



Newly Awarded

Novel adaptive intervention strategies for breaking schistosomiasis transmission in Zanzibar

The project funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has been set over a period of 24 months to develop and implement a rigorous adaptive intervention strategy that is able to sustain and advance the gains made in reducing urogenital schistosomiasis in Zanzibar. The project will guide policy makers for scaling up. The current investment will provide the evidence base and operational experience (Phase 1) to guide the development of such a scale up strategy (Phase 2). The project is a joint collaboration between Swiss TPH's Epidemiology and Public Health Department and SCIH and led by Stephanie Knopp and Peter Steinmann and his team.

BAG Human Research Act, Switzerland

As part of the Human Research Act, which came into force as a federal law in Switzerland in 2014, the Federal Office of Public Health is obliged to review its effectiveness, regulation and appropriateness. The Human Research Act lays down uniform provisions for human research. On the one hand, it is about protecting the dignity of human personality and health in research and, on the other hand, ensuring the quality and transparency of human research.

On behalf of the Federal Office of Public Health, the Swiss TPH carries out a study on the perspective of participants in clinical research. Team: Jana Gerold, Aita Signorell, Christian Burri

GIZ award – Capacity development and maintenance and user support

There are limited low cost technological solutions available in low-income country settings that allow different types of health insurers to professionally operate health insurance schemes. A project ran from 2012 to 2017 supporting the development of an open source health insurance management information system (openIMIS). A second phase has been awarded to Swiss TPH in December 2018 with combined funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and GIZ Development Agency. Together with EPOS, a health consulting firm, Swiss TPH will position openIMIS in the international eHealth landscape as the standard tool for managing beneficiary, payer and provider interaction through building capacity of users and stakeholders across existing countries and a wider network. The project will therefore require capacity building globally and regionally. An exciting positive development may also be the expansion from health insurance to wider social protection mechanisms such as the management of beneficiaries and administering benefits to them.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.openimis.org/>



(Photo: Use of openIMIS, SCIH/Swiss TPH)

PADS – Supporting health improvement in two districts of Chad

Funded by SDC with a budget of CHF 12 million and working with the Centre de Support en Santé Internationale (CSSI) and the Ministry of Health Chad, this second phase project, which runs over four years, will broadly focus on the strengthening governance of the health sector. Specifically, the project will contribute to a better use of resources for health through planning and coordination of partners in their area of intervention. The project aims to improve the all-round quality of care for clients. Capacity building exercises and performance-based contracts will allow for more transparency in the management and governance of health units, more equity to access health services and continue improving the quality and availability of services. SCIH will also be involved in leading the project mid-evaluation.

The main achievements from the first phase (2014 – 2018) were:

- 20,000 and nomads and 50'000 cattle vaccinated,
- Improvement of the quality of health care services and,
- A major contribution to universal health coverage.

For more information, please visit the project's website: <https://www.pads-tchad.org/> and watch the project video in [English](#) or [French](#).

Business process mapping to strengthen the design of SMS for Life 2.0 (SMS4L2) in Zanzibar

The pre-inception phase of the SMS for Life 2.0 (SMS4L2) project funded by Novartis Social Business is designed to work closely with stakeholders, in a participatory manner to identify and evaluate the effectiveness of current methods and to establish a new digital method to ensure medicines management on the island of Zanzibar, Tanzania. SCIH will work within a public-private partnership both to strengthen systems and to conduct operational research to inform the design of future national medicines management in different low- and middle-income settings.

Jazia Prime Vendor System in Tanzania - from pilot to scale

Access to health care is determined by availability of medical supplies. To tackle the problem of medicine stock-outs, procedures to procure complementary supplies from a single private vendor in a pooled regional contract approach were piloted in Dodoma region, Tanzania. The Jazia Prime Vendor System (PVS) is a unique public-private partnership that supplements the national Medical Stores Department (MSD) with quality and affordable supplies. Due to this innovative concept and additive measures such as auditing and coaching, mean medicine availability increased by over 40% between 2011 and 2018. Convincing results and policy dialogue has led to national roll-out. The Jazia PVS was expanded from the pilot region to all 26 regions of Tanzania mainland. Procurement of additional medical supplies when MSD is out of stock now operates within a culture of transparency and accountability. [Read more](#)



(Photo: Thomas Schupisser in Tanzania on behalf of Swiss TPH)

Baseline survey on Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviours and Practice relating to water supply, sanitation services and hygiene in Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh

Since August 2017, Bangladesh has been facing new humanitarian challenges in the Cox's Bazar district. An arrival of an estimated 702,160 Rohingya refugees who had crossed over to Bangladesh following the violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state joined the 212,000 persons who had fled in earlier waves of displacement, bringing at total in February 2019 to around 909,774 Rohingya refugees. As of late February 2019, there were camps and settlements, ranging in size from 9,500 refugees in Ali Khali, to more than 612,900 refugees in the Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion Site. This is now the largest refugee camp in the world. Refugees arrived at the new proposed site before infrastructure and services could be established.



