

University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa



**HOSPITAL
PARTNERSHIPS**

What do we wish to achieve?

Medical expertise, state-of-the-art technologies and successful approaches for optimising medical processes are in great demand among health professionals in many African countries. German organisations are well-known and respected partners in this context. The Hospital Partnerships – Partners Strengthen Health initiative promotes partnership projects in the health sector. These projects provide health professionals with continuing training and strengthen health care institutions in low-income and medium-income countries. The initiative is currently supporting two funding programmes. The Health Partnerships – Global funding programme implements projects around the world in various specialist fields. There are two funding rounds per year. The University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa programme, on the other hand, has a regional and thematic focus. Universities and hospitals in Germany with partners in sub-Saharan Africa are usually eligible to apply for funding every three years for a specific specialist area.

Who we are

Hospital Partnerships – Partners Strengthen Health is a joint initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (EKFS). Cooperation partners are the German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The initiative's secretariat is located at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The hospital partnerships are also part of the international ESTHER Alliance, whose quality standards are applied in the initiative's funding programmes.

The funding programmes



What are typical features of our partnership projects?

The University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa funding programme responds to the existing need for sharing knowledge between African countries and Germany. The partnership projects pool the medical expertise and experience of German and African health care institutions, with support being mainly geared towards universities, university medical centres, teaching hospitals and research institutes. The partnerships work together both in North-South and in South-South cooperation arrangements and set a thematic priority in each funding round.

They strengthen health care institutions by making elements of health care provision more effective and efficient. Funding of up to EUR 150.000 is available for knowledge sharing through initial and continuing training, temporary placements and staff exchanges between the partner countries, and for minor accompanying research projects. To improve patient safety, we provide support for the fields of quality management, hygiene, resistance to antibiotics and the prevention of epidemics, among others.



Intubation training using a manikin, Tanzania © GIZ / Lisa-Marie-Pütz



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



What shape does a successful partnership take?

The partnership projects are practical and needs-based, and aim to establish or strengthen long-term institutional partnerships between clinical practitioners on an equal footing.

Many examples prove the success of the funding programme. Worm infections in children have been curbed thanks to a partnership project between Butare (Rwanda) and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Another success story is the cooperation between Mbeya Referral Hospital in Tanzania and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich. The introduction of telepathological diagnosis at Mbeya significantly boosted the hospital's capacity to detect cervical cancer. In Cameroon, Rostock University Medical Center supported training for lab staff and an increase in laboratory equipment at Limbe Provincial Hospital. Opportunistic infections in HIV-positive patients are now diagnosed more frequently and at an earlier stage, which has increased the survival rate of patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Whereas in 2008, 6,8% of HIV-positive patients died during the first year of treatment, the figure dropped to just 2% in 2012. Comparable success was achieved by a partnership project between Virika Hospital in Uganda and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. While only 67% of HIV patients adhered closely to their treatment regimen in 2010, two years later this figure had risen to 87%, thanks to training measures.

Where does our priority lie?

In the current support phase (2017-2019), our 15 partnership projects are focusing on patient safety. While the Western health care system is increasingly adopting policies of pro-active error management, the conditions for ensuring patient safety in African countries with weak health systems are still nowhere near adequate. The current partnership projects on patient safety are based first and foremost on approaches that are scientifically sound and are geared to practical application. Country-specific solutions are being devised and piloted on a joint basis to address urgent problems related to the quality of care. The challenges involved include the risk of infection, resistance to antibiotics, lack of hygiene, rational medical therapy, laboratory safety and waste management.

Current partnership projects under the University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa programme

Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin	Princess Christian Maternity Hospital, Sierra Leone; Holy Family Virika Hospital, Uganda
Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin	University Teaching Hospital of Butare, Rwanda
Robert Koch Institute, Berlin	Nigeria Center for Disease Control, ECOWAS Regional Center for Disease Control, Nigeria
Robert Koch Institute, Berlin	DG Regional Hospital of Faranah, Guinea; Central University Hospital of Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire
University Hospital Bonn	Regional Referral Hospital Lindi and Regional Referral Hospital Mtwara, Tanzania
University Hospital Düsseldorf	Asella Teaching Hospital, Tanzania
University Hospital Frankfurt	Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenya
University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf Bernhard-Nocht-Institute for Tropical Medicine	University Jean Lorougnon Guède, General Hospital Abobo Nord, Côte d'Ivoire; Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital Kumasi, Ghana
University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf	College of Medicine, University of Malawi, Malawi
Heidelberg University Hospital	Ignace Deen University Hospital, Guinea
Medical Center of Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich	Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital, Mbeya Medical Research Centre, Tanzania; Jimma University Specialized Hospital, Ethiopia
Rostock University Medical Center, Rostock; Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane, Neuruppin	Regional Hospital 'Alpha Oumar Diallo' of Kindia, Guinean-German Medical Laboratory, Guinea
Rostock University Medical Center, Rostock; Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane, Neuruppin	Regional Hospital Limbe, Regional Hospital Bamenda, Cameroon
German Institute for Medical Mission	Christian Health Association of Liberia
RKU – University and Rehabilitation Clinics of Ulm	Tumbi Designated Regional Referral Hospital, Tanzania

Interested in learning more?

Feel free to contact us at:

Regional Programme University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa

Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5

65760 Eschborn

Germany

Dr. Wolfgang Jessen

Phone +49 6196 79-1425

Email esther-hkp@giz.de

Web www.klinikpartnerschaften.de

Member of:



In cooperation with:



Implemented by:

