

Annual Report 2016

MED BOX

 THE AID LIBRARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since its launch in 2013, **MEDBOX** has been visited by more than 180.000 individuals. Up to now over 6.800 documents are available, which have been downloaded over 1.9 million times. The most striking features are the COUNTRIES section and the TOOLBOXES. Three years after **MEDBOX** was launched, the Medical Mission Institute Wuerzburg strongly focused on outreach activities in order to raise the awareness of the online library, to increase its level of consolidation and popularity and reach out to a broad international audience. **MEDBOX** was promoted at numerous conferences and events such as the World Humanitarian Congress in Istanbul (Turkey), the German Congress for Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine in Wuerzburg (Germany), and the AHILA Conference in Kampala (Uganda).

CURRENT STATUS – MEDBOX IN NUMBERS AND FACTS

MEDBOX has reached an impressive level of consolidation and reputation with more than 180.000 visitors since its launch in October 2013. Concluding its third year of existence, the **MEDBOX** team has uploaded over 6.800 documents so far. The sites and documents available on **MEDBOX** have been viewed over 2.2 million times with more than 1.9 million downloads. Some key documents have exceeded a download level of 30.000 e.g. the Anaesthesia Handouts in the Category CLINICAL GUIDELINES.

The category COUNTRIES was the most frequented one in 2016, closely followed by the section CLINICAL GUIDELINES.

-  **>6,800 Documents** uploaded
-  **>180,000 Visitors**
-  **>1.9m Downloads**
-  **187 Countries** reached
-  **11 Toolboxes** established

