



PROFILE

PROgramme to **F**oster **I**nnovation, **L**earning
and **E**vidence in HIV and Health Programmes
of German Development Cooperation

Our mandate

PROFILE is a supranational sector programme with four independent but interacting units (components). As part of GIZ's Competence Centre for Health (organisational unit OE 4320), the sector programme works on an intersectoral and cross-cutting basis (see matrix of subject areas and cooperation on last page).

On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), we handle a large number of subject areas and instruments. We work in close cooperation and agreement with the Ministry, other sector projects and bilateral programmes of German development cooperation, as well as with German and international organisations and NGOs. This publication is directed towards interested partners and experts working in related areas in Germany and abroad, cooperation partners in Germany, and health programmes and health- and educational institutions in partner countries.

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The challenge

Despite many successful national and international efforts, the health status in partner countries is often still poor. This is a crucial barrier to development and significantly reduces the quality of life and life expectancy of the people concerned. In this context, HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) continues to be a major adverse factor in many countries. UNAIDS estimates that there are currently around 34 million people living with HIV around the globe, 68% of them in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2010, there were 2.7 million new infections worldwide. In order to improve the health situation in partner countries, there is a need for high-quality health care that is accessible to all, fairly financed, and which guarantees the right to health for everyone, especially poor and disadvantaged people.

If we are to meet the Millennium Development Goal health targets (MDGs 4-6) that the international community has committed itself to achieving, disease-specific interventions must be better embedded in the general services provided by health systems. In addition, cross-sectoral approaches towards improving health including other priority sectors, as well as interactions between strategic areas within the health sector have to be further strengthened. This applies in particular to the linkages between HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

So far, development cooperation has made relatively little use of the resources and expertise of German universities and hospitals. Greater cooperation between universities, hospitals and research institutions in Germany and partner countries could strengthen health care and research structures in the partner countries, enable a transfer of knowledge, and identify and answer research questions that are relevant for development. Increasing the efficiency of development cooperation is a defined goal of the German

Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Yet, so far, the customary procedures for evaluating national and international health programmes do not always meet the increasingly stringent international requirements for results measurement. This makes it more difficult to assess the results of German development cooperation in the health sector and to achieve the growth in efficiency that is desired from a policy perspective.

The objective

PROFILE aims to support decision-makers and implementing organisations of German development cooperation in the health and HIV sector and to provide innovative results-based approaches that are of direct benefit to people in the partner countries.

Our services

- ✚ Technical and strategic advice to policy-makers and German development cooperation organisations on HIV and health
- ✚ Initiation and expansion of university and hospital partnerships (twinning) related to HIV and other subject areas within the European ESTHER¹ Alliance
- ✚ Facilitating better managing for development results in health and HIV projects/programmes
- ✚ Human Capacity Development: human resource development and continuing professional development (CPD) for medical and non-medical specialists and teachers in the field of HIV

¹ Ensemble pour une Solidarité Thérapeutique Hospitalière en Réseau (European network to promote university and hospital partnerships)







Advising BMZ on HIV and health

The first component involves providing advice to BMZ on HIV and related health issues. Furthermore it includes developing new approaches and disseminating proven approaches to HIV prevention and treatment respectively which can be used by German development cooperation actors. The strategies devised by PROFILE are human rights based and gender sensitive. Our services range from designing innovative approaches and coordinating them with other German development cooperation organisations, to preparation of and participating in committees of international organisations and helping other German development cooperation sectors to mainstream HIV as a cross-cutting issue. Beyond this, PROFILE publishes the *German Health Practice Collection*, a series of publications that are quality-assured through peer reviews and which appraise and present the innovations and results of bilateral development cooperation projects and programmes in the health sector.

