

THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH
// UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

VISION AT CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

We would like our research and teaching in international health to contribute to improved health for the poor populations in the world.

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FROM THE CENTRE DIRECTOR

Welcome to CIH!

CIH has been intensively active this year, both in terms of research and education.

One thing has been an important and exciting development in our NORHED-funded projects. Now a number of these students and PhD candidates enrol in their home universities and only come to CIH for courses instead of for their whole study period. This change underlines how much our effort in capacity building and strengthening is showing results, and our co-operating partners in the south are becoming stronger. This is absolutely fantastic! This co-operation is also yielding significant research results. For example, researchers from CIH and Makerere University, Uganda, carried out research that resulted in a Lancet publication this year – congratulations!

Here at CIH, both administrative and scientific staffs have been working to meet the challenges of the above-mentioned change; having students as guests for shorter periods here in Norway, and having scientific staff travel more to give courses abroad. As Centre Director, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for how well all CIH staff have been working to address these new demands. Even the students were involved! One made a short film showing how to find CIH.

CIH believes that to be able to make a difference in the world, we need a critical mass of people working together! Our own faculty, the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (MOF), is also very supportive of these ideas. During 2015 there have been a number of processes across the University of Bergen (UiB) that will encourage this. First, CIH and all the Departments at the MOF were involved in developing new guidelines for CIH. These will be a support for the Centre's co-operation with the other Departments as well as with other Faculties. Also in 2015, UiB published its new strategy document, for the period 2016–2022. "Global challenges" was included as a major focus for the university in the coming period. Concurrently, the various different UiB milieux working on these issues were evaluated this year, and it was proposed that there be more of the kind of activity CIH prioritises: cross-disciplinary/cross-Faculty collaborations!

2015 was a productive year. CIH is a fantastic place to work. 2016 promises to bring even more interesting challenges and opportunities, including, we hope, the long promised improvement to our housing situation.



Bergen, April 2016

Bente E. Moen
Director, CIH

1. SOME CIH HIGHLIGHTS



THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

Never before has the world been so united!

Friday 25 September 2015, CIH co-hosted an open virtual/live seminar to celebrate and promote the launching of the United Nation's Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDG). The president of the Norwegian Government and other national political and research leaders participated. These SDG represent the culmination of the most inclusive global process ever. The SDG represent a framework for moving forward. "It is no longer a question of the rich countries helping the poor, everyone in the world is essentially 'in the same boat'". They also provide a cornerstone for much of CIH's research and education activity. In the coming years, CIH and UiB are challenged to take a leadership role in discussions of how to make the SDGs operational and play an active role in this global debate.

CIH encourages debate and reflection

In August 2015, CIH researchers, **Anne Hatløy** and **Catherine Schwinger**, led a seminar and discussion on whether the 2006 recommended WHO Child Growth Standards should be the global reference for assessing child nutritional status. The main points considered were the quality of the WHO Child Growth Standards, the problem of defining overweight and the need for including clinical indicators, as well as whether it is at all important to use either references or a standard. There was consensus that it is crucial to agree on one reference to enable valid comparisons both over time and between groups. One of the problems identified was that the concept of what is abnormal, e.g. what is overweight, might have changed over time. Clinical indicators, such as physical and mental impairments might also need to be taken into consideration in order to establish meaningful definitions.



*Height measurement of a child in DR Congo.
Photo: Thorkild Tylleskär*

Conference on Global Health and Vaccination Research

CIH and CISMALC participated actively in the 9th Conference on Global Health and Vaccination Research held March 2015. It was hosted by the interfaculty research programme – LEVE (Livelihoods in developing countries) at the University of Oslo. The conference is a regular part of the Research Council of Norway's Global Health and Vaccination Research (GLOBVAC) activity. The Norwegian Forum for Global Health was also a co-organising.



University of Bergen colleagues gathered at the GlobVac conference in Oslo, March 2015. Photo: Thorkild Tylleskär

Raising Awareness

GROWNUT is a Master and PhD programme at the Kinshasa School of Public Health (KSPH) at University of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is a collaboration between the Departments of Paediatrics, Dietetics and Human Nutrition at University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa and CIH (project leader **A. Hatløy**). The program is funded by the NORHED program in Norad. May 2015, there was an important, awareness-raising meeting at the University of Kishasha. It was attended by the Minister for Higher Education and Universities in DR Congo, Dr Théophile Mbemba Fundu, as well as a number of participants from international organisations, ministries and academia, and a large number of television stations. CIH professor **Thorkild Tylleskär** is also very involved in this work.

Neurodevelopment and mental health of children

In October 2015, researchers from CIH hosted one of the symposia at the 15th Congress of the International Federation for Psychiatric Epidemiology. It considered challenges and opportunities for neuropsychiatric testing research in low-income settings. CIH Professor **Ingunn M. Engebretsen** says that there is a great need to focus on mental health in low income countries and that, unfortunately, this topic is often underrepresented at conferences.



