

Annual Report 2018

MED
BOX

 THE AID LIBRARY

INTRODUCTION

MEDBOX – The Aid library is an open-access online library aiming to increase the quality of health care worldwide. Quality assurance and accountability are important values in humanitarian action as well as healthcare settings, which receive growing attention by affected populations, health care workers, humanitarian actors, donors and the public. The easy-to-use structure of MEDBOX facilitates the application of common health standards increasing the impact as well as the quality of the different interventions carried out by health workers.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, **MEDBOX** celebrates its **5th ANNIVERSARY!**

Since its launch, **MEDBOX** has achieved a remarkable reputation that is reflected in growing numbers of views, downloads, and an enormous increase in number of users per day, providing an excellent feedback to our work in terms of quality and utility.

CURRENT STATUS – IN NUMBERS AND FACTS

Since 2013, with 2.8 million views and still increasing, **MEDBOX** has collected more than 14,000 documents in nearly 800 different sections available in various languages.

Our **MEDBOX** team continuously updates the categories in order to stay up to date.



14,200

Documents uploaded



1 million+

Visitors



4.6 million

Downloads



192

Countries reached



12

Toolboxes established

MEDBOX can proudly look back on a successful year. The number of users doubled, having over 2,000 visitors per day in several months. As of today, over one million visitors worldwide are **MEDBOX** users and its documents have been viewed more than 2,8 million times and were downloaded over 4,6 million times.

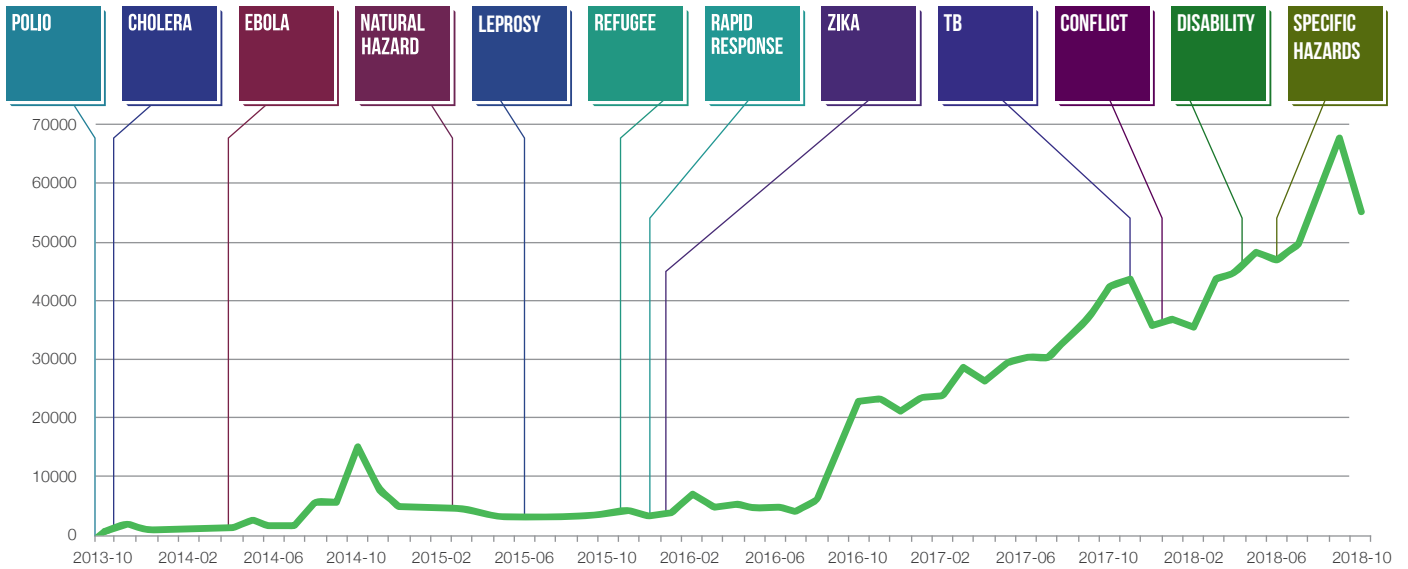


Figure: Development of visitor's number

MEDBOX has become an important platform for quality resources in humanitarian aid and health action worldwide. Staying up to date, always reacting immediately to new crises and challenges has certainly contributed to the success story of MEDBOX.

