Annual Report 2017

MED BOX

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year, MEDBOX celebrated its 4th year online! Since its launch in 2013, MEDBOX has achieved a remarkable reputation that is reflected in growing numbers of views, downloads, and an enormous increase in number of users per day. MEDBOX intends to react promptly to emergency situations, e.g. the Cholera outbreak in Yemen or the Plague outbreak in Madagascar.

CURRENT STATUS – MEDBOX IN NUMBERS AND FACTS

Today more than 10,600 documents have been uploaded in different languages, organized in main **CATEGORIES** such as KEY RESOURCES, CLINICAL GUIDELINES, MOTHER & CHILD HEALTH, PHARMACY & TECHNOLOGIES and PUBLIC HEALTH.

Our main **CATEGORIES** are the backbone of the platform. This year, the MEDBOX team mainly spent time on the continuous update of these main categories.

Country-specific information has been collected for **25 COUNTRIES** and currently **10 TOOLBOXES** are covering useful and practical information on relevant diseases, outbreaks, disasters and challenges such as EBOLA, NATURAL HAZARD, CONFLICT, ZIKA, TB, CHOLERA, LEPROSY, POLIO, RAPID RESPONSE, and REFUGEE TOOLBOX.

MEDBOX has now reached a high level of recognition as one of the most important resources for qualified information within the field of humanitarian work worldwide. So far, more than 590,000 visitors worldwide have used MEDBOX, over 1,000 per day within the last year! The documents in MEDBOX have been viewed more than 2.1 million times in total and were

- **>10,600** Documents uploaded
- **>590,000** Visitors
- **>2.8m** Downloads
- **192** Countries reached
- **10** Toolboxes established

Countries — 34,111
Toolboxes — 29,503
Clinical-Guidelines — 23,434
Pharmacy-Technologies — 9,678
Key-Resources — 7,366
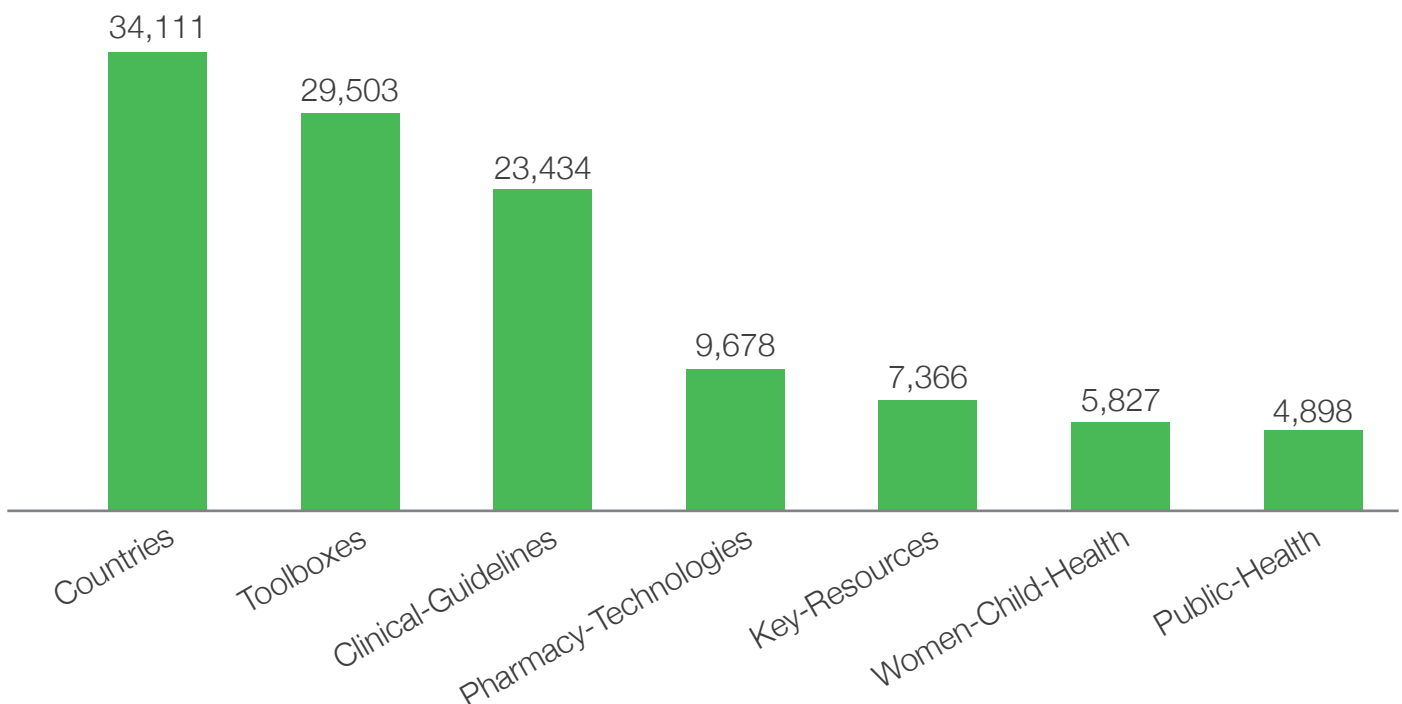Women-Child-Health — 5,827
Public-Health — 4,898