Ugandan children playing. Photo: Ingunn M. E. Engebretsen



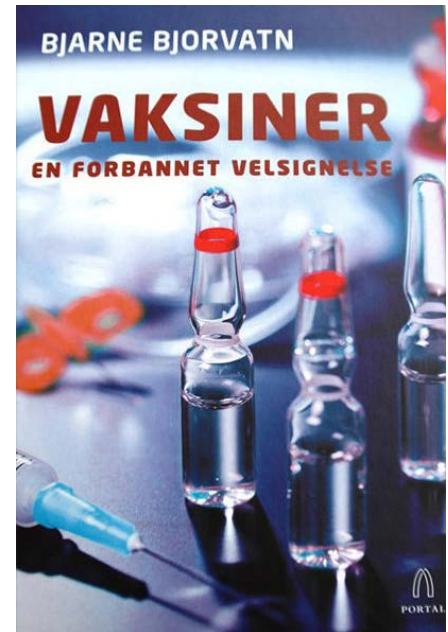
Photo: Private

Climate changes should concern health professionals

Professor emeritus at the Centre for International Health, **Gunnar Kvåle**, says that climate change will lead to larger health problems than tobacco. Kvåle was interviewed in a Norwegian medical journal. He stated that he wished Norwegian health personnel would speak out more about this possibility.

Vaccination – a Cursed Blessing

Vaccination saves countless numbers of lives every year. In poor countries parents beseech the authorities to vaccinate their children, while in the rich, industrial countries there are beginning to be interest groups and individuals who are fighting to opt out of national vaccination programmes. Retired CIH Professor, Bjarne Bjorvatn published a book in 2015 entitled, "Vaccination – a Cursed Blessing". He underlines that people who are sceptical to vaccination, and who avoid having their children vaccinated assume a responsibility that extends beyond their own family, and which could have negative consequences for other children and society at large. The book provides comprehensive information about vaccination in general, and looks at a large number of specific vaccines as well as highlighting why all children should be given the right to be vaccinated.



2. ACADEMIC ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

BSRS 2015: Sustainable Development Goals to meet Global Development Challenges

Previous CIH Director, **Rune Nilsen** was the Scientific Director of the University of Bergen's (UiB's) Bergen Summer Research School (BSRS) in 2015. The faculty team leading this year's programme was largely based at CIH. PhD candidates from around the world participate in BSRS. This year there were 130 participants and lecturers from 26 different countries.



Bergen Summer
Research School

Social Innovation Award

A CIH PhD student, **Phyllis Awor**, was given the Social Innovation Award, part of the Social Innovation in Health Initiative supported by the University of Cape Town and the University of Oxford. The award recognizes grassroots innovative solutions that have been impactful in improving healthcare delivery. Awor is part of a research group working on improving quality of care at drug shops in Uganda. The innovation has adopted the WHO/UNICEF strategy for integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) to improve quality of services in private drug shops. It harnesses the potential of drug shop owners to recognise malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea and deliver appropriate diagnostics and treatment that is affordable and accessible to families.



Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI) Films
healthinnovationproject.org



Students at CIH. Photo: CIH

Engaging at CIH

Peter Hangoma (second from the left) is one of CIH's highly engaged PhD students. In addition to organising monthly health economic workshops in the Global Health Priorities research group, Hangoma organized a terrific CIH team-building initiative: 2 relay teams for the Knarvik Xtrem race. Hangoma holds a Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health and Fogarty International Center AIDS International Training and Research Program Traineeship; he is also a lecturer at Department of Public Health, University of Zambia School of Medicine. His research considers the relationships between health shocks, health expenditure and household welfare in Zambia.



A general in the war against Ebola

**summarised from an article by Marion Solheim*

Samuel Okware has been fighting disease in Uganda for more than 30 years. He has received several national and international awards for his contribution to the prevention of HIV and the control of Ebola outbreaks. Sixty-seven years old, he received a PhD from CIH, UiB in January 2015. According to Okware, the spreading of a disease such as Ebola can create a kind of a parallel epidemic: an epidemic of fear. Okware says that what is most important in the fight against Ebola is early diagnosis, rapid intervention, and good leadership. He adds that we must stop saying that Ebola is a death sentence, because good treatment can save lives. This will give people better motivation to contact the health services if they are infected.

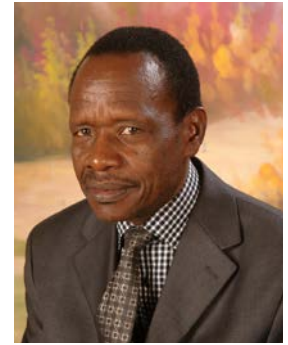


Photo: Private

Getting the Message Across

In addition to scientific articles, posters and presentations are the primary communication tools for scientists among their peers. However, researchers are also required to present their results beyond their peer group. It is important that young, aspiring researchers learn more about all kinds of presentations both to peers and beyond. Perhaps this is particularly relevant for research about global health. Ten PhD candidates and three professors from the Centre for International Health (CIH) **Research School** attended a seminar on how to make a good scientific poster.



Research School participants at the seminar. Photo: Bente E. Moen

PEOPLE AT CIH



3. SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL AT CIH

There are many types of “work” and affiliations related to the Centre. The list below shows the scientific personnel who are formally employed at CIH, with a few exceptions (explained in brackets).