RANKING OF CATEGORIES

The fifth anniversary gave the MEDBOX team a good chance to revise some existing categories, to reorganize some of the older subcategories, and remove outdated information in order to maintain the high quality of information and to adhere to new insights and changes.

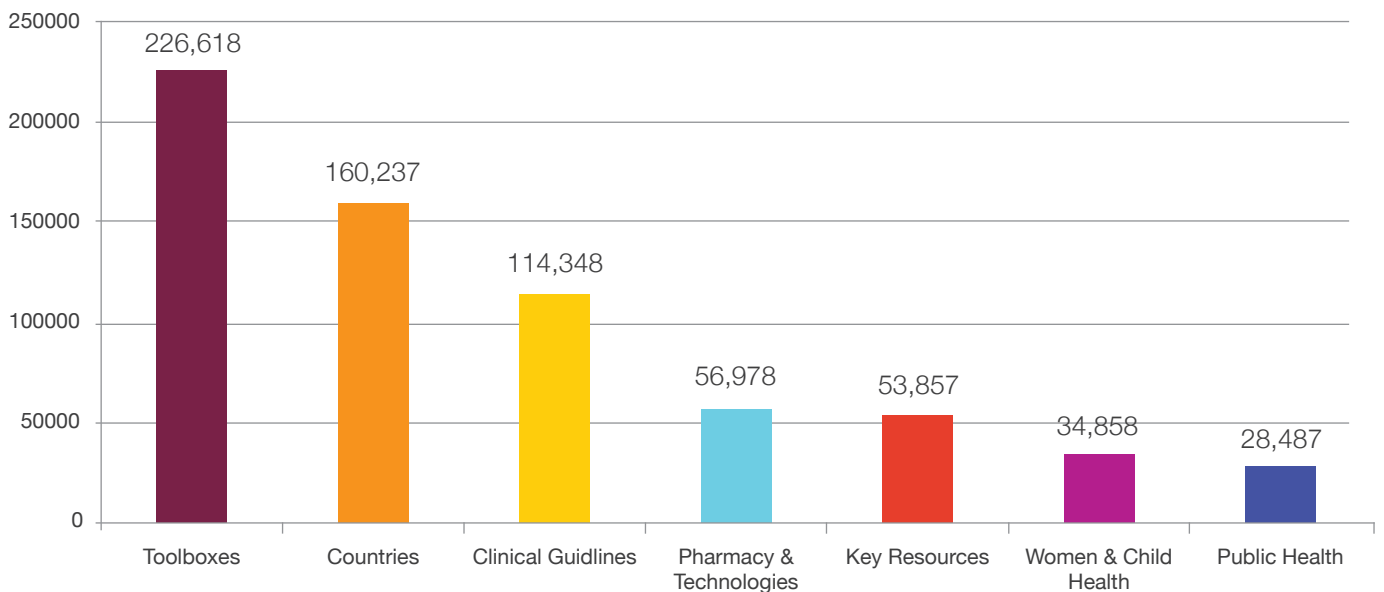


Figure: Ranking of categories by views January – November 2018

1. TOOLBOXES

The TOOLBOXES are a special feature of the **MEDBOX** online library. The TOOLBOXES compile practical, up-to-date information on certain topics in one page and thereby enabling users to get an overview of different types of documents, ranging from clinical guidelines, community health work papers, disabled people information, IEC material to policy papers. Currently, the 12 TOOLBOXES cover epidemic outbreaks, disasters, diseases and other aspects of such as: EBOLA, NATURAL HAZARDS, CONFLICT, ZIKA, TB, CHOLERA, LEPROSY, POLIO, RAPID RESPONSE, REFUGEE, DISABILITY, and SPECIFIC HAZARDS.

