



## Deployment: Assessment, Planning and Support

# D:APS

### Duration

2016 – 2021

### Budget/year

approx. 400,000 EUR

### Partner countries

Global

## Challenges addressed by the project

In settings with limited health crisis response capacities or in the face of overwhelming health crises, international outbreak response teams are expected to be rapidly available to support local outbreak response.

Such targeted crisis operations, but also regular project activities in the field of global health protection, often take place in countries with a limited infrastructure, increased health and safety risks or challenging climatic conditions. Employers have a special duty of care for seconded personnel who deploy to work under such conditions.

## Objectives

The project pursues two central objectives:

- » To enable the rapid deployment of staff in case of international health crises
- » To facilitate missions during health crises and outside crisis response by ensuring safe deployment of staff abroad

## Overview of activities

D:APS supports RKI staff working on international projects with preparatory organisational aspects such as obtaining travel documents (official passports, visas), supports and advises them on issues relating to travel medicine, and gives advice on minimising country-specific safety, health and other travel risks.

In addition, D:APS advises and supports employees during their stay abroad, including ensuring 24/7 responsiveness and emergency care, including through applying the services of external service companies.

A non-workplace and non-country-specific risk assessment, as well as a country-specific briefing are carried out for each mission with increased risks abroad. This special support is aimed in particular at travellers to countries with limited infrastructure, increased health and safety risks or adverse climatic conditions. In order to secure the safety of personnel during all types of missions, special training courses are regularly offered, for example on effective first aid under field conditions or on how to behave in the event of threats to personal safety (Hostile Environment Awareness Training – HEAT; Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments – SSAFE).



Supported by:



on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag



Data analysis for making the diagnosis –molecular Dengue virus diagnostics in Sri Lanka, 2018



Fighting pneumonic plague on Madagascar – isolation ward in the Haute Matsiatra region where several cases of pneumonic plague are treated in September and October 2017



Sample extraction at a fruit bat (family Pteropodidae) – the Democratic Republic of Congo, 2017



Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE), 2020 (Photo ©UNSSC)

## Missions from 2016 to 2020

D:APS has supported the deployment of health crisis response teams as follows:

### 2016

- » Ebola virus disease – West Africa

### 2017

- » Lassa fever – Benin
- » Plague – Madagascar
- » Hepatitis E – Nigeria
- » Ebola virus disease – Democratic Republic of the Congo

### 2018

- » Dengue fever – Sri Lanka
- » Lassa fever – Benin and Nigeria
- » Diphtheria – Bangladesh
- » Ebola virus disease – Democratic Republic of the Congo
- » Plague – Madagascar

### 2019

- » Ebola virus disease – Democratic Republic of the Congo (including support for research)

### 2020

- » Lassa fever – Benin
- » COVID-19 – Worldwide

Including health crisis response missions, DAPS, in 2020, supported 68 missions in 36 countries, mainly in Africa and Central Asia, with a total of 110 staff.

## Partner institutions

Different, depending on mission

## Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

Robert Koch Institute  
Centre for International Health Protection  
Johanna Hanefeld  
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