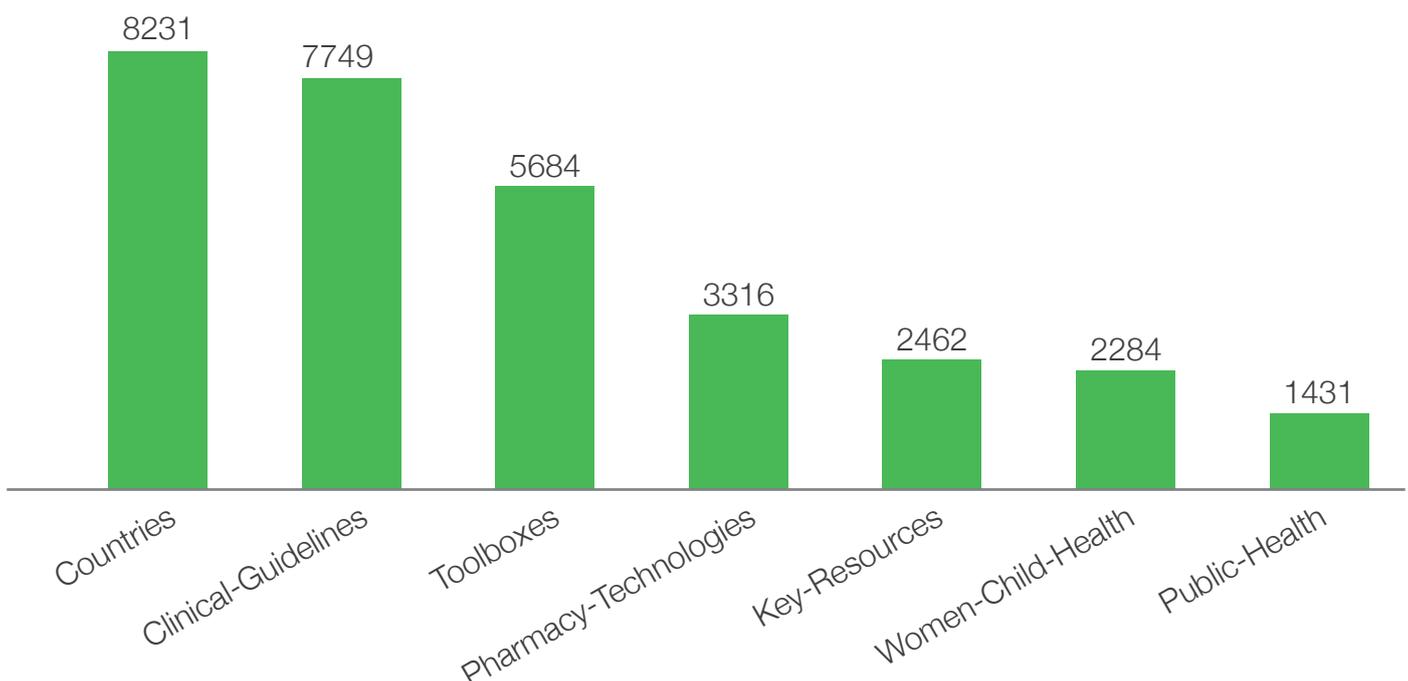


Figure 1: Ranking of Categories by Views Sep. – Dec. 2016

By now, **MEDBOX** has been accessed from 187 countries, which underlines that this unique collection of documents virtually reached out to the whole world. From January to August we registered an average of almost 5.000 users per month. Since September 2016 **MEDBOX** has recorded a high increase in visitor

numbers, on average 20.000 visitors per month. This can be seen as a result of **MEDBOX** promotion efforts at international and national conferences e.g. at AHILA Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa in Kampala, Uganda; Annual Meeting of CHAI Catholic Health Association of India and

certainly because of acute humanitarian emergency events like “Hurricane Matthew” in October and the related cholera epidemic in Haiti this year. The launch of the ZIKA TOOLBOX in spring 2016 resulted in a special peak of monthly visitors.

