

BACKGROUND

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH coordinates Germany's contribution to the ESTHER Alliance on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the ESTHER Germany Secretariat. The Secretariat instigates and facilitates hospital and university twinning arrangements, establishes and promotes networks between institutions in Germany and in partner countries and liaises with relevant ministries, the European Commission and other actors such as the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP).



COUNTRY PARTNERS

As at 2010, ESTHER Germany is supporting partnerships with institutions from eight African countries and one Asian country. The partner institutions are predominantly national and regional hospitals. The German ESTHER network is comprised of Germany's main medical and academic institutions specialising in HIV treatment and other relevant fields.

North/South partnerships:

Africa:

Ivory Coast (Bouaké)	↔	Germany (Cologne)
Cameroon (Bamenda)	↔	Germany (Hamburg)
Cameroon (Limbe)	↔	Germany (Rostock)
Ghana (Kumasi)	↔	Germany (Hamburg)
Tanzania (Mbeya)	↔	Germany (Munich)
Tanzania (Tanga)	↔	Germany (Berlin)
Rwanda (Butare)	↔	Germany (Berlin)
Uganda (Fort Portal)	↔	Germany (Berlin)
Malawi (Lilongwe)	↔	Germany (Heidelberg)

Asia:

Nepal (Kathmandu)	↔	Germany (Hamburg)
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South/South partnership:

Cameroon (Bamenda)	↔	Tanzania (Tanga)
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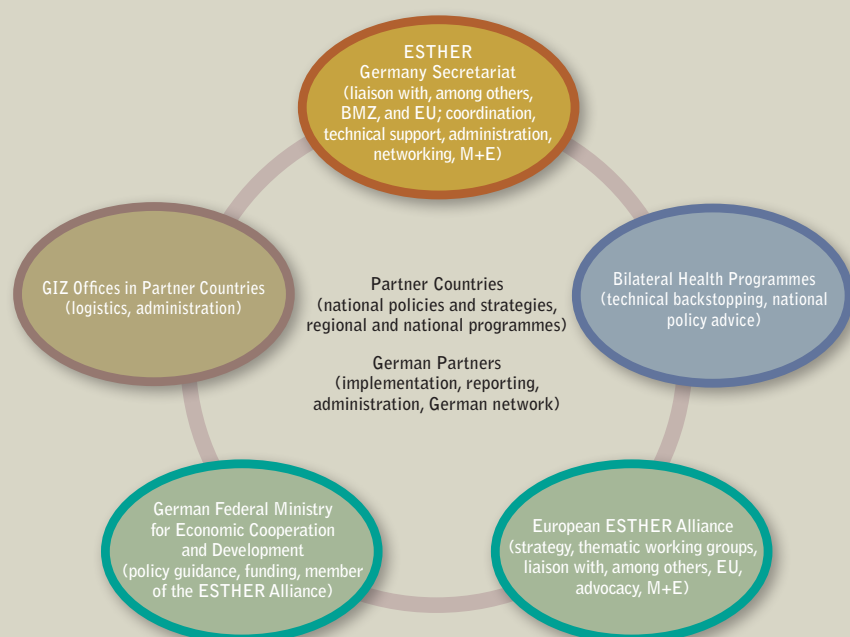
BASIC PRINCIPLES

ESTHER Germany aims to improve access to and raise the quality of services provided in the area of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support as well as services relating to other diseases. It strives to help partner countries meet the challenges they are facing with regard to their health systems. The twinned institutions engage in long-term partnerships, exchanging technical and scientific know-how, and drawing on the expertise of more than fifty internationally recognised experts and their institutions. The partners are encouraged to conduct joint operational research, approved by the respective ethics committees and carried out in accordance with national and international standards. For ESTHER Germany, operational research constitutes a promising tool for joint Capacity Development and is eligible for funding providing:

- it is based on the partners' needs;
- it aims to improve the quality of medical services; and
- it is conducted in an equal and participatory manner.

The partnerships build on institutional commitment and are aligned to national health and HIV policies and strategies. They complement regional and national programmes in partner countries, including German bilateral development cooperation programmes and other European ESTHER partnerships. The partnerships aim to develop effective interventions that can be scaled up countrywide.

ESTHER GERMANY - A MULTI LEVEL PLATFORM:



MAKING ESTHER PARTNERSHIPS WORK

As at 2010, BMZ is supporting twelve partnerships between German university hospitals and respective institutions in eight partner countries. Capacity Development is at the core of these partnerships and is seen as an holistic approach through which people, organisations and societies mobilise, maintain, adapt and expand their ability to manage their own sustainable development. Common project ideas, joint activities and continuous communication and exchange generate the desired results.

RESULTS-BASED MONITORING

ESTHER partnerships place a strong focus on results. Specific objectives and indicators are defined for each partnership. Monitoring and regular reports demonstrate the achievements made towards the objectives of the partnerships. Monitoring visits by representatives of the ESTHER Secretariat and external reviews support the steering of the partnerships and stimulate constructive discussions about strategies chosen and results achieved. Beyond this, the results-based monitoring promotes learning processes and lays the foundation for accountability.



The ESTHER Secretariat channels BMZ funds to support the following activities:

- short-term assignment of experts to provide technical support and advisory services
- training of staff in partner countries and in Germany as well as staff exchanges
- small-scale procurement of material and equipment
- joint operational research
- South-South exchange



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008-2009

In 2010, a study was carried out to review the activities and the results of four partnerships and the Secretariat.

Below are some highlights from the study:

Limbe Provincial Hospital, Cameroon - University of Rostock Medical School

- Medical personnel and researchers make use of improved lab infrastructure and the increased capacity of lab staff
- Publication of the first results of the research on *Pneumocystis jirovecii* resistance and the prevalence of opportunistic infections

Bombo Regional Hospital, Tanzania - Charité University - Medicine Berlin

- An existing Quality Improvement Assessment Tool was extended to ART, VCT and PMTCT

Kamuzu Central Hospital Lilongwe, Malawi - University Hospitals Bonn, Heidelberg, and Cologne

- Development of protocols and guidelines for the management of 13 medical conditions

Bamenda Provincial Hospital, Cameroon - University Medical Centre Hamburg Eppendorf and Bernhard-Nocht-Institute

- Implementation of "Continuous Medical Education"
- Implementation of an infection control programme

Between 2007 and 2009, approximately 100,000 PLHIV were reached through the interventions of the ESTHER Germany's eight partnerships.

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