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An example from the field: Building an effective response to the causes and impacts of HIV calls for contributions from all sectors of society. That is why PROFILE supports HIV mainstreaming in German development cooperation projects and programmes. With support from the components, development measures in regions that are severely affected by HIV systematically integrate HIV issues into all their activities. In doing so, they examine whether the epidemic has a negative effect on the project and conversely whether the project unwittingly contributes to spreading the virus. Activities are then adjusted or complemented by HIV-specific measures, in response to the specific situation, sector, and partner requirements. Thus, for example, teachers and pupils in Malawi can now protect themselves better against HIV because the subject has been integrated into school curricula and teacher trainings as part of GIZ's Basic Education Programme. Approaches like these ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of German development measures. Internal mainstreaming includes carrying out HIV workplace programmes for employees and their relatives in German development cooperation's partner countries. The programmes explain the risks of HIV transmission, the ways to prevent it, and help to prevent stigmatisation and discrimination at the workplace. In 2010, some 1,000 seconded and 7,000 national staff members were reached. The component's task is to continuously fine-tune the mainstreaming methods and ensure that the relevant expertise is made available to all German development cooperation actors and their partners.





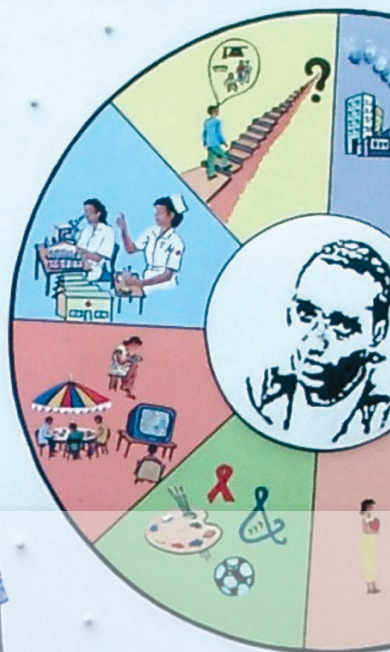
University and hospital partnerships (ESTHER)

The second component initiates new and supports existing partnerships between hospitals, universities and other institutions in Germany and partner countries within the European ESTHER Alliance. It aims to improve prevention, care and treatment for patients with HIV in particular, but also for those affected by other diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria. This is achieved by expanding technical skills – for example through continuous medical education for health specialists, organisational development or joint operational research. The network was founded by France, Spain and Luxembourg in 2002. Germany joined the Alliance in 2004; since January 2007, PROFILE has been coordinating the German contribution on behalf of BMZ. Within a timeframe of only two years, 10 partnerships have already been established between university medical centres in Germany and hospitals in Africa and Asia. A South-South partnership was also recently set up between the regional hospitals in Bombo, Tanzania and Bamenda, Cameroon. It is estimated that the hospital and university partnerships reach as many as 150,000 patients living with or affected by HIV each year. About 10% of them are children.

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An example from the field: One of the areas Bamenda Regional Hospital (BRH) in Cameroon focuses on is improving the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis. In particular people living with HIV have a higher risk of contracting the disease. BRH has been working in this field since 2008 in partnership with the University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf, Section Tropical Medicine/Infectious Diseases, and the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg (BNI). Reciprocal visits, observation placements, lectures and training courses have helped to modify processes at BRH such that both hospital staff and patients at the hospital now run a lower risk of becoming infected with tuberculosis. Two German doctors handle key areas of the continuing, patient-focused training of medical specialists in Bamenda. In addition, with funding from WHO, the national TB programme and BMZ, the partners have succeeded in setting up a regional reference laboratory for tuberculosis and in providing continuing professional staff development. The laboratory is an important element of the nationwide diagnosis and research. Another key element of the partnership is conducting joint operational research projects to develop research capacities. A network to facilitate scientific exchange between German, African and other international partners is currently being set up.

