest trends of the twenty-first century, such as human migration and climate change. There will be over 600 posters, 200 oral presentations, 30 organised sessions, as well as a multitude of workshops, symposia, social events and breakfast seminars. SCIH staff along with colleagues from the institute will be giving presentations and have had posters accepted. Have a look at the Swiss TPH sessions at ECTMIH: [Swiss TPH - ECTMIH 2019](#)



**11<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN CONGRESS  
ON TROPICAL MEDICINE AND  
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH**  
16-20 SEPTEMBER 2019  
LIVERPOOL, UK

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## The 10<sup>th</sup> Neglected Tropical Disease NGO Network Conference in Liverpool

The Conference will be concurrent with the ECTMIH from 17 to 19 September 2019 and aims to bring together communities who are collectively focused on research, implementation and policy work. This year's theme is 'Our Vision Beyond 2020: Many Partners, One Voice'. Swiss TPH's presence at the Conference will be to cement existing and forge new partnerships. Further information: [NTD NGO Network Conference 2019](#)



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## Winter Symposium: Climate Change and Health: Risks, Adaptation, Resilience and Co-Benefits

Hosted by Swiss TPH from 5 to 6 December, the Winter Symposium will address climate change and global health. Adaptation strategies will be sorely needed to prevent major negative health consequences in highly impacted countries and mitigation measures for substantial health co-benefits. Join us for a rich and intellectually stimulating programme of talks, discussions and debates on cutting-edge research and case studies from various world regions. To view the programme and for registration, please visit [Swiss TPH - Winter Symposium 2019](#).



### Publications

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#### Quality of Care for Non-Communicable Diseases in the Republic of Moldova: a survey across primary health facilities and pharmacies

The Republic of Moldova is faced with a high prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) related to lifestyle and health behavioural factors. Within the frame of the decentralisation reform, the primary health care system has been tasked to play an important role in the provision of preventative and curative NCD health services. There is limited evidence available on the actual coverage and quality of care provided. The paper aims to provide an updated overview of the coverage and quality of service provision in rural and urban regions of Moldova. Blake C, [Bohle L.F](#), Rotaru C, Zarbailov N, Sava V, [Secula F](#), [Prytherch H](#), Curteanu A. Quality of care for non-communicable diseases in the Republic of Moldova: a survey across primary health care facilities and pharmacies. *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2019; 19:353. DOI: [10.1186/s12913-019-4180-4](#)

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#### Community and Drug Distributor Perceptions and Experiences of Mass Drug Administration for the Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis: A Rapid Review of Qualitative Research

This article presents findings from a rapid review of qualitative research conducted to inform decision makers about community and drug distributor perceptions and experiences of mass drug administration campaigns for the elimination of [lymphatic filariasis](#). The authors focused on questions related to acceptability of the mass drug administration campaigns within these groups and their thoughts around the feasibility of planning and carrying out the campaigns. Ames HMR, [Zuske M](#), King JD, [Steinmann P](#), [Bosch-Capblanch X](#). Community and drug distributor perceptions and experiences of mass drug administration for the elimination of lymphatic filariasis: a rapid review of qualitative research. *Adv Parasitol.* 2019;103:117-149. DOI: [10.1016/bs.apar.2018.09.003](#)

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