Figure 1: Ranking of Categories by Views Jan. – Nov. 2017

downloaded over 2.8 million times. Thus, it can be said: the need is there, we keep on supplying!

MEDBOX has been accessed from 192 countries which shows a truly global coverage of the website. Since MEDBOX has been linked on AMBOSS, an online learning software for medical students and physicians, the visitor numbers have been rapidly increasing. Monthly visitor numbers rose from five digit numbers to 43,738 visitors in November. In December, we experienced a small dip in numbers, but we expect those to be temporarily due to the holidays.

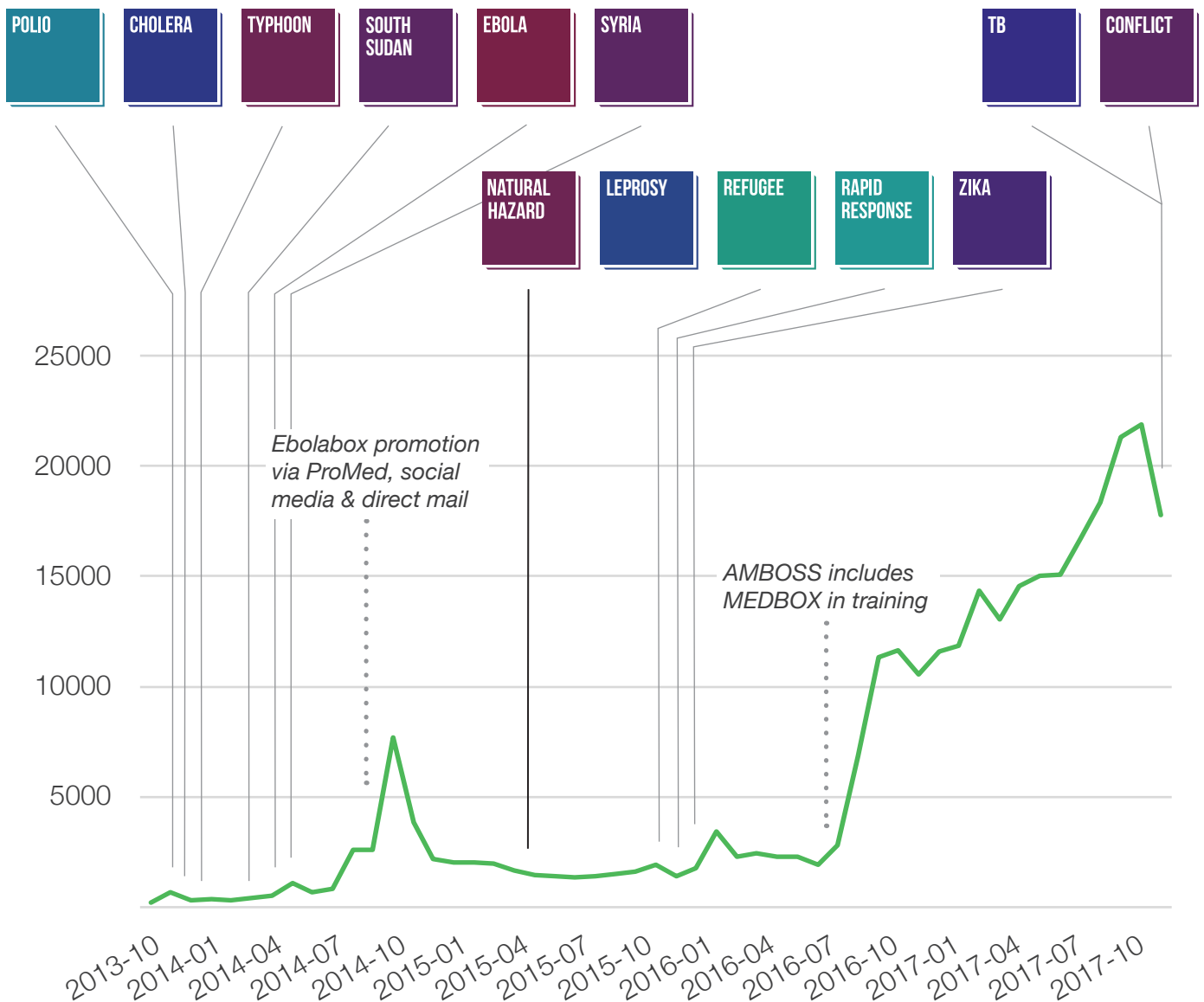We continue to seek new partnerships and promote MEDBOX in 2018, which will grow the visitor numbers further.