PERMANENTLY EMPLOYED

Blystad, Astrid	Professor (IGS employed)
Fylkesnes, Knut Martin	Professor
Hinderaker, Sven Gudmund	Professor
Lindtjørn, Bernt	Professor
Moen, Bente Elisabeth	Professor
Moland, Karen Marie	Professor
Mustafa, Tehmina	Professor
Nilsen, Rune	Professor
Norheim, Ole Frithjof	Professor (IGS employed)
Robberstad, Bjarne	Professor
Sam, David	Professor (50% at CIH and 50% at Faculty of Psychology)
Sommerfelt, Halvor	Professor
Svanes, Cecilie	Professor (50%)
Tylleskär, Thorkild	Professor

TEMPORARILY EMPLOYED

Chandyo, Ram Krishna	Post doctor
Engebretsen, Ingunn Marie S	Researcher
Fadnes, Lars Tore	Post doctor (IKO employed)
Hatløy, Anne	Associate Professor
Kashala Abotnes, Espérance	Post doctor
Karamagi, Charles	Associate Professor
Mirkuzie, Alemnesh	Post doctor
Sandøy, Ingvild Fossgard	Post doctor CIH/Associate Professor IGS
Steinsland, Hans	Researcher
Strand, Tor A	Adjunct professor
Theofylaktopoulou, Despoina	Post doctor

UIB EMPLOYED PHD CANDIDATES

Basnet, Sudha	PhD candidate
Blume, Jörn	PhD candidate
Schwinger, Catherine	PhD candidate

EMERITUS

Heggenhougen, Harald Kristian	Professor emeritus
Kvåle, Gunnar	Professor emeritus

4. ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

CIH is a part of the Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care (IGS). The two share a joint administration and there is one Head of Administration for both. Many in administration work at least some time in both locations (CIH and Kalfarveien 31). However, the main location for each person is described in the name list below:

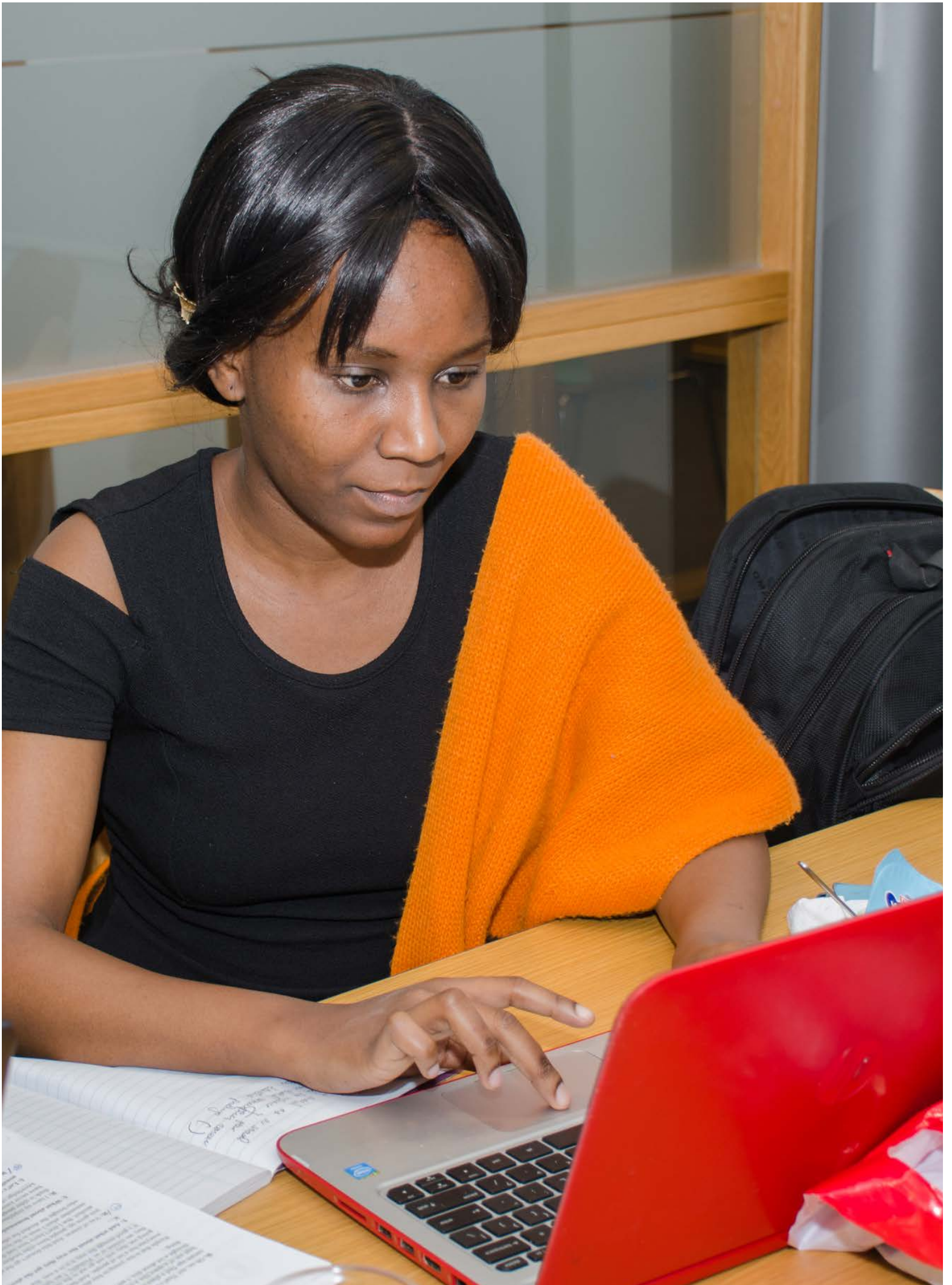
Moen, Bente E. Director/Professor at CIH
 Lie, Rolv Terje Head of Department, IGS (2015)

