

# Improving patient safety in emergency services and hospital management at Ignace Deen University Hospital in Guinea

Heidelberg University Hospital and Ignace Deen University Hospital, Guinea

## The challenge

The health system in Guinea faces a series of challenges. There is a high prevalence of tropical and poverty-related diseases, while the health care sector remains under-financed. In the United Nations Human Development Index, Guinea is ranked 179 out of 187 countries.

More than half the population of Guinea lives below the poverty line and the country's health indicators are amongst the worst in the region. In 2012, life expectancy at birth was 58,9 years. The crude birth and death rates were 34 per 1.000 population and 10,19 per 1.000 population respectively. The maternal mortality rate stood at 724 per 100.000 live births, neonatal mortality at 33 per 1.000 live births, child mortality at 123 per 1.000 live births and infant mortality at 67 per 1.000 live births. The primary causes of morbidity and mortality are communicable diseases, including epidemics and other vaccine-preventable diseases. Non-communicable diseases are also becoming increasingly prevalent.

The determinants of health are low education levels, low income, the persistence of socio-cultural taboos, and, last but not least, a weak health system.



Entrance to Ignace Deen University Hospital © GIZ / Michael Marx



**HOSPITAL  
PARTNERSHIPS**

## Partnership activities

In order to bring about long-term improvement in patient safety at Ignace Deen University Hospital, capacity-development measures, including training courses, case studies and quality circles will be introduced and implemented.

*'The aim of this partnership is to facilitate a dynamic exchange of experiences, to provide the medical staff at the Ignace Deen University Hospital with further training and to introduce quality standards so that patient safety can be improved sustainably.'*

**Prof. Dr. M. Marx, Heidelberg University Hospital**

The focus of this partnership is on emergency care and hospital management. For example, a reporting system for critical events in the daily workings of the hospital will be introduced, which will anonymously report critical events and 'near misses' to ensure that errors can be identified and addressed.

Hygiene-related measures for the emergency department will also be developed within the team with the aim of reducing nosocomial infections, which in turn will increase patient safety.

In addition, the management processes inside the hospital will be examined and improved under the partnership. Binding guidelines and standards within the hospital will also be defined to enhance patient safety and to avoid errors.

The measures are intended to boost public confidence in the health system that was considerably weakened by the Ebola crisis.



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



## Financing

The funding program University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa makes part of the Hospital partnerships Initiative – Partners strengthen health. The Initiative is funded by the Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development and Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation and is a member of the ESTHER Alliance.

## Results

- Strengthening of capacities for hospital management with regard to inpatient and outpatient emergency care at Ignace Deen University Hospital.
- Improvements in the quality of care to ensure the safety of patients and hospital staff.
- Improvements in leadership and management practices at Ignace Deen University Hospital, Conakry

## The partners

Heidelberg University Hospital, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University Hospital Donka and Ignace Deen University Hospital have been working together since the 1990s.

### Institution in Guinea:

The Ignace Deen University Hospital is one of two university hospitals in the city of Conakry. Because of its high degree of specialisation, the hospital is considered one of the country's leading institutions. There is, however, a serious shortage of qualified medical specialists and management personnel at all levels. The recent Ebola crisis revealed the weaknesses as well as the potential for improvement in emergency care.

### Institution in Germany:

For over 50 years, the Heidelberg Institute of Public Health has been internationally renowned for its focus on implementation research and teaching experience in low-income and middle-income countries.

It already offers training in diverse formats and international courses in the areas of quality management, leadership and patient safety, and has been involved in several countries in projects aimed at quality improvement and patient safety.

## Overview

<b>Name</b>	<b>Improving patient safety in emergency services and hospital management at Ignace Deen University Hospital</b>	
<b>Impact</b>	Improving patient safety through capacity development in emergency care and in hospital management	
<b>Countries</b>	Guinea	Germany
<b>Cities</b>	Conakry	Heidelberg
<b>Institutions</b>	Hôpital National d'Ignace DEEN	Heidelberg University Hospital
<b>Term</b>	July 2017 – April 2019	
<b>Budget</b>	110.000 EURO	

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### **Regional Programme University and Hospital Partnerships in Africa**

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