POLIO CHOLERA TYPHOON SOUTH SUDAN EBOLA SYRIA TB CONFLICT

NATURAL HAZARD LEPROSY REFUGEE RAPID RESPONSE ZIKA

Ebolabox promotion via ProMed, social media & direct mail

AMBOSS includes MEDBOX in training

25000

20000

15000

10000

5000

2013-10 2014-01 2014-04 2014-07 2014-10 2015-01 2015-04 2015-07 2015-10 2016-01 2016-04 2016-07 2016-10 2017-01 2017-04 2017-07 2017-10

Figure 2: Development of visitor numbers from October 2013 until December 2017 in relation to the launch of the TOOLBOXES

COUNTRIES

Again, the COUNTRIES section has been the most popular category of MEDBOX in 2017.

The high number of downloads and visitors as well as the considerable interest from users in low- and middle-income countries clearly shows the great demand for country-specific health information. With the financial support of our partner Misereor we were able to restructure and update the existing 15 countries and to add 10 new countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America: Haiti, India, Indonesia, Lesotho, Liberia, Philippines, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Swaziland and Venezuela. Each country now contains the following subcategories: Guidelines & Policies; Statistics; Mother Child Health; Disability; Capacity Building; Drugs & Medical Equipment; Community Health; Information; Education & Communication (IEC) Material; Studies & Reports.

The selection of countries directly targets the interests of our MEDBOX partners working in the field and depends on their feedback and suggestions to guarantee time-saving and effective research and to safeguard access to relevant information. Through the collaboration with the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) we were able to include documents in various local languages into the India country section. These were not available before on the internet. We were assisted in the development of the Indonesia country section by a medical student who speaks fluently Indonesian. For this country, users can now find the relevant material and guidelines in English as well as in the local language. The huge amount of downloads of these documents show the great demand for quality and practical information in local languages.