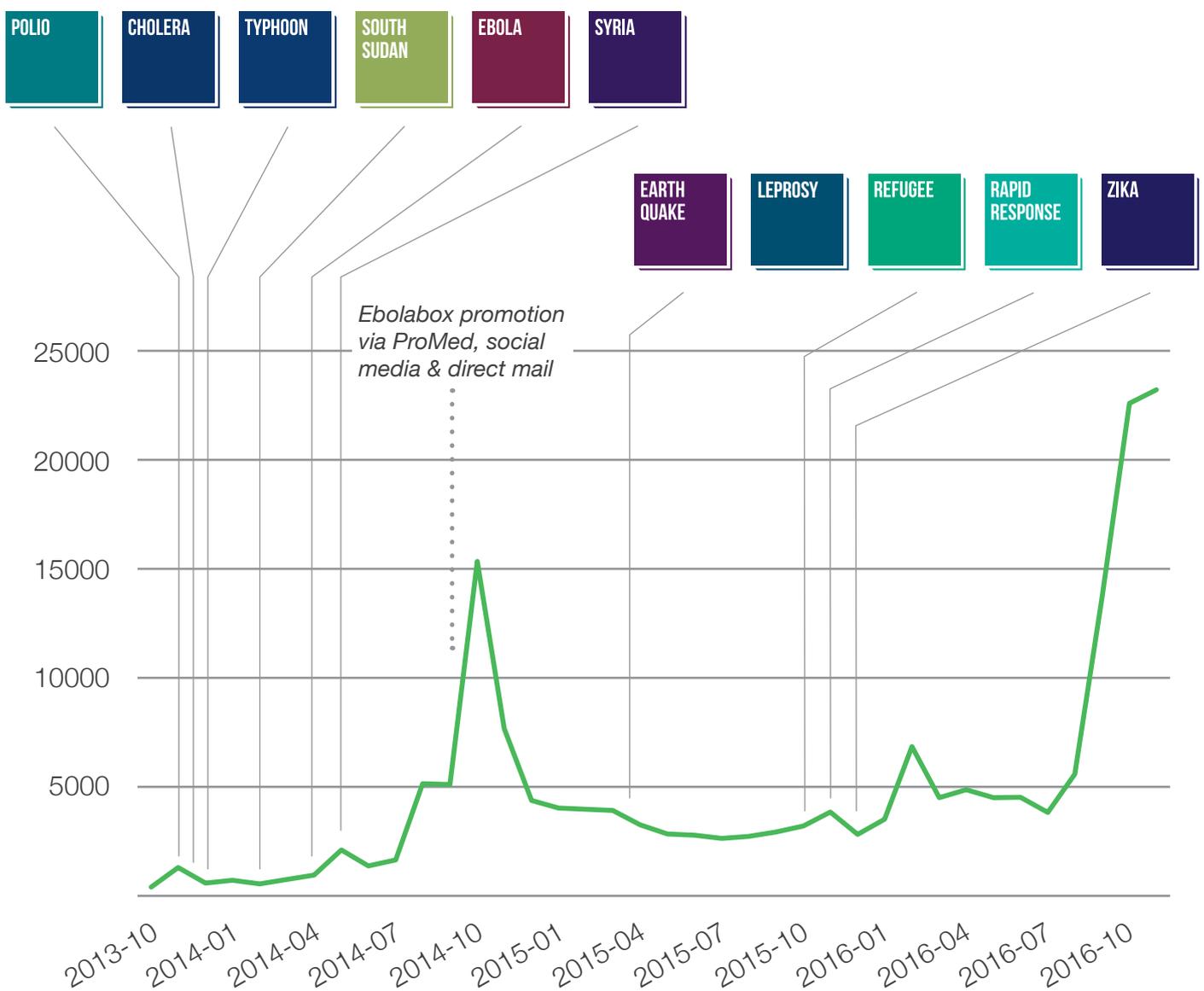


Figure 2: Development of visitor numbers from October 2013 until November 2016 in relation to the launch of the TOOLBOXES

