medicus mundi
international network
health for all

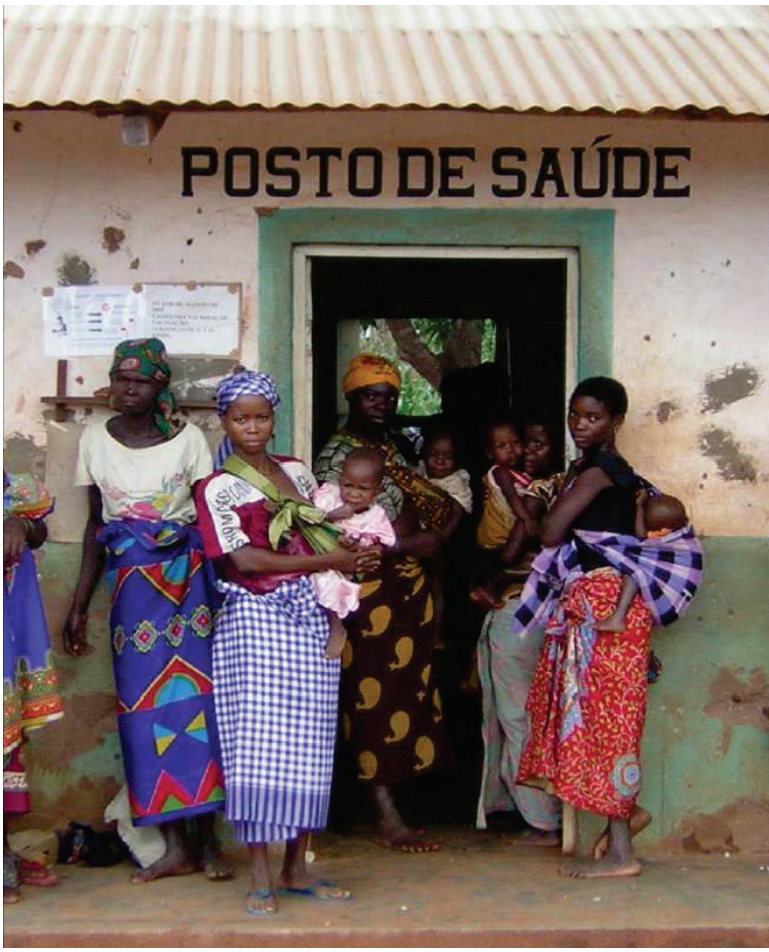
MMI Network Policy

Medicus Mundi International – Network Health for All (MMI) is a network of organizations working in the field of international health cooperation and global health. The Network promotes access to health and health care as a fundamental human right ("Health for All") and supports the efforts undertaken in this respect by its members. As part of a global Health for All movement, the MMI Network cooperates with the World Health Organization, with research institutions dealing with international and global health, with grassroot movements and with a broad range of other global, regional and thematic networks and actors.

Health for All – the shared vision of Network members

For the members of Medicus Mundi International Network promoting Health for All means:

- **Promoting universal health coverage in a sense of universal, equitable and affordable access to quality health services** (promotion, prevention, care and rehabilitation) for all people; as this is essential to the improvement of health, fighting diseases and reducing poverty;
- **Promoting strong national health systems** with a strong leadership by the government, strong accountability systems and a decisive role of communities and users of health services in the development, management and monitoring of health policies and services at all levels;
- **Promoting policies that address the social and political determinants of health**, as unfair economic arrangements and poor social programs, unhealthy living conditions, inequality and gender inequity, violence, bad politics and injustice are at the root of ill health and death.
- **Linking the local and national with the global level** by getting involved in global health policy, global health governance and global governance for health, as many determinants of health and health care lie outside the scope of national policies and programs;
- **Promoting health policies and practices that are based on evidence.**
- **Critically reflecting the role and contributions of international health cooperation** to universal access to health, health systems strengthening and global governance for health.



