

Access to Quality Health Services

Challenges

Reducing the health status gap between the rich and the poor is one of the major challenges of our times. This gap relates greatly to the access of the poor to quality health services, whether in financial, geographical or other terms.



Countries need to address existing inequalities through substantial reforms. Improving the allocation of public resources and making public finance management more efficient often is a good starting point. Additional and new approaches to financing health services need to be developed, including the development of social health insurance systems.

The health sector faces other challenges as well, e.g. the shortage of health workers in remote areas, and the high burden of infectious and non-communicable diseases. New challenges arise from the ever growing possibilities in medical care and people's rising health needs.

GFA Approach

GFA's mission is to provide access to quality health services for the poor. In this respect, we assist our clients in formulating and implementing their related policies and strategic change processes.

Our approach is to ensure our clients full ownership of all measures concerned. We assist in developing the technical capacities of national personnel so they may integrate projects into national programs furnished with corresponding budgets.

GFA consultants work as project managers and technical advisors. We accompany multi-year and complex health reform processes. In addition to day-to-day project coordination, all our in-house staff carry out technical consulting assignments. Over the years, this has helped our experts gaining solid, hands-on, and up-to-date experience in project management and implementation.

The GFA teams provide services related to

- health systems development,
- health financing,
- reproductive health,
- AIDS,
- disease control,
- medical equipment, incl. maintenance.

Regular internal evaluations, continued education and training certify that our experts are up-to-date with scientific developments, so they will offer our clients best practices and the services needed.



GFA at Work

Health Care for the Poor in Vietnam EU, 2006–2012

The existing health insurance system in Vietnam is developing towards universal coverage. GFA provides support to financing quality health services for the poor in the Central



Highlands and Northern Uplands. The Ministry of Health's project improves essential health services in fifty districts located in five provinces in the context of an efficient health insurance system.

Contract Value: €4,070,000

Health Sector Quality Management, Guinea GTZ, 2005–2009

In this innovative project, GFA assisted the Ministry of Public Health in improving the performance of the National Health Service through the definition of norms and procedures, and the formulation of health care packages as well as service quality standards. Every second year, the project organized a quality contest. Health centers, hospitals, university hospital departments and health administrations at all levels were invited to participate in a peer review of service standards and quality. This self assessment was complemented by an external evaluation conducted by trained auditors. Inter alia, contest results allowed formulating annual improvement plans for each of the more than 400 participating health sector institutions.

Contract Value: € 1,450,000

Health, Nutrition & Population, Bangladesh KfW, 2009–2011

In Bangladesh, the Ministry of Health and a number of donors are implementing a sector wide approach related to health, nutrition and population. GFA assists in a pilot project concerning universal health insurance, including the required operational research. Within the same framework, we support improved management of reproductive health services, including procurement of contraceptives and development of new approaches to family planning service delivery for the poor.

Contract Value: € 1,375,000

Reproductive Health, Burundi KfW, 2005–2010

German Financial Cooperation (KfW) assists Burundi in strengthening and reorganizing its reproductive health and family planning services. A GFA team of experts provides capacity building related to reproductive health strategy development, information systems, and contraceptive supply management. Capacity building focuses on efficient procurement and the management of contraceptive supply tenders financed by KfW.

Contract Value: € 1,150,000



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