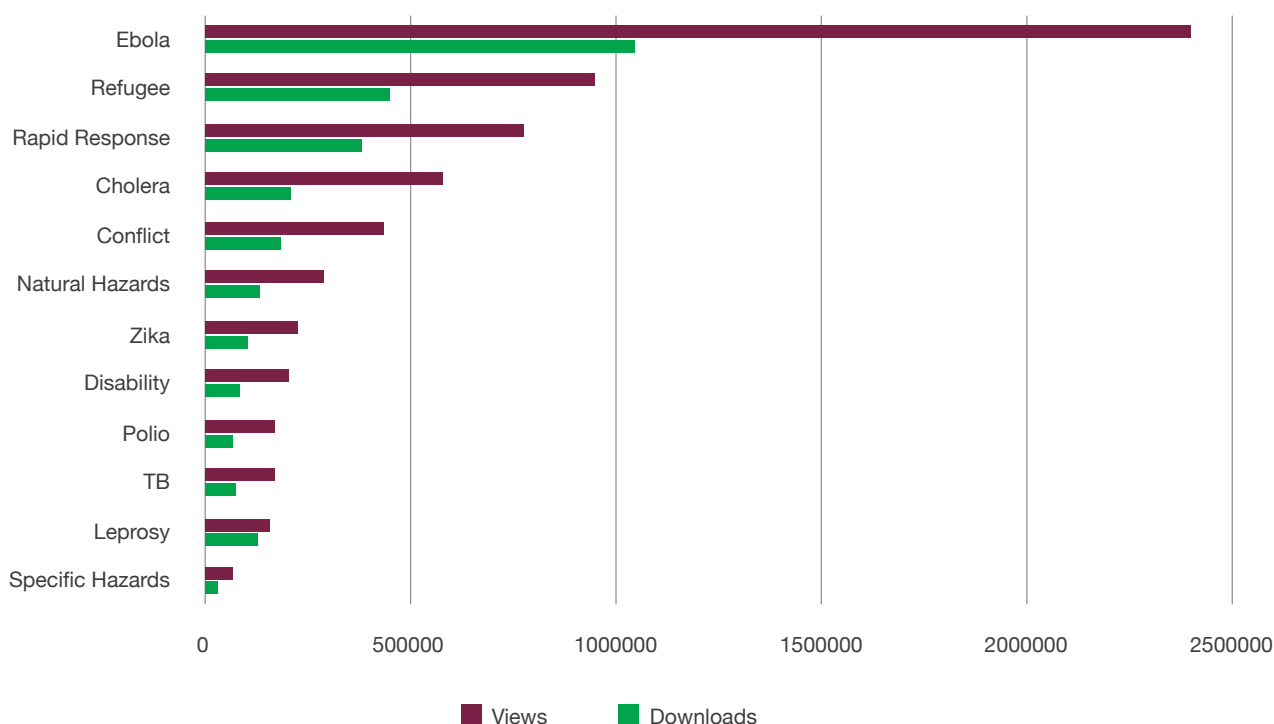


Figure: Toolbox ranking by views and downloads since their launch

Throughout 2018, our visitors made full use of these handy tools worldwide. Motivated by the big welcome and their efficiency based on the feedback received, the **MEDBOX** team revised the existing toolboxes, launched three new ones – The **DISABILITY TOOLBOX**, the **SPECIFIC HAZARDS TOOLBOX**, and the **TB (TUBERCULOSIS) TOOLBOX**. New Toolboxes will be set up and subsequently launched in the upcoming year.

In 2018, the **EBOLA TOOLBOX** was the on the top of the list with document views of more than 840,000 times, partly due to the Ebola outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo starting in May 2018 in the Equateur province and followed by an other outbreak in August 2018 in North-Kivu and Ituri provinces, when this highly contagious disease struck the country. Militias are still fighting in the northern part of the DRC and the civilian population is constantly getting caught between the fronts. According to the World Health Organization WHO, this is the second most serious Ebola epidemic in history.



Image: Dr. Patrick Umondi in Congo using the Ebola Toolbox2018

The **DISABILITY TOOLBOX** provides relevant information with the aim of closing the existing information gap; it works against stigmatization, marginalization and social exclusion of affected people by improving medical, psychological and social health care on a local and global scale, and provides tools to influence policies. The Toolbox was launched in June 2018. More than 1,000 documents are uploaded in different categories. The documents were downloaded nearly 90,000 times and viewed more than 200,000 times.

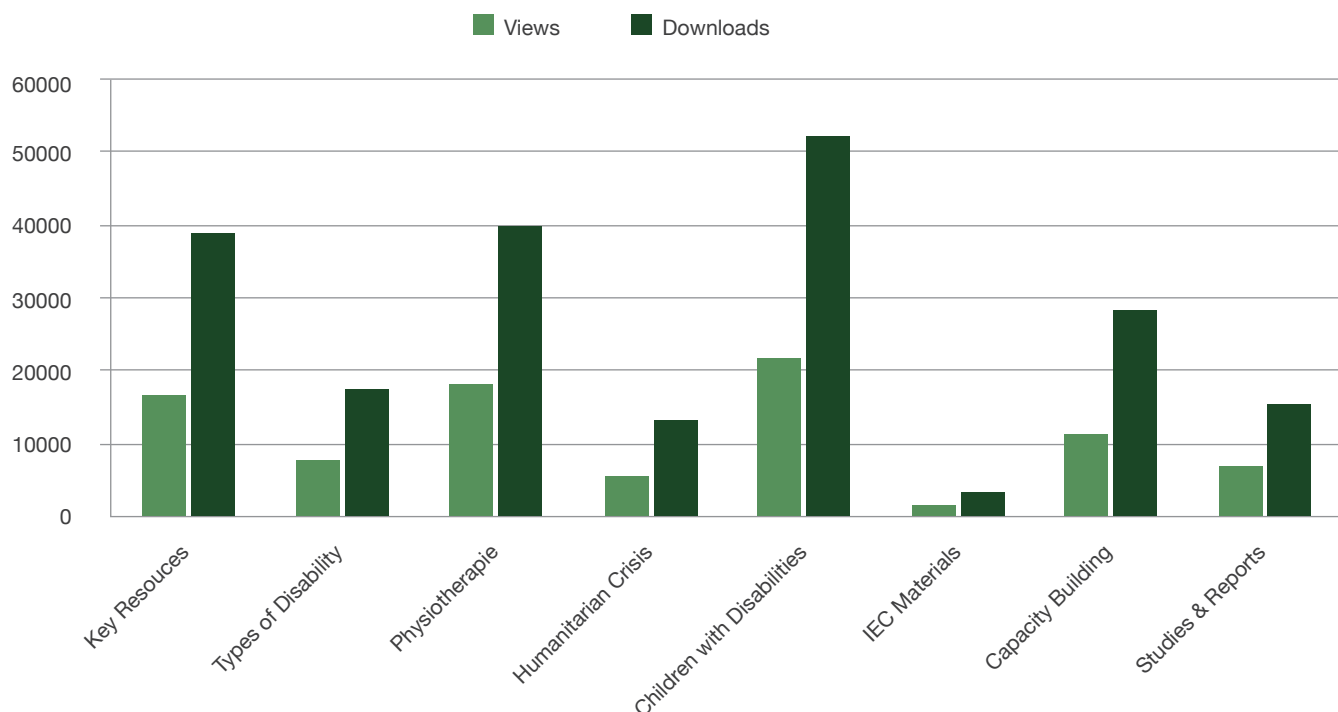


Figure: Views/Downloads since launch May – November 2018

Thanks to the generous support of the German aid organisation “Kindermissionswerk”, the **MEDBOX** team was able to integrate a special category for children with disabilities.

Over one billion people are living with disabilities worldwide, of which around 93 million are children, and 80 % of them live in developing countries. Children with disabilities are among those who experience marginalization, stigmatization and exclusion from social life, attending school 10 times less frequently than children without disabilities. Even if they attend to class, children with disabilities are more likely to drop out of school than peers without disabilities, and consequently have poorer health, lower education and lower economic participation. This is also due to a lack of knowledge and understanding about the causes and the associated cultural stigma, therefore, the field of inclusion and education needs to be not only fully developed, but successfully integrated in the long run. Training and development materials for different target groups were included in a separated folder in order to focus specially on that matter.

The **TB TOOLBOX** (www.tbbox.org) was set up and launched in February 2018 through the support of the German foundation “Stiftung Tuberkulosehilfe Würzburg”. The Toolbox addresses a multitude of different players and not only strengthens the general quality of work in the fight against TB but also supports interdisciplinary cooperation and learning.

Together with experts from the clinical and public health sector, the division of the **TB TOOLBOX** was designed for important categories to be clearly identified and used by all target groups, clinically active health workers and patients as well as political decision-makers.

