



HACKING FOR GLOBAL HEALTH FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL HEALTH

Background information: ‘Hacking for Global Health – From Local to Global Health’ (hackathon¹) – a BMZ contribution to the International German Forum 2017

1. Context: The International German Forum

When Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel set up the International German Forum in 2013, she created a new format for international exchange on globally relevant future-related issues. In many countries, society is facing increasingly complex challenges such as climate change, scarcity of resources, demographic change, urbanisation and digitisation. It is in this context that around 120 German and international experts from the spheres of politics, business, academia and civil society come together at the International German Forum to debate ideas for social, political and economic transformation processes, to share their experiences and to discuss concrete possibilities for action. The goal of the International German Forum is for participants to learn from one another through interdisciplinary and intercultural dialogue.

The third International German Forum (IDF), which will take place on February 21-22, 2017, will explore ‘Global Health and Innovation’. Focus topics will include information and communication technologies, appropriate use of antibiotics, neglected tropical diseases and mental health.

¹ Hackathon definition: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hackathon>

2. BMZ contribution to the International German Forum – Hacking for Global Health – From Local to Global Health (hackathon)

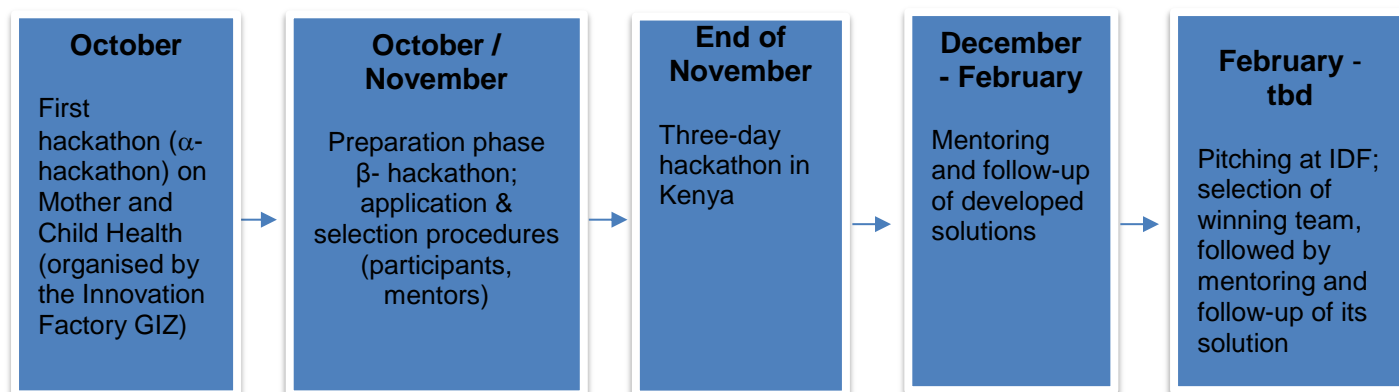
The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is assisting the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (**BMZ**) with the design and implementation of a **hackathon challenge on the subject 'Hacking for Global Health – From Local to Global Health'**. The intention is for Information and communication technology (ICT) solutions that are of use in promoting 'Global Health and Innovation' to be created in German Development Cooperation (GDC) partner countries and subsequently presented at the third IDF. **Kenya** was selected as a relevant partner country for implementation of the hackathon.

The special focus of the hackathon is child and adolescent health in Kenya.

In many countries, including Kenya, children often suffer from **preventable or easily treatable diseases**. Such diseases (e.g. fever, diarrhoea, malaria and malnutrition) can quickly become life-threatening, particularly for young children, which explains why the mortality rate of children under five is still very high (49.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in Kenya, compared with 3.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in Germany).