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Results measurement and operational health research

The third component is designed to enhance the quality of results measurement in German development cooperation projects and programmes working in the field of health and HIV. To this end, current practice at GIZ and KfW was assessed and a review was conducted on how international organisations measure and report their results in the health sector. This assessment and survey facilitated recommendations on how to improve the measurement and presentation of results of German development cooperation projects, as well as concrete implementation proposals. The component also provides a toolbox containing practical guidelines for designing monitoring and evaluation systems for the programme's day-to-day work, and helps health projects to put the recommendations into practice. Applied research projects are also carried out, usually in cooperation between research institutions in the partner countries and German or European academics using a twinning approach, to measure the results of typical interventions in health projects. These arrangements always involve both, transfer of knowledge and capacity development. Together with the systematic processing of evidence from studies, promoting contacts between health projects and research institutions serves to improve the effectiveness of projects commissioned by BMZ to strengthen health systems in the partner countries in the long term.

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An example from the field: Peer education, mass media campaigns, the Join-In Circuit, intergenerational dialogue and social marketing of family planning methods are examples of methods used in behaviour change communication (BCC). German development cooperation uses these in different ways. As part of its conceptual and practical work to improve results measurement in health projects and programmes, PROFILE has published practical guidelines on the methodology for evaluating BCC interventions. These guidelines were used in a study supported by PROFILE to measure the results of the Join-In Circuit in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Join-In Circuit is an interactive, innovative and flexible approach for preventing HIV and providing health education on subjects related to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Since 2003, it has been adapted and applied in more than 20 partner countries. The study in Bosnia and Herzegovina uses a comparison group design that includes an elaborate baseline survey of knowledge and attitudes related to HIV and general health topics, sexual risk behaviour, alcohol consumption, smoking and gender role models in young people attending secondary schools. It includes an additional data survey six months after the Join-In-Circuit intervention. Communities in which the Join-In-Circuit is applied with GIZ support on behalf of BMZ are compared with communities where peer-education is offered additionally, and with communities where no intervention takes place at all. This permits to draw robust conclusions about the effectiveness of this prevention tool.



Human Capacity Development (HCD)

The Human capacity development component supports individuals, institutions and networks in the health and education sector by providing (cross-) regional continuing professional development (CPD) related to HIV prevention, therapy and management. A multilevel approach has been developed based on specific local, regional and global needs and the problems institutions are facing in the health sector. The approach comprises a variety of CPD formats: blended learning, i.e. e-learning courses combined with face-to-face workshops and methodology training; development of and support for knowledge networks online and through South-South exchange; learning from practical examples from the field and an e-tutored follow-up of participants during the implementation phase of an individual transfer project. All these measures are intended not just to deliver knowledge but also to encourage people to engage in personal reflection and examine their own attitudes towards people living with HIV. Thus, they help to develop capacities for action and empower the individuals concerned. Participants are selected as multipliers who then use the newly acquired knowledge and skills in their working environment. These measures are backed up by involving prominent leaders and by stakeholder dialogues. HCD measures related to HIV are currently being conducted for medical and non-medical professionals in various regions, including sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia and China. In Africa, special attention is also paid to training teachers on the subject of HIV, enabling them to come up with prevention strategies in their working environment and raise students' awareness of HIV-related topics.

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An example from the field: Central Asia is facing a rising prevalence of HIV, which neither the health care institutions nor civil society are equipped to cope with. In Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, GIZ has therefore been working since 2007 - on behalf of BMZ - with the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute for Retraining and Continuous Education (KSMIRCE) to develop a continuing professional development programme on HIV prevention. This programme is being carried out in cooperation with medical training institutes in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, and is directed towards two different target groups: 1) medical health professionals and managers, and 2) non-medical decision-makers in public-sector institutions, non-governmental organisations, HIV committees and private sector bodies, as part of a multilevel approach. The programme includes three-month online courses in Russian language under the supervision of a tutor. Learning is supported by online exchange among learners via the platform, or via chats moderated by experts, and is supplemented by homework that has to be submitted by email for each module. Each of these online phases are preceded and followed up by face-to-face seminars. The programme's sustainability is ensured by follow-up as a component of alumni work and by the high degree of ownership on the part of KSMIRCE.

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