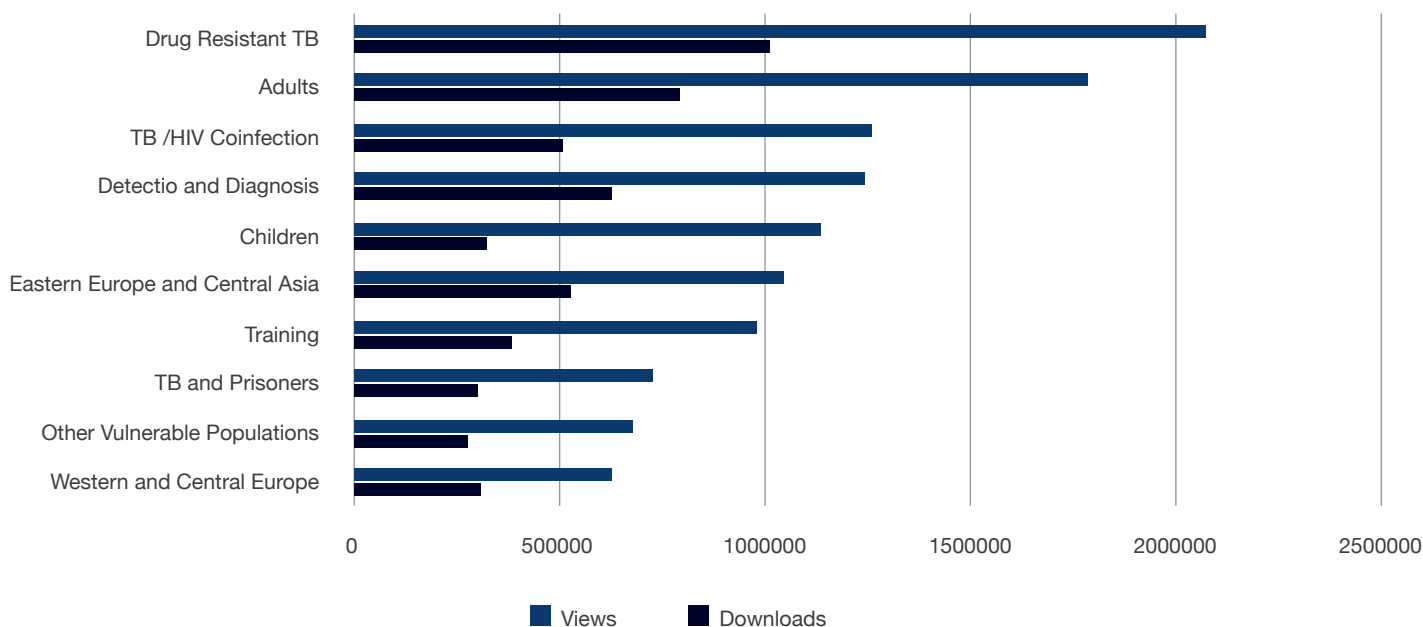


Figure: Sum of views/downloads since launch February - November 2018

In less than a year time, over 660 documents were uploaded in the **TB TOOLBOX**; the views overpassed 170,000 times, and more than 75,000 downloads took place, being that feedback a clear sign of this tool's efficiency. The **TB TOOLBOX** will be extended very soon with a new set of country-specific material, especially for Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The **SPECIFIC HAZARDS TOOLBOX** launched in June 2018, was created in response to the feedback received by our users, and compiles key information for health professionals and populations on preparedness and response measures to explosive weapons, chemical, biological and radio nuclear emergencies. Those are significant threats to the health of populations and individuals, and both, deliberate events as well as accidents are causes of public health emergencies. This new Toolbox targets humanitarian workers who prepare themselves before or during a mission specially and preventive measures in general.

Moreover, the **SPECIFIC HAZARDS TOOLBOX** alongside the existing **CONFLICT TOOLBOX** and **NATURAL HAZARDS TOOLBOX** belongs to a range of specific sources of information addressing the needs of humanitarian workers and their patients in case of war, natural and specific disasters.

2. COUNTRIES

The **COUNTRIES** section is usually among the **MEDBOX** favourites - therefore it is not surprising to the team that this category ranked number 2 on the list of the most popular categories this year. Five more countries were included: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Namibia, Myanmar, and Senegal. Over 30 countries are available and the list is growing every year.

