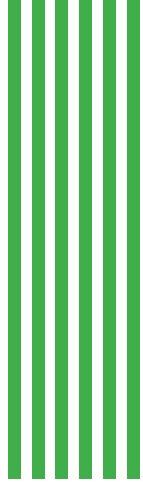


Just and Compassionate Pharmaceutical Care for All



EPN

Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network
Réseau Pharmaceutique Œcuménique



Why church health facilities?

Church-based organizations are active in health care delivery in many parts of the world and specifically, in low- and middle income countries (LMICs) which tend to be in the most hard to reach places. It is estimated, in many African countries, that church health facilities and faith-based pharmaceutical suppliers cater for over 40% of people living in rural areas. Church health institutions tend to bridge the healthcare services gaps left by the government and private sectors.

These church health institutions often struggle to recruit, train and retain health workers due to their location and low resource availability. Further, church health facilities tend to be overlooked by governments when allocating financial and medical commodities during national budgeting. Therefore, such facilities tend to operate with inadequate resources because their allocation comes from the Church and the generated revenue. Even with low resources, church health institutions tend to the medical needs of thousands of people sparsely settled and often the only health facility for miles.



Why quality pharmaceutical services?



Medicines are a cornerstone of many medical treatments, for diagnosis and disease prevention. Access to quality-assured medicines and its rational use remains a big problem. EPN seeks to work with church systems to ensure that their pharmaceutical services are efficient and effective and are equipped to ensure the availability of affordable quality medicines to all who need them.



Who we are.

In 1981, the Christian Medical Commission (CMC) of the World Council of Churches (WCC) assigned a pharmaceutical adviser to provide technical support to church health programmes in Africa. Later in 2000, the supported church health organizations jointly agreed to become a Network through membership. The Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN) was then registered as a non-profit organization with a secretariat based in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Network.

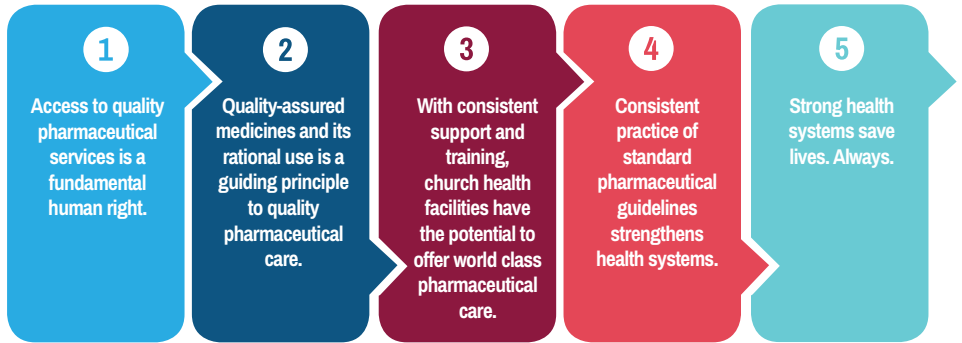
Today, EPN is a Christian non-profit organization comprising of over 100 members of healthcare providers and professionals. The majority of our members are Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) that provide healthcare to communities in the most marginalized and remote areas where national government health services are limited.



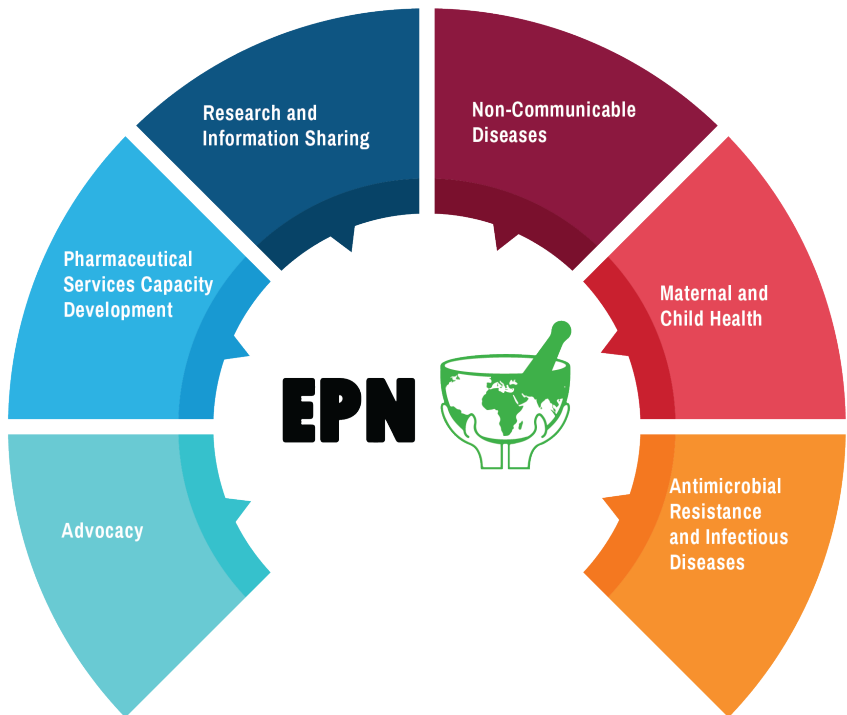
EPN has 20 Church Health Associations (CHAs) and 23 Drug Supply Organizations (DSOs), 28 Church Health Institutions (CHIs), 31 Individual members and 11 other organizations, making a total of 115 members spread over 37 different countries (*as of 2018). More than 300 million people rely on health care provided by our Network.



What we believe in.



Our strategic focus areas for the period 2016 - 2020 are:





Mission

To support churches and church health systems provide and promote just and compassionate quality pharmaceutical services.

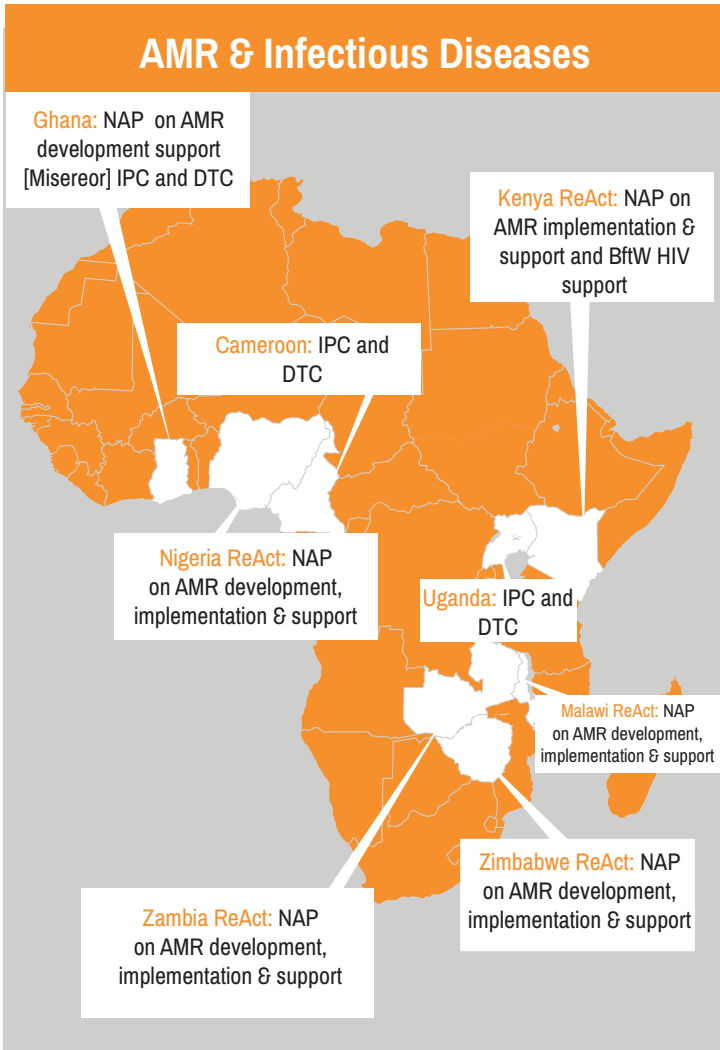


Vision

A valued global partner for just and compassionate quality pharmaceutical services for all.

What we do.

We implement programs in six priority areas : Antimicrobial Resistance and Infectious Diseases, Non-communicable Diseases and Maternal and Child Health through Research and Information Sharing, Advocacy and Pharmaceutical Services Capacity Building.



Non-Communicable Diseases

Ghana: Train pharmacy, prescribers and HCWs

Uganda Misereor: Train pharmacy, prescribers and HCWs

Cameroon: Train pharmacy, prescribers and HCWs

DRC Misereor: Train pharmacy, prescribers and HCWs

Zambia World Diabetes: Foundation training of HCWs

Maternal and Child Health

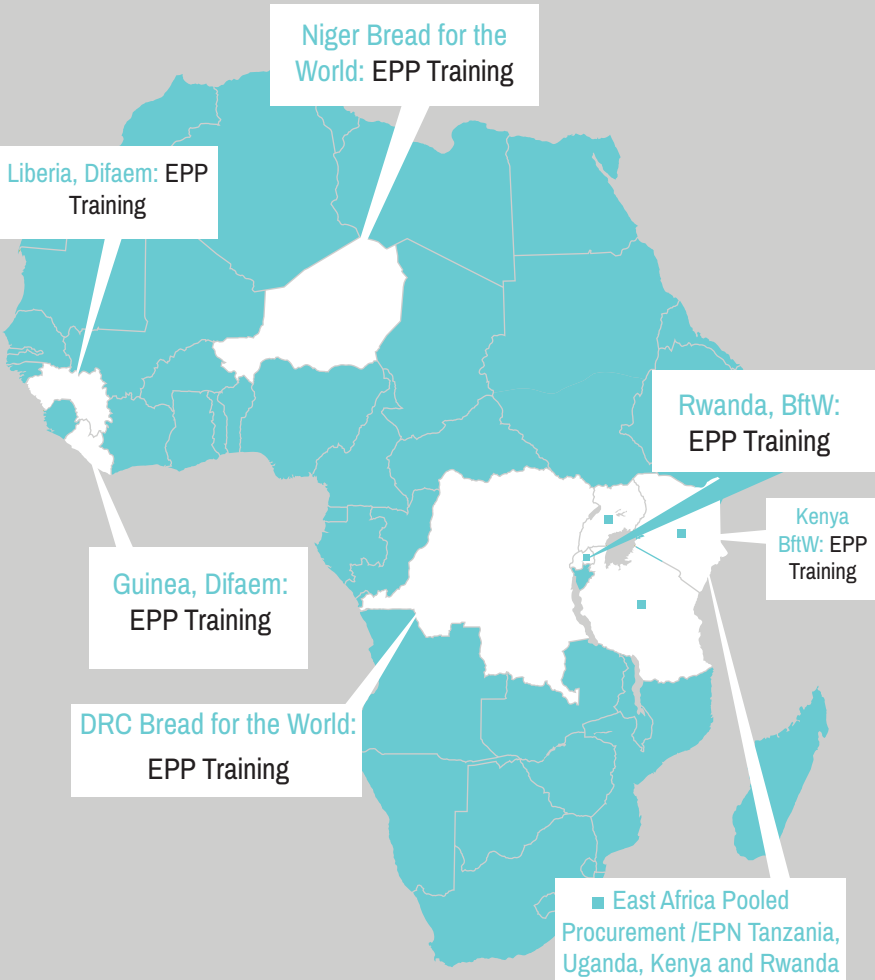
Burkina Faso Bread for the World: Training of HCWs