At the moment, the majority of our MEDBOX users are from Germany, a number of nearly 350,000 users within the last years. We assume that this success is a result of the cooperation between AMBOSS and MEDBOX. More than 96 percent of German medical students and physicians are using this smart learning tool developed by MIAMED. The linkage of MEDBOX to the German learning system allows medical students an insight into topics such as Global Health, Public Health as well as the Sustainable Development Goals and also serves as a motivating factor for them to get involved in these respective fields.
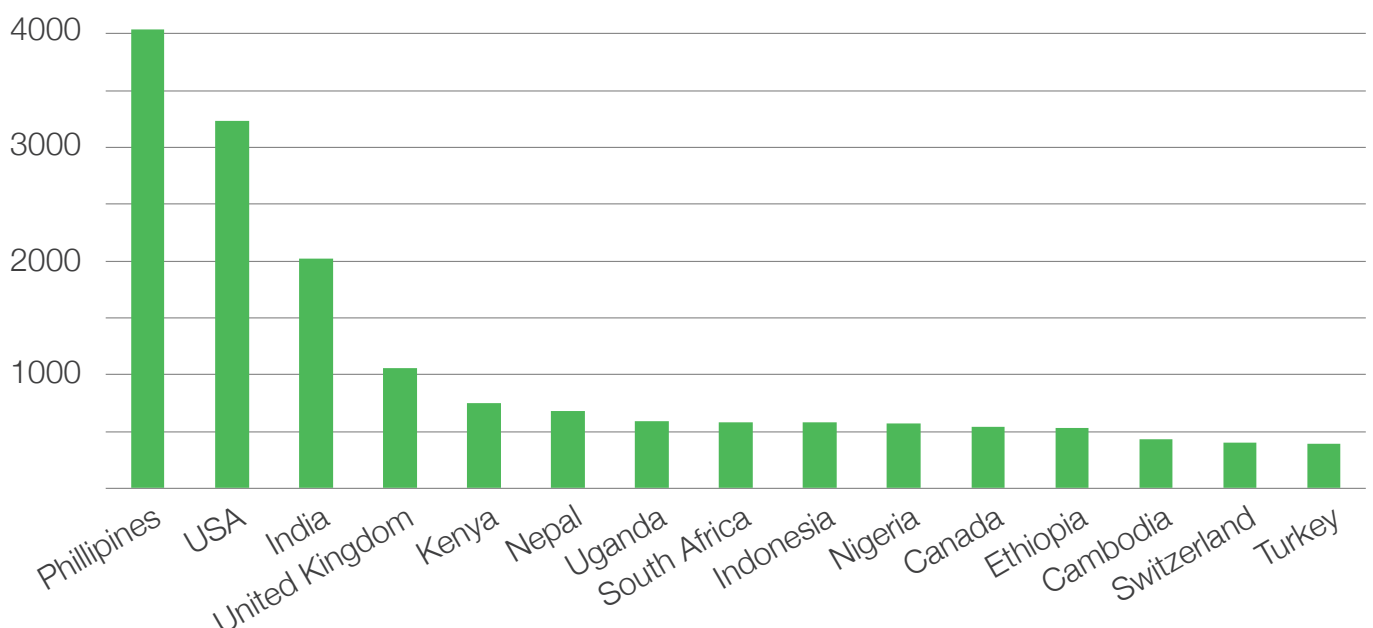

Figure 3: Top 15 visitors by country (without Germany) in 2017.

TOOLBOXES

The TOOLBOXES provide information to relevant upcoming topics, outbreaks or humanitarian crises in a condensed and practical manner. The POLIO TOOLBOX (www.poliobox.org) was the first of its kind launched in October 2013 responding to the polio outbreak in Syria. The most prominent example is the EBOLA TOOLBOX (www.ebolabox.org), set up in April 2014 reacting to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. In 2017, the CHOLERA TOOLBOX was updated as a response to the Cholera outbreak in Yemen in April of that year. All relevant cholera guidelines and education materials in Arabic are now included in this toolbox. These documents have been downloaded nearly 14,000 times

and viewed 18,000 times, e.g. the Arabic Cholera management and treatment guidelines were downloaded more than 750 times!

As a response to the latest natural disasters this year, e.g. the floods in Asia or the storms in North America, the MEDBOX team united the former EARTHQUAKE and TYPHOON TOOLBOX and created the new NATURAL HAZARD TOOLBOX. This new TOOLBOX provides situation reports, assessments, and documents regarding the response, clinical guidelines, preparedness, WASH as well as other relevant and recent information. This allows users to find the required document with just a few clicks.