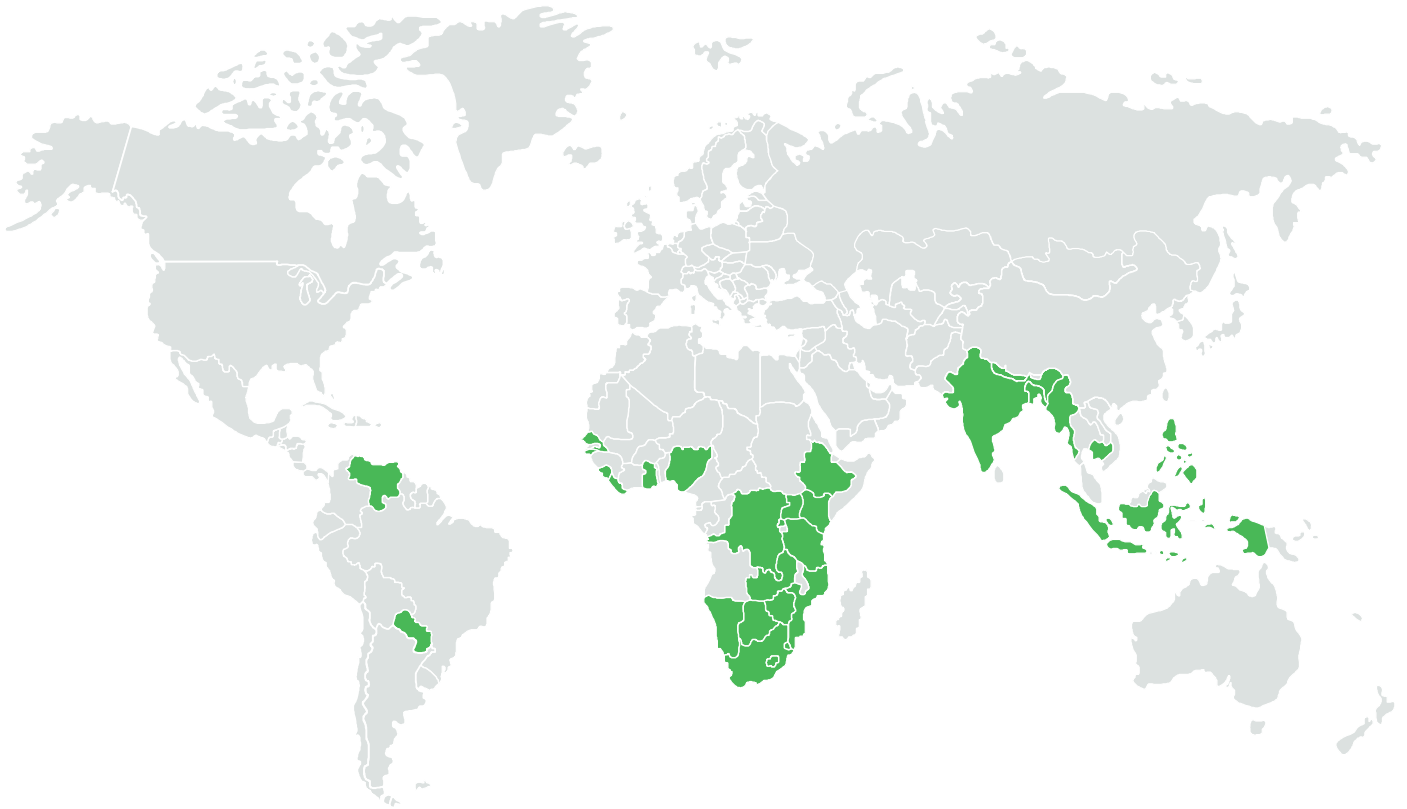


Figure: Countries covered by MEDBOX

In addition, the content of the countries already covered were extended and updated. Thus, due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, the **MEDBOX** team has given special effort to uploading up-to-date statistics and situation reports in Spanish and thanks to the support from a dedicated medical doctor in Portugal during 2018, users can now download all relevant guidelines and information regarding “Mozambique” in Portuguese. Moreover, intending to reach Eastern Europe and Central Asia, we were also able to start including documents in Russian and Ukrainian language through the support of partners from these countries and a Russian native speaking team member.