MOST DAYS AT CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

Bartle, Elinor	Communication Services
Forshaw, Linda Karin	Academic Affairs, Master
Haaland, Marte Emilie Sandvik	Project administration CISMALC
Hope, Ingvild Research	Advisor
Istad, Therese Marianne	Research & Communication Officer
Koldal, Gunhild	Administration
Lavik, Borgny Kvalnes	Academic Affairs, Master
Mørkedal, Øyvind	Economic Officer
Vikøren, Solfrid	Economic Officer
Warpe, Jo Even	Project Economist

MOST DAYS AT DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND PRIMARY CARE (IGS), KALFARVEIEN 31

Amundsen, Silje Katrin	Reception
Bere, Anja	Personnel Officer
Grimeland, Tiril	Project Administration TVEPS
Gundersen, Elin Christine	Project administration SEFAS, Research schools
Hoshovde, Elin	Economic Officer
Hvalby, Jorunn	Academic Affairs, PhD
Meidell, Susanne	Reception
Mujic, Mirza	Academic Affairs, PhD
Nordstrand, Kirsti	Academic Affairs, PhD
Nåmdal, Erlend	Academic Affairs
Oen, Randi May	Head of Academic Affairs
Oldeide, Olin Blaalid	Project Administration TVEPS
Rekk, Marit Skjelbred	Academic Affairs Advisor
Smith Giske, Siri	Head of Administration (from 1 April 2015)
Sæle, Kjell Rune	Head of Economy
Tolleshaug, May Ruth	Head of Administration (until 1 April, 2015)



5. CIH BOARD & ADVISORY GROUP

Since 2014, the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (MOF) has been working to formalise the CIH organization.

CIH BOARD

According to the new, approved guidelines, a CIH Board was first established in 2015. This first CIH Board included the MOF Dean and the leaders of all the MOF Departments.

CIH Board Members, 2015:

Nina Langeland (Dean), Per Bakke (K2), Nils Erik Gilhus (K1), Anne Nordrehaug (IKO), Rolv Terje Lie (IGS) and Rolf Reed (Biomedicine, Leader of the Board).

CIH ADVISORY GROUP

The Scientific Advisory Council advises the Centre Director.

In 2015, the members have been:

Jon Wigum Dahl, Director, Department of International Collaboration, Haukeland University Hospital

Guri Rørtveit, Professor, IGS

Rolv Terje Lie, Professor/Department Head, IGS

Ottar Mæstad, Director, Christian Michelsen Institute

Gunn Mangerud, Department Head, Department of Earth Science, UiB

Ingvild Hope, Advisor, CIH

Thorkild Tylleskjær, Professor, CIH.

The Centre Director would like to take this opportunity to thank the participants of these groups for the many important and interesting discussions, which have been always very inspiring and helpful for CIH.



Working on a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Gro Tjaliun

6. ASSOCIATED SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL

In addition to its extensive network with partners and collaborators abroad, CIH has many good Norwegian collaborators, both in terms of research and teaching. Many of these are at our own Department, IGS, and are not included here (but we would particularly mention Kjell Arne Johansson, Ole Frithjof Nordheim and Ingrid Miljeteig). We hope we have remembered most of them, and we would like to express our thanks to these colleagues for our very productive work together.

Kahtan Al-Azawy, Kjersti Alsaker, Gabriella Arcadu, Stefi Barna, Valborg Baste, Randi J Bertelsen, Gunnar Bjune, Bodil Bø Våga, Karin Lødrup Carlsen, Daniela Costea, Jutta Dierkes, Atle Dyregrov, Stian Ellefsen, Maria Emmelin, Frederik Frøen, Håkon Gjessing, Truls Gjestland, Siri Gloppen, Harleen Grewal, Kurt Hanevik, Rolf Hanoa, Anne Hatløy, Haldis Haukanes, Sigrun Henjum, Bjørn Hofmann, Mari Hysing, Anne Christine Johannessen, Arne Johannessen, Thomas Jürgens, Torvid Kiserud, Ingrid Kvestad, Siri Lange, Nina Langeland, Gro Therese Lie, Ola Lind, Hørselsentralen, Karin Lødrup Carlsen, Anne Ma Dyrhol-Riise, Maria Mathisen, Graziella Van Den Bergh, Ole Bjørn Rekdal, Ottar Mæstad, Rifat Mahfuza, Hans Kristian Maridal, Klaus Melf, Ingrid Miljeteig, Thera Mjåland, Kamal Mustafa, Anne Nordrehaug, Øystein Evjen Olsen, Ernst Omenaas, Hans Overgaard, Odd Pettersen, Pål Puntervoll, Francisco Gomez Real, Helga Refsum, Kristin Rygg, Bjarte Sanne, Katherine Skarstein, Steinar Skrede, Hans Steinsland, Arne Strand, Johanne Sundby, Stefan Sütterliien, Lisbet Sviland, Heidi Syre, Bertil Tungodden, Christopher Venables, Elin Vestbøstad, Magnus Vollset, Harald Wiker, Annegreet Wubs, Kari Vik, Ketil Joachim Ødegaard, Birgitta Åsjø, Audun Aase, Henriette Sinding Aasen.



Workers on a flower farm in Ethiopia. Photo: Amare Nigatu

EDUCATION



7. CANDIDATES IN COMPETENCY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

MASTER CANDIDATES

CIH can accept up to 25 new Master students every year. Master students form the basis of CIH's education in International Health and are thus the heart of CIH.