The REFUGEE TOOLBOX (www.refugeetoolbox.org), launched in October 2015, has a continuously growing number of users. At the end of 2017, the REFUGEE TOOLBOX included more than 1,100 documents, which are constantly updated and expanded. This was possible through the financial support of the Diocese of Wuerzburg. The Diocese is very involved in health care support of refugees and migrants. The combination of practical health guidelines and culturally sensitive health information in 16 languages is unique and can only be found in the REFUGEE TOOLBOX so far. The widespread use and popularity is partly thanks to the commitment of Dr Butenop, who is the responsible public
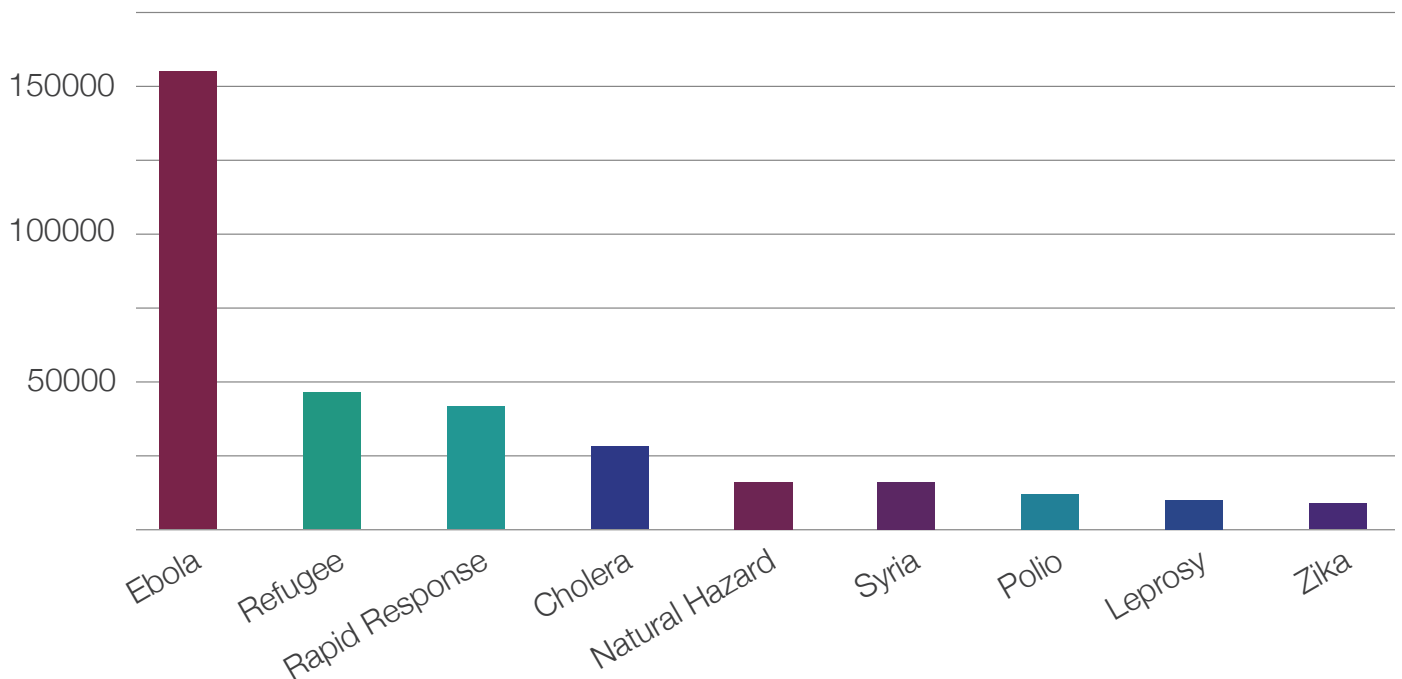

Figure 4: Ranking of TOOLBOXES by Views (Since the Launch of each toolbox up to November 2017)

health administrator for refugees in the government of Lower Franconia in Wuerzburg and a former member of the MEDBOX team. The REFUGEE TOOLBOX is listed as one of the most important links at the new internet portal "Migration and Health" of the "German Federal Ministry of Health" and on the website of "Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Migration, Flüchtlinge und Integration" of the German Federal Government.