3. PUBLIC HEALTH

The category Public Health was the category with the greatest amendment and with the support by external experts the **MEDBOX** team was able to rework the subcategories. The additional subcategory on ‘Climate Change’ responds to the latest political discussions, especially during the COP24 in Katowice, Poland. However, the changes are not fully completed yet and the team works continuously on the improvement of all categories

4. PHARMACY & TECHNOLOGIES

Special effort has been put into a new subcategory called 'Antimicrobial Resistance' located in the "PHARMACY & TECHNOLOGIES" category, for being one of the main topics during 2018 continuing to gain importance in the upcoming years.

Antimicrobial resistance happens when microorganisms (such as bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites) change when exposed to antimicrobial drugs (such as antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, antimalarials, and anthelmintics). Microorganisms that develop antimicrobial resistance are sometimes referred to as 'superbugs'. New resistance mechanisms are emerging and spreading globally, threatening our ability to treat common infectious diseases, resulting in prolonged illness, disability, and eventually death.

FEEDBACK AND EVALUATION

Being online for five years now is yet another good reason to ask our users for feedback and to evaluate the usage of all categories and features. A Master student from the German College in Fulda prepared, in cooperation with the MEDBOX team, an evaluation form and distributed it among all registered users and partners. Since the evaluation is still taking place, the results will be published in 2019. All partners and registered users will be informed about the outcome. We are grateful to the external support for constantly improving MEDBOX.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

As usual, MEDBOX presented its activities at several conferences and events. In April, MEDBOX was represented at the UPDATE-conference 'Humanitarian & Development Aid' in Munich, Germany. The participants of the symposium had the opportunity to learn about the possibilities of cooperation in the field of humanitarian aid and development cooperation and to exchange views with the MEDBOX team among other organizations.

In September, MEDBOX representatives were invited to present MEDBOX at the National Health Convention 2018 along with Platinum Jubilee Celebration (75th anniversary) of the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) in Hyderabad, India. Around 500 delegates from across the country attended the two-day program.



The Humanitarian Congress 2018 in Berlin, Germany, under the theme 'No more excuses – advocating for human dignity in times of crisis', was another opportunity to get in touch with experts from the field and to advocate for the need of rapid available health information in times of crises. **MEDBOX** was represented with a booth and **MEDBOX** team was able to establish contacts with partners working in humanitarian aid worldwide.

MEDBOX participated in the 10th International Symposium on Global Mental Health: Mental Health in Developing Countries in Munich, where a group of diverse and distinguished speakers discussed the state of mental health in developing countries, reflecting on the past and acknowledging challenges for the future. The speakers came from around the world, sharing personal experiences from their work in India, Ethiopia and Malaysia among other countries. The changing approaches to mental health promotion and mental illness treatment were discussed alongside visions for the future.



Additionally, **MEDBOX** was represented during several seminars and workshops organized by the Medical Mission Institute Würzburg. The Institute has an outstanding expertise in teaching and education of different interest groups in various formats and places, including courses for students, preparatory courses for medical doctors or laboratory courses. Different formats are available for students: from seminars and lectures at the local university, over an established international summer school on global health and tropical medicine to seminars for students of the bachelor programme 'International Emergency & Disaster Relief' from the AKKON University, Berlin. The offering for medical doctors cover preparatory courses for short-term missions as well as colloquia on tropical diseases. The courses on laboratory procedures for tropical diseases are highly recommended among laboratory personnel.

Outside of Germany, the Institute provides teaching through online courses, practical training, as well as scientific collaboration. **MEDBOX** accompanies the Institute's lecturers and instructors on their respective missions and also functions as a popular resource especially in low-resources settings.

OUTLOOK

During the year 2018 the **MEDBOX** team has been working intensively on the improvement of the technical features of the website in order to obtain a more efficient outcome through its use. Both the revision of the design as well as the improvement of the frontend and backend system are under process, including the updating of the search function alongside some changes destined to obtain a refreshed outlook.

Something very important for **MEDBOX** is being accessible to health care and humanitarian workers worldwide: everywhere and at any time, especially in places where internet connection and resources might not be the best ones or might be lacking. **MEDBOX** users come from almost every country of the world.

