



Dear QUAMED Members,

I want to take this opportunity to update you on progress since our last General Assembly in June. First I would like to thank all of you who have renewed your membership or those who have recently joined QUAMED. Thanks for your confidence.

*New organisational members are:*

Intersos (Italy), Relief International (USA), Terre des Hommes (Switzerland)

*New Individual member is:*

Bruno Meessen

*New Partners are:*

Emergency (Italy), the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Also, thanks to all of you who have worked with us to define and plan missions that will happen from now through end of the first quarter of 2019: local markets assessments and MQAS audits in Yemen, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Mali and Niger.

We have also identified, as a 2019 top priority for your database, the reassessment of the main suppliers approved by the donors: Action Medeor, Amstelfarma, Begeca, CHMP Kenya, IDA Foundation, Imres, Medical Export Group, Meds, Missionpharma and Pharmamundi. We shall develop a common approach and budget for donors attention. We will contact you shortly.

We collectively are part of a movement. It is encouraging that both ECHO and the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation & Humanitarian Aid are actively drawing attention to the need to ensure the quality of medicines that their partners are procuring. Although funding agencies standards are clear, it is not always straightforward for them to assure that their standards are being respected and adhered to.

The issue of ensuring quality is gaining more attention not only from international emergency and development funders but also academic institutions and public health stakeholders. The first-ever international Conference on Medicine Quality & Public Health that recently took place in Oxford (<https://www.tropicalmedicine.ox.ac.uk/medicinequality2018/about/>), and the meeting planned for November by Be-Cause Health with the Antwerp Institute of Tropical Medicine (<https://www.be-causehealth.be/en/bch-events/seminar-on-access-to-quality-assured-medicines-2/>), are two cases in point.



While we will ensure that 100% of your requests for field assessments will be covered, QUAMED is also exploring new services and tools to support donors and national governments efforts as part of this global movement.

One critical aspect of this work is QUAMED's intention to invest time, energy and financial resources in developing a certification or "Label" project to reward producers and procurement agencies that are meeting agreed upon international standards.

As we explore the needs and potential offerings of this certification or "label" project we will be drawing on the expertise of our members. We also will be developing a proposal to define a potential "Label" scheme including a business case for this activity.

When the proposal is ready, we shall seek your support to identify funding to complete this work.

Finally, I would like to applaud the original founders and members of QUAMED because I believe that they were ahead of the curve – they were early to recognise the urgent need to improve the quality of medicines that are being procured in the humanitarian and development sectors. Now key institutions have integrated QUAMED's vision of improving quality of procured medicines into their key strategic objectives.

We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that QUAMED becomes an even more critical partner both in helping the humanitarian and development communities as well as supporting national procurement in LMICs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Vandenberg", is written over a large, light blue oval scribble.

Daniel Vandenberg,  
President,  
QUAMED