In September 2017, a discussion forum was launched at HIFA.org (Healthcare Information for All, www.hifa.org) on the topic: "Migration thematic discussion". The REFUGEE TOOLBOX was mentioned in this discussion as a very useful and important resource and was highly recommended to all members. The feedback of non-governmental organizations from European countries, e.g. Romania, Hungary, Greece and Italy showed us that there is a huge need for documents regarding health issues, human rights and legal issues of migrants and refugees. Up to now the documents within the REFUGEE TOOLBOX have more than 270,000 downloads and nearly 465,000 views.
Due to the plague outbreak in Madagascar in the second half of 2017, MEDBOX has extended its range of information on this topic and included the new sections "Plague Clinical Guidelines"; "Plague Prevention & Control" and the latest Plague Situation Reports into the RAPID RESPONSE TOOLBOX.

The new TB TOOLBOX www.tbbox.org was launched in December 2017 with the support of the Tuberculosis Relief Foundation Wuerzburg (Stiftung Tuberkulosehilfe Würzburg). According to the latest figures of the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 10.4 million people worldwide are infected with tuberculosis every year.
The burden of this disease is highly unequally distributed, with approximately 60% of the new TB cases occurring in India, Indonesia, China, Nigeria, Pakistan and South Africa. But tuberculosis is still a major health problem in other parts of the world as well. Especially growing numbers of drug resistant tuberculosis is a serious public health threat in the European region. Numerous political and structural efforts are needed to eliminate tuberculosis worldwide. However, it is imperative to extend the knowledge of health workers and the awareness of all stakeholders to achieve sustainable improvements in treatment and prevention by providing free and low-threshold access to important guidelines, policies, latest diagnostic methods and high-quality documents. These materials are now collected in the new TB TOOLBOX and can be downloaded for free in English, French, Spanish, Russian and other languages. A special focus has been placed on vulnerable groups such as prisoners, intravenous drug users, children and high prevalence regions, such as Eastern European countries.

In December 2017, the MEDBOX team decided to restructure and to combine the TOOLBOXES South Sudan and Syria into the new CONFLICT Toolbox www.conflictbox.org. This toolbox now includes the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and the "Bangladesh/Myanmar Rohingya crisis". Thus, the MEDBOX team is able to react even quicker and in detail to man-made crises situations, such as civil wars and ethnic conflicts.

All TOOLBOXES are constantly updated; respective subcategories and new documents were included in 2017.

IMPROVEMENT OF MEDBOX FEATURES

Until now, nearly 1,400 users have signed up and are using the additional feature of MY MEDBOX. Especially for those users searching for particular documents on MEDBOX this feature offers the opportunity to save favourite documents in a separate folder allowing easy access with just one click.

For interested and frequent users another special feature was implemented in December 2016: The front page was furnished with a new widget entitled "Latest Publications". This allows users to get a quick overview of the latest uploaded documents. This section is updated with the upload activities of the MEDBOX team and saves time for those interested in the most recent documents. Additionally, registered users will receive a list in MY NEWS of the latest documents, matched to the selected "Preferred Categories" under their respective profile. This feature is very well used by our MEDBOX visitors.

The MEDBOX App has been selected to the "Planet of the Apps" list for mobile applications supporting humanitarian programs and disaster relief operations across the world. The App version for Android has meanwhile been downloaded nearly 500 times. The App allows users to have their favourite publications in their pocket and to use them whenever they need them, even without internet connection. The number of installations of the App does not meet our expectations yet. Unfortunately, so far we have not been able to determine why the numbers did not reach a higher level. We are assuming that commercial, i.e. fee-based marketing and promotion campaigns have to be started especially in the field of Apps in order to get more attention.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

In 2017, continuous efforts were made to push forward the reputation and awareness level of MEDBOX among the Global Health Community. We were able to strengthen our collaboration with other partners and to establish new technical partnerships with the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) and the information platform foring (Forum für Internationale Gesundheit).