FINISHING IN 2015 (2013–15)	BEGINNING IN 2014 (2014–16)	BEGINNING IN 2015 (2015–17)
Ahmed, Israa Abdul Rhman	Akol, Angela	Awealom, Asgedom Akeza
Coons, Claudia	Ali, Mohamed Abdul Raouf	Deleta, Samuel Darge
Corosky, Gregory	Binyaruka, Peter John	Dullie, Luckson
Denegetu, Tsion Haileyesus	Cole, Robin	Girma, Feven
Hailu, Alemayehu	Gjerde, Kjersti	Hassan, Mohamed Ali
Jalloh, Edeen	Hammer, Anna	Hurissa, Mengistu Bekele
Meki, Chisala	Hasha, Wegdan	Kiær, Ingrid
Mohamed Ahmed, Samih	Kibira, Simon Peter	Lundamo, Mwila
Shahzad, Yasir	Lubulwa, Frances Clare	Mohamed, Nazar
Tewelde, Mengs Gebremeskel	Macha, Jane	Mohamed, Nuha Mohamed Gaafar
Yigezaw, Getachew Shiferaw	Rankinen, Maija	Mukunya, David
Zgambo, Jessy	Rasheed, Rahma	Nima, Dawit Desalegn
	Sanou, Anselme Siméon	Pamba, Doreen
	Zhao, Ruiting	Paul, Israel
		Roro, Meselech Assegid
		Shrestha, Jasmin
		Sitali, Lungowe
		Tumuhamye, Josephine
		Aase Boge, Amalie

MEDICAL STUDENTS

All medical students at the faculty participate in a one week "Global Health" course. Some medical students choose "Global Health" as an additional elective course. This course is very popular and includes field work in a low income country.

STUDENTS IN THE MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH PROGRAMME

CIH supports a programme whereby medical students can be trained as researchers during their undergraduate study. It involves one extra year at medical school, for which they are granted an additional year of funding. It is a great opportunity for recruiting young, up-and-coming physicians to international research, and we welcome the group of Norwegian medical students who have chosen to be a part of our research environment.

Here are the students involved in 2015:

MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH PROGRAMME CANDIDATES 2015	MAIN SUPERVISOR	CO-SUPERVISOR
Grønvik, Taran	Sandøy, IF	Mpundu, M
Halvåg, Ragnhild	Moland, KM	Blystad, A
Hegdahl, Hanne K.	Sandøy, IF	Fylkesnes, KM
Melberg, Andrea	Tylleskär, T	
Pannu, Mehma	Robberstad, B	Wester, G
Ribe, Ingeborg	Svensden, E; Hinderaker, SG	
Skylstad, Vilde	Engebreetsen, IMS	Moland, KM
Solheim, Ingrid	Blystad, A	Moland, KM

PHD CANDIDATES IN COMPETENCY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

NAME	COUNTRY	MAIN SUPERVISOR	CO-SUPERVISORS
Aakre, Inger	Norway	Henjum, S	Strand, T
Awor, Phyllis	Uganda	Tylleskär, T	Wamani, H / Peterson, S
Ayana, Taye Gari	Ethiopia	Lindtjørn, B	Deressa, W
Ayele, Abebe Animut	Ethiopia	Lindtjørn, B	Gebre-Selassie Gebre-Michael, T
Balikuddembe, Michael	Uganda	Tylleskär, T	Wakholi, P
Balla, Yaliso Yaya	Ethiopia	Lindtjørn, B	Norheim, OF
Banda, Richard	Zambia	Sandøy IF	Fylkesnes, K
Basnet, Sudha	Nepal	Strand, TA	Sommerfelt, H / Matheisen, M
Bech, Margunn Margrete	Norway	Rekdal, OB	Heggenhougen, HK
Blume, Jörn	Germany	Tylleskär, T	Wang, S
Chinkhumba, Jobiba	Malawi	Robberstad, B	Torsvik, G
Dalen, Nina	Norway	Sam, D	Sundby, J / Jacobsen, FF
Dangisso, Mesay Hailu	Ethiopia	Lindtjørn, B	Datiku, DG
Fatima, Razia Kaniz	Pakistan	Hinderaker, SG	Bassili, A / Qadeer, E
Gebreyesus, Seifu	Ethiopia	Lindtjørn, B	Damen, H
Hailu, Alemayehu	Ethiopia	Robberstad, B	Lindtjørn, B / Deressa, W
Hamusse, Shallo Daba	Ethiopia	Lindtjørn, B	Demissie, M
Hangoma, Peter	Zambia	Robberstad, B	Fylkesnes, K
Haugen, Johanne	Norway	Strand, TA	Dudman, S / Mathisen, M
Hernæs, Ulrikke J.V.	Norway	B.Robberstad	Phiri, K
Hoel, Ida Marie	Norway	Mustafa, T	Sviland, L / Wiker, H
Hussain, Hamidad Farid	Pakistan	Robberstad, B	Tylleskär, T
Imseeh, Sawan	Occupied Palestinian Territory	Frøen, F	Hamdan, M
Jørstad, Melissa D.	Norway	Mustafa, T	Sviland, L
Kampata, Linda	Zambia	Sandøy, I	Fylkesnes, K
Katiray, Leila	USA	Tylleskär, T	Moland, KM
Keny, Aggrey	Kenya	Tylleskär, T	Were, M
Kibira, Siimon Peter	Uganda	Sandøy, I	
Kilale, Andrew	Tanzania	Hinderaker, SG	Ngowi, B
Kirunda, Barbara Eva T.	Uganda	Tylleskär, T	Wamani, H / Fadnes, LT
Kismul, Hallgeir OK	Norway	Hatløy, A	Moland, KM
Klungesøyr, Jørn Ivar	Norway	Tylleskär, T	Weiqin, C
Mohamed, Khalid G.	Norway / Sudan	Hunskår, S	Abdelrahaman, S / Malik, E
Mori, Amani Thomas	Tanzania	Robberstad, B	Norheim, OF
Mugisha, Alice	Uganda	Tylleskär, T	Wakholi, P
Muhumuza, Julius	Uganda	Hinderaker, SG	Mfinanga, GS
Mulwafu, Wakisa	Malawi	Viste, A	Golpen, F / Cooper, H
Mwangala, Sheila Monde	Zambia	Fylkesnes, K	Monze, M / Moland, KM
Nakazwe, Chola	Zambia	Fylkesnes, K	Sandøy, Ingvild
Ngalesoni, Frida	Tanzania	Norheim, OF	Robberstad, B
Ng'anjo, Selia	Zambia	Fylkesnes, K	Kiserud, T / Moland, KM
Ngoie, Leonard B.	DRC / Malawi	Young, S	Gjertsen, JE / Hallan, G / MicNDwire, N
Nigatu, Amare	Ethiopia	Moen, BE	Bråtveit, M
Ramokolo, Vundli	South Africa	Engebreetsen, I	Goga / Doherty / Jackson / Skjærven
Rongsen-Chandola, Tamsunaro	India	Strand, TA	Bhandari, N
Ruhago, George	Tanzania	Norheim, OF	Robberstad, B