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The Network's specific contribution: Sharing knowhow and joining forces

The Network supports its members' efforts to achieve the shared vision of Health for All through a set of specific contributions as defined by the MMI statutes:

- **Enhancing communication and cooperation** among members and providing a platform for the development of joint activities, thematic working groups and consortia.
- **Fostering an evidence based approach** in the members' institutional cultures and programs and promoting collaboration between the Network members and research institutions;
- **Providing a platform for joint advocacy at a global level**, with a focus on the World Health Organization and in close cooperation with other networks and campaigns promoting Health for All;
- **Fostering the visibility of the Network members** and their activities by publishing their news, reports, statements, events and other contributions.

Network Health for All: members and partners

Medicus Mundi International – Network Health for All (MMI) is a participatory network, in which members work together on common issues, but remain fully autonomous.

MMI is a non-profit association according to German law and an NGO in official relations with WHO. The rules and rights regarding Network membership are defined by the statutes and internal regulations.

MMI Network members

- are working in the field of international health cooperation and/or global health;
- share the Network members' vision of Health for All and support the mandate of the Network;
- are committed to actively participate in Network activities and to contribute to the sustainability of the Network;
- are able to fulfill the related duties, including the payment of an annual membership fee.

The pluralism of the Network members' history, values, ambitions, core business and expertise is an important asset of the Network.

Membership and active involvement in the MMI Network create a number of concrete benefits for its members, such as:

- Becoming part of a living community and broadening institutional and personal networks;
- Strengthening capabilities; increasing effectiveness, creating synergies, avoiding duplication of efforts;
- Getting access to the WHO and to the networks and platforms MMI is involved in.

For MMI, networking does not end at the Network's borders but includes creating links and platforms for collaboration and smart networking with external partners such as:

- WHO and other key global health actors;
- other organizations and networks that do not fulfill the criteria for Network membership or do not want to become affiliated.

Network organization and governance, agenda setting, roles and division of work

The association's statutes published on the MMI website define the main rules and rights regarding the MMI Network's organization and governance (Assembly, Board, Executive secretariat, Working groups). They will be complemented by internal regulations and guidelines and with specific policies, where needed.

The Network members, as owners of MMI, bear the overall responsibility for the MMI Network and its development and define what they want the Network to do. Members are systematically involved in the development of the MMI Network's policies, strategies and work plans, including the periodical definition of thematic focal areas of the Network.

The members are considered as the main resource of the Network. Network members or ad hoc groups of members – and not the central institutions of the Network – are responsible for the bulk of the Network's activities, such as:

- setting up and managing thematic working groups;
- proposing and organizing joint activities (projects and consortia) open to all Network members;
- introducing new issues into the Network;
- if necessary, coordinating their activities;
- advocating and sensitizing on a national level;
- organizing thematic conferences and technical workshops open to all Network members;
- representing the Network and reporting back from international events and for a.

Joint network activities are organized and carried out within the Network in several ways and may include external partners:

- MMI Midterm strategy where key issues of the Network and related objectives and activities are defined;
- Formal MMI working groups and projects;
- Informal working groups, communities of practice or coalitions and consortia of Network members and eventually external partners can be set up decentrally any time. Such initiatives are initially supported by the Network secretariat, but have to be sustained by the interested Network members.

Whatever option is chosen, cooperation structures and joint Network projects have to be task oriented, with defined objectives and outcomes.

Reviewed Network Policy adopted by the General Assembly of the Medicus Mundi International Network, 24 May 2014.

The MMI Network Policy is, together with the association's statutes, the basic document of the Medicus Mundi International Network. It is founded on the legally binding statutes and contains a set of guiding principles and operational guidelines which will be translated into more specific policies, strategic plans and regulations.

Networks are dynamic and complex systems influenced by their history and the personalities of their core members (see our reader "50 years of MMI"). The MMI Network Policy does not tell the history of the MMI Network nor does it explicitly refer to it, but is rooted in it.