As mentioned above, in November 2016 MEDBOX established a collaboration with AMBOSS (developed by MIAMED), an innovative learning system for German-speaking medical students and physicians. An English version was made available by AMBOSS at the beginning of 2017. A direct link to MEDBOX is provided to the sections "Providing care for refugees and repatriates", "Tropical Medicine" and "Zika Virus". We were able to increase the amount of users considerably as nearly all medical students in German-speaking countries and a growing number of physicians are using this innovative tool.

Furthermore, we presented MEDBOX at congresses such as the Foring Update in April 2017 in Munich, the Humanitarian Congress in Vienna: "Forced to Flee - Humanity on the Run" in March 2017 and the meeting of the German Association of Medical Libraries (AGMB), Vienna September 2017.

Here are some highlights:

Presentation at the Course "PHARMACY IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND DISASTER RELIEF" August 2017, Pharmaceutical Institute of the Eberhard Karls University of Tuebingen, Germany.

Photo 1: Sieglinde Mauder (Project Coordinator MEDBOX) explaining MEDBOX on the Foring UPDATE 2017 in Munich

After its first success in 2016, the University of Tuebingen offered for the second time the course "Pharmacy in Development Work and Humanitarian Action" for pharmacy students and interested pharmacists. Experienced speakers working for different development cooperation and disaster relief organizations introduced the participants to relevant topics such as rational drug use, procurement and distribution, guidelines for drug donations and essential drugs, local drug production, quality assurance and counterfeit drugs. The topics discussed also included the pharmaceutical education and training of health workers and pharmacists in developing countries. The online library

Photo 2: Colorful information on MEDBOX on a congress

MEDBOX was presented as an example to familiarize the participants with various online sources and databases relevant for development cooperation and disaster relief.

In addition to these events, MEDBOX and its TOOLBOXES were mentioned and promoted during other congresses and trainings, especially during courses for health professionals, public health experts and students offered by the Medical Mission Institute Wuerzburg, especially the "Sommerakademie: Tropenmedizin und Globale Gesundheit" (Summer School on tropical medicine and global health) and the course module "International Medicine" as part of the B.A. Programme „Internationale Not- und Katastrophenhilfe" of the AKKON-University, Berlin, Germany.

Furthermore, MEDBOX flyer, cards and poster were dis-

Photo 3: Students of the AKKON University during their course

tributed at several events for medical students and young professionals, e.g. the 'Young Leaders for Health' Conference in Berlin, Germany, or the annual congress of the German Medical Students' Association in Mainz, Germany. This was possible because of the personal motivation of many volunteers to promote MEDBOX through lectures and distribution of information cards at numerous events.

In order to increase the popularity and reputation of MEDBOX we are always grateful and consider it as a positive indicator when we get mentioned, recommended and linked on other websites and informational resources. Besides the linkage with AMBOSS by MIAMED, we are proud of being listed on other useful websites, e.g. in the resources section on the "hhe-Humanitarian Health Ethics. Reflecting on Ethical Practice" platform (https://humanitarian-

healthethics.net/home/hheat/resources/); the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network/ EPN (http://www.epnetwork.org/fr/medbox) and the Portal Migration and Health of the Federal Ministry of Health in Germany (https://www.migration-gesundheit.bund.de/de/gesundheitswesen/). In addition, MEDBOX got listed in the European global learning database – ENGLOB (Europäische Datenbank Global Lernen – ENGLOB) (http://www.wusgermany.de/de/globaleslernen/europaeische-datenbank-globales-lernen-englob/medbox-aid-library) in December 2017, an open source online database, which enhances collaboration within a European wide network of global learning institutions.