Rutagwera, David Gatsinzi	Rwanda	Tylleskär, T	Molés, JP / Tuailon, E
Sanou, Anselme Simeon	Burkina Faso	Tylleskär, T	Diallo, A / Kashala-Abotnes, E
Schwinger, Catherine	Germany	Strand, TA	Andersen, P / Fadnes, LT
Senkoro, Mbazingwa Fikeni	Tanzania	Hinderaker, SG	Mfinanga, GS
Shayo, Elizabeth H.	Tanzania	Blystad, A	Norheim, OF / Kamuzora, P
Shrestha, Jasmin	Nepal	Strand, TA	Vaino, K / Andreassen, Å / Dudman, S
Shrestha, Sanjaya	Nepal	Strand, TA	Vaino, K / Andreassen, Å / Dudman, S
Somé, Nagaonlé Eric	Burkina Faso	Tylleskär, T	Engebretsen, I
Tarekegn, Shanka Solomon	Etiopia	Lindtjørn, B	
Taxt, Arne Michael	Norway	Punternvoll, P	Sommerfelt, H
Tiam, Appolinaire	Cameroon	Tylleskär, T	Guay, L
Tongun, Justin Bruno	South Sudan	Tylleskär, T	Tumwine, J
Ulesido, Fekado Massebo	Ethiopia	Lindtjørn, B	Gebre-Michael, T / Meshesha, B
Varela, Carlos	Malawi	Viste, A	Mkandawire, N / Groen, R / Young, S
Våga, Bodil Bø	Norway	Blystad, A	Moland, KM / Olsen, BE
Waruru, Anthony	Kenya	Tylleskär, T	Achia, TNO
Woldesemayat, Endrios Markos	Ethiopia	Lindtjørn, B	Datiko, D

8. DOCTORAL DEGREES AWARDED



Three Ebola Outbreaks in Uganda

Sam Okware defended his thesis entitled, **“Three Ebola Outbreaks in Uganda 2000–2011”** 20 January, 2015.

Born in 1948, Okware is a doctor and public health specialist with 30 years' experience in Uganda. Based on his experience and expertise in HIV-prevention efforts in Uganda, he was asked to coordinate the country's response to the Ebola epidemics.



Maternal and Neonatal Mortality in Ethiopia

Yaliso Yaya Balla defended his thesis entitled, **“Maternal and neonatal mortality in rural south Ethiopia: Comparing mortality measurements and assessing obstetric care”** 25 June, 2015.

Balla's work highlighted a number of initiatives that can help. Most important is to ensure that the births take place under the best possible conditions, with care being available near to where people actually live. Another important initiative was to develop birth registries including rural data. Such data can enable researchers to determine measures that are helpful.



Better Information is Critical

Elizabeth Henry Shayo defended her thesis entitled, **“Stakeholder engagement in health-related decision making in Mbarali District, Tanzania”** 30 September, 2015.

Despite national initiatives to have more “bottom-up” participation, real involvement at the district level remains limited. Practical, cultural, historical and structural reasons can be involved. Better information distribution can be critical to improving this situation.



Preventing HIV Transmission, Mother to Child

Bodil Bø Våga defended her thesis entitled, **“Scrutinizing care in nursing practice. An ethnographic study of nurse-mother interaction in programmes to prevent HIV transmission from mother to child in Tanzania”** 2 October, 2015.

Over-work and under-staffing is a daily reality for nurses. In addition, the line between private and professional is often very thin. More research, anchored in the social and cultural contexts of this area, is required as well as better information to both nurses and patients.