Chad Bread for the World: Training of HCWs

Sierra Leone, Bread for the World: Training of HCWs

Uganda, Kindermissionwerk: Children's Medicine Project

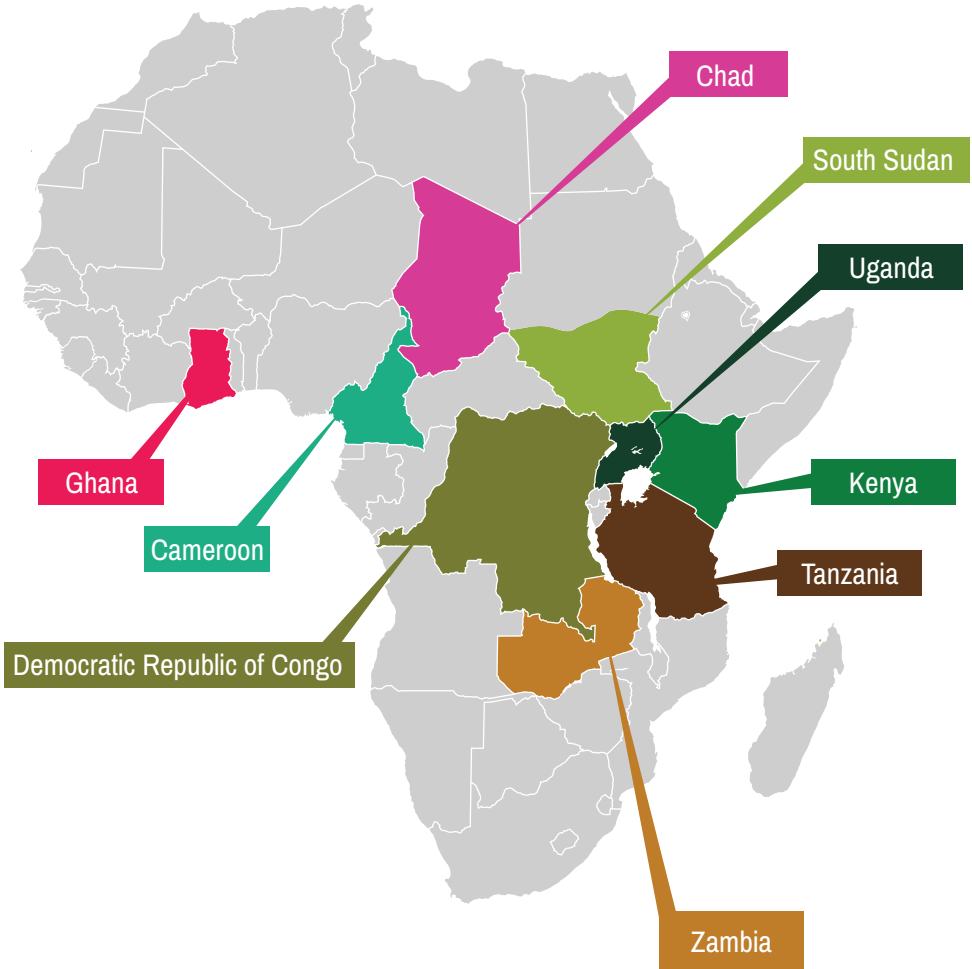
Non-Communicable Diseases



Advocacy and Information Sharing

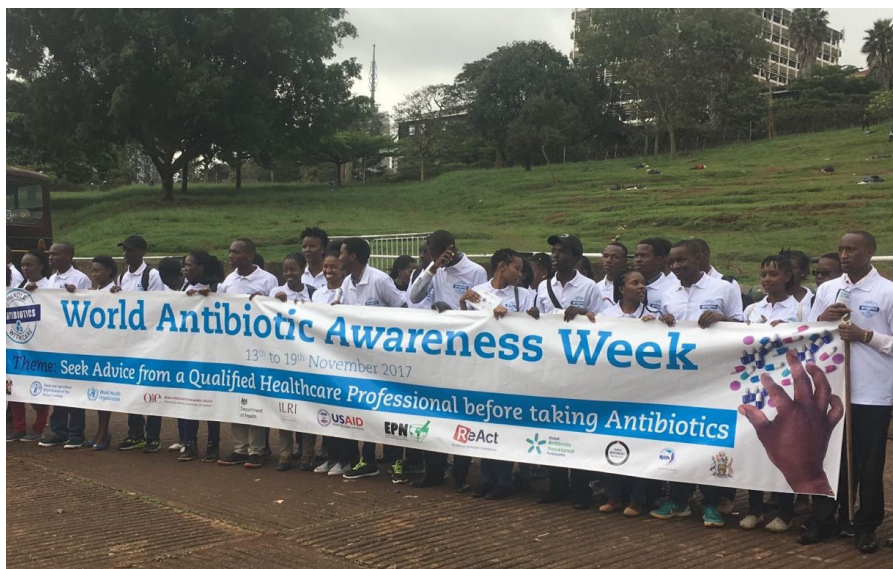


Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Scholarship



Since 2014, informally trained CHI pharmacy staff have benefited from the ESP. Over 60 received support so far.

We influence policy on the position of church health institutions within health systems.



