

New funding round for University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa Integration of digital approaches for improved health care in sub- Saharan Africa

1) Background

The 2030 Agenda describes under Goal 3 the provision of basic health services as a means to improve the quality of life. BMZ's Marshall Plan with Africa underlines the fundamental importance of infrastructure, equipment and skilled workers as well as the creation of an enabling environment for private investment. The Plan explicitly mentions health care and digitisation as contributions to meeting basic needs. Digital applications for improved health care in the context of international cooperation also occupy a prominent position in the current coalition agreement. The agreement stipulates that digitisation should be used to boost development and eHealth measures in particular should be promoted. BMZ sees information and communications technologies (ICT) as 'an important tool for improving health care access and quality and for making its administrative structures more efficient.'

In 2016, German Development Minister Gerd Müller launched the initiative Hospital Partnerships – Partners Strengthen Health. The aim is to ensure that the quality and efficiency of patient and health care in developing and emerging economies is improved on a sustainable basis. This is to be achieved by establishing partnerships of equals between German and foreign health institutions in the field of training and professional development for health personnel and providing advice on optimising structures and processes in public health institutions.

In this context, BMZ sees University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH as an important contribution to improving patient care in Africa. It would like to continue promoting such partnerships with a new thematic focus on eHealth. The funding programme thus promotes the use of eHealth as well as the participation of the private sector.

2) Goal of university and hospital partnerships

In the case of university and hospital partnerships, the focus is on cooperation as partners. The long-term and equal partnerships strengthen the professional and management competencies of the participating institutions and specialists in the long term. This is achieved through needs-based professional development, support in the area of organisational development and through design and research-related activities, especially implementation-oriented, operational research. Diagnostics, therapy, care and prevention and thus the quality of health services in partner countries are improved in the process.

In the current phase, the university and hospital partnerships will contribute to improving patient care in selected African countries with the help of innovative digital applications.

Member of



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Since 2018, GIZ has followed the digital-by-default approach, i.e. digital processes should support projects and be systematically taken into account as early as the concept stage of the project. Digital technologies cannot replace what is not available, but they can accelerate transformation processes. This approach is at the core of the new University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa and will be applied and documented in this funding round.

University and hospital partnerships can also offer an ideal multi-actor cooperation mechanism for the German and African private sector. Together with German and African universities and hospitals, GIZ would like to explore opportunities for cooperation with the IT and health care sectors. Partnership projects are therefore invited to obtain support services from IT and health care companies during project implementation, e.g. for the development and implementation of technologies and innovations in diagnostics and therapy, for the further training of health personnel or even for investments. The involvement of the private sector is not mandatory; however, GIZ will provide technical assistance to partnerships during the formulation of the project proposals and during the implementation of the projects for this regard, if desired.

3) Who can apply?

- A university and hospital partnership is headed by a German public-law or non-profit institution, which submits the joint project proposal of the partner institutions involved. If a grant is awarded, it becomes a contractual partner of the GIZ. The basis for a grant is the General Auxiliary Conditions for Grants for the Promotion of Projects (ANBest P) of 2018 (Annex 2 to VV No. 5.1 of § 44 BHO).
- An African partner institution must be a hospital at regional or tertiary level. It can become a grant recipient if funds are transferred by the lead institution. It should have its headquarters in sub-Saharan Africa and it must be a legal entity with a legal capacity of its own (public or non-profit).
- If applicable, another German partner institution (also a grant recipient in the case of on-lending) must be a German public-law or non-profit institution.

4) What are the selection criteria?

German health institutions are hereby invited, together with their African partners, to formulate outlines of project proposals that correspond to the framework conditions of this announcement (see above). The following aspects will be taken into account when selecting partnership projects:

Must-Criteria

- **Long-term and equal partnerships:** Based on mutual interest, trust and equality, the common goals serve to improve medical care in partner hospitals. The partnerships should build on the existing regional and national health programmes and strategies of the partner countries, respond to local needs and align with [ESTHER quality criteria](#). Preference is given to South-South cooperation or partnerships with more than one hospital in an African country.
- The focus must be on **training** and exchange of experience with the aim of optimising the quality of medical care provided by the African partner. Training components for the implementation or use of the digital component should also be an integral part of project proposals.

- **Medical practice, feasibility and sustainability:** Interventions should correspond to the current discourse in the relevant medical fields and to international standards. Project proposals must describe the processes to be digitalised. The proposed projects must ensure the feasibility of the concepts described and guarantee their sustainability during and after the project period (e.g. maintenance aspects, training, funding needed).
- Interventions must be planned and implemented in a **gender-sensitive** way (e.g. professional development of women in areas where they are underrepresented should be supported, or training measures should be monitored on the basis of gender-disaggregated data).