Rationally designing a Toxoid Vaccine

Arne Taxt defended his thesis entitled, **“Characterisation of toxic, antigenic and cross-reactive determinants of the heat-stable toxin of enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli. Towards rational design of a toxoid vaccine”** 5 October, 2015.

Around 600 000 children die every year from diarrhoea, most in south, and southeast Asia, and in African countries south of the Sahara. One of the bacteria most commonly involved is also a culprit for diarrhoea among people travelling to these countries. A successful vaccine would be significantly beneficial. Taxt's work involved molecular studies of one of the toxins produced by this bacteria.



Many TB Patients are Missed

Razia Fatima defended her thesis entitled, “Assessing the burden of missing tuberculosis cases in Pakistan” 16 October, 2015.

This work endeavoured to determine how many TB patients are not being identified in the national tuberculosis programme. The results showed the levels to be much higher than official estimates. It also showed ways to find patients living in slum areas who are otherwise often not identified.



Just and Effective Prioritising

George Ruhago defended his thesis entitled, “Economic evaluation and equity impact analysis of interventions for maternal and child health in Tanzania: Evidence for fair and efficient priority setting” 6 November, 2015.

Rates of mortality are highest among the poor. This study showed that it is possible to use methods available today to bring about better prioritisation and to lower the health burden in low-income countries. Examples include initiatives such as particular vaccination programmes, treatment regimens for specific illnesses, and improving child and mother health support.



Using Pharmacoeconomics in Decision-Making

Amani Mori defended his thesis entitled, “Pharmacoeconomics and formulary decision-making in Tanzania: Generating evidence for antimalarial drugs” 24 November, 2015.

For all countries, but especially the poorer ones, it is critical to find ways to get the “best health for the money”. This work identified how it is important to train and use specialists in health economy in the national decision-making process. As a case study, the work highlighted an anti-malaria medicine used in treating children.



Diabetes patients often have poor oral health

Hasaan Mohamed defended his thesis entitled, “Impact of type 2 diabetes and periodontal disease on oral status of Sudanese adults: Clinical, microbial and immune-inflammatory aspects” 3 December, 2015. (IKO)

Working as a clinician in Sudan, Mohamed noticed that patients with diabetes often had poor oral health. He decided to continue his studies to learn more about a possible connection. His results showed that the mouth mirrors the body, and that maintaining good oral health can help with overall physical health, including impacting diabetes.



Access to Competent Help

Selia Nganjo Phiri defended her thesis entitled, “Maternal health care services in Zambia – access barriers to facility childbirth and unmet obstetric need” 8 December, 2015.

Dying in childbirth is a significant public health problem in many parts of the world. It is often because the women do not have access to competent, expert help, particularly in rural areas. The reasons are often geographical and socio-economical.



Improving Bone Tissue Engineering

Salwa Mustafa Nourelhuda Suliman defended her thesis entitled, “Bioactive copolymer scaffolds for bone tissue engineering. Efficacy and host response” 11 December 2015. (IKO)

Bone defects can result in significant clinical problems. Suliman’s work showed how bioactive copolymer scaffolds can help in bone reconstruction, and may result in fewer side effects than bone transplants alone. The scaffold was able to release bone stimulating chemicals in safer, lower doses over time, resulting in better re-growth – at least in mice!



Causes of Malnutrition in Children

Hallgeir Kismul defended his thesis entitled, “Determinants of child malnutrition. Studies from a rural area in the Democratic Republic of Congo” 15 December, 2015.

DRC has one of the highest levels of childhood malnutrition in the world. Using both qualitative and quantitative methods, this study showed that issues involved include food security, availability of nutrition-rich foods, local infrastructures, family socio-economic factors, to say nothing of war.

9. MASTER DEGREES AWARDED

International Health (7):

NAME	TITLE OF THESIS
Gregory James Wielhorski Corosky	Staying healthy "under the sheets": A qualitative community health study on experiences of sexual health among Inuit youth in Arviat, Nunavut
Asma Javed	Physical Disability and the Use of Assistive Devices in Pakistan. A case study on users' perspectives in three rehabilitation centers of Peshawar and Islamabad
Chisala Deborah Meki	Welfare Sanitary Facilities for Market Traders in Lusaka District, Zambia
Yasir Shahzad	Involvement of the Retail Pharmacies in Pakistan Tuberculosis Control: Assessment of the knowledge of the retail pharmacy staff about tuberculosis and public tuberculosis Control Programme, and sale practices of anti-tuberculosis drugs in DI Khan city, Khyber Pukthoon Khwa Province, Pakistan
Rachana Shrestha	Determinants of voluntary HIV counseling and testing (VCT) uptake among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Nepal
Mengs Tewelde	Assessment of dietary intake and body mass index in a nutritionally deprived population in rural Democratic Republic of Congo
Jessy Z'gambo	Occupational Hazards and Use of Personal Protective Equipment among Small Scale Welders in Lusaka, Zambia

Oral Sciences (2):

NAME	TITLE OF THESIS
Sara Yahia Eltayeb Ibrahim	Role of RvD1 on Osteogenic Factors Involved in the Inflammatory and Resolution Processes in Periodontal Periapical Lesions
Victoria Konstantinova	Nanotechnology in Dentistry. Assessment of current knowledge of dental students on the use of nanomaterials in dentistry and investigation of nanoparticle internalization in a human oral mucosal model



RESEARCH



10. MAIN PROJECTS

CIH has many collaborative projects in low- and middle-income countries in Asia and Africa

