

What are our aims?

The ZMG contributes to global efforts to improve the health of urban populations by:

- Analyzing health risks in urban settings
- Assessing the availability, accessibility and acceptability of

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- health and social services in urban areas
- Offering interdisciplinary training and research activities on global urban health issues
- Establishing international collaborative links in the form of research and training networking alliances with relevant stakeholders and comparing their respective situations
- Providing recommendations to improve the health of vulnerable populations



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Zentrum für Medizin und
Gesellschaft (ZMG):
Global Urban Health

Centre for Medicine and
Society

UNI
FREIBURG



Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg



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Welcome to the Centre for Medicine and Society

The Centre for Medicine and Society (ZMG)
committed to the field of Global Health with a special
focus on urban health and wellbeing.

The departments of
Biological Anthropology,
Environmental Medicine,
Psychosomatic Medicine,
Palliative Care, Medical
Sociology and Psychology
and others

are embarking on an
interdisciplinary
collaboration to explore
the determinants and
disparities of health and
disease.

In cooperation with
CETRAS (Center for
Transcultural Asian
Studies, University of
Freiburg) and with global
organizations (e.g. the
WHO and UNEP) the
focus is on health and the
health conditions such as
ecological- biological,
social and psychological
risk factors in urban
settings and on options for
improving the living
conditions particularly of
the urban poor.

**Our mission is to
contribute to improving
the health situation of
urban populations in
resource- poor countries
and industrial countries
through research and
training.**



Research:

In cooperation with the
University of Cape Town
(South Africa), Penn State
University (USA) and other
partners, the ZMG is
currently working on the
project "URBAN HEALTH -
URBAN LIVING" an
interdisciplinary research
project. It focuses on
determinants and
disparities of health and
disease as well as on
accessibility to medical
care.

Because of existing
partnerships within the
Pan University Network of
Global Health (PUNGH),
Cape Town has been
selected as the first city for
implementation of an
interdisciplinary research
project. The aim is to
develop recommendations
for improving the health of
disadvantaged population
groups and reduce
disparities and health
risks.



Within the PUNGH
network, the ZMG seeks to
strengthen the network
which is currently running
a joint research project
entitled "Identifying Urban
Transition Priority Areas
for Mother and Child
Interventions in Cape
Town and Pune".

Together with international
partners, the ZMG
identifies risk factors and
proposes measures to
control major urban
diseases in several cities
of Latin America, Asia,
Africa and Europe.

Training:

The ZMG builds on four
years experience gained in
the elective course on
"Global Health" for
students from all faculties
at Freiburg University, in
which health and health
service problems, as well
as social, psychological
and environmental
determinants of health are
explored.

This course provides an
overview of a number of
key issues on Global
Health. It is designed to
help students to
understand biological,
social and ecological risk
factors for health and
health systems in a
comprehensive way.
This interdisciplinary
course (4 ECTS) is offered
twice a year in five
teaching blocks including a
visit to the WHO in
Geneva and a workshop
on needs assessment and
planning tools in order to
improve the health of
vulnerable populations.

The ZMG is now
embarking on a
postgraduate Master
program (MSc) "Global
Urban Health" (GUH)
which is expected to start
in 2016. This Modular
course will be taught in
English and will be offered
for postgraduate students
worldwide covering one
academic year. The MSc
GUH course, which is
hosted by the
philosophical faculty and
organized by the ZMG, will
be taken as a full time
course with subsequent
field study (for the MSc
thesis) to be completed
abroad or as desk study in
Freiburg.

The master course
includes interdisciplinary
approaches with input
from several faculties of
Freiburg University and
external lecturers. It will
offer excursions to WHO-
Geneva, relevant
institutions in Basel and
Strasbourg and will show
the efforts of the city of
Freiburg to create healthy
living conditions.