Optional-Criteria

- **Private sector involvement:** e.g. as service provider for IT services or the supply of equipment; donations in kind; for potential separate financing alongside this funding programme.
- **Synergies and complementarities** in partner countries: Where available, partnerships should be discussed with German development cooperation health programmes.
- Integration of **integrated experts via CIM** via a separate application and financing is welcomed. To this end, the African partner would have to be prepared to conclude an employment contract, usually lasting two years, and pay a local salary.

5) What can funding be requested for?

Direct costs:

- **Staff costs** (e.g. staff of the beneficiary or, in the case of on-lending, of its partner institution)
- **External experts/consultants** (e.g. fees for translators, trainers, IT service providers)
- **Travel/transport costs** (e.g. flight costs, accommodation, subsistence allowance, visa, insurance)
- **Event costs** (e.g. room rent, catering)
- **Procurement of material goods** (e.g. equipment costs)
- **Other costs/consumables** (e.g. training materials, conference fees, maintenance and hosting of software)
- **Administrative overhead:** as a percentage of total direct costs

Operational research is eligible for promotion to a limited extent. Partnerships that focus exclusively on operational research are not eligible.

6) Responsibilities and commitments

- The partnership must be implemented by qualified personnel on both sides throughout the duration of the project and cannot be delegated to junior personnel. The management of the lead German partner institution must actively support the partnership and provide staff. However, this does not exclude the participation of junior staff overall. Doctoral students from the African and German partner institutions must be supported to the same extent.
- The lead institution is responsible for regular reporting and billing to GIZ. GIZ (University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa) is informed about the implementation status of the projects in semi-annual status reports. Details are laid down in the grant agreement.

- Continuous monitoring on the basis of indicators is an integral part of the project. The partners must agree to forward data/information to GIZ.
- Partner institutions must be willing to participate in coordination and networking activities, knowledge management and public relations work for BMZ (e.g. short messages for the website or for monitoring ([EFFECt tool](#))).

7) Subsidy amount

The partnerships can be supported for a period of up to 22 months with a budget of EUR 150,000 to EUR 300,000. The focus should be on capacity development to improve health care delivery at the African partner hospital supported by digital tools.

8) Submission of partnership project outlines

The following documents are to be sent to the funding programme University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa (hkp@giz.de) by **31.05.2019**:

- **Form 1 project outline** signed by the lead German partner institution
- **Privacy policy** for project managers
- German lead partner institution/other German recipients if applicable:
Current (provisional) exemption notice or annex to the corporate income tax notice issued by the tax office (see § 5 Para. 1 No. 9 KStG) or, in the case of a non-public institution, statutes, copy of excerpt from the Commercial Register
- African partner institution(s): proof of the legal personality of the institution
(e.g. articles of association, registration, if applicable founding documents (indication of domicile, year of formation), tax number, other proof customary in the country)
- No formal documentation of a potential involvement by the private sector is necessary at this stage. However, if available, informal expressions of interest can be added to the application (e.g. email exchange)
- Evidence that the planned activities have been discussed between the partner institutions
(e.g. Memorandum of Understanding of an existing partnership/Letter of Intent of the partner institution/Confirmation that the proposed partnership has been agreed with all partner institutions in terms of content and that the text of the notification is known to all/Indication that top-level authorities have already expressed their support for health partnerships/Other arrangements. A future agreement between the partners should, based on the grant contract, deal with the technical content and commercial cooperation, since the appropriate use of the grant at home and abroad must be proven by the submission of project reports and proof

Questions can be sent to hkp@giz.de.

9) Next steps – evaluation and selection

- Webinar on **15.5.2019 from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm CET**: information event in English to clarify questions on the project outline. You can participate under the following [link](#). Or by telephone: +49 619 679 4018 (conference code: 25076238).
- In order to assess the project outline and eligibility according to the above mentioned criteria, the funding programme University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa will carry out an evaluation by **17.06.2019**.
- Suitable institutions will be informed by **17.06.2019** and invited to a University and Hospital Partnerships Meeting.
- The meeting will take place on **28.06.2019** in Eschborn (possible topics: Requirements and expectations of the project application, questions and answers).
- Grant applications in German (cover letter) with detailed proposals for partnership projects on eHealth in German, English or French according to a format provided should be submitted no later than **31.07.2019**. The funding programme provides an IT committee with expertise in the field of eHealth and public health to advise the partnerships on the preparation of project proposals.
- GIZ and external experts will evaluate the grant applications by **23.08.2019** at the latest. Once a grant application has been approved by BMZ, the Federal Foreign Office and GIZ, GIZ will draw up a grant agreement in German with the lead German partner institution.

Annex 1: Partnership project outline

Annex 2: Privacy policy

Explanatory links

[BMZ Toolkit – Digitalisation in Development Cooperation](#)
[ESTHER-Quality Standards](#)
[CIM](#)
[EFFECTtool](#)