



Lüdtke, Dr. Ulrike @lchard

Early diagnosis of hearing impairment of Tanzanian Children & strengthening of the Tanzanian health care system

ABOUT US

About UNHS Project

Federal state – partner country:
Lower Saxony – Tanzania

Title:
Improving health provision for newborns with hearing screenings in order to boost the resilience of the Tanzanian health sector

In cooperation with the GIZ programme:
Improvement of Health Care in Tanzania

Priority Area:
Pandemic resilience

Duration:
01/04/2022 – 31/05/2023

Responsible Ministry:
Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Equal Opportunities of Lower Saxony

Project Manager:
Angelika Zur

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of 323 Länder and Kommunen

Local Situation:
The ability to hear is a prerequisite for early language development. If hearing impairment is not diagnosed early and speech therapy is not provided, affected children are at high risk for impaired language development. In Africa, identification and care of hearing impairment in childhood often does not take place until children are 3-5 years old or even when they enter school. There are many reasons for this, ranging from the lack of infrastructure to the lack of qualified professionals for early identification and care of childhood hearing impairment.

The aim of the project is to strengthen the skills of medical personnel in the field of newborn hearing screening and confirmatory diagnostics, to add relevant teaching content to their training and to improve access to newborn health services in Tanzania.

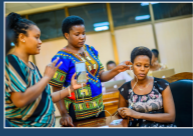
Within the framework of this cooperation, the already existing engagement of the states of Lower Saxony and Tanzania will be advanced. The project will enable a mutual knowledge transfer and thereby further strengthen the general competencies of the professional staff as well as the structures of the health care system in Tanzania. In this way, the project also contributes to an improved resilience of the Tanzanian health care system in the face of challenges in health care, such as most recently in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

This project helps to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



"The BLP is facilitating the implementation of newborn hearing screenings as early on as possible in Tanzania to improve young children's educational and integration prospects in later life. In conjunction with an interdisciplinary capacity-building programme in otorhinolaryngology, audiology and speech-language therapy, MUHAS is becoming a hub for research and teaching with an increasingly significant role as a facilitator in Tanzania and a peer-to-peer partner on the international cooperation stage."

Prof Ulrike M. Lüdtke,
Leibniz University Hannover, Institute of Special Education,
Department of Speech Pedagogy and Therapy / Leibniz Lab
for Relational Communication Research



Cooperation Arrangements

Several universities and health centres from Lower Saxony and Tanzania are working together as part of the project in the German Government and Federal States Programme (German: Bund-Länder-Programm, BLP). The implementing partners from Lower Saxony are the Department of Speech Pedagogy and Therapy within the Institute of Special Education at Leibniz University Hannover (Prof Dr Ulrike Lüdtke), the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at Hannover Medical School (MHH) (Prof Prof hc Dr med Thomas Lenarz) and the MHH-affiliated German Hearing Center Hannover (DHZ) (Prof Anke Lesinski-Schiedat, PD Dr Angelika Ilg). The BLP project benefits from the initial findings of the "HEAR Africa" project, which developed this research partnership. Long-term implementing partners from Tanzania are the Muhimbili Institute of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and the MUHAS-affiliated Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) in Dar es Salaam. The extended network also includes the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) in Moshi and the Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza.

What we do and How?

The project seeks to develop the capacities of medical staff and speech therapists in the field of universal newborn hearing screening (UNHS) and confirmation diagnostics. A range of interdisciplinary training formats are being used to enhance the expertise and practical skills of students and specialists. In addition to this, exchange trips are being organised, training strategies are being evaluated and standardised, and the development of a freely accessible digital platform on diagnosing and treating infant hearing impairments is supported. This will serve to develop the general skills of specialists and strengthen sustainable structures within the Tanzanian health system. It will help to improve the resilience of the country's health sector in the face of complex health care challenges, especially in regard to newborns and children.

Useful Links

- Weitere Informationen zum BLP: <https://bund-laender-programm.de>
- <https://www.giz.de/de/zeitweiser/91262.html>
- Weitere Informationen zum Projekt "HEAR Africa": <https://www.ifz.uni-hannover.de/de/aktuell/langen/sprach-paedagogik-und-therapie/forschungsprojekte/global-issues-of-af/>
- IHO-Klinik der Medizinischen Hochschule Hannover: <https://www.mhh.de/hno>
- Deutsches Hörzentrum Hannover: <https://www.dhz.chncf/>
- Weitere Informationen MUHAS: <https://www.muhas.ac.tz/>

ABOUT US



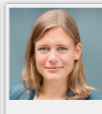
Angelika Zur
Current Position - Project Manager
"Improving health provision for newborns with hearing screenings in order to boost the resilience of the Tanzanian health sector"



Angelika Ilg, PhD
Head of pedagogic-therapeutic team of the German Hearing Center Hannover, ENT clinic of Hannover Medical School, lecturing at Leibniz University and Hannover Medical School



Prof. Dr. Ulrike Lüdtke
Prof. Dr. Ulrike Lüdtke is a professor in the Institute for Special Education at Leibniz University Hannover, Germany, and head of both the Department of Speech-Language Therapy and Inclusive Education



Louisa Johannsmeyer
Louisa Johannsmeyer is a research fellow at the Institute for Special Education in the Department of Speech-Language Therapy and Inclusive Education at Leibniz University Hannover, Germany, and coordinates the project "Year Africa".

UNHS EVENTS

Symposium on Newborn Hearing Screening in the Light of Medical Care in Tanzania

Representatives of the Medical University of Hannover/DHZ, Leibniz University Hannover and Representatives of Health Professionals of MUHAS, Muhimbili National Hospital and Health Professionals from various Hospitals in Tanzania come together for a fruitful discussion about the importance of improvement of the health care systems in Tanzania especially in the field of neonates. Prof. Ulrike Lüdtke (Leibniz University, Hannover) reported about the bridge between the current project and future efforts – HearAfrica! She explained the history and the future of the project and the importance for the speech development in deaf children. First study data of the newborn hearing screening and the importance to evaluate the measurement and appointment ways and the additional evaluated data of the newborns health and medication were reported from PD Dr Angelika Ilg.

Dr. Naomi Mwanamange (MUHAS, Neonatology) reported about the current management of Neonatal sepsis at MUHAS, the importance of the guidelines of the American Pediatric Association. She also mentioned references about the current management of neonatal sepsis from the last 5 years and when to start and to stop with antibiotics in neonates.

Dr. Antke Züchner (Technical Advisor Neonatology (Maternal, Newborn & Child Health)) reported about the risks of Hearing impairment on the neonatal ICU. Especially low APGAR Scores, Prolonged Mechanical Ventilation and Hyperventilation, low birth weight, ototoxic medications >5 day, bacterial or viral meningitis, TORCH infections and other Maternal Infections, severs Hyperbilirubinaemia or head trauma. Also noise in the NICU is a major isotropic environmental hazards for neonates in the NICU. Therefore Dr Züchner suggested sound level guidelines for NICU from the literature.

Prof. Dr. Anke Lesinski-Schiedat (MHH, ENT) reported about the interpretation of the ABR results in newborns and the importance of maturation and other development facts.

Dr. Maxprince Salu (MUHAS, ENT) reported about the management of pediatric Haring loss in Tanzania in history, now and in the future. He mentioned that the number of ENT doctors in Tanzania increases, and so the numbers of audiologists and speech- and language pathologists will also be increase.

All talks were discussed in the audience before Dr. Nahya Masoud closed the symposium.

[View Symposium Agenda](#)

OUR GALLERY