Photo 4: MEDBOX during a simulation of the project ‚Disaster medicine' by the German Medical Students' Association

OUTLOOK

MEDBOX is a collaborative project that thrives on the support of partners and users. To realize our vision of offering a complete archive of practical, reliable documents and materials, we need to work jointly on this unique project. Hence, we invite all partners and users to share documents with us. This will enable all health workers around the world to have equal access to essential health information.

In 2018, we are planning to further develop, improve and revise the frontend as well as the backend system of MEDBOX including the improvement of the search function, new classifications as well as a refreshed design.

It is also scheduled to expand the COUNTRIES section. The focus will be on countries in West Africa and Latin America. In 2018, we hope to expand these sections with the help of our partners.

Further steps will be the setup of new TOOLBOXES to cover important and emerging topics. In 2018, we are planning the launch of the GLOBAL HEALTH TOOLBOX. Global challenges such as changes in the scenery of political players, migration, climate change, epidemics, the increase of antimicrobial resistances and international targets such as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Coverage are on top of the political and public agenda. These and other global challenges require creative approaches

allowing to visualize and explain the interactions between local, regional, national and global circumstances to serve as an impetus for change. In view of the wide range of topics on the issue of global health and its generally accepted relevance it is of utmost importance to raise knowledge and awareness for these issues. An important basis is the exchange of information and access to essential and high quality teaching, learning and training documents as well as practical and internationally accepted guidelines for a broad target group. So far such a platform has not been available in the German-speaking world providing access to an extensive and systematic collection of documents on global health issues. Thus, the GLOBAL HEALTH TOOLBOX project can be regarded as an innovative approach to close this gap.

Furthermore, the MEDBOX team plans the development of a further toolbox covering the important issue of mental disorders by the establishment of the MENTAL HEALTH TOOLBOX.

Mental well-being is a fundamental component of health. According to WHO in 2015 the global number of people with depression was estimated to exceed 300 million and about the same number of people suffers from anxiety disorders. Mental disorders lead to losses in health and functioning, quantified by Years Lived with Disability (YLD). Depression is ranked number

one with the highest number of YLDs compared to other diseases. Thereby, it is important to improve the mental health of individuals and societies through promotion of mental well-being, prevention of mental disorders and care of people affected by mental disorders.

The third toolbox we would like to develop in 2018 is the HIV TOOLBOX in order to cover the most important issues of HIV/AIDS. According to the latest UNAIDS figures approximately 36.7 million people living with HIV (end of 2016), nearly 21 million are on antiretroviral therapy. There are around 2.1 million children living with HIV, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. Less than half of them had access to HIV treatment in 2016. HIV continues to be a major global public health issue. The HIV TOOLBOX will provide the latest epidemiological data; treatment and prevention guidelines; training and life skill behavior manuals; advocacy, policies and strategy documents; prevention & policies documents focused on vulnerable groups and groups who are at increased risk, i.e. people who inject drugs, people in prisons and other closed settings, sex workers, transgender people.

We plan to launch the GLOBAL HEALTH TOOLBOX, the MENTAL HEALTH TOOLOBX and the HIV TOOLBOX in late 2018. Currently we are looking for partners that are willing to support these important and comprehensive projects.

THE TEAM

The MEDBOX team includes highly experienced medical practitioners and public health experts, archivists and enthusiastic support staff. MEDBOX is backed by a wide range of humanitarian experts and internationally acclaimed agencies and institutions. In addition, it receives support and guidance from various Ministries of Health, as well as universities and academic institutions worldwide.

PARTNERS OF MEDBOX

VISION

MEDBOX and its innovative TOOLBOXES are the instruments to use to ensure quality health action in humanitarian aid work.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please visit our homepage at www.medbox.org. Additionally, you can follow latest developments of the MEDBOX project on Facebook, or Twitter. Feel free to contact us at info@medbox.org for further information!

CONTACT

MEDBOX is brought to you by the Medical Mission Institute Wuerzburg, Germany. Advisory Group for International Health, based in Wuerzburg, Germany.

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