Furthermore, the team is preparing a new **MENTAL HEALTH TOOLBOX** in response to the threatening worldwide crises and in order to increase awareness and direct patient care in low-resource settings. The related sitemap has already been prepared and the experts started research activities for essential documents and additional material. The launch of the new **MENTAL HEALTH TOOLBOX** is planned for spring 2018, and the development of

this Toolbox is being realized with the financial support of Kindermissionswerk and Renovabis. One section will focus on traumatic stress disorder in children. This subcategory will include documents i.e. on the aspects of trauma in war, sexual violence, migration, child soldiers as well as child protection. Another focus in this toolbox will be on mental health issues in Eastern European Countries. Documents in i.e. in Russian, Ukrainian will be available.

A new **HIV TOOLBOX**, collating information on patient care and public health interventions and policies, is currently in development. This Toolbox will be launched in April 2019.

Looking back on the goals set last year, we can thankfully say that many of them have been achieved, some of them are on its way and some others will be successfully carried out in the upcoming months with the great help of our partners and users around the world.

In spring 2019, we will release a relaunch of **MEDBOX**. New features, a refreshed design and different language versions will be available. Be curious and visit **MEDBOX 2.0!**

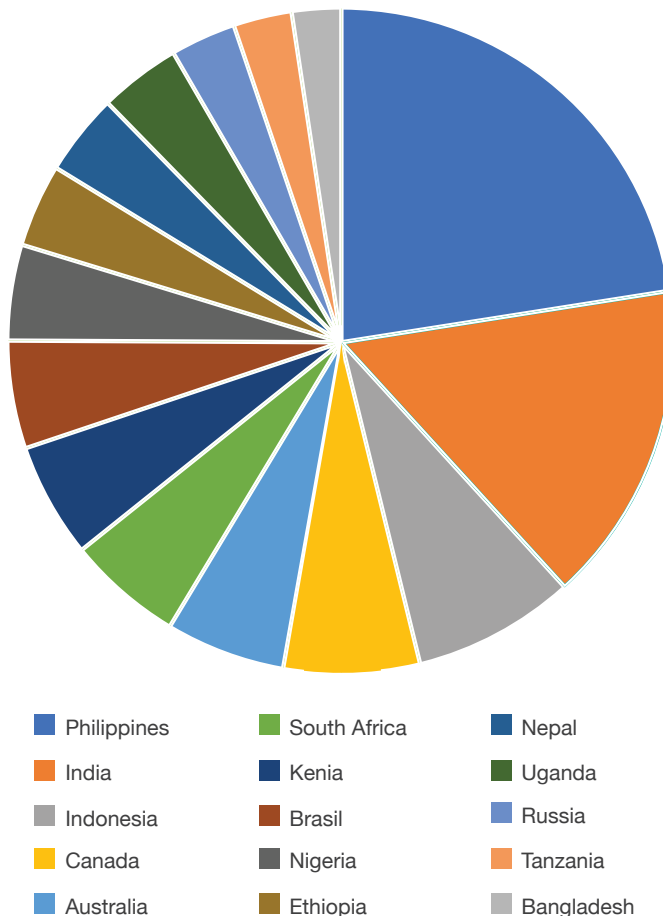


Figure: Top 15 User-Origin Countries outside USA

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are important within the scope of **MEDBOX**, as a team we are aware of the value of working alongside a like-minded network to achieve a common goal. In June, the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp organized a planning workshop for a new platform 'WikiTropica'. **MEDBOX** was represented at that meeting and is glad to start this partnership.

We are happy to welcome new partners in 2018: Renovabis, “plan g Partnership for Global health”, a Leprosy Relief Organisation based in Austria, Children for Health, Handicap International and two foundations from the Netherlands: “Stichting Dreef” and “Stichting Centrum Ontmoeting der Volkeren (COV)”.

Thanks to all longtime partners who have supported **MEDBOX** since the beginning. We would be pleased to be able to welcome new partners in 2019 who would like to support us with their expertise or financially.



SOCIAL MEDIA



Please visit our homepage at www.medbox.org.

Additionally, you can follow latest developments of the **MEDBOX** project on Facebook, or Twitter.

You can download **MEDBOX** APP for your phone:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.medbox>

CONTACT

MEDBOX is brought to you by the Medical Mission Institute, Advisory Group for International Health, based in Wuerzburg, Germany.

Feel free to contact us for further information at info@medbox.org

January 2019
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