(Photo: Camp 8W, Helena Greter, SCIH)

To reduce the pressure on water and sanitation facilities and to ensure basic hygiene needs, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector has focused on building latrines, sanitation blocks and ensuring clean water provision. SCIH supported through UNICEF funding is now looking at the communities' beliefs, motivators and barriers regarding good sanitation and hygiene practices, which are important issues considering the bottlenecks and tensions related to the WASH area in the refugee camps. The specific qualitative information related to Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviours and Practices among the communities will assist UNICEF in developing context-adapted and acceptable WASH interventions. The quantitative information focuses on water treatment and safe water, sanitation, hygiene and menstrual management hygiene built on the RANAS conceptual framework, which is designed to identify underlying factors that promote or inhibit behaviour change. The data collected will provide basis to develop targeted interventions that involve behaviour change of the target population.

Events

November 2018: SDG Symposium in Basel

World leaders are called upon to transform the world by 2030 through a rigorous pursuit of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a universal call to action to end poverty, protect our planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. SDG 3 is the only one containing a broad health-related goal, namely, "Good health and well-being for people". Swiss TPH and the Swiss Network for International Studies jointly hosted a one-day symposium in November, inviting ecologists, epidemiologists, public health specialists, members of international and non-governmental organisations, and civil society to review and discuss progress in sustainable development. The discussion emphasised on health in the SDG era, and how to shape, implement and accelerate transformational actions to reach the 2030 Agenda.

The presentations and further information can be found [here](#).



(Photo: Joachim Pelikan, Swiss TPH)

Achieving UHC: Symposium on health insurance for the informal sector in Dar es Salaam

In Tanzania, two thirds of the population lacks basic health insurance. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) together with Swiss TPH and other partners now support the Tanzanian government in implementing a social health insurance scheme to address this gap. International partners gathered in Dar es Salaam on 12-13 February 2019 for a symposium to explore the role of health insurance in achieving universal health coverage.

At least half of the world's population cannot access essential health services, according to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank. Each year, out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures push 100 million people into extreme poverty. In Tanzania, two thirds of the population lacks basic health insurance. [Read more](#)



(Hon. Umyy A. Mwalimu, Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (middle) and Ms. Florence Tinguely Mattli, Swiss Ambassador to Tanzania (right) at the symposium on Health Insurance for the Informal Sector in Dar es Salaam. Photo: HPSS)

Looking Forward

Spring Symposium on 8 May 2019: Human Resources for Health: Innovations in Medical Education, Vocational Training and Continuing Professional Development

The availability of a well-trained and motivated health workforce remains critical to the achievement of Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. In this respect, the symposium will share Switzerland's experience and how this is leveraged to modernize the training of doctors and nurses around the world, showcase vocational training courses from the health sector in Switzerland and sub-Saharan Africa, and foster exchange on strengthening self-directed continuing professional development programmes. The symposium takes place on 8 May 2019 in Basel.

For more information and registration:

<https://www.swisstph.ch/en/about/events/spring-symposium-2019/>



(Photo: Thomas Schupisser in Tajikistan on behalf of Swiss TPH)

Selected SCIH Publications Through 2018

Auer C, Kiefer S, Zuske M, Schindler C, **Wyss K**, Blum J, **Bosch-Capblanch X**, Widmer U, Sauthier S, Janssens JP, Bossard K, Chatonnet C, Mazza-Stalder J, Zacek B, Zellweger J-P, Altpeter E, Mäusezahl M. Health-seeking behaviour and treatment delay in patients with pulmonary tuberculosis in Switzerland: some slip through the net. *Swiss Med Wkly.* 2018; 148(35-36):w14659. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4414/smw.2018.14659>

Bernasconi A, Crabbé F, Rossi R, Qani I, **Vanobberghen A, Raab M**, Du Mortier S. The ALMANACH Project: Preliminary results and potentiality from Afghanistan. *Int J Med Inform.* 2018; 114:130-135. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijmedinf.2017.12.021>

Crivelli M, **Wyss K**, Grize L, **Matthys B**, Aebi T, Zemp E. Are overweight and obesity in children risk factors for anemia in early childhood? Results from a national nutrition survey in Tajikistan. *Int J Public Health.* 2018; 63(4):491-499. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00038-018-1088-4>

Elouard Y, Weiss C, **Martin-Hilber A**, Merten S. Sexual violence as a risk factor for family planning-related outcomes among young Burundian women. *Int J Public Health.* 2018; 63:13-22. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00038-017-0988-z>

Liwanag HJ, **Wyss K**. What conditions enable decentralization to improve the health system? Qualitative analysis of perspectives on decision space after 25 years of devolution in the Philippines. *PLoS One.* 2018; 13(11):e0206809. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0206809>

Oraro T, Ngube N, Atohmbom GY, **Srivastava S, Wyss K**. The influence of gender and household headship on voluntary health insurance: the case of North-West Cameroon. *Health Policy Plan.* 2018; 33(2):163-170. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czx152>

Richardus JH, Kasang C, Mieras L, Anand S, Bonenberger M, Ignotti E, **Barth-Jaeggi T, Greter H, Tiwari A, Cavaliero A, Steinmann P**. Minimal essential data to document contact tracing and single dose rifampicin (SDR) for leprosy control in routine settings. *Lepr Rev.* 2018; 89:2-12.

Weiss C, Elouard Y, **Gerold J**, Merten S. Training in youth-friendly service provision improves nurses' competency level in the Great Lakes Region. *Int J Public Health.* 2018; 63(6):753-763. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00038-018-1106-6>

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