PROJECT TITLE	DURATION	PROJECT LEADER	FUNDING SOURCE
Umbilical Cord Cleansing for the Prevention of Newborn Infections in Uganda	2014–2018	Nankabirwa, Victoria	NFR/GLOBVAC
Zinc as an adjunct for the treatment of very severe disease in infants younger than 2 months	2014–2017	Bhatnagar, Shinjini	NFR/GLOBVAC
Enfance Africaine – Mental child health in francophone Africa	2014–2018	Abotnes, Esperance Kashala	NFR/GLOBVAC
Improving diagnosis of extrapulmonary tuberculosis by implementation of a sensitive and specific assay in routine tuberculosis diagnostics	2014–2017	Mustafa, Tehmina	NFR/GLOBVAC
Development of a vaccine for enterotoxigenic E. coli based on the heat-stable toxin	2014–2018	Sommerfelt, Halvor	NFR/GLOBVAC
SeeTheChild – Mental child health in Uganda	2013–2017	Engbretsen, Ingunn	NFR/GLOBVAC
Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research	2013–2015	Istad, Therese Marianne; Scheel, Inger B.	NFR/GLOBVAC
Centre of Excellence: Centre for Intervention Science in Maternal and Child Health (CISMAC)	2013–2023	Sommerfelt, Halvor	NFR/GLOBVAC
Preparing for tuberculosis vaccine efficacy trials: Baseline epidemiology, improved diagnosis, markers of protection and phase/II trials	2008–2016	Grewal, Harleen	NFR/GLOBVAC
Combining indoor residual spraying and long-lasting insecticidal nets for preventing malaria: Clust randomized trial in Ethiopia	2012–2017	Lindtjørn, Bernt	NFR/GLOBVAC
Priorities in Global Health 2020	2011–2016	Johansen, Kjell Arne	NFR/GLOBVAC
SURVIVAL PLUS: Increasing capacity for mama-baby survival in post-conflict Uganda and South Sudan	2013–2018	Tylleskär, Thorkild	NORHED, NOMA
GROW NUT – Growing Partnership for Higher Education and Research in Nutritional Epidemiology in DR Congo	2013–2018	Hatløy, Anne; Tylleskär, Thorkild	NORHED, NOMA
HI-TRAIN – Health Informatics training and research in East Africa for improved health care	2013–2018	Were, Martin; Mughal, Khalid A; Tylleskär, Thorkild	NORHED, NOMA
SENUPH – South Ethiopia Network of Universities in Public Health (SENUPH) aims to improve women's participation in post graduate education	2014–2018	Lindtjørn, Bernt	NORHED, NOMA
Reduction of the burden of injuries and occupational exposures through capacity building in low income countries.	2014–2018	Moen, Bente E.	NORHED, NOMA
Capacity building in postgraduate surgical training and research in Malawi	2014–2018	Lindtjørn, Bernt	NORHED, NOMA
Impact of vitamin B12 on neurodevelopment and cognitive function from early life into school age.	2014–2019	Strand, Tor	NFR/GLOBVAC
The effectiveness of a girl empowerment programme on early childbearing, marriage and school dropout in rural Zambia: A cluster trial.	2015–2020	Sandøy, Ingvild	NFR/GLOBVAC
Malaria Chemoprevention for the post-discharge management of severe anaemia in children Malawi, Uganda and Kenya: Moving towards policy	2014–2018	Robberstad, Bjarne	NFR/GLOBVAC
Reducing maternal and neonatal mortality in southwest Ethiopia	2008–2015	Lindtjørn, Bernt	Ethiopian Ministry of Health, Norad, NLM
Respiratory Health In Northern Europe, Spain and Australia (RHINESSA) ALEC, lung function growth	2014–2018	Svanes, Cecilie	NFR, BMFS, Helse Vest, Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority and H2020

11. CENTRE FOR INTERVENTION SCIENCE IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (CISMAC)

A Centre within a Centre

CISMAC evolved from the CIH and its collaborators. These two units continue to work closely together. CIH is home to CISMAC's central administration and several of the CISMAC researchers. The research activities of the centers are integrated and complementary.

CISMAC and CIH work together to fulfill their visions of improving health for poor populations, through high quality research and learning. CISMAC research generates knowledge that will contribute to improve health and survival of mothers and children in Asia and Africa. It hopes to play a pivotal role in CIH's quest to foster excellent research and capacity strengthening in international health.

April 2016

Halvor Sommerfelt

Director, CISMAC

CISMAC FACTS

CISMAC is an international consortium, anchored at CIH. Research institutions elsewhere in Norway and in Ethiopia, India, Nepal, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia are partners in the consortium, and CISMAC is also supported by the WHO.

CISMAC aims to:

- improve health and survival for mother and children
- target low-income populations in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- perform intervention studies (studies estimating effects of various health-improving actions)
- collect information on health systems and socio-cultural factors in study areas to understand context
- assess interventions for effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and equity.



CISMAC Highlight: Study in Zambia Receives GLOBVAC Funding

The study, examining links between adolescent pregnancies and different approaches for empowering adolescent girls in Zambia, is one of only 6 to receive GLOBVAC funding. It will be led by CISMAC Deputy Director, Ingvild Fossgard. The potential benefits for women and children are great and the study may be able to serve as a model for interventions in other, similar settings.

12. SELECTED PUBLICATIONS 2015

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