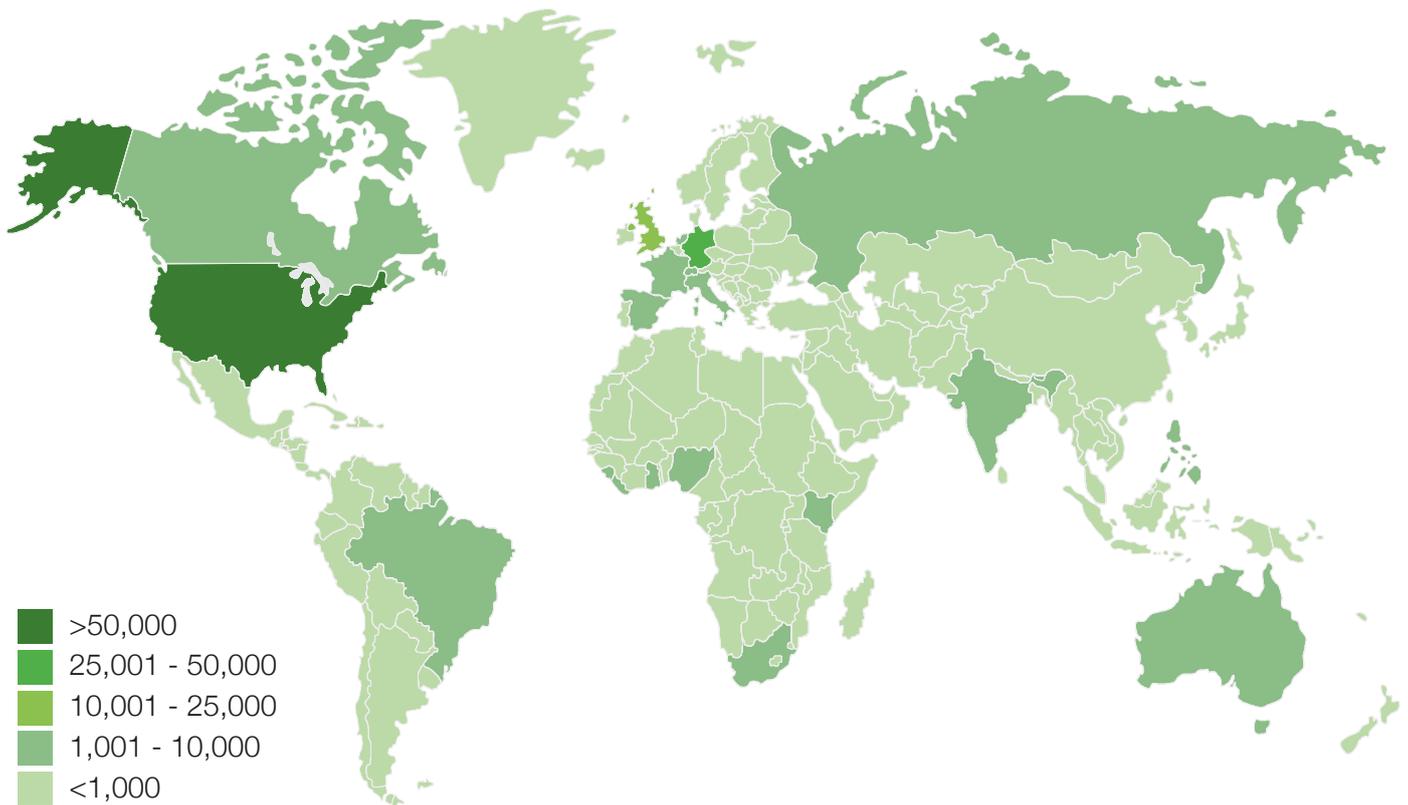


Figure 3: Map Distribution of Visitors by Country since Oct. 2013

The COUNTRIES section became the most popular part of MEDBOX in 2016. The high number of downloads and visitors as well as the strong interest from users of low-and middle-income countries clearly shows the great need for country-specific health information. These include key resources such as national statistics, national health policies, national health guidelines, community health publications, guidelines for disabilities and inclusion as well as Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material for the national context in local languages. MEDBOX meets this need with currently 17 countries represented in this category. The majority of these are African countries due to the

close and long-term relations of the Medical Mission Institute Wuerzburg and other MEDBOX partners. By special request and financial support from the Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood (Kindermissionswerk) the category "Disabilities" was implemented in order to meet the needs of specific vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the document collection of already listed countries will be updated and other countries will be continuously added. The selection of countries directly targets the interests of the MEDBOX partners working in the field and depends on their feedback and suggestions to guarantee a time-saving and effective research and access

to specific information relevant for these countries. Through close collaboration with national Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Ministries of Health and other local partners MEDBOX is able to provide documents, which are not available anywhere else for public use on the internet. Thus MEDBOX fulfills its objective of improving the quality of health care and the application of international standards in resource-poor countries.

TOOLBOXES

Through the implementation of the TOOLBOXES **MEDBOX** was able to quickly react to acute humanitarian crises. 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. It was listed by the United Nations as one of the most comprehensive information resources for this topic. In 2016 the ZIKA TOOLBOX was launched after the epidemic in late 2015 in South America providing valuable information for healthcare workers as well as travel advices. **MEDBOX** is constantly providing essential information in the context of humanitarian emergencies worldwide, e.g. by updating the TYPHOON and CHOLERA TOOLBOXES after the Hurricane Matthew and cholera outbreak in Haiti.

So far, eleven TOOLBOXES have been set up, completing the offer of rapid access to documents of high quality. The REFUGEE TOOLBOX (www.refugeetoolbox.org), launched in October 2015, has a continuously growing number of users. Already at the beginning of the year 2016 the REFUGEE TOOLBOX counted almost 30.000 views and more than 16.000 downloads. At the end of 2016 the REFUGEE TOOLBOX included nearly 700 documents, which are constantly updated and expanded. A large

number of documents are available in various languages, e.g. anamnesis questionnaires are accessible in 16 different languages. This supports fast and adequate care of refugees and helps to overcome linguistic and cultural barriers. This combination of practical and cultural sensitivity health information is unique and can only be found in the REFUGEE TOOLBOX so far.