Children are frequently treated incorrectly, too late, or not at all, and are often only taken to health care facilities when their illness has already reached a very advanced stage (e.g. due to insufficient financial resources to pay for the service, the distance involved or a lack of confidence in the quality of treatment provided by the facility). By adopting preventative measures and treating illnesses at an early stage, these situations can be avoided and the health-related costs for families can be reduced. Kenya is also one of the countries with the highest number of teenage pregnancies. Four out of ten women under the age of 19 already have children or are pregnant.

3. Order of events for the 'Hacking for Global Health – From Local to Global Health' challenge



Phase 1: The hackathon

The hackathon will be held in Nairobi from November 25-27, 2016. The child and adolescent health challenge will be promoted beforehand through the relevant networks (health sector, IT, start-up and techie scene), allowing those interested to apply to participate. The hackathon organisers will present a 'problem description', which will specify the existing challenge in the Kenyan health care sector and serve as a basis for developing the solution.

Ten teams will be selected from among the applicants and invited to participate in the three-day hackathon. The objective is to develop an innovative e-health solution to the specified health challenge. During the hackathon, the teams will receive methodological and content-related support from **mentors** (including from the IT and e-health scenes, the private sector, civil society, the world of science, and the health care sector). The mentors will play a key role and become exclusive partners as they will guide the teams throughout the entire event. Assistance with travel and accommodation for the mentors and representatives of the finalist teams is guaranteed, as is an appropriate briefing.

Successful participants from previous relevant events supported by German Development Cooperation shall be considered for participation, as appropriate.

Phase 2: Promotional and mentoring phase between the hackathon and the IDF

A subsequent promotional phase from December 2016 to February 2017 shall enable the three teams of finalists to further develop their ideas in the run-up to the IDF. During the promotional phase, the mentors lend specialist and methodological support to the teams and also provide co-working space.

Phase 3: Order of events for the IDF from February 21-22, 2017

Two representatives of each of the three teams of finalists will be invited to the IDF 2017, which will be held on February 21-22, 2017 in Berlin, Germany. One to two days prior to the IDF, these teams will meet up with their mentors and prepare their pitches for the IDF.

The finalist teams will also be given the opportunity to visit selected actors and partners in Germany (hospitals, laboratories, etc.). These visits will familiarise the teams with the specific situation in Germany and at the same time allow them to share their experiences with German partners.

At the IDF itself, two representatives of the three winning teams will have the opportunity to present their solutions to the child and adolescent health challenge to a high-ranking expert jury, including representatives from the BMZ, Federal Ministry of Health (BMG), GIZ, the private sector, and the scientific community. The expert jury will select one of the three teams as the winner. The winning team will then receive a number of months of support in implementing their prototype. Offers of financial/non-financial support for this phase will be

sought from interested companies in the German health sector or from external partners at an early stage.

4. Opportunities for cooperation with partners

As an innovative event format, the hackathon creates the possibility to collaborate with mentors to find tailored digital solutions for local challenges in the Kenyan health care sector. The advantage here is that the hackathon, as an interdisciplinary format, brings together experts from various sectors, including IT and technology, health care, science and academia, the private sector and civil society. A balanced interdisciplinary mix of interested partners from various sectors and industries is therefore essential.

Specific proposals for involving external experts:

- + As **mentors**, who assist with the hackathon in Kenya and, where appropriate, support the teams with the content preparation for their respective digital solution approaches during a promotional phase (December 2016 - February 2017) (e.g. via Skype) and/or during their study trip or preparatory phase shortly before the IDF.
Benefit for the external experts: New talent development in partner countries; professional exchange and networking in the broad IT and tech scene in Kenya; insight into the existing challenges of the Kenyan health care sector; practical handling of future issues; experiencing an innovative event format.
- + As a **sponsor** of the winning team for the **further development and implementation** of its digital solution in 2017. Sponsoring may consist of technical content and/or financial support, if there is interest. Joint cooperation with several interested parties would also be possible here (e.g. NGOs, private sector).
Benefit for the external partner: As an open source solution, the digital product may also be used by the sponsoring partner, or, if there is interest, it may also be further developed and adapted for the German context.