Church Health Institutions (CHIs) are embedded as a vital part of their communities. CHIs have a unique credibility and legitimacy with local populations in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This closeness allows for health messages to be reinforced at the pulpit and the health facilities which ultimately maximizes the utilization of health care.

This is why:

- We work to include Church Health Institutions on national health budgets and health commodity allocation.
- We offer technical support to countries in the development, implementation and monitoring of National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.
- We empower religious leaders to harness their influence in the church and extend it to health care and services awareness.

We build a community of information sharing.

Addressing the various aspects of pharmaceutical services requires an efficient two-way flow of information from the secretariat to the network and vice-versa including among members and the network and the rest of the global health community. This is why:

- We offer a platform for members to interact and access technical scientific publications on emerging aspects of pharmaceutical care from within Africa and around the world via two e-publications called the Netlink and e-Pharmalink and one print publication called Pharmalink.
- We offer a platform for members to access various resources such as ToolBox kits in various therapeutic areas, essential pharmaceutical guidelines, technical publications etc. from the Centre of Excellence.
- We run a biennial networking event called the EPN Forum.



We build pharmaceutical capacities where it's needed most.

Access to quality-assured medicines and its rational use is the foundation of treating any disease in a health facility. This is why:

- We develop guidelines on standard pharmaceutical guidelines.
- We conduct training to CHI staff in various pharmaceutical services standard procedures.
- We offer scholarships to under-trained pharmaceutical staff at local universities for formal training.
- We facilitate the creation of healthcare facility level Infection Prevention and Control Committees (IPCs) and Drug and Therapeutic Committees (DTCs).

Flagship Projects.

The Essentials of Pharmaceutical Practice (EPP)

EPN has developed a training course to improve pharmaceutical capacity of member facilities' staff. Since the start in 2012 over 500 staff working in pharmacies have been trained.



East Africa Pooled Procurement

In order to improve access to quality affordable medicines within member facilities we started the East Africa Pooled Procurement Project. This consortium of drug supply organizations allows health facilities to benefit from economies of scale when purchasing medicines and medical supplies.

ReAct Africa Node

The threat of antimicrobial resistance is real as antibiotics have started to fail. Resistant bacteria already causes more than 500,000 deaths every year and this number is expected to rise if radical actions are not taken. In comradeship with the global community to fight for a world free from fear of untreatable infections, EPN hosts the African Node of Action on Antibiotic Resistance (ReAct).



Ecumenical Scholarship Program (ESP)

Church health facilities struggle to train, retain and maintain formally trained pharmaceutical staff. EPN has a scholarship program that up-trains existing pharmaceutical staff in these facilities. Currently, we offer scholarships in the following: Diploma in Pharmaceutical Technician and Degree in Pharmacy.

MiniLab

Counterfeit medicines are widespread in Africa and can be found on the streets, in community pharmacies, hospitals and even from drug supply organizations. The effects of these counterfeit medicines have on the people that take them, can be devastating. In church health institutions, a program in partnership with Difeam, has introduced the MiniLab kits to run fast-acting tests that detect counterfeit medicines as a first control measure.



Partner with us.

The EPN Network has an expansive reach among marginalized communities where church health facilities operate all over the African continent. CHIs are embedded into the communities they serve. Therefore the Network, is an efficient two-way channel where the EPN secretariat is able to assess where the greatest needs lie and the members are able to inform on the real status on the ground. This remains our value proposition in every partnership

When you partner with EPN and support church health institutions to achieve their targets to improve pharmaceutical services, you have the following benefits:

What your support will do.

- Invest in training and health system support activities to increase church health sector capacity to deliver quality pharmaceutical services.
- Conduct research to inform pharmaceutical practice, rational drug use, HIV/AIDS drug adherence/treatment management/access, treatment management of non-communicable diseases, and advocacy efforts to reposition church health facilities.
- Invest in information sharing through publications and thematic network meetings and workshops.
- Invest in the access and availability of pharmaceuticals and other health products.
- Invest in actions and activities to fight against development of antimicrobial resistance.

How you can support EPN

- Join the Network
- Make a donation
- Sponsor a student in the ESP program



Partners.

EPN is grateful to its partners for their invaluable contributions which continue to make positive changes in the lives of healthcare workers and the communities they serve.



WORLD **DIABETES** FOUNDATION



World Health Organization





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