The RAPID RESPONSE TOOLBOX (www.rapidresponse-box.org), a result of a joint project with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ/ German Humanitarian Assistance and the Medical Mission Institute Wuerzburg, is showcase of a toolbox prepared together with and for partners. The TOOLBOXES are constantly updated; respective subcategories and documents were included in 2016 e.g. after the ZIKA outbreak in Brazil and the outbreaks of yellow fever in Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

THE NEW MEDBOX APP

In July 2016, the new **MEDBOX** App with an offline-use-option has been released. The implementation of this new handy tool was realized with the support of Apotheker Helfen e.V., designed to facilitate the access to **MEDBOX** from Android operated Smartphones. The App is especially useful when accessing in areas with limited internet and computer availability. After a one-step, free-of-charge registration, the App enables registered users to save documents for offline use. All users who have already signed up with MY **MEDBOX** can log into their account and start saving preferred documents immediately. The **MEDBOX** categories and TOOLBOXES appear in the familiar clear and easy-to-use design. From end of July until November 2016 the App has already more than 780 users.

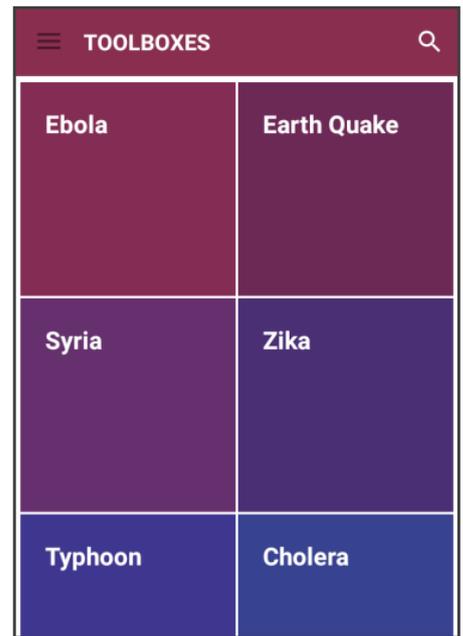
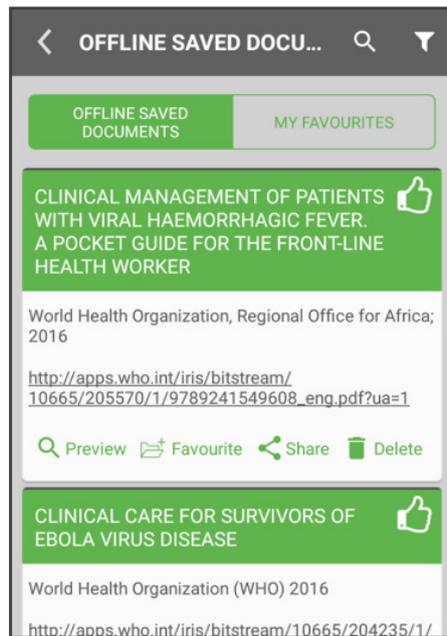
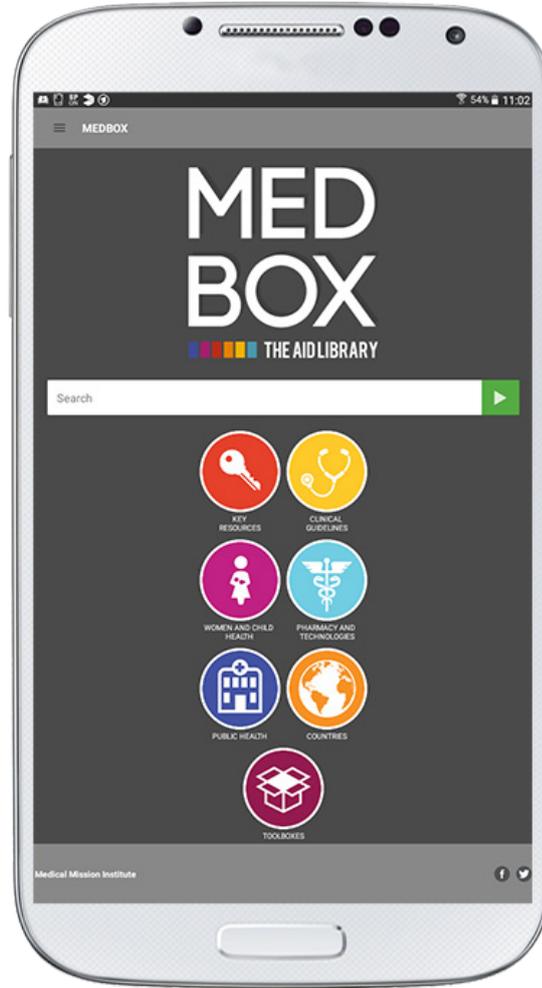


Figure 4: Screenshots App version: Selection Categories; MY **MEDBOX** List of offline saved documents; TOOLBOXES

IMPROVEMENT OF MEDBOX FEATURES

Until now, more than 1.300 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 favorite documents in a separate folder, so that they can easily be accessed with just one click. In the app version, registered users can also choose the possibility to save documents for offline use.

Some new features were implemented in December:

- Language selection is now possible in all categories
- Filter by “Recommended Publications”
- Dropdown Menu in COUNTRIES for selection of a particular country

Especially for interested and frequent users another special feature was implemented: On the welcome page you will find a new heading “Latest Publications”. Here it is now possible to get a quick overview of the latest uploaded documents. This category 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 in MY NEWS a list of the latest documents, matched to the selected “Preferred Categories” under their profile.

In order to ease the first steps working with **MEDBOX** two video lectures were realized,

dedicated especially to new users. In the first lecture the background and structure of **MEDBOX** are explained, the second lecture gives an insight into the main features and categories. This allows a fast and easy-to-follow introduction to all available services. These video tutorials can be watched on YouTube on the channel **MEDBOX | The Aid Library**.

Quality assurance is a crucial topic. Therefore the **MEDBOX** team made a survey in the first half of 2016 to assess the user satisfaction. Because of just few returns it is important to reevaluate how surveys and questionnaires can be better integrated. However, the results reflected a high contentment with the **MEDBOX** services in general. Suggestions for improvement were checked for feasibility and then implemented such as the feed “Latest Publications”.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES - MEDBOX

In 2016 continuous efforts were made to further promote **MEDBOX** and increase its popularity within a broader international audience by attending numerous conferences and congresses. Thus, we were able to strengthen the collaboration with our partners and to establish new technical partnerships, e.g. with the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN), Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH) or Hesperian Health Guides.

UPDATE 2016 SYMPOSIUM, 30TH APRIL 2016, MUNICH, GERMANY

In April, **MEDBOX** was promoted at the “UPDATE 2016” Symposium in Munich, organised by foring (Forum für internationale Gesundheit) and CIH (Centre of International Health). The symposium was addressed to physicians who have worked or are interested in working in humanitarian action or development assistance and want to improve their skills in these fields. The programme of the symposium covered current trends and new insights in patient care and Global Health work, focusing particularly on topics such as Mother and Child Health, HIV/AIDS, Ebola, Zika, Labour and Occupational Health and Environmental Health. The **MEDBOX** booth offered medical practitioners, students and other

participants a great opportunity to get to know the online library as a primary source for practical materials and guidelines. Especially the COUNTRIES section raised wide interest as a preparation tool for field missions.

EPN FORUM 2016, 18TH-21ST MAY, TUEBINGEN, GERMANY

Around 90 members and other supporters of the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN) from 26 countries met at the EPN Forum 2016 in Tuebingen, Germany, taking place every two years. The participants discussed which immediate actions pharmacists and faith-based organizations can take to address the increasing global burden of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The

MEDBOX categories CLINICAL GUIDELINES, PHARMACY & TECHNOLOGIES and PUBLIC HEALTH were of particular interest for the participants as they offer a large collection of useful documents on these relevant topics. The pharmacists Ioana Silly, **MEDBOX** project assistant at the Medical Mission Institute Wuerzburg, and Andreas Wiegand, executive director of Apotheker Helfen e.V. (Pharmacists Help, Germany), had the occasion to present **MEDBOX** with a poster and a short presentation.

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT, 23RD-24TH MAY 2016, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

This year the World Humanitarian Summit took place in Istanbul, gathering around 9,000 participants from all over the world to support a new shared Agenda for Humanity and to act against human suffering. The **MEDBOX** team had the opportunity to interconnect with other NGOs and smaller initiatives in order to exchange experiences and to develop new ideas of how to ensure best that health workers have access to high quality information in a time saving manner. The **MEDBOX** booth was located at the Innovation Marketplace and attracted the attention of many



Figure 5: MEDBOX booth at the UPDATE 2016 Symposium in Munich, April 2016

visitors with its colorful posters and flyers. The idea behind **MEDBOX** received very positive feedback, not only from people working in the health sector, but also from organizations involved in information technologies. The innovative concept of offering free access to important documents has been praised many times.

CONGRESS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND TROPICAL MEDICINE, 15TH-18TH OF JUNE, WUERZBURG, GERMANY

Every two years the Congress for Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine is taking place, this year in **MEDBOX**-hometown Wuerzburg. Specialists for Infectious Diseases as well as other doctors, Public Health experts, students, representatives from various companies and organizations came together to discuss the latest developments in this field. **MEDBOX** was able to present the project and especially the REFUGEE and the RAPID RESPONSE TOOLBOX to future users.



Figure 6 – Ioana Silly and Karin Geffert in charge of the MEDBOX booth at the WHS 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey



Figure 7: Karin Geffert demonstrates the new MEDBOX app at the WHS 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey

COURSE “PHARMACY IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND DISASTER RELIEF”, 1ST-10TH AUGUST 2016, PHARMACEUTICAL INSTITUTE OF UNIVERSITY TUEBINGEN, GERMANY

The University of Tuebingen offered an eight day block seminar for advanced pharmaceutical students and licensed pharmacists who are interested in development cooperation and disaster relief for the first time. 22 experts reported on their aid projects and practical experiences and introduced the course participants to the specific challenges of medicines supply and drug therapy in developing countries and disaster situations. **MEDBOX** was presented as an important source of information with the potential to help pharmacists preparing for their work in development and humanitarian

relief projects. The participants were able to apply the acquired skills immediately in many practical exercises and test the **MEDBOX** homepage and app, for example by quickly looking up which infusion solution is recommended for cholera patients with severe dehydration.

AHILA CONFERENCE, 17TH-21ST OCTOBER 2016, KAMPALA, UGANDA

The Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA) organized a conference in Kampala, Uganda in October 2016. Dr. Alphonsus Matovu, a Member of the Medical Mission Institute Wuerzburg, presented the **MEDBOX** during the conference with great success. The presenter was able to disseminate information on **MEDBOX** and its uses in providing practical information to health workers in the field.

With experience in outbreaks of hemorrhagic fevers like Ebola the Ugandan health professionals appreciated **MEDBOX** as a handy tool for the provision of free accessible and practical information.

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 as well as students offered by the Medical Mission Institute Wuerzburg. This was possible because of the personal motivation of many volunteers promoting **MEDBOX** through lectures and distribution of information cards at numerous events. Our special thanks are addressed to Dr. Joost Butenop, who presented the REFUGEE TOOLBOX at various occasions like e.g. the conference "Refugee Migration and Health" in Bielefeld, Germany, to health authorities, different ministries,

reception centres for asylum seekers; voluntary workers in asylum circles and many more. The REFUGEE TOOLBOX information card has also been sent to regional medical associations, public health departments and medical practitioners. As a result of the intensive promotion an article about the REFUGEE TOOLBOX has been published in the "Bayerisches Ärzteblatt", a well-known journal for health practitioners within Bavaria.

Since November 2016, **MEDBOX** is connected to AMBOSS (by MIAMED), an online learning platform designed mainly for exam preparation for medical students in German speaking countries. A link to **MEDBOX** is provided to the sections "Providing care for refugees and repatriates", "Tropical Medicine" and "Zika Virus". With nearly all medical students in German-speaking countries and a growing number of physicians using this tool,

we expect a further increase in the number of visitors and the popularity of **MEDBOX**.

Furthermore **MEDBOX** was present as a useful information resource at nationwide and international Summer Schools. The "Training Disaster Medicine Trainer (TdmT)" is the first international program teaching medical students basic knowledge about Disaster Medicine. Students from all over the world taking place in this program function as multipliers by offering trainings themselves in their home country after graduating from the course. All students were equipped during the residential course in Novara, Italy, with information about **MEDBOX** and are now going to use it in their home countries as a valuable information resource free of charge.

Since May 2016 **MEDBOX** is nominated as kindred organization of Research4Life, the platform formed by HINARI (Research in Health), AGORA (Research in Agriculture), OARE (Research in the Environment) and ARDI (Research for Development and Innovation) initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO). This platform provides low- and middle-income countries with free or low-cost online access to leading journals and books in the fields of health, agriculture, environment, and applied sciences.



Figure 8: Dr. Piet Reijer presenting MEDBOX at CHAI Catholic Health Association of India Annual Meeting, Sept. 2016



Figure 9: Dr. Matovu Alphonsus presenting MEDBOX during the AHILA congress in Kampala, Uganda Oct. 2016

OUTLOOK

MEDBOX is a collaborative project that thrives on the support of partners and users. To reach 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, textbooks, IEC material such as posters, flip charts, videos and training materials with us. This will enable all health workers around the world to have equal access to essential health information.

Plans for 2017 include the expansion of the COUNTRIES section and further promoting **MEDBOX** and its TOOLBOXES at congresses.

The PUBLIC HEALTH category will be expanded and rearranged. To guarantee maximum user friendliness **MEDBOX** is constantly developing its webpage, e.g. by offering a news feed for favorite categories under MY **MEDBOX** and a more advanced arrangement of documents.

In addition, **MEDBOX** aims to meet the interest of users and partners with the establishment of new TOOLBOXES in the area of Mental Health, Global Health and Pharmacy.

According to the WHO, the number of people affected by mental disorders is increasing worldwide. Between 1990 and 2013, the number of people affected by depression and/or anxiety disorders has increased by almost 50 percent to around 615 million people. Humanitarian crises and conflicts will raise the need for therapeutic services. WHO estimates that in times of crisis, about 20 percent of people are suffering under depression and anxiety disorders. Therefore, **MEDBOX** aims to close these information gaps with a MENTAL HEALTH TOOLBOX contributing to the access to adequate psychological care of people in resource-poor countries.

A GLOBAL HEALTH TOOLBOX will also be established in 2016. This TOOLBOX will give a summary of effects on

health on a global and local level rooting in globalization issues transcending international borders. Information on the global impact of health-related events such as epidemics or natural catastrophes will be completed by theoretical concepts of Global Health such as access to healthcare, Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), One Health and the 2030-Agenda. Those concepts are embedded into the background of health inequity on a global and local scale regarding Social, Political and Environmental Determinants of Health. Essential documents pointing out health related effects of crucial issues such as climate change, antimicrobial resistance or migration, which can only be solved by worldwide united efforts, will be gathered in this new TOOLBOX. This underlines the importance of Global Health as an emerging field in